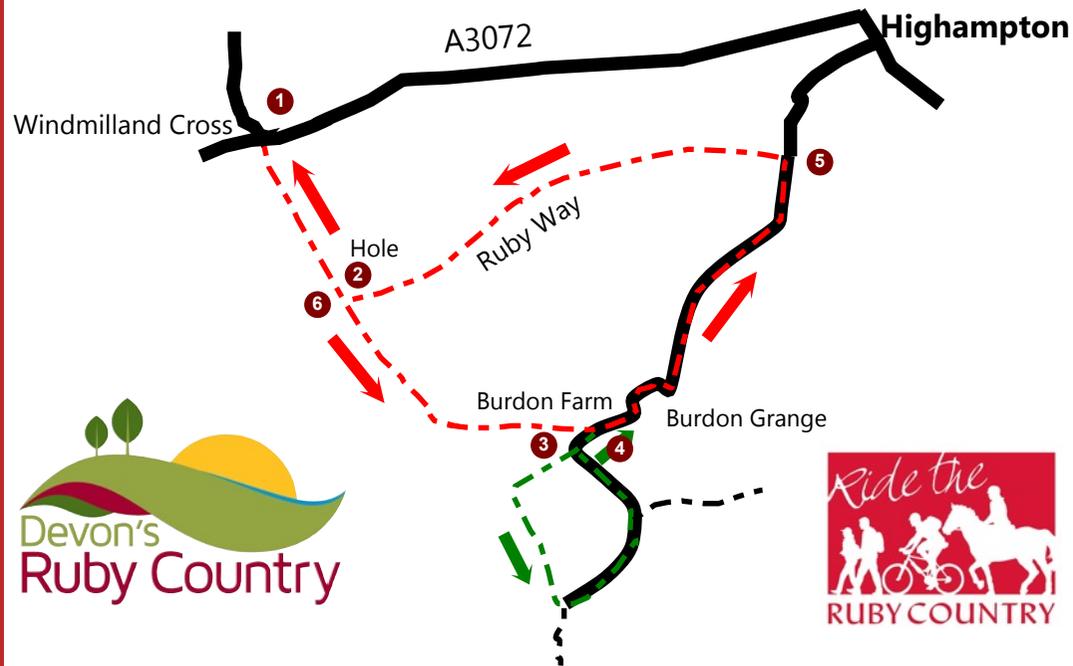


6

Highampton and Burdon - 3 or 3¾ miles - Allow 1½ to 2 hrs

Central Ruby Country - On the Ruby Way



6

Directions - Jacobstowe

DISTANCE	3¼ or 4 miles	TIME	1 to 1½ hours
PATHS	Quiet country lanes, tracks and footpaths across fields.		
MAP	OS Explorer 112, or Landranger 191		
START	Grid reference SS468039		
PARKING	In layby at Windmilland Cross or beside the road marked No Through Road.		
FACILITIES	Golden Inn pub and village shop in Highampton.		

1. The walk starts from Windmilland Cross about 1 mile to the west of Highampton on the main A3072 road linking Holsworthy and Hatherleigh. Head due south down the lane marked as a No Through Road. This track passes through a beautiful avenue of beech trees.

Upon reaching the end of the lane is the site of Hole Station, the old railway station that serviced the villages of Highampton and Black Torrington. Some of the old railway buildings can be seen away to the right, although the site is now privately owned. Many sections of the old railway are now being recovered for public use as routes for walking, cycling and horse riding as part of a rural regeneration initiative in Ruby Country. Part of the Ruby Way will be used later in this walk.

2. Continue straight ahead through a gate and into a wooded area. Keep to the right beside the fence as this is the driest route. Pass through a small gate and then veer left towards a field gate. Go through the gate into a field and walk up the slope keeping the hedge on the right. At the top of the field pass through another gate and then turn left. Walk along the hard track towards the farm buildings in the distance. There are good views of Dartmoor from here.
3. **Extension description:** After turning right, follow the track until the tarmac surface turns right. At this point continue straight ahead on the farm track. This goes into a field where you turn left through trees and past various old farm implements. Cross the stile ahead and continue on the footpath until it emerges on a tarmac road. Turn left and follow this winding road past farm buildings, houses and cottages. When the road turns right rejoin the following main route description.
4. Follow the road as it passes the large farm buildings, and past Burdon Grange on the right. This was the home of the Burdon family for about 650 years and incorporates a Tudor mansion dated 1699. The house has had various uses and is now a residential home. Stay on this road as it goes uphill and across the Pulworthy Brook. To the right of the road is a small area with two benches and a brass plaque showing the area being donated by E. R. Badcock for the use of residents of Burdon Grange. Keep on the road as it climbs uphill until entrances to 2 timber merchants are reached on the right. At this point, turn left onto the Ruby Way.
5. Follow this path along the route of the old railway line until Hole Station is reached. This is a very pleasant section of the route being fairly level. Cyclists may be encountered as this route is for cyclists and walkers. Part way along is a wooden seat placed in memory of a local couple.
6. Upon reaching the end of this section of the Ruby Way, just past Hole Station, turn right back up the lane, and follow this track to the start and finish point of the walk.

www.ridetherubycountry.co.uk

With special thanks to David Arney for route description

