



EAST DEVON WAY LINK ROUTE - WHITFORD TO EAST DEVON WAY

Route Summary

Starting from Whitford Bridge close to the village of Whitford, this short walk takes you downstream through wet meadows alongside the River Axe. It joins the East Devon Way near Nunford Bridge.

Start: Whitford Bridge

End: East Devon Way near Nunford 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. **Start in the car park by Whitford Bridge.** Walk out of the car park and turn left along the road over the bridge. Just after the bridge turn left along the footpath that follows a track.
2. **Go through a gate into the fields and follow the hedge** on your left, passing through a gap into the second field and continuing straight on.
3. **Go through a kissing gate under trees** and head diagonally right across the next field and through a metal pedestrian gate. Turn left.
4. **Walk straight on across the field to join the East Devon Way** at a T-junction of paths. This field can be very wet at times.

5. **From here you can:**

Turn left for Musbury, Musbury Castle and on to Lyme Regis.

Turn right and follow the East Devon Way to Colyton.

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