

# Route 1

## Village and Forest Trail

**10.2 miles**  
(3.3 miles on road/6.9 miles off road)

Parking is available at Cookworthy Forest and at the Cookworthy Forest Centre that is suitable for horse boxes and trailers. Car parking is also available on road at Halwill and Halwill Junction.

Turn right out of the Cookworthy Forest car park.

Continue straight ahead for 50 metres. Take the furthest right forest track at the junction.

Continue on for ⅓ mile.

Go straight over the cross roads.

Continue on for 300 metres.

Turn right, crossing the dismantled railway track.

The dismantled railway track you have been travelling adjacent to, was the Holsworthy Branch of the London and South Western Railway (LSWR). The line from Meldon Junction was authorised in 1873 and opened to Holsworthy on 20th January 1879. Holsworthy acted as the railhead until 1898 when the line to Bude was opened. The whole railway network to the west of Okehampton was closed in 1966 following Lord Beeching's review.

Continue straight on for ¼ mile.

Keep left at the fork in the track.

Continue straight on for 300 metres.

Go straight on at the cross roads (signposted "...to Halwill").

Follow the permissive bridleway for ¼ mile and then turn right onto the hedged-lane (waymarked as a public bridleway).

You pass some prehistoric burial mounds (barrows or tumuli) on this route. Keep a lookout and see how many you can spot! The first one is in the field on your right hand side. It is a bowl barrow that is listed as a Scheduled Ancient Monument considered to be of national importance. Bowl barrows are funerary monuments dating from the Late Neolithic period (2,400 to 1,500 BC). They were constructed as earthen or rubble mounds, with this example believed to be from the Bronze Age.

Follow this lane to the A3079 (the main Okehampton to Holsworthy road).

Cross the A3079 and continue along the dismantled railway track for ⅔ mile.

This railway track was part of the North Cornwall Railway, a subsidiary of the LSWR, built to link the LSWR's main system to the Bodmin and Wadebridge line. The Halwill to Launceston section was opened in 1886 and extended to Wadebridge in 1895.

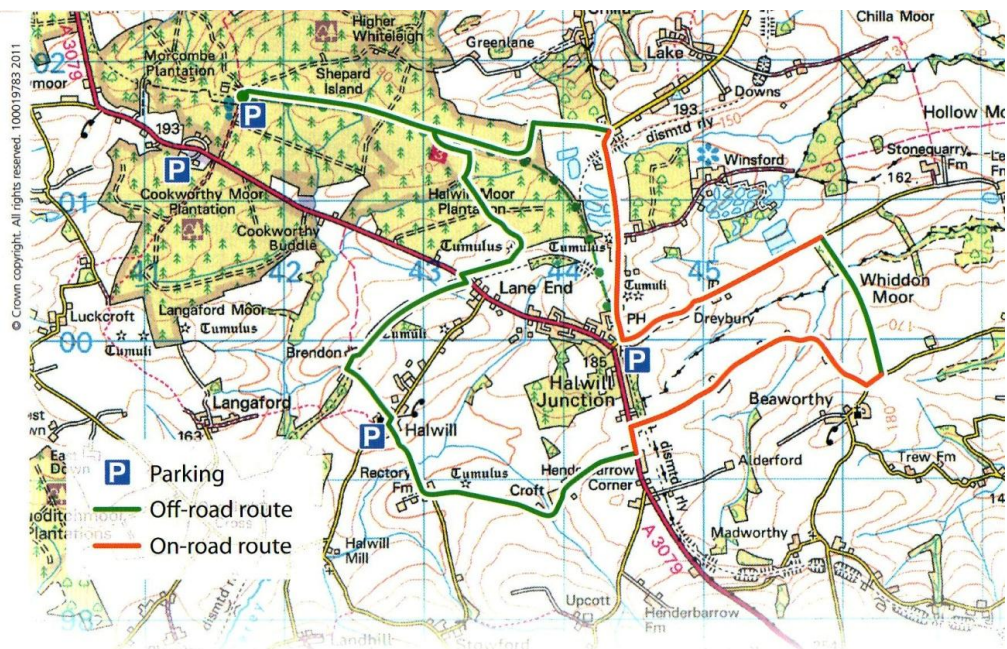
Continue to follow the public bridleway at Brendon Farm up and over the railway bridge to Halwill.

Halwill takes its name from a "holy well". It was known as Halgewilla in the Domesday book.

Turn right along the road for 50m and then take the bridleway/lane on the left.

At Isted House, follow the lane around to the left, continuing straight on past East and West Croft Farms to the A3079.

Turn left along the A3079 and then take the first right (signposted "Beaworthy").



Continue straight on for 1¼ miles, passing Broadmoor Farm, and then turn left at Beaworthy Cross (signed "Whiddon").

After 80 metres take the public bridleway on the left.

Follow the bridleway to the end, crossing a stream through a ford.

Turn left at the road and follow this past Dreybury Farm and the Winsford Centre to Halwill Junction.

The Winsford Cottage Hospital, a Grade II listed building designed by C.F.A. Voysey, was given to the community of Halwill and surrounding district in 1900 by Mrs Maria Webb-Medley in memory of her husband George. It was the site of a prisoner of war camp during the second world war. The former Cottage Hospital is the only building in the United Kingdom designed by C.F.A. Voysey (a contemporary of William Morris and Lutyens) that is still in public ownership. The Winsford Trust came into being in 1999 when the local community led by the Winsford Hospital

League of Friends formed a committee in partnership with Age Concern Torrington to secure the ownership and development of the building for the benefit of the community.

Turn right at the Junction Inn and follow the road straight on for 1 mile.

Immediately before Chilla Chapel, take the public bridleway on the left.

At the end of the public bridleway, pass through the metal bridle gate on the left, and follow the permissive bridleway into Cookworthy Forest.

Continue straight on and return to the Cookworthy Forest car park.

Halwill Junction has a pub "The Junction Inn", general stores, post office and fish and chip shop.

There are public toilets located opposite "The Junction Inn".

Cookworthy Forest is a great place to enjoy a picnic, with plenty of places to tie up horses.