

# Exeter's Green Walks

## Introduction

A walk along Hambeer Lane ridgeline, then following the winding Alphinbrook and past Little John's Cross where, in Tudor times, the assize judges were escorted by the city guards, on their way from Exeter to Bodmin.

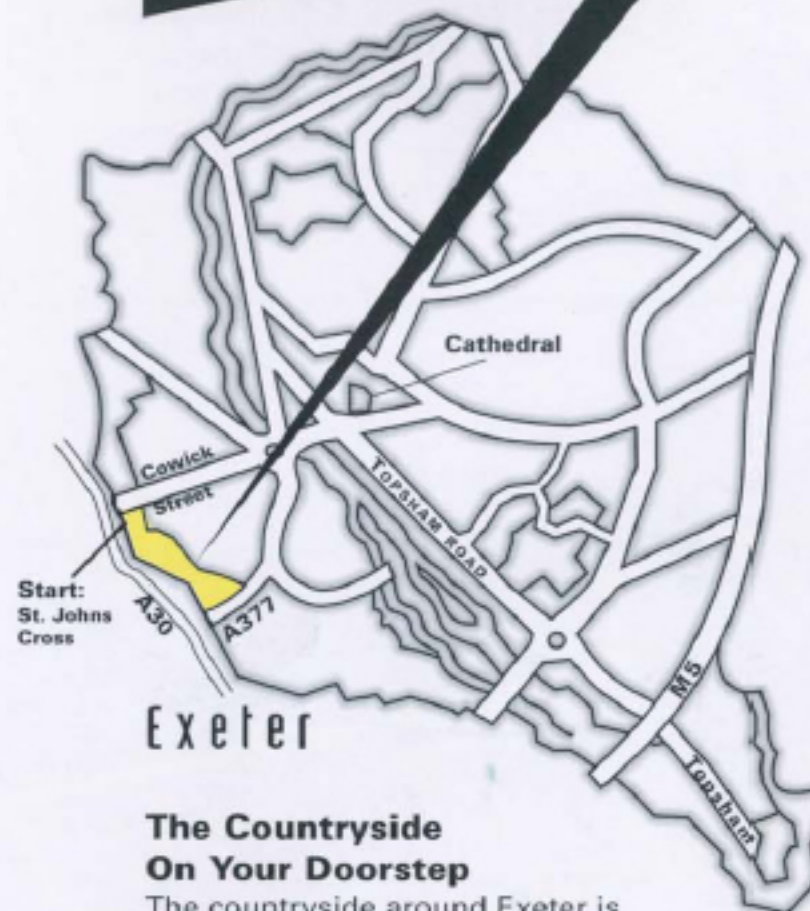
Little John's Cross can be reached by a C bus.

Walk Time: 1 1/2 hrs at a leisurely pace. Terrain: undulating, can be muddy with brambles and nettles.

## Directions

- 1 Little Johns Cross: Head down the hill, veer right by the Twisted Oak tree then turn left and go past the Twisted Oak pub.
- 2 Turn left after the old stream bridge and then along the footpath to Crabb Lane
- 3 Take a 'right' through stile and continue alongside A30 (do not turn left to recross the stream).
- 4 Exit over stile into Crabb Lane, continue past metal gate and follow road to the left and cross the stream by the ford.
- 5 At the crossroads turn left into Balls Farm Road.
- 6 After 300m turn sharp right up footpath after Cloon House.
- 7 Left along Hambeer Lane back to Little John's Cross.

## The Alphinbrook and Hambeer Lane



Exeter

### The Countryside On Your Doorstep

The countryside around Exeter is there to be enjoyed but it is also a place where many people make their living so please respect the rights of landowners - keep to footpaths or bridleways and only enter fields where a signed stile or kissgate is provided.

## The Alphinbrook and Hambeer Lane



Countryside walks in Exeter



### Little John's Cross

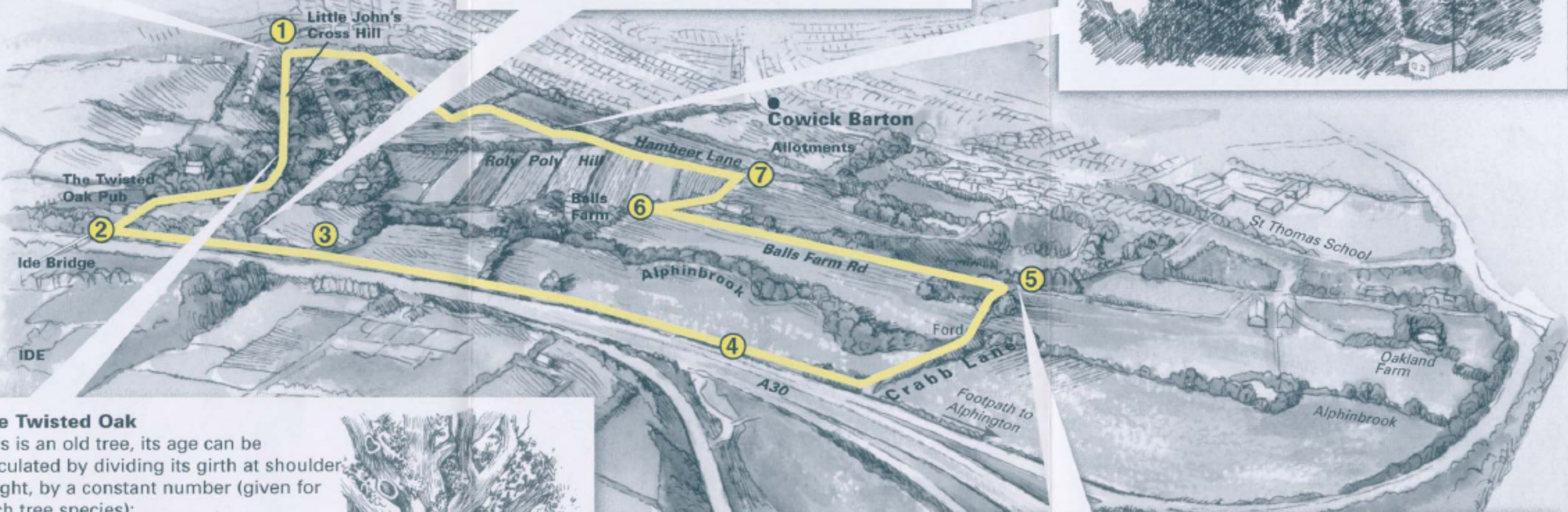
This granite boundary cross dates from the 15th century and was named after the local land-owning family of Littlejohn.



**The Alphinbrook**  
Rises west of Longdown and merges into the Exe, below Countess Wear. Kingfishers, dippers and otters use this stream.

### Hambeer Lane

Reputed to be a Saxon Lane. There are fine views of Ide and the Haldon Hills to the left and of Exeter Cathedral to the right. Parts of the hedgerow are over 400 years old.



### The Twisted Oak

This is an old tree, its age can be calculated by dividing its girth at shoulder height, by a constant number (given for each tree species):

Girth	=	518 cm
Age	=	518 divided by 1.8
	=	275 years
Planted	=	1723

The same method can determine the age of other trees

Constant nos:	1.2 Holly, yew
	1.8 Oak
	2.5 Hazel, ash, elm, beech
	2.7 Sycamore
	3.1 Pine, spruce



### Lucombe Oak

Near here Thomas Lucombe developed the Exeter or Lucombe Oak. Lucombe had the first mature oak felled to provide planks for his coffin, which he seasoned under his bed!

