



Stockwood – the South West Loop Walk

Main route (anticlockwise)

From Stockwood shops, cross Stockwood Road (zebra crossing) and follow path opposite, through I \ gate and down hill. At foot of hill, bear right along back of school field and past BMX track in hillside on right. Continue between shelter (left) and goalposts (right) into woodland path, veering left to join hard path, then left up to Whittock Road.

Continue same direction across Whittock and Dutton Roads, and down path opposite into Sturminster Close OS. Bear left down to Sturminster Road, turn r. At Longreach Grove, cross over (traffic island) toward old cattle arch; take left hand path up to Whitchurch Railway Path, and follow it to Staunton Lane.

Turn sharp left (signed 'Forget-me-not House') and through kissing gate into pasture (look out for mud here). Field path leads diagonally to exit at far corner through kissing gate onto Whitchurch (old) Green.

Bear left to short path through copse into Craydon Road South OS; continue across grass, crossing Craydon Road and rejoining the path at the I \ gate and returning to the start.

Alternatives

Path along foot of hill can be a bit marshy after rain, good footwear needed.

If wet, woodland mud can be avoided by cutting across Whittock Road field beyond allotments

A superfit party can head straight up the 72 steps opposite Sturminster Close up to the railway path. There are seats en route!

A (poor) mud-free alternative is to return along the railway path to the picnic area, then by Craydon Road back to the start. (Red dot route on map)

If too wet underfoot, just stay on the pavement and return to the start via Stockwood Road

Cafe – at Stockwood Shops

Toilets – none

Picnic areas – 2 on railway path

Drop-out points: Sturminster Road or Craydon Road, for buses

