

CIRCULAR WALKS

FROM SAMPFORD BRETT

All walks start from the Village Hall car park, which is located just past the Church, on the left-hand side of the road opposite the Village Hall.

The walks are not suitable for wheelchairs.

Dog walkers are asked to respect the farmers by keeping their dogs under control at all times and to use the dog bin which is situated on the wall of the Old Rectory, half way down the main street of the village.

Walk 5. **Sampford Brett, Aller, Vellow Wood, Sampford Brett**

Distance: 4 ½ miles

Time: 2 ½ hours

Leave the car park and turn right along the road to the junction by the Church. On the left is the former Village school and School house, now private residences. Notice the Coat of arms of Lord St Audries on the wall; he was the benefactor of the school. At the junction turn left and follow the road through the village, this is known as The Street.



At the end notice the building known as **Sampford House** with its blocked window. Follow the road straight ahead, signed as a No Through Road. After passing Brook Cottage turn right at the entrance to Manor Farm where a finger post indicates Aller Farm. There is also a Coleridge Way (a quill feather logo) sign here. Keep straight ahead and go through the gate with a barn on the right. Follow this path along the

bottom edge of the field. This is known as Church Path [WL20/4]. Turn right through the kissing gate and then left past the stream and follow the sign towards the wood. Go through the gate and follow the path through the woods which is a little steep in places. At the T-junction turn left along Aller Lane [WL 20/17]. Along this path there is a wooden bridge with an interesting notice to **travellers** on it.



At the end of Aller Lane turn right on the track signed to Monksilver, past Aller Farm [WL 20/16] and left at the T-junction still following the Coleridge Way. Continue past the barns and follow the track as it bends round to the left. In the distance on the left is Capton Quarry, still used for red sandstone. There is also a glimpse of Jacobs Pond on the left across the fields. This area was used for open cast mining of Iron Ore back in Roman times.

At this point there is a choice.

Option A - At the end of the track continue straight on across the field heading for the wood on the opposite side. At the entrance to this wood there is a finger post leading to a path through the woods. This area can become overgrown and difficult to find. At the finger post take the

bridleway to the left [WL 15/13], marked with the Coleridge Way logo.

Option B - Follow the Coleridge Way sign at the end of the track by turning right up the hill, quite a pull, and left and left again. As the path runs beside a wood notice the deer lookout – a seat on top of a ladder. Turn right then immediately left to pick up the bridleway [WL 15/13] marked with the Coleridge Way logo.

This track leads out onto the road running between Monksilver and Capton. The bridleway is about ¼ long and is sunken in places. At the end where the Bridleway meets the road at Beech Tree Cross turn left along the road, **but do watch out for traffic!**

After about 200 yards, go through the gate on the right with a Public Footpath finger post [WL 15/12]. Follow the hedge on the right heading towards some old farm buildings. Go past these buildings and over the stile. Rowden Farm, with its ponds, is on the right. Keep straight ahead still with the hedge on the right and cross the next stile. In this field the footpath goes diagonally across the field in the direction of a gap in the hedge on the far side. It may be easier to follow the field boundary round to the right until the gap is reached. There are wonderful views of the Quantock Hills and Stogumber from here. At the gap in the hedge and by a finger post partially concealed in the hedge either turn left if the field was crossed diagonally, or if following the hedge keep straight ahead [WL 22/3]. Do not go through the gap. As the path drops towards a stream turn right before the stream and enter a copse [WL 22/2]. Follow the path, keeping the hedge to the left when emerging from the wood. Cross the stream, beware the mud! And continue through the gate into a field. As Vellow Wood Farm is approached follow the green arrows requesting walkers to avoid the garden by walking round it. At the top of the garden turn left, go through the gate to join a track. Bear left and follow the green arrow round the lily pond and turn right at the barn. Pass the stone barn turn left then right onto another track which leads past the Dutch barn. Follow the track through a wrought iron gate and past the cottage. At the end of this concreted track turn left onto the road – **watching out for traffic** – and then right at the crossroads, signposted to Bicknoller. Towards the bottom of the hill take the track to the left [WL 20/19] round a modern barn that is on the site of a cottage which burnt down. Consequently this bridleway is known locally as Burnt Down Lane. At the pylon take the kissing gate on the right signposted Sampford Brett and bearing the Coleridge Way logo [WL 20/2]. This footpath goes straight across the field with a kissing gate on the far side which bears a Macmillan Way sticker. There is a short steep path which leads through some trees and passes Providence Mill. Follow the track with the stream on the right, past Providence Way

and emerging in Sampford Brett by Brook House. Go through both kissing gates and take the road straight ahead. The car park is a few yards on the right opposite the Village Hall.