

Walk No. 2



Golden Cap the Easy Way

Langdon Woods to Golden Cap to
Langdon Woods

Distance: Approx. 2½ miles.

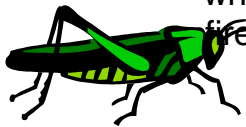
Forest “contour” walks only – Approx. 1¾ miles.

O.S. Map: SY49/59 (1:25000) or 193 (1:50000)

This very pleasant walk could, I suppose, be called the “lazy” way of climbing Golden Cap, because one starts out from the National Trust car park in Langdon Woods, which is already about 500 ft. above sea level.

To reach this parking area you turn South off the A35 on to an unsignposted tarred lane situated about 100 yards East of The Farm Produce Shop, Morcombelake. Almost immediately after this you turn left on to an unsurfaced lane, and then after about 300 yards you turn right up a forest road which ends in the parking area.

From the North and South sides of this car park a circular forest track sets off around this hilltop expanse of woodland, which consists mainly of conifers with some firebreak belts of beech around the perimeter. Local wild life includes foxes, badgers, grey squirrels, fallow deer and a wide variety of birds. This circular forest track is open to walkers, but padlocked for motor vehicles.



Constructed by the Forestry Commission for occasional use by timber lorries, the track keeps to the 500 ft. contour line throughout its length, and therefore offers easy enjoyable walking for anyone who, for reasons of age or infirmity, is unable to manage hills or rough terrain. Gaps in the trees provide extensive views over the surrounding coast and countryside, and bench seats beside the track enable one to enjoy these views in comfort.

The length of this circular walk is about 1¾ miles, but it can be extended to include a visit to the top of Golden Cap. Although this optional extension is not recommended for the very elderly or infirm, it is nevertheless a lot easier than climbing Golden Cap from sea level!

Set off along the circular track in a clockwise direction. After walking along the East perimeter of the forest, with its views of Chideock village in the valley below, the track curves around the South end of Langdon Hill. At this point, on your left, you will see a footpath disappearing downhill into a dense forest of pines. If you wish to climb Golden Cap you should take this side path which will soon bring you out on to a bridleway at the South West corner of the forest. Turn right and follow the bridleway through a gate into a grassy field. From this point on the path to the top of Golden Cap is clearly waymarked.



The same route can make your return to Langdon Woods and the circular forest track. Turn left on re-joining the contour track, and it will eventually complete the circle and bring you back to the car parking area.

