

New Selbourne Common Route

This is a new route for the afternoon of the main walk, which cuts out the rather dull farmland section beyond Newton Valence, and explores more of Selbourne Common. It is also 0.6km (0.4 miles) shorter than the current main walk, and joins up with the very pretty Selbourne to Farringdon short cut, as follows:

1. At page 109, col two, last para, para starting "Near the far end of this, fork left on the main track into the woods....", do NOT fork left on the main track, but instead *keep straight on along a fainter track initially along the left hand edge of the clearing*. In 100 metres, you pass a pond to your right (which may be hidden by vegetation in summer). *At the end of the pond, turn right downhill, following a grassy path, ignoring lesser paths to your left.*
2. In 45 metres, you enter a wood. In a further 40 metres, *turn left at a T-junction onto a car wide muddy path*. In 100 metres, pass through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden fieldgate. 20 metres after this there is a footpath post on your right hand side.
3. In a further 200 metres, *at a three way footpath post, turn right onto a car-wide bridleway*. Follow this downhill and *in 300 metres, 50 metres before the wood edge, ignore a path with a footpath post forking right to continue straight on to the corner of the wood.*
4. Here, *turn left across a stile, to follow the top edge of a field, with a line of low trees to your left*. In 130 metres, *pass through a wooden gate in the field corner, and descend a bank for 20 metres to a T-junction with a car wide track. Turn right here*. In 400 metres, cross a stile to the left of a metal fieldgate, and *turn left onto a tarmac lane*.
5. In 120 metres, *go right across a stile, and straight on across an open field*. In 70 metres pass under mini-pylons, and start to climb. In 220 metres, cross a stile into a wood.
6. **[!]** *The path here should be straight on across the wood, but is currently blocked by a fallen tree: you can get round this by following a faint path to the left for 60 metres, and then turning right uphill along the field boundary for 40 metres to find the stile exiting the wood.*
7. From this stile carry on diagonally uphill across the field (that is, pretend you have just crossed the stile, and continue uphill diagonally across the field towards its top far corner), your direction 310 degrees. Again, arable crops currently block part of this path, but if you *climb to the upper edge of the field, you will find a car wide track, where you turn left*. Follow this to the corner of the field, and you should find a footpath post with a blue arrow on it.
8. From this point, follow the car wide track as it turns downhill, with an open field to the left, your direction 320 degrees.
9. You now follow the directions on page 112 of the current book from second column, para four, fourth sentence (eighth line). "In 80 metres, cross a car-wide track linking two fields and keep straight on, your direction now 300 degrees ...