

WALK NO 4

BIGBURY AVON ESTUARY - DUKES MILL - EASTON

(Incorporating Public Footpaths numbers 3, 1 and 13)

Distance: Approx 2 miles Grading: Easy/Moderate Time: Approx 1 hour

This circular walk takes in some exquisite views of the Avon estuary and up the river to the bridge at Aveton Gifford. This is not an arduous walk or very long, so take your time and enjoy it.

The walk starts and finishes at the Royal Oak at Bigbury. Turning left out of the car park proceed along the road past Bigbury Green and after a short distance you will find a signpost on the left-hand side at a field opening. The signpost will direct you straight across



the field and where it begins to dip down you will find a stile in the fence. Crossing the stile bear left along a well marked track, crossing a small stream above a wood, known as Doctor's Wood. The path meanders through a wood and then rises to a stile at a field edge. Proceed across the field on a well-defined path until you reach another stile. Crossing the stile proceed along the field edge keeping the hedge to your left.



At this point admire the natural amphitheatre that has been created in the hillside. This stretches down to the river and is a wonderful place to take a break with breath-taking views. After a little while the path is indicated by signs going diagonally across the field towards the river, eventually reaching a stile in the fence. After crossing the stile continue

down the hill on the well-marked path until you reach the fence above the estuary. At this point the way forward is across a stile and then some stone steps to the foreshore.

Proceed towards the Stakes road crossing a small stream. If you need a break here you could turn left and proceed up Stakes Hill to the Oyster Shack for some refreshment.

At this point there is an alternative route (see below) you may take providing the tide is out. If taking the first route you cross the Stakes road and follow the signposts clearly marking the way across some square stepping stones, which will help you to negotiate the muddy foreshore.



The path takes you above the creek at the foot of a rather splendid garden.

The path continues through woodland until reaching a tarmac track above the creek. Follow this track until it reaches the road at Dukes Mill.

Alternative route: -

If the tide is out walk across the creek towards Aveton Gifford and at the other side of it you will see a signpost directing you along the foreshore. The path continues on the shoreline for a little while before eventually ascending into a woodland path. The path follows the line of the creek and finally ends up at the Dukes Mill. Look out for the old Withy beds, or Ozier beds as they are known in this part of the world, on the left hand side.

From the Duke's Mill bear left up the road towards Easton. It is regretted that there is no alternative than to walk on the road, which can be a little tiresome on a warm day, nevertheless it is a relatively quiet country road so take time to admire the surrounding woodland, which is very pleasant. After passing Glebe House on your right and bearing left around the corner, you will reach a stile opposite Easton House. This will direct you across the field to an iron-kissing gate. Go through the gate and turn right, after a short distance you will reach the Bowls Cross, turn left here and proceed along the road passing St Lawrence Church until you reach the Royal Oak and the end of the walk.