

South East Ruby Country - River Okement



10 Directions - Jacobstowe

DISTANCE 3 OR 3¾ miles

TIME 1½ to 2 hours

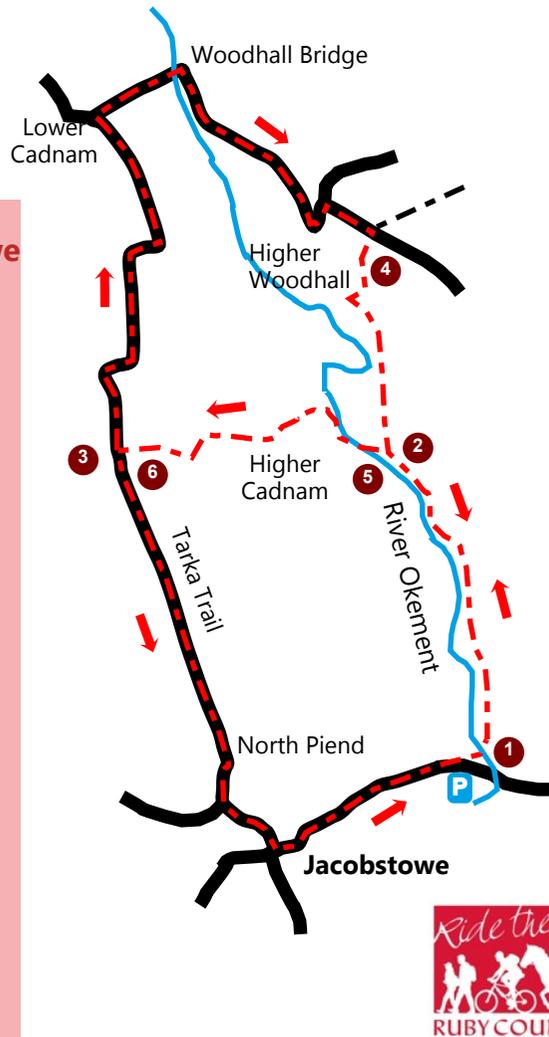
PATHS Quiet country lanes, tracks and footpaths across fields. Also a short stretch of busier road from Jacobstowe.

MAP OS Explorer 113, or Landranger 191

START Grid reference ss592018

PARKING Free parking c.200m from Jacobstowe church in the direction of Exbourne, on the left hand side of the road

FACILITIES Red Lion pub in Exbourne. All facilities and services in the market town of Hatherleigh (3 miles)



- To begin following the route of the Tarka Trail, walk away from the parking area and away from the main road over the bridge. This is the River Okement and is a main feature of this walk, along with its wildlife. After crossing the bridge, turn left into a field. Cross the field keeping the hedge and river on the left hand side. Keep on across the next few fields, still keeping the fence, trees and river on the left.
- Part way across one field a gate is reached leading to a wooden bridge across the river. Cross the bridge and turn left as you come in to the next field and then through a gate into another small field. Cross this field keeping the fence on the left. Pass a pond.

Walk towards the properties ahead. Go between the first 2 houses and then turn left. The large property on the right is Higher Cadham Farm. Follow this lane, passing tracks leading off into other properties. At the next T junction turn right.
- Although this is a public road, it is very quiet. After a short while Lower Cadham Farm is reached. At the next junction the Tarka Trail turns left. Instead turn right in the direction of Woodhall. Cross the River Okement at Woodhall Bridge and stay on this road until it bends sharply to the left. Ahead are entrances to properties at Woodhall. Follow the road around to the right and then turn off it to the right along a footpath.
- Enter a field through a gate and cross this field keeping the fence on the right. Look out for a small gate in the right hand corner of the field, that is easily missed. Pass through this gate and cross the lane and through another gate. Cross the grassy area ahead and head to the left, passing through a gate into a wood. Follow the path through the wood and after a short time the path goes down a hill and comes to a gate. Pass through this gate into a field. Cross the field towards the wooden bridge ahead. This bridge has already been crossed.
- Now there is a choice of returning to the start of the walk along the route already followed. Do not cross the bridge instead turn left and cross the fields this time keeping the river on the right. This is a slightly shorter route and avoids more road walking. To follow the full route, cross the bridge, turn left and through the gate and head towards the Higher Cadham properties. Turn left again after you have passed between the first 2 houses. Keep on this lane until a T junction is reached.
- This time, turn left and follow the quiet country lane until the main road is reached after a few houses. Turn left onto the busier (but not too busy) main road. This road passes through the village of Jacobstowe beside the village church which is worth visiting. Continue along the road in the direction of Winkleigh to complete the walk. The car park is about 200m on the left.