

## Local walk to Abbots Well (one of the best views in the Forest)

1.5 hours / 3.5 miles. Hills, possible mud!



Walk to the end of our driveway, and turn left onto Hyde Lane.

Continue to the end of the road, then turn right up Frogham Hill.

After 250m, turn right up Pentons Hill. Continue up the hill until, at a bend in the lane just before the open forest, you see a gravel track to your left.



Follow this track. Look to your right for a view over Hyde Common – the cricket pitch is a favourite spot for the New Forest Ponies. Across the common is the village school – the children use the common as their playground.



You are now on the Open Forest where you can roam freely on foot, so feel free to take a detour across the common. Stick to the tracks to avoid disturbing ground nesting birds.

Continue along the gravel track until you emerge on Blissford Hill. (The Foresters Arms pub is just down the lane to your left)

Cross over the road and continue up the hill. Don't be disheartened by the 'no public access' sign, this refers to cars.



Continue until you come to Abbots Well car park. Pause and enjoy the panoramic views across the Forest.



When you are ready, take this track down the hill:



And when you reach the main path go right:



Follow this track until you come to the river – Latchmoor Brook. There is a bridge around to the right:



You will emerge onto an open area with the river meandering through. There is a large agricultural building. Opposite this, there is another bridge – it is a bit hidden! You will be almost doubling back on yourself:



Once over the bridge, follow the lane until you reach this path:



Aim for these large trees. Take a rest on the bench beneath.



Continue on past the trees, following the path through the gorse, until you emerge on the common, by the school.



Now you have a choice – you can cross the common and walk down Pentons Hill, retracing your steps back to Flaxfield. Or – if you have good shoes on! - you could head down Church Lane, and then, once you reach the church car park, turn to the right and, keeping the church to your left, walk down the hill – be warned, there is a steep section! You will pass the pre-school on your left, before the steep section of hill. If you have come this way, you will emerge onto a track and then onto Hyde Lane – turn right and walk around 400m until you are back at Flaxfield.

