

Cycling in the Blackdown Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Route 7 – Churchinford, Yarcombe, Stockland and Upottery circuit

A moderate 19 mile ride with a great choice of pubs

Rating: Moderate, with one challenging uphill climb and several moderate uphill sections

Distance: 19 miles

Start: The village hall car park, Honiton Road, Churchinford

Route (1 – 15)

- 1 Turn left out of the car park and follow road for 4 miles to Upottery
- 2 Turn left, signposted Chard, just after the Sidmouth Arms
- 3 At crossroads use dedicated cyclist crossing to south west of road junction, cross over the main road, signposted Stockland, Axminster
- 4 Turn left, signposted North Hill at Rising Sun Cross
- 5 At junction turn left into Stockland
- 6 Turn left at Stockland Village Cross
- 7 Turn left at Road Ends Cross, signposted Yarcombe and follow for 2 miles
- 8 At junction turn left on to the main road, and then first right, signposted Marsh, after Yarcombe Inn
- 9 At junction (Sheafhayne Cross) turn right, signposted Howley, Chard
- 10 Turn first left after Howley Tavern, and follow under the bridge into Marsh
- 11 Turn right after the Flintlock Inn (just before no entry signs) and follow for 1.5 miles
- 12 At fork in road, bear right down hill
- 13 At junction turn left into Bishopswood
- 14 At crossroads go straight over, signposted Churchinford, Hemyock
- 15 At junction in Churchinford turn right and right again into car park



Sidmouth Arms, Upottery

Look out for:

Royston Water and nearby Otterhead Lakes – once a thriving Victorian estate, now a local nature reserve with a mile of lakes, woodland, grassland and some surviving heritage features.

Upottery: Fine example of an estate village – former seat of Henry Addington, Viscount of Sidmouth and Prime Minister 1801-04.

Robin Hoods Butts: Unusual tumuli with associated folklore – Robin Hood was said to have used these three barrows for target practice. Another legend is that they were formed by giants throwing clods of earth at one another. The largest mound supposedly conceals a hoard of gold, but this is unreachable as any holes dug fill up again.

Maps: This route is based on OS Explorer maps and is intended as a guide to cyclists. Refer to Explorer 115, 116 and 128 or Landranger 193 when planning your visit.

Safety: Take extra care at junctions and bends. Take particular care crossing the A30 at 3 and at section 8 in Yarcombe. A special characteristic of the Blackdown Hills AONB is its high hedges, which can restrict visibility, particularly in summer.

General Information: For information about safe cycling and further information to help plan your visit, see www.blackdownhillsaonb.org

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the route directions and descriptions, responsibility cannot be accepted for any errors or omissions. If you discover any errors please let us know.

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