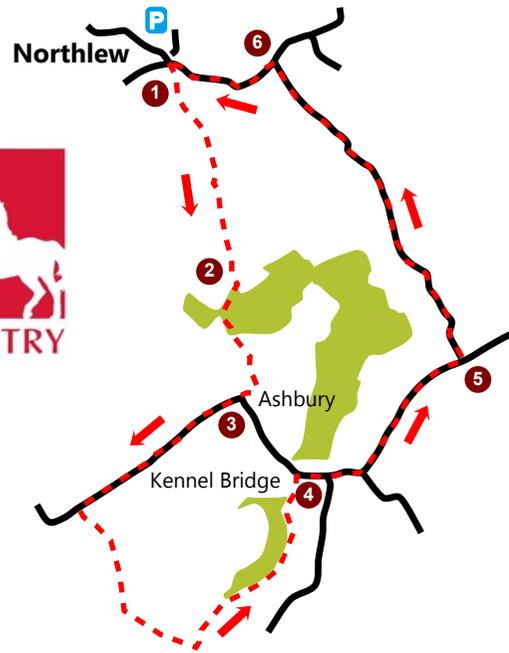


Northlew and Ashbury - farmland and wooded valleys



Directions - Northlew and Ashbury

DISTANCE	4 miles	TIME	1½ to 2 hours
PATHS	Quiet country lanes, tracks and footpaths across fields		
MAP	OS Explorer 113 or Landranger 191		
START/FINISH	Grid reference SX504991		
PARKING	Free parking in the Village Square		
FACILITIES	Green Dragon pub and toilets in Northlew. Junction Inn, shop and Post Office in Halwill Junction. Okehampton and Hatherleigh both 5 miles away		

1. Start in the Village Square. Face away from the Green Dragon pub and across the road is the Northlew and Ashbury Primary School. Follow the track just to the right of the school and keep on downhill as it narrows and becomes a grassy path. Cross a wooden bridge and pass through a gate into a field. Cross straight up this field and through a gate on to a track.

Follow this track straight ahead. It becomes narrow and can become overgrown in the summer. It may also be quite muddy in places.

2. Pass into a wood, through a gate, over a small bridge and up across a small field. Go through 2 more gates and keep on uphill towards some properties. This is the small hamlet of Ashbury, where there used to be a large Manor House, demolished several years ago. In Ashbury are several houses and a quaint church, no longer in use but possibly unlocked to view inside. From the church head on to the road and turn right.
3. Keep on this road until a Public Footpath sign directs you through a gate to the left of a group of large trees. Head down the field keeping the trees on the right. Pass through another gate to the right in to another field. Head across this field to the right hand corner. Pass through a gate and cross straight down the field keeping the hedge on the right.

At the end of the avenue of trees, turn left across the field to a small gate in the far hedge. Cross the next field with the hedge on the right, to a gate and then into another field. Turn left and cross this next field keeping the trees on the left. At the far end of the field the stream crossing the field goes under a stone bridge.

4. The route comes out on the road about 80 meters to the left of this bridge. Turn right on the road. At the next junction, bear left and left again at the next junction, both signposted to Durdon.

Stay on the road as it goes uphill and then soon after it starts to climb take the lane to the left signed "Unsuitable for Motors"

5. Stay on this lane which after a while becomes a tarmac road, passing several properties along the way, until a road junction is reached.
6. There is a pretty thatched cottage on the right as you come to the junction. Turn left and follow this road as it climbs uphill to the Village Square in Northlew.