

# *Six country walks within the Parish of Coffinswell*

## NOTES

- Please keep dogs under control, preferably on a lead, particularly when crossing open farmland.
- There are several points on these walks that take you near a busy road (St Marychurch Road). If you have children or dogs with you, please take care.
- As there is rough ground on some of the walks, good comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Enjoy your time in our parish.

## **Walk Number 1 – No.1 Footpath. Pathfield, Dacombe**

Distance: About 2 kilometres (1.2 miles)

Time: About 45 minutes (circular route)

Start the walk from the Linny public house in Coffinswell and walk down the lane opposite the Linny car park. Look to your left, after 50 metres, and between two high beech hedges you will see the 12<sup>th</sup> century church and Devon manor house (formerly a court house) next to it, which was a farm house until fairly recently. Continue down the lane which bends to the left and goes behind the church field and on down a narrow winding lane to the valley of the Aller Brook.

At Aller Brook turn left through a "kissing gate" onto No.1 Footpath. This path follows the course of Aller Brook to an open area of coppiced trees with a "waterfall" and bench on which you can rest. Kingfishers have been sighted here.

Continue along the path until you come to another "kissing gate" where you exit the footpath to the left. Take care, as the footpath emerges onto a blind bend in the lane.

Walk up the lane. Just before the road starts to rise quite steeply, there is a lane on your left which is lined with wild garlic in springtime. Do not follow this lane though, as you will simply retrace earlier steps. Continue along the road, which rises fairly steeply for about 250 metres. You will then see the Coffinswell village sign and, within 100 metres or so, you are back at the Linny public house.

## **Walk Number 2 – No.2 Footpath. Shell Lane, Coffinswell**

Distance: About 2 kilometres (1.2 miles)

Time: About 45 minutes (circular route)

Start your walk near the Linny public house and walk back through the village with Princess Cottages on your right. Take the first turning right, up Connybeare Lane (sign posted Milber). This is a gently rising route, between high banks, with some wild flowers nearly always growing amongst the grass and hedges.

Walk up as far as Connybear Wood (on your right). Within 15 metres there is a "kissing gate" on the left into a grassy pathway which skirts a field on the right. Pause and look across the valley to the lovely view beyond, to country and moor. Walk down the path and go through another "kissing gate" on your left into a field.

Cross the field diagonally, then follow a wide path, keeping the hedge on your right. Go through yet another "kissing gate" and down the footpath, with banks, hedges and trees on both sides.

A few minutes' walk down the track brings you on to the road and into the village again. Turn left into the road and follow it up through the village.

A short diversion is an option here if you have not yet seen the Old Well after which Coffinwell is named (Coffyn's Well). Instead of turning left, turn right and walk 100 metres down to a grassy triangle on the right, on which the well is located. Retrace your steps.

There is a seat to rest on at the top of the hill, put there by the villagers for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Pass the post box and telephone on your left and, about 400 metres on, you are back to the Linny once more.

### **Walk Number 3 - No.3 Footpath. Connybear Brake, Coffinwell**

Distance: About 2 kilometres (1.2 miles)

Time: About 35 minutes (not a circular route - outward and return route identical)

Start your walk from the Linny public house and walk back through the village with Princess Cottages on your right. Take the first turning right, up Connybeare Lane (sign posted Milber). This is a gently rising route, between high banks, with some wild flowers nearly always growing amongst the grass and hedges.

Walk up past Connybear Wood (on your right) and just before the lane narrows, you will see a footpath sign on your left, pointing to the field on your right. Walk through the field, keeping Connybear Wood close on your right. There are magnificent views from the field of Dartmoor (from left to right - Rippon Tor, Saddle Tor, Haytor). At the far end of the field is a stile but this exits onto the very busy St Marychurch Road, so you are advised not to climb over the stile. Return the way you came, back to the Linny public house.

**Walk Number 4 – No.8 Bridleway. Milber Lane, Coffinswell with option to walk No. 4 Footpath to Milber Down Fort.**

Distance: Approx. 5 kms (3 miles)

Time: About 2 hours (not a circular route - outward and return route identical)

Start your walk from the Linny public house and walk back through the village with Princess Cottages on your right. Keep going straight past several pretty cottages which are located directly on the road. At the telephone kiosk there is a seat, put there by the villagers for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Pass the post box and telephone on your right and follow the road down a steep hill (known as School Hill or Post Office Hill). At the bottom of the hill follow the road round to the right and keep walking.

In about 250 metres, you will see the old well after which Coffinswell is named ("Coffyn's Well") situated in a triangle of grass and shrubs.

Continue walking past a few more houses until you find a right hand turn which has a cottage on the right and exposed Oddicombe breccia stone (approx. 2.5 metres high) on your left. Follow this road until there is a split in the lane:- metalled road to the right, unmetalled lane to the left. At this point you will see the bridleway sign, pointing along the unmetalled lane.

Follow this lane, which has magnificent elevated views to the left including terraced hills grazed by sheep and the village of Kingskerswell beyond. The lane continues for a further 1.4 kilometres. On the way you will pass by the edge of the Zig Zag Quarry and see dormouse boxes in the hedgerows from time to time.

After about 1 kilometre, you have an option to visit Milber Down Fort using Footpath No. 4.

OPTION: Footpath No. 4 off Bridleway No. 8

A stile on your right is marked as Footpath No. 4. This is the Milber Down Fort footpath (not a bridleway and not a circular route). The footpath takes you up a gently sloping enclosed grassy path. Looking back, there are views of the town of Newton Abbot and Dartmoor beyond.

At the top of the footpath are 2 stiles which lead into a private open field where sheep often graze. Signs indicate the route to the Milber Down fort.

The hillfort is in grassland and consists of banks and ditches to make concentric enclosures. It is a scheduled Ancient Monument and dates from the third to the late first century BC. Please do not picnic or leave litter on the earthworks. Whilst the footpath does ultimately lead to a stile onto the busy St Marychurch Road, you are advised not to use the stile and it is not included as a feature of this walk. So retrace your steps to the grassy path back down to the Bridleway.

Returning back to Bridleway No.8, turn right and continue to follow the lane as before. Close to the entrance to Ben Steadman woods, there is a stone which marks the boundary between Newton Abbot town and Coffinswell parish (letters NA on one side, C on the other). There is also a bench just inside the woods if you need a rest. No. 8 Bridleway ends about 40 metres further on at the very busy St Marychurch Road. So, after exploring the woods, you are advised to turn back and return the way you came, back to the Linny public house.

### **Walk Number 5 - Permissive footpath. Big Wheaton, Churchway, Coffinswell**

Distance: About 2 kilometres (1.2 miles)

Time: About 45 minutes (circular route)

Start the walk from the Linny public house in Coffinswell and walk down the lane opposite the Linny car park. Look to your left, after 50 metres, and between two high beech hedges you will see the 12<sup>th</sup> century church and Devon manor house (formerly a court house) next to it, which was a farm house until fairly recently. Continue along the lane and, at the point that the lane bends to the left, take the track to the right between two fields (marked as Churchway and John Musgrave Trail).

After an initial gentle slope, the track rises steeply between high trees until you reach the brow of the hill. On your right is a metal gate with a sign post "Big Wheaton" permissive path. Go through the gate, ensuring that you close it as sheep are often grazed in the field.

Keeping the hedge on your left, walk across the brow of the hill which gives you elevated views of the village of Coffinswell including the parish church tower.

At the far end of the field is another metal gate (take care again to close this firmly). This brings you to an area bordered by farm gates, with Kerswell Lane track off to your left and right.

Take the Kerswell Lane track to your right, which goes steeply back down to Coffinswell and brings you to a bend in the road at the bottom of a hill (known as School Hill or Post Office Hill).

Turn right up the hill and through the village. There is a seat to rest on at the top of the hill, put there by the villagers for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Pass the post box and telephone on your left and about 400 metres on, you are back to the Linny once more.

### **Walk Number 6 - Permissive footpath. 14 Acre Field, Connybeare Lane, Coffinswell**

Distance: About 3 kilometres (1.9 miles)

Time: About an hour (circular route)

Start your walk near the Linny public house and walk back through the village with Princess Cottages on your right. Take the first turning right, up Connybeare Lane (signposted Milber). This is a gently rising route, between high banks, with some wild flowers nearly always growing amongst the grass and hedges.

Walk up as far as Connybear Wood (on your right) and continue walking up the lane which narrows between field hedges. As the lane becomes a little wider, where there is a passing place, on your left you will find a metal gate with the sign post "14 Acre field". This is approx. 30 metres before the T-junction with St Marychurch Road.

Enter the field, ensuring that you close it as sheep are often grazed in the field when crops are not being grown. Walk around the edge of the field to your right, following the footpath. There are distant views of Dartmoor. After the left hand turn at the end of the field, you will find a metal gate on your right (take care again to close this firmly) and this brings you on to a narrow lane. Turn left, as to turn right would take you onto the very busy St Marychurch Road.

Follow this lane as it meanders back down to the village. At every field gate on the left there are wonderful elevated views of terraced fields and the village of Coffinswell. On the skyline, you will see Marldon mast.

At the lower end of the lane there is a left hand turn that leads you back into the village. Just before that turn you may notice exposed Oddicombe breccia stone (approx. 2.5 metres high) on your right, opposite a cottage.

Follow the road up through the village. In about 100 metres on your left, you will see the old well after which Coffinswell is named ("Coffyn's Well") situated in a triangle of grass and shrubs.

Continue on the road, which is lined by pretty cottages and old, converted barn buildings. Turn left up the hill (known as School Hill or Post Office Hill). There is a seat to rest on at the top of the hill, put there by the villagers for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Pass the post box and telephone on your left and about 250 metres on you are back to the Linny once more.

## *Country Code*

Please respect the country code:

- Take your litter home and guard against all risk of fire
- Keep to paths and avoid damaging walls, hedges or fences
- Keep dogs under control and do not disturb wildlife or take plants
- Fasten gates behind you

If you are walking dogs, please remember "There is no Dog Poo Fairy".

**Coffinswell Parish Council** is a participant in the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme with Devon County Council and the Countryside Commission, to care for its local network of Public Rights of Way.

Coffinswell Parish comprises the village of Coffinswell and the hamlet of Dacombe.

History: The parish church of St Bartholomew was consecrated in 1159, parts of the manor house (old court house) are 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Geology: for such a small area, the Parish of Coffinswell has a great variety of rocks, of four widely differing ages: Devonian, Permian, Cretaceous, Oligocene periods.

To view photographs of the area or learn more about the geology, please visit the official Coffinswell Parish Council website:

[www.coffinswellparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.coffinswellparishcouncil.co.uk)

(website includes contact details for the Parish Clerk)

For advice relating to any public path matters please contact:

The Public Rights of Way Section, Environment Department  
Devon County Council, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QW Tel: 01392 382550

### **Alternative walks in the parish**

These walks are based on official Devon County Council footpaths and bridleways. There are several pleasant walks on other tracks and lanes in the Parish. If you would like these to be included in a future version of this leaflet, please contact the Parish Clerk.