

Walk 7

Smokeclose/Moondown Lane

(Peter & Jean Kidner)

This walk offers good views to the South - towards Lopen and Hinton St George. A Northerly wind keeps the roar of traffic on the A303 at bay.

From St James's St Car Park turn R up St James's St to the Blake Hall, turning L up West St. Shortly after passing St Peter & St Paul's church on your L, turn R up Crown Lane to Palmer St. Turn L and keep L past the cottages, into Whitfield Lane (87). On reaching the allotments turn R along the hedge (36), then turn L uphill (35), parallel to but above Carey's Hollow, to Ben Cross. Take the L fork of the road for 75m to the track on L which is Smokeclose Lane (39). Follow the lane down to the A303, behind Frogmary Green Farm, and to the road bridge on the L. Cross over the road into Moondown Lane (89/90), walking parallel to the A303. After Gardenwise Plants nursery, it is a relief to turn away from the by-pass and the track ends at Moor Lane. Turn L along the lane and past Moor Farm; where the lane turns sharp left, turn R at the cottage through the remains of a hamstone squeeze gate onto the track (41). Continue straight on, past the junction with (40), through a metal kissing gate and, either on the definitive route which cuts across the field on your R with 2 stiles, or on the permissive route round the field edge, after 800m you reach Hele Lane. Turn L along Hele Lane until you reach the ford; taking the low or high road as you see fit depending on the water level, after a few steps turn R up the narrow path on your R (83). Emerging into South St after 120m, turn L and after passing Burnworthy, you will see the Car Park in front of you.

Look out for: Hares between Ben Cross and the start of Smokeclose Lane; once numerous, sadly these are now seldom seen.

3 miles, no stiles, 1 hour

