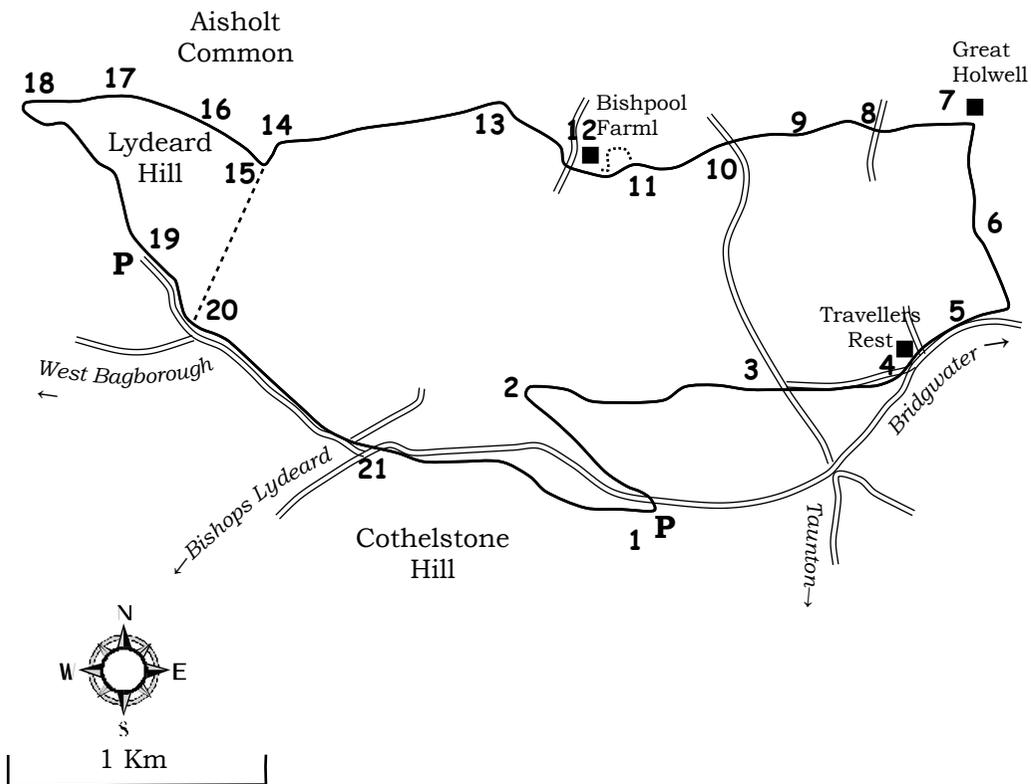


Manor Farm - Lydeard Hill

7 miles (11.2Km), total ascent 1,465' (356m)



Allow about 2 ½ - 3 hours walking time, plus stops. Some very scenic views throughout. Most of the walk is good underfoot although there are a couple of bridle way sections that can get muddy, so walking boots are strongly advised.

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Car parking at [Cothelstone Hill](#)
ST 200 328

1 From car park turn left along road. After a very short distance take the permissive bridle way on the right (sign-posted).

2 At crossroads in bridle way go right, following a fence line at edge of the woods. Open views on your left. Can be muddy in places - the going gets better after this bit!

3 On reaching the road cross straight over - Note: take care, crossing is on brow of a hill. Follow the quiet lane down to Manor Farm and then continue uphill.

4 Join road shortly before The Travellers Rest pub. Continue along road for about ¼ mile, ignore lane signed 'Merridge & Spaxton'.

5 Just after a farm gate painted white enter field on your left. Gateway to the field is slightly set back from road and there is a footpath sign on the road just after the gateway.

Go straight across the field, continuing in a NE direction, going downhill to reach a very obvious valley. Once in the valley follow footpath downhill (sharp left, north), heading towards large gateway in hedge at 6.

6 On reaching the hedge take the enclosed footpath to the right of the large gateway. Continue heading north to the farm at Great Holwell.

7 Turn left, west, along made up track just before the farm buildings (you will go past some silos), and continue until you reach the lane, just after some farm buildings.

8 At the lane turn right and then, almost immediately on your left take footpath. Follow field boundary on your right, heading downhill.

9 Look for stile in hedge. You need to cross into the next field. Continue heading downhill in same direction, now keeping field boundary on your left.

10 At the road turn right. Almost immediately take enclosed footpath on left. Downhill, bridge over stream & into next field - heading to Bishpool Farm. Uphill, follow field boundary on your right.

11 The field boundary loops right and has a gateway - ignore this. Continue straight on, cutting off the loop to rejoin field boundary. Now follow boundary round to right, climb stile and go through a small paddock.

12 At the lane turn right. Just around the bend, take footpath on left. Head uphill, keeping field boundary on your right.

13 At end of this field go through gate and turn left. Follow field boundary on your left and continue heading uphill across two fields, heading towards woods.

14 On reaching track at edge of woods turn left.

15 Take first forest track on right, heading NW onto Lydeard Hill. If you want to shorten the walk at this point continue straight on to re-join walk at point 20. However, you will miss some good views.

16 Go through gate at edge of woods. Continue in same direction (NW), following fence on your right.

17 Fence turns sharp right. Continue straight ahead, following the path you are on.

18 On reaching a crossroads in the track turn sharp left, almost doubling back on yourself. You are skirting around the top of Lydeard Hill. There are actually a couple of paths that head in this direction - no panic - they both go to the same place!

19 Go through gate, through car park and continue straight on. Rather than walk down the single track lane take footpath on left through the woods. This runs parallel to the lane

20 Footpath re-joins the lane. This is also where the short cut comes out. Walk down the lane, which becomes much wider. At fork in road continue straight ahead, ignoring right hand turn to West Bagborough. Continue to end of the lane.

21 Cross the road and head left. You are looking for a bridleway called 'Wilf's Path'. It is sign-posted, but it may be easier to spot the back of a warning triangle road sign, which is just about where the bridle way begins.

The bridle way heads uphill and can get a bit muddy. However, at the end of the woods, the going is on a good footpath. Continue heading in easterly direction. The footpath becomes made-up and leads down to the car park.

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