

Walk 1 – Bracketts Coppice – Description

Start and finish: Park at the end of Common Lane (A) opposite Ryewater Farm where there is room to get off the road. Alternatively use the carpark for Bracketts Coppice Dorset Wildlife Trust reserve, home to rare butterflies, bats and wildflowers, so please treat it with respect.

Common Lane to Bracketts Coppice: From (A) walk along Common Lane past an entrance to the reserve on the left. After the track turns to the right, is a gateway on the left (B), to a footpath indicated by a fingerpost. Follow the footpath to the far side of the field and through a gate into the reserve (C).

Route through Bracketts Coppice:

Follow the direction of the waymark along a well-trodden path half left. This becomes a bit difficult to follow emerging from the wood, into a partially cleared area. Continue in the same direction a few yards further towards a rather fine large silver birch tree, which should be waymarked, standing on its own. Turn right, leaving the tree to the left, and look out for a yellow waymark on a post (D). This indicates the direction to follow across the reserve



and there is a clear path which passes through a gap in an old hedgebank (E). This is extremely muddy, but once negotiated the path is easy to follow. The worst of the mud can be avoided by turning right immediately before the hedgebank, going about 10m, then left and left again to the other side of (E). Follow the path through an open area where most of the trees were felled some years ago, which is where butterflies and flowers including masses of orchids in season may be seen. Keeping the wood a few yards to the left, proceed to the far-left hand corner, to a gate (F) go through into the field.

Bracketts Coppice to Halstock Leigh Road: Go straight across this small field then a larger one to a gate (G) in the far fence. Aim for the pylon in the middle distance and a pedestrian gate at the left end of the next fence. From here head diagonally down the slope to a field gate (H), onto the road. Turn right and immediately past Buttercup Cottage on the right is a gate, which is usually locked with a stile next to it (I).

Halstock Leigh Road to finish: Cross the stile then follow the line of the hedge, through four fields to reach the edge of the wood at a stile (J). The path continues outside Bracketts Coppice, under the trees, to the corner of the reserve at (K). From there, the path returns back to Common Lane (L), turn right on the lane to the starting point at (A).

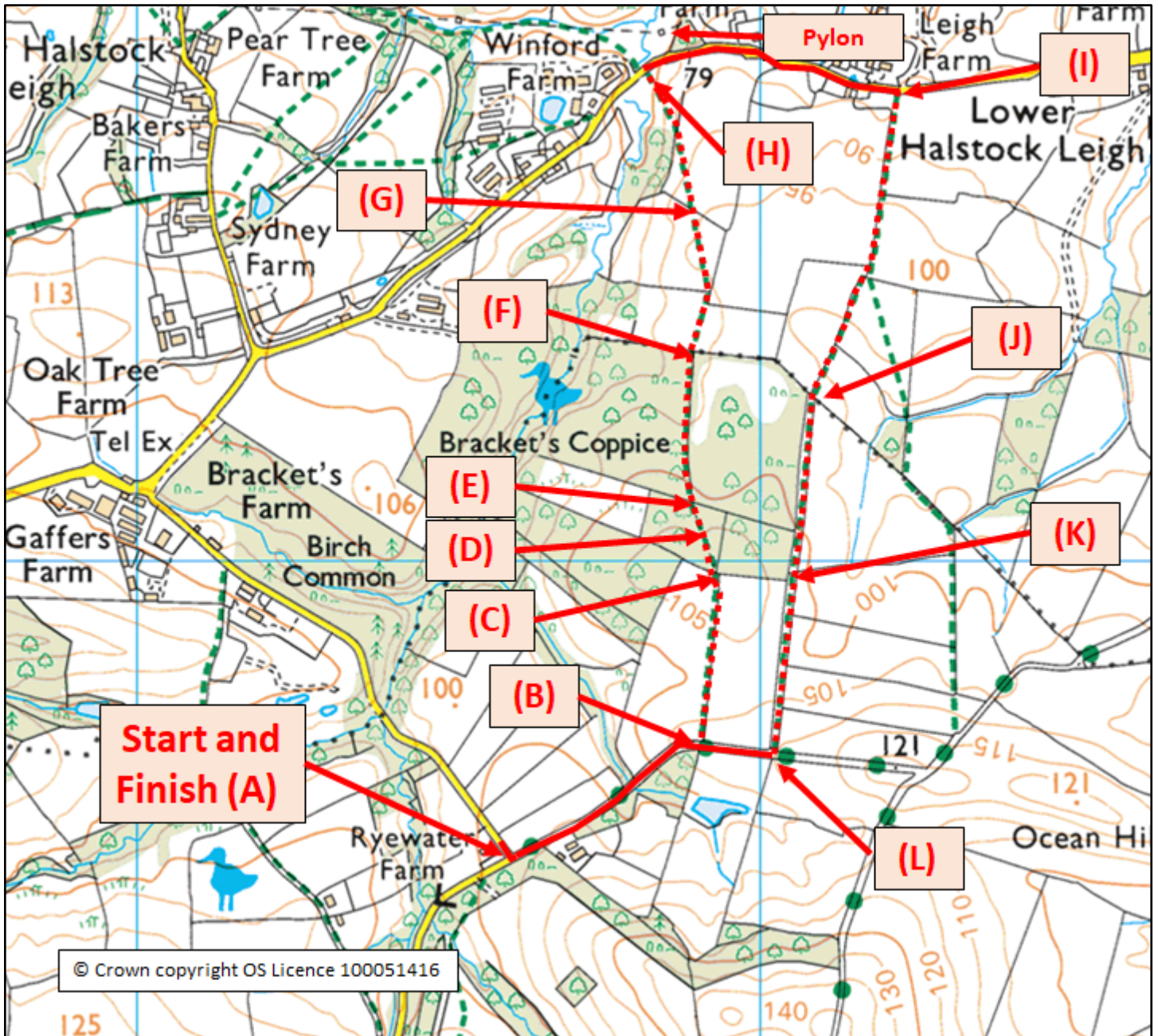
Walk 1 – Bracketts Coppice – Map

Distance – 3.5km. **Total Ascent** – 50m. **Duration** – 1.25hr. **Difficulty** – Easy.

Clothing – Some sections seasonally muddy throughout the year.

Reserve: – <https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves/bracketts-coppice>

Connecting Routes – Common Lane.



<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/11331818/Walk-1-Bracketts-Coppice>