

# A ride through the Deverills

OS Explorer Map No: 143

Approximate length: 16 miles

Suitable for: Walkers, horse riders and more adventurous mountain bikers

Type of terrain: Unsurfaced chalk and grass tracks, short distance on minor roads, steep in places

Why take this route?: far reaching views across the West Wiltshire Downs

This route can be split into two shorter circular walks; those wishing to do so should park at the church in Kingston Deverill. And either follow from point 6 to point 14 (the northern loop) or from point 14 to point 6 (the southern loop) linking points 6 and 14 via the minor road marked in red.

**1-6** There is room for parking on the byway at Mere Down (point 1); make sure you leave room for people to use the byway. Follow the byway to the junction with the bridleway at point 2, turn right and follow the bridleway. At point 3 go through the gate and follow the field edge, going through another gate at point 4. Once through this gate follow the edge of the slope to point 5, go through the gate and through the next gate in front of you, and cross diagonally across the field to come out on the road through another gate at point 6.

**6-9** Take the left hand fork of the road and cross the river, when you reach the T-junction at point 7 turn left. Follow the road until you see a restricted byway on your right, go through the gates and follow the track up the hill. Follow the fence-line along the crest of the hill and go through the gate at point 8. Continue along the crest of the hill to point 9.

**9-12** At point 9 head diagonally right, do not continue following the fence-line through the gateway, instead enter the wooded area and follow the track down through the wood until you come out at a gate at point 10. Once through the gate turn right and follow along the bottom of the wooded area, keeping to the headland to point 11. At point 11 turn left between two fields and continue down until a wide track opens on your right, turn right and follow the track all the way to point 12.

**12-14** There is a cross road of tracks at point 12 and you will want to turn right, there is some badger activity around this area so take care and watch for any holes. Follow this track all the way to point 13 where you will need to go through the gate on your left to the road. Turn right onto the road and follow it to point 14.



Views across the Deverills

Photo by Sally Madgwick

**14-18** At point 14 turn left and follow the road to point 15. Take the bridleway on your right and follow it through the wooded area to point 16. At point 16 turn left and follow the track, continuing straight ahead through the gate and on to point 17. At point 17 follow the track up the hill to the gate, and continue following the track to point 18.

**18-1** there is a junction with another track at point 18, you want to turn right onto the track and follow all the way along to the road. Cross the road and you are back to point 1.

