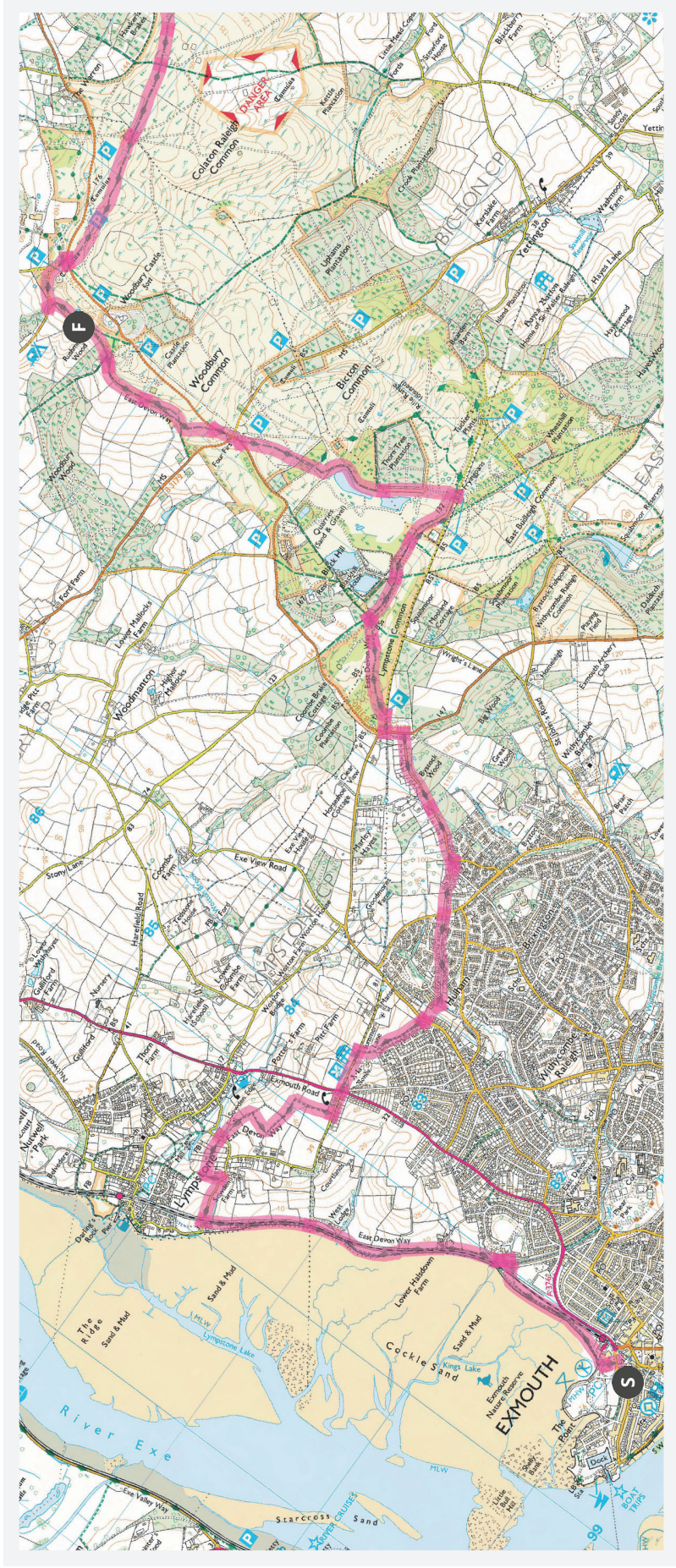
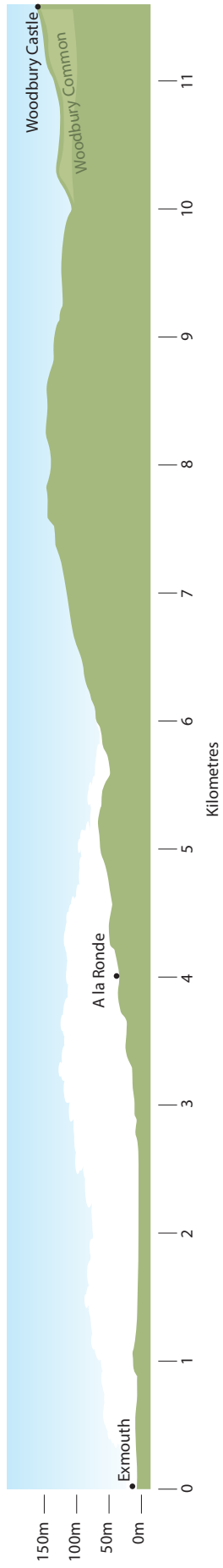


Stage 1

Exmouth to Woodbury Castle



Start location: Exmouth LS car park **End point:** Woodbury Castle **Length:** 12km (approx) / 7.5m



West to East - Route 1

Exmouth to Woodbury Castle



Start location: Exmouth LS car park, EX8 1EN.

End point: Woodbury Castle EX5 1JJ

Length: 12km (approx) / 7.5mi

Map: Explorer 115, Landranger 192

Route Summary: The walk starts at the estuary, one of the biggest Local Nature Reserves in Devon, passes A la Ronde, a National Trust property and winds through Lypstone Common a pleasant woodland area.

Description

[1] From Exmouth estuary long stay car park (SY 999 812), keep the estuary on your left. Walk (N) towards the boat yard. After 400 yards come away from the estuary slightly to your right and cross the railway line, this leads through houses, then turn left (N) keeping the estuary on your left. Pass Lower Halsdown Farm (NT) take the new wide cycle route and footpath on the right along the Exe Estuary trail. The original path is on the left and can still be used, this is narrower & closer to the estuary route along its length, they converge at the end.

[2] At the end (SY991 837) as you reach the railway bridge up above you on your left, turn right (E) along the lane. When you see the big gates of Southtown House at the end of the lane turn left (N) up the lane. Go past Sowden House over a stile and into our very first field, uphill. At the second stile turn right in the field with telegraph poles in. Follow the field round keeping the hedge on your right, turn left up to the A376. When you reach 'The White House' at the cross roads go straight over up Summer Lane passing A la Ronde, a National Trust 18 sided property on your right. You can stop to enjoy the views from the gardens.

[3] Continue past A la Ronde after 20 yards turn right again, with houses to your right and fields to the left. Go straight over the road and up the path, keeping the residential houses to your right. Cross over the A376 and walk along the path for ¼ mile. Cross over Dinan Way through into another leafy track called Marley Road, turning left at the top for a further ½ a mile.

This narrow road can get busy, you will pass Bystock Wood on your right. At the T junction turn left along the B3179 / B3180 (towards Woodbury Common) for 80 yards then turn right up the lane, then left into Lypstone Common, where there is a car park.

[4] Enjoy a woodland wander through Lypstone Common woodland, you will see pebbles underfoot as you go along the trail. Where the paths cross (SY 026 850) keep straight on (N), passing through the gate and follow the right fork in the path which bears gradually right (E).

Stay on the path until you meet the turning at Frying Pans where you turn left (N) (SY 037 850)

[5] Blackhill Quarry is an amazing landscape of quarried red sand and gravel, at writing (2016) this is being managed by the RSPB with grazing ponies and the landscape will change significantly over the coming years reverting back to heathland. Follow the waymarked tracks (NW) up through this quarry.

Go through the woodland and up towards Four Firs car park, walk through and cross straight over the little lane up through the common. Keep the B3180 on your left.

NOTE: On older (pre 2014) OS map the East Devon Way is shown to cross over the B3180, going left down into the woods. This has now been re-routed in 2014 to follow the track on the right hand side of the road, through the common - an easier and more pleasant route.

[6] This stage finishes at Woodbury Castle, a perfect place for a picnic or you could explore the area further with a short detour to be 'King of the Castle'. The woodland (SY 032 872) is a magical place with moss covered tree roots, the high ramparts of the castle walls go round in a half mile circle. Walk through or go around the castle to see views across Dartmoor, Exmoor and the Brendon and Quantock Hills in Somerset.