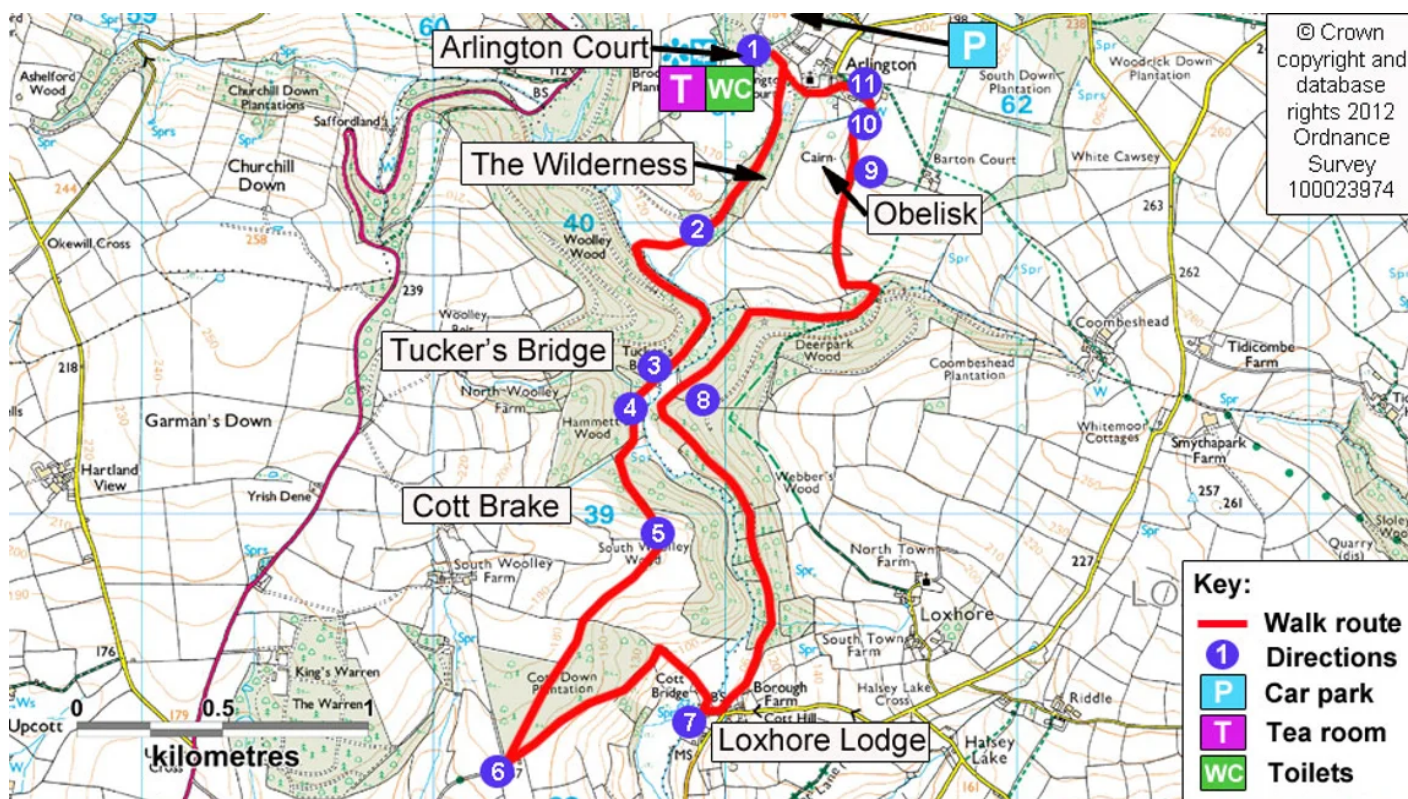


DEVON

Woodland and Cott Brake circular walk at Arlington Court

This walk takes you through ancient woodland and up onto the steep grassland and spectacular views of Cott Brake. Along the way, look out for the ornamental Wilderness Pond, the obelisk monument, some historic architecture and the estate's red deer.



Information

Address: Arlington Court, Arlington, Near Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 4LP

OS map: Explorer 139; Landranger 180

Activity: Walking

Moderate: Footpaths through parkland and woodland, with some steep gradients. For further details, see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs are welcome on this walk but please keep them on a lead. The Vine Café at Arlington Court is dog-friendly.

Full trail: Miles: 5 (km: 8)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 3 hours

Terrain

The trail follows footpaths around the estate through parkland and woodland. Most of the terrain is fairly easy but there is one steady and one steep climb and parts can be muddy.

Total steps: 11

Start point: Old Kitchen Tea-room, grid ref: SS611405

1. From the tea-room, follow signs to the Carriage Museum. Before you reach the church, the path goes right and past the Wilderness Pond. From here, head down into the Wilderness. Follow the track down the hill for about 440yd (400m) and take the left-hand fork down a steep slope to a gate.
2. Once through the gate, follow the track to Smallacombe Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left, following signs for Loxhore and Deerpark Wood.
3. At Tucker's Bridge, don't cross the bridge but take the right-hand fork, signed Shirwell via Cott Wood, and follow the track alongside the river. Go through a gate into a wooded meadow.
4. Follow the track for 220yd (200m) and go through two gates. After the second gate, immediately turn left and walk up a steep hill with woodland on your left. At the top of hill go over the stile to your left. You are now on Cott Brake with views back to Arlington Court and the village of Loxhore.
5. Turn right and follow the collapsed hedge bank on your right for about 330yd (300m), keeping to the brow of the hill. Climb over the stile at the end of the field into Cott Wood, where you can follow the narrow woodland track for about 440yd (400m).
6. Go over the stile at the end of the track and turn left. After 11yd (10m), turn left down a main track, which is steep and rocky in places. At the bottom you'll join a tarmac road. Cross Cott Bridge then follow the road uphill, bearing left. At the top of the short hill, you'll see Loxhore Lodge, accessed through large gates topped by herons.
7. Go through the gates and onto the wide track. Follow the track for about 0.6 miles (1km) until you reach a junction at Tucker's Bridge. Don't cross the bridge but take the track signed Arlington Court and Loxhore uphill via Deerpark Wood.
8. Stay on this track as it winds through the woodland alongside a stream. At a crossroad of paths, keep left and you'll soon cross an overgrown bridge above the stream. Follow

the rocky path uphill and through a gate. The path bears round to the right and between a wire fence on the right and hedge on the left. Continue on the path through any gates (these may be open).

9. In a wooded copse, you'll pass a clearing on the left with a picnic bench. From here you can see the stone Obelisk. Continue on the path through the woodland.
 10. At the end of the path, go through the farm gate and turn right, keeping left along the field edge until you come to a gate on your left. Go through this gate and follow a small track into woodland.
 11. You'll emerge from the woodland opposite the Sawmill. Turn left down a concrete slope, then left again along a rough track. You're now behind the stables. From here, you can walk down the slope and back to your starting point at the main gardens and tea-room.
- End point: Old Kitchen Tea-room, grid ref: SS611405
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