

Points of Interest on this route (see map overleaf for locations)

A The river at Tarrant Monkton is crossed by a ford and a packhorse bridge that is thought to date from the 17th century. This was part of an old route between Blandford Forum and Moor Crichele. High wheat prices and low labour costs in the early 19th century made the Tarrant Valley agriculturally prosperous.



Memorial at Tarrant
Rushton Airfield



Circular walk in the valley of the River Tarrant, from a ford and 17th century packhorse bridge at Tarrant Monkton to the Second World War airfield at Tarrant Rushton from where glider missions were flown to France

Start Point: The Ford at Tarrant Monkton.

Ordnance Survey Explorer 118 | ST945090 | W3W: anode.inhaled.presenter

Parking: There is no specific designated area for parking, so please leave your vehicle where it will not cause a danger or an obstruction to other road users and residents. There is some space available at each of the entry points to the Tarrant Rushton Airfield.

Terrain: Bridleways and footpaths in undulating countryside. Some stiles and gates. Some of the bridleways and footpaths can be muddy in parts.

Length: Approximately 7 miles / 11.2 km.

Approximate time: 3 hours.

Dogs: Please keep dogs on a lead wherever livestock are present.

Good to know: The perimeter track at Tarrant Rushton Airfield is a public bridleway for the whole of its length. It is level and has a hard surface, so it provides an ideal surface for wheelchair users to enjoy an easy circuit of the airfield, shared with runners, cyclists and, occasionally, horse-riders.

Refreshments: The Langton Arms public house in Tarrant Monkton.

The information is only intended as a general guide. Please check local arrangements.



Respect everyone
Protect the environment
Enjoy the outdoors
Follow advice and local signs

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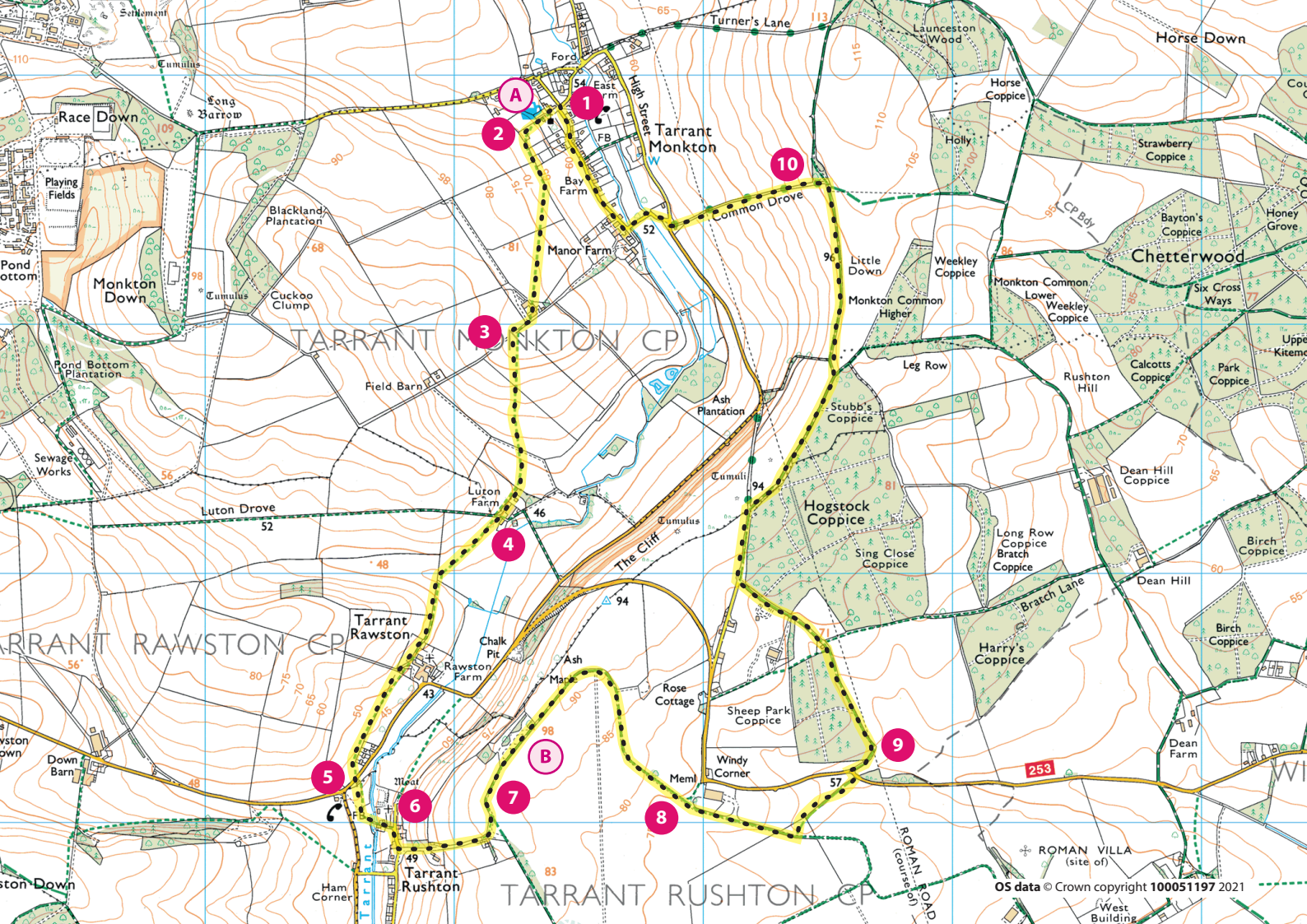


Tarrant Monkton and Tarrant Rushton

A Horsa named Irene and a pilot named Jim

WALK #
W40





Directions

1 From the ford and the packhorse bridge at the River Tarrant, fork left into the village of Tarrant Monkton to follow the road to the Langton Arms and the church. Keep straight ahead across the car park to a signposted footpath through a gate and stile, then bear left across the field to a double stile in the far corner.

2 Cross the stile and follow the waymarked path along the edge of the field and through two gates before bearing right up the slope of the field. Pass through two gates, each of which stands alone but may have electric fences attached to the gate posts. Continue straight ahead uphill to a gate in the corner of the field onto a farm track.

3 Turn right, then after the farm buildings on the right of the track, go left at a waymarked gate into a field. Bear to your right across the field to a stile and then follow the path downhill over two more stiles, down to Luton Farm. Cross two more stiles and pass to the right of a steel barn to a gate onto a tarmacked track. Go straight across the track and through a gate opposite into a field.

4 Bear right across the field to a gate in the far corner, then continue uphill alongside the hedge, then through another two gates to Rawston Farm. As you pass between the farm buildings, bear right on the track to a waymarked gate into a field. Go straight ahead to pass the backs of a row of houses then bear left to a gate onto the road.

5 There is a signposted footpath next to the house on the opposite side of the road, but do not go onto the footpath but instead turn right along the road, then as the road forks to the left and right, cross a stile into the field on the left and then

bear right across the field to cross a stile and footbridge over the River Tarrant.

6 Go up the hill into the village of Tarrant Rushton and follow the road around to the right. Turn left at the junction and continue uphill to the end of the road and the entrance to the Tarrant Rushton Airfield.

7 The concrete perimeter track around the airfield is now a bridleway. Turn left to follow the track and stay on it until reaching a large barn where there is another entrance point to the airfield, at which there is a memorial to the airmen who served here, and an information board.

8 Once you have visited the memorial, return to the perimeter track and turn left. Stay on the track before turning left along a signposted bridleway to a gate into a field, then follow this along the field edge to a gate onto the road.

9 Cross the road onto a signposted bridleway which leads to the woods ahead. Follow the bridleway past a cottage and then around a bend to the left and alongside the edge of the woods at Hogstock Coppice. Continue to the right, along the edge of the woods, then at a gate directly ahead bear right and continue along the bridleway, signposted to Common Drove and Manswood.

10 As the track opens out into a wider area turn left onto Common Drove and follow this down the hill to the road at Tarrant Monkton. Cross to the road opposite and walk along the road as it bends to the right and then to the left before it straightens to lead back to the centre of the village at the Langton Arms and the church.