

# 02 SOMERSET QUANTOCKS

▶ Distance: 9 miles/14.5km ▶ Time: 4½ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



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FEATURE  
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Looking at Woodlands  
Hill from Black Hill.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY...  
**MARK SUTCLIFFE**

This bracing walk explores both the airy ridges and the intimate valleys that characterize the Quantocks. There are a lot of ups and downs, but in early spring, the views from the tops and the birdsong in the valleys make for a varied and rewarding half-day hike.

## 1 Start

From CP cross road and follow secondary road heading NE then north over heath towards Dowsborough. After descent round corner take bridleway L which heads N and starts to climb to hill fort. Ignore two paths to L and continue N until path plateaus

briefly where you take path L to hill fort and follow northern boundary wall before descending NW towards Holford Combe.

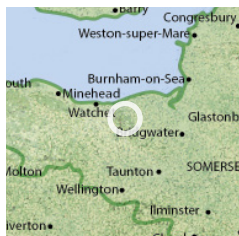
## 2 1 mile/1.5km

Follow rabbit tracks down hill to join bridleway heading N along ridge to Woodlands Hill whose summit is marked with a cairn. The Combe below acts like an echo chamber through which birdsong is amplified and projected out onto the hills around. It's especially pronounced in spring.

## 3 1¾ miles/2.85km

Descend W into valley, taking a 90 deg L next to pond, through meadow and ford stream and half L up the other

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Car park high up on the Quantock Ridge between Nether Stowey and Crowcombe, grid ref ST161381

**Is it for me?** Mainly grassy paths/tracks. Several short but steep climbs. More demanding than it looks  
**Stiles** None

## PLANNING

**Nearest town**

Nether Stowey

**Refreshments**

Holford or Bicknoller

**Public toilets**

Nether Stowey

**Public transport**

Buses from Bridgwater

and Minehead. No. 14

for Holford, No.28

for Bicknoller.

[www.travelinesw.com](http://www.travelinesw.com)

**Maps** OS Explorer 140;

Landranger 181

side, ignoring path off to L and up onto Lower Hare Knapp.

## GRADIENT PROFILE



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► OS Explorer map 140 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop)



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**4** **2½ miles/4.1km**  
Continue W over ridge and descend to valley turning sharp R then sharp L over river then round to L and after 150 yards take R fork and climb steeply up to ridgeline of Lady's Edge.

**5** **4 miles/6.5km**  
Where the path plateaus look for a sturdy wooden pole: The Bicknoller Post from where you can admire the views out over to Minehead, then almost retrace your steps by taking a sharp L SW over the plateau on a grassy track and then at the slight depression, head R to descend via Bicknoller Combe on Macmillan Way.

**6** **5½ miles/8.5km**  
At junction with Coleridge Way, continue for 100 yards before taking 90 deg L heading SE signposted Quantock Moor – although you might want to detour in the gorgeous village of Bicknoller for a spot of lunch. Pass the earthworks of the Trendle Ring then turn sharp L at metal road before swinging back R on greenway signposted Crowcombe.

**7** **6½ miles/10.4km**  
At farm, continue straight on over the cattle grid into Paradise Combe then turn L onto bridleway. After steep climb, take second of two paths leading off to R, crossing the beck.

**8** **7½ miles/11.7km**  
As gradient eases, contour round SE to Halsway Post. From post, head slightly R up and over Hurley Beacon. At top, continue straight on for Crowcombe Park Gate. At gate, continue half L to metalled road, cross and continue E along footpath back to CP. **CW**



**TRAILZILLA ID:**  
TZID29795

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