



EAST DEVON WAY LINK ROUTE - EAST DEVON WAY TO WHITFORD

Route Summary

Leaving the East Devon Way near Nunford Bridge this short walk takes you upstream through wet meadows alongside the River Axe to Whitford Bridge and the village of Whitford.

Start: East Devon Way near Nunford Bridge

End: Whitford Bridge

Distance: 0.5 miles/0.8 km

Estimated time: 14 minutes

Difficulty: Category 3

Nearest postcode: EX24 6EZ **What Three Words:** ///urge.squares.proved

Access: Category 3 - Some sections are not accessible to mobility vehicles and buggies/pushchairs due to the kissing gate. This route can also be very wet at times.

Terrain: Tarmac, stone, grass and mud.

Field furniture: 3 gates and 1 kissing gate.

Total ascent: 13ft (4m)

Maximum gradient: Flat

Narrowest path width: 353cm

Map: OS Explorer 116 Lyme Regis & Bridport

Other useful information:

Dogs: Welcome under close control.

Refreshments: There are shops and places to eat in Colyton 1 mile (1.8km) to the south west.

Highlights: A short peaceful walk alongside the River Axe.

A landscape of history

Nearby Colyton, now a market town with a range of shops and places to eat, was reputedly one of the first Saxon settlements established in Devon. It is known as 'the most rebellious town in Devon' due to the 105 local men and boys who supported the Duke of Monmouth in the Monmouth Rebellion, a plan to overthrow the King James II in 1685.

Important wildlife

The River Axe supports diverse marginal and aquatic flora. Look out also for water birds including swan, mallard, little egret and heron.

Directions:

1. **Leave the East Devon Way along the footpath heading north to Whitford.** Go through the gate and follow the path bearing right. This field can be very wet at times.
2. **Go through a metal pedestrian gate on your right** and turn left to follow the footpath through the next field to a kissing gate.
3. **Go through the gate and head across the next field** and through a gap in the hedge. Continue to follow the hedge on your right to a gate onto a track.
4. **Follow the track straight on to join a minor road near Whitford Bridge.**
5. **From here you can:**

Turn left for Whitford.

Turn right over the river to enter the layby on the right with a seat, parking and access to the riverside.

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