

Cycling in the Blackdown Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Route 8 – Stockland, Yarcombe, Marsh, Whitestaunton and Membury circuit

A moderate 17 mile ride or an optional shorter route

Rating: Moderate, with some challenging climbs. Shorter route includes exhilarating downhill section and a steep climb

Distance: Main route 17 miles. Shorter route 12.5 miles

Start: The village hall car park, Stockland (opposite Primary School)

Main route (1 – 16)

- 1 Turn right out of the car park and first right at Stockland Village Cross
- 2 Turn left at Road Ends Cross, signposted Yarcombe and follow for 2 miles
- 3 At junction turn left on to main road and then first right, signposted Marsh after Yarcombe Inn
- 4 At junction (Sheafhayne Cross) turn right, signposted Howley, Chard
- 5 Turn first left after Howley Tavern
- 6 Turn right up hill just before stream and road bridge
- 7 Turn first right
- 8 At junction turn right
- 9 At junction turn right and follow for one mile
- 10 At junction turn right on to main road
- 11 Turn left, signposted Membury, Stockland, Animal Sanctuary
- 12 At junction turn right, signposted Membury, Stockland - follow for almost 3 miles
- 13 Turn right at Star Cross, signposted Membury and follow for nearly 2 miles
- 14 Turn right, signposted Kilmington, Axminster
- 15 At junction (Beckford Cross) turn right, signposted Stockland and follow for 2.5 miles
- 16 In Stockland turn right just after the school into the village hall car park

Shorter route – 12.5 miles (replaces stages 13-16)

- a Turn first right, signposted Stockland and follow for 3 miles
- b At junction (Stockland Village Cross) turn left, and first left into village hall car park



Beckford Bridge

Look out for:

Stockland: delightful Devon village with many buildings dating from the 15th and 16th centuries.

Beckford Bridge: A packhorse bridge over the river Yarty dating from the 18th/19th century.

Yarcombe: The Yarcombe Inn was originally built as a lodge for visiting monks from Otterton Priory. Sheafhayne Manor (private) associated with Sir Francis Drake and his descendants.

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

Safety: Take extra care at junctions and bends. Take particular care at point 3 and between 10 and 11 as the A30 is a busy road. 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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