

## **Sidmouth 2026 – Walking Holiday – Walks Programme**

This is a programme of suggested led walks for the group holiday 12-15<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Please note that members are free to do their own walks or to do Walks 8 & 9 on their own on any day. The RTVDs have been enhanced to include a contribution to car parking which is quite expensive on the coast.

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Walk 1 - Norman Lockyer Observatory 3.1 miles Grade 3**

Coastal walk to the observatory, about 1.5 miles, stiff climb. Return via roads 1.5 miles. Depart hotel 1pm, tour starts 2 pm. A short introductory talk about Lockyer & the observatory, followed by a planetarium show and historic telescope tour and visit to the Lockyer Technology Centre for live meteor detecting. Tour lasts 2 hours, cost £10 per person. Can be done by car on the way to the hotel rather than walking from the hotel.

Park: Postcode: EX10 0NY, GR: 140 883, //depend.wishes.pinks

**Leader: Harry Britten-Austin    Depart Hotel: 13.00    Tour Cost: £10**

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Walk 2 - Otterton Loop – 7 miles Grade 3** Starting from the Otter Estuary Nature Reserve car park. Follow the coastal path to Chiselbury Bay then inland to Otterton with (optional) lunch at Otterton Mill. Then follow the Otter River back to Budleigh Salterton.

Park: Car Park to the east of Budleigh Salterton. Grid Ref: 073 820 //starter.answers.crypt

**Leader: Bob Carter    Depart Hotel: 9.30    RTVD: £3.00    Lunch: Otterton Mill**

#### **Walk 3 - Otter River - 4.5 miles Grade 2.** Starting from the Otter Estuary Nature Reserve car park follow the Otter River up to the Otterton Mill (optional lunch) then meet up with Walk 2 and walk back down the river to the car park.

Park: Car Park to the east of Budleigh Salterton. Grid Ref: 073 820 //starter.answers.crypt

**Leader: Harry Britten-Austin    Depart Hotel: 10.30    RTVD: £3.00    Lunch: Otterton Mill**

#### **Walk 4 - Beer Head – 3.2 miles Grade 4**

Walk over South Downs Common to Branscombe Mouth then back over following the SWCP along the cliffs, Rugged. Café in Branscombe Mouth and refreshments in Beer

Park: Cliff Top Car Park GR 228 888 //elaborate.seashell.validated

**Leader: Stuart Blows    Depart Hotel: 9.30    RTVD: £3.00    Lunch: Cafe**

## **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Walk 5 - Colyton Circular – 6.5 miles – Grade 3**

Follow river northwest to Heathayne then south to Holyford and back to Colyton.

Park: Colyton Peace Memorial Playing Fields car park, off B3161, GR 249 936, Postcode EX24 6PU //paddocks.photo.kite. Moderate

**Leader: Jas List      Depart Hotel: 09.30      RTVD: £2.00      Lunch: Picnic**

### **Walk 6 - Donkey Sanctuary Circular – 4 miles Grade 3**

Catch the 10.25 899 bus from Sidmouth to the Donkey Sanctuary then head along Dunscombe Coppice and along the coast path to Combe Wood, head inland to Salcombe Regis then back to the Donkey Sanctuary for lunch and a look around. Catch the 16.51 bus back to Sidmouth. (earlier bus as 14.21)

**Leader: Harry Britten-Austin      Depart Hotel: 10.00      Lunch: Cafe**

### **Walk 7 - Branscombe Loop – 3.9 miles Grade 3**

Inland to Manor Hill and Branscombe and on to Street. Pick up the coastal path back to Branscombe Mouth.

Park: Branscombe Beach Car Park, Grid Ref: 207 882, Postcode EX12 3DP //decking.sofa.universal

**Leader: John Smart      Depart Hotel: 9.30      RTVD: £3.00      Lunch: morning walk**

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Walk 8 - The Byes – 2 to 4 Miles Grade 2 (can be self guided)**

Starting from Sidmouth follow the River Sid up to Sidford and then back the same route. Total 4 miles, turn earlier to reduce distance.

**Leader: Harry Britten-Austin      Depart hotel: 9.30      Sidmouth**

### **Walk 9 - Sidbury Tree Trail – 1.5 miles Grade 2 – Self Guided**

Tree Trail Walk from the centre of Sidbury.

Park in Bridge Street, Sidbury. Grid Ref: 139 917, //redefined.cemented.stuck

**Self Guided - Suggest depart Hotel: 10.00      RTVD: £0.70**