



EAST DEVON WAY LINK TO SID VALLEY RING

Route Summary

This short route links the East Devon Way at the top of Buckley Plantation to the Sid Valley Ring route at Buckton Lane. It can also be used as a variation of the main East Devon Way route to avoid a very steep descent through Buckley Plantation. Passing through woodland and grassland it offers some great views of rural East Devon as you descend.

Start: East Devon Way at the top of Buckley Plantation

End: Sid Valley Ring in Buckton Lane.

Distance: 0.5 miles/0.9km

Estimated time: 13 minutes

Difficulty: Category 3

Nearest postcode: EX10 0PS **What Three Words:** ///billiard.kind.releases

Access: Category 3 - Some sections are not accessible to mobility vehicles and buggies/pushchairs due to stiles, a boardwalk and steps.

Terrain: Grass, earth and mud.

Field furniture: 1 kissing gate, 2 stiles, 1 boardwalk and 3 natural steps.

Total ascent: 0ft (0m)

Maximum gradient: Several 1 in 4 (23.3%) descents for approx 60 metres.

Narrowest path width: 25cm

Map: OS Explorer 115 Exmouth & Sidmouth

Other useful information:

Dogs: Welcome under close control.

Refreshments: There are a range of shops and eating places in Sidmouth 1.9 miles/3 km south west. There are also several cafes in both directions just off the A3052 to the south east and south west.

Highlights: A chance to descend through broadleaf woodland and look out for woodland birds. Views out across East Devon farmland.

Sid Valley Ring: Launched in 2019, the Sid Valley Ring is a 13 mile/21km signed route that circles Sidmouth showcasing the fantastic range of scenery in the Sid Valley area.

A landscape of history

There is evidence of human settlement in the area for the past 1500 years with Iron Age forts and Burial Mounds. To the south east, Sidmouth on the UNESCO World Heritage Jurassic Coast has been a popular seaside town for generations. The Poet Laureate John Betjeman is said to have been captivated by the town and wrote a poem about it in 1962. There are also royal connections as Queen Victoria had childhood holidays in the town.

Important wildlife

The mixed woodland on Buckton Hill supports a range of woodland birds. Look out for tits, finches, blackbirds, woodpeckers, nuthatches and treecreepers. You may also see buzzards circling overhead.

Directions:

1. **From the East Devon Way at the top of Buckley Plantation** follow the Link waymarker discs from the finger post for a few yards along the bridleway. Turn left through the kissing gate and follow the waymarked footpath alongside the field and down through the woods.
2. **At the Y junction take the path on the right** and continue to follow the footpath through the woods, passing a picnic bench.
3. **Leave the woods via a stile and follow the hedge** on your right down through the field to another stile.
4. **Climb the stile into a lane to join the Sid Valley Ring.**

From here you can:

Turn right to Sidbury where you can rejoin the East Devon Way.

Turn left and follow the Sid Valley Ring to Sidford and the Byes Link to Sidmouth.

Turn left and follow the Sid Valley Ring for a longer route to Sidmouth.

This route was originally developed by James Baldwin and checked by Ted Swan. It was reviewed and updated in 2026.