

Jaimie's Chapmanslade Chicken Chaser Walk No. 2

Caravan Field Walk

So here's another walk for you to try on your daily exercise. It's what I call the Caravan Field Walk...

This is an old favourite of mine- and I call it the caravan field walk because you guessed it - in one of the fields there used to be a caravan in there...

This walk is around three miles, should take about an hour and a half or so, is cattle and sheep free, and should suit little legs if you take snacks or keep them motivated!

This walk is great any time of the day, but if you head out at dawn or dusk you might see deer, and I once came upon some fox cubs playing outside of their den.. It's also one that can be done in reverse...

Start at the Three Horseshoes pub, and leave the car park turning left. Head up the road until you reach the first crossing; with a bridleway sign pointing left and signed Corsley Church. This is Gore Lane - so called because before Chapmanslade had a church (it was only built in 1866) all the coffins were carried down here to be taken to St Margaret's in Corsley (and the church that was there before that).

Turn left into the lane and past the house Top Acres on your right behind a high gate. In the fence about 20m on the right hand side there is a style. Climb it carefully (it's on its way out) and head across the field to the style on the other side at the end of the fence on the left. Once over the style turn left down the path through the trees and bushes, which goes downhill. You'll often see freshly dug holes you need to walk around.

Hop over the style at the bottom, and you'll see a nice new seat on the left, which was kindly put there by the owners of the field. If you can, stop and rest a while then head on down and the field opens out in front of you - I always think this is a beautiful quiet spot but it can be a bit wet underfoot though.

Follow the field down, through the thin bit, and as it levels out head to the right hand corner and the style. Climb over onto Mill Lane and turn left, following the lane along until you reach the end where it splits and follow it to the right and onto the road that heads to Corsley.

Follow the road until you reach the post box then keep going straight (off of the main road which takes you towards Corsley Church).

Keep going until the lane forks- you have some farm buildings on your right- this is Water Farm. Bear right up the hill- and follow it to the top.. this is badger country so you'll likely see badger setts as you go up. At the top turn left into the field and follow it along until you reach the big tree. Take a seat on Neil's bench and enjoy a little rest and a wonderful view across into Somerset. On a clear day you can see the Mendip transmitter outside Wells - that's 20 miles away!

Once you're well rested carry on through the gate at the end and down the hill. Make sure to leave the farm gate as you find it. Keep going straight past the new lake on your right, with Dye House farm on your left (any idea why it might be called Dye House Farm?) and head up the path up the hill. It can be a bit muddy and rutted so be careful. Once at the top in Southcroft follow the lane down to the road (A3098) and take care as you cross over. Then cross the A3098 up the slope and head left to the pavement back to the Three Horseshoes. It must be time for a meal and a drink!

Find a map of Chapmanslade footpaths at <http://chapmanslade.org.uk/footpath-map/>.

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