**Along the Swincombe and the Dartmoor Way**

[View Larger Map](http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&amp;ie=UTF8&amp;t=h&amp;source=embed&amp;msa=0&amp;msid=110483730420776736929.0004665d787058513ea74&amp;ll=50.530889%2C-3.938084&amp;spn=0.038192%2C0.072956&amp;z=13)



View West along Dartmoor way to North Hessary Tor

View Northward to Wistman's Wood

View East

These walks are all circular, starting in a car park, making them very convenient for locals and visitors alike. They have all been walked by the editor of this site in the company of his wife and a German Sheepherd Dog. The dog can get over all the obstacles whitout assistance so, on that basis, I consider them 'dog friendly'. Generally I try to minimise road walking, prefering lanes and public footpaths. Paths are often muddy and hills steep so prepare accordingly. I hope you enjoy your walks and don't leave any gates open.

[**A circular walk from the free car park in Loddiswell to Idston then on to Alleron and back**](http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&t=h&msa=0&msid=110483730420776736929.00046737fd963255c30ff&ll=50.328395,-3.808694&spn=0.01315,0.027466&z=15&source=embed)

* Exit the car park via foot path at the far end
* Cross the main road
* Bear left and then right onto path before stile cottage
* Carry on up the steps, across the road in Elmwood Park until the stile onto Clarks Barn Road
* Cross the road to the stile on the opposite side
* Follow the path through two gates
* After the last gate the path goes across the field to a stile into the road
* Turn left and follow the road down the hill to the stream
* Over the bridge, up the steep hill, past Lower Idston on your right
* At Idston Farm take the bridal path on the right
* Follow the bridal path, along the lane and eventually open fields
* At Alleron exit through the gate on to the road
* Turn right on the road and follow it all the way back to Loddiswell Butts
* Enter the Playing Fields via the gate from the Butts
* Walk across the playing fields to the far side, through the gate into Elmwood Park
* Follow the short section of road to the main access road of the park and turn left toward the main road
* At the main road turn left, walk about 20 metres the cross the road and back into the car park

[**A circular walk from the free car park in Loddiswell to Hatch Bridge then on to New Mill and back**](http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&t=h&msa=0&msid=110483730420776736929.0004673792f42a5f4d8a1&ll=50.316915,-3.798738&spn=0.026307,0.054932&z=14&source=embed)

* Exit the car park via foot path at the far end
* Cross the main road
* Bear left and then right onto path before stile cottage
* Carry on up the steps, across the road in Elmwood Park until the stile onto Clarks Barn Road
* Turn left and follow the road South
* Keep walking, past the road junction on your left, to the next junction on your left (Towns Lane)

**Alternate route**

* + Turn left down Towns Lane
  + Where the road takes a sharp left, cross into the field via the stile on your right
  + Follow the public foot path through the fields to the lane
  + Turn left at the lane and carry on until Hatch Bridge

**Primary route**

* + Carry on along the same road, down the hill, until you get to a lane leading off to the left
  + Follow the lane all the way to Hatch Bridge. The alternate route rejoins this route on the lane, just before the bridge
* Cross the bridge and carry on along the road
* Just after the road junction you will see a stile on your left
* Go over the stile and follow the public footpath, over the foot bridge, to the Avon
* Carry along beside the river to the main road bridge
* Cross the main road via the steps and stiles
* Follow the path beside the river to the next stile
* Cross the stile and go straight ahead (do not turn left and cross the bridge) along the road
* Carry on until the road junction
* Turn left and cross the bridge
* Drop in at the Garden Centre Cafe if you feel like it!
* Walk up the very steep section of the hill and take the lane off to the right
* Bear left on up the hill after 8 metres
* Carry on up the lane to Ham Butts
* Turn left on the road and follow it down past the church into the village
* Walk past the Post Office on your right and right at the junction for the car park

[A circular walk from Loddiswell to the Avon and back](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?ll=50.333957%2C-3.791142&spn=0.026298%2C0.054932&hl=en&t=h&msa=0&z=14&source=embed&ie=UTF8&mid=19WsYpXQF78ysUaCUfoZq1qu3fUo)Loddiswell and the old Railway line

* Start at the Post Office (Yes! Loddiswell still has one.)
* Follow the road up beside the left side of the Church to Ham Butts
* Carry straight ahead on the road signposted for Reads Farm
* Right before the entrance to the farm take the public footpath, via a gateway on your right
* Follow the stream on your left, crossing one stile, down the valley to the Avon
* Towards the bottom of the hill you will need to cross the stream. There is a foot bridge and usually some mud too.
* The path now passes into a field. The river will be ahead of you. When you reach the river, turn left and head into the woods.
* The path is easy to follows upstream.
* Keep walking up the river until you get to the old railway bridge. Stop to admire the view.
* You now have a choice to make:
  + **Short Walk - 2.5 miles**
    - Take the path that heads off to the left, just before you reached the bridge. It heads up a lane toward the B3196.
    - About half the distance between the river and the road you will see a stile on your left. You can cross this and make your way back to Ham Butts via Ham Farm
    - If you carry on up the lane you will get to the B3196
    - Turn left and follow the road back to the Post Office in Loddiswell
  + **Longer Walk 3.7 miles**
    - Take the path along the old railway line heading upstream.
    - Carry on until the next bridge.
    - Cross it and turn right onto the path that heads back down the river
    - Walk down river iback to the first railway bridge,
    - Complete your walk by following the directions on the short walk option.

[Aveton Gifford Tidal road and Bigbury](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?ll=50.305623%2C-3.860793&spn=0.013157%2C0.027466&hl=en&t=h&msa=0&z=15&source=embed&ie=UTF8&mid=1Bq0SGlYT2qyyNDTPKu-bvtrnfss)