



EAST DEVON WAY LINK ROUTE - EAST DEVON WAY NEAR HARPFORD TO NEWTON POPPLEFORD

Route Summary

This short flat route provides a largely traffic-free riverside link between the villages of Newton Poppleford and Harpford.

Start: East Devon Way near Harpford Bridge

End: Newton Poppleford car park (free)

Distance: 0.7 miles/1.2km

Estimated time: 18 minutes

Difficulty: Category 2

Nearest postcode: EX10 0NQ **What Three Words:** ///garden.remit.glory

Access: Category 2 - This route is not accessible to mobility vehicles and buggies/pushchairs due to kissing gates.

Terrain: Tarmac, stone, grass and mud.

Field furniture: 3 kissing gates, 1 gate

Total ascent: 66 feet/20 metres

Narrowest path width: 50cm

Map: OS Explorer 115 Exmouth & Sidmouth

Other useful information:

Dogs: Welcome under close control.

Refreshments: There is a village shop and pub in Newton Poppleford

Highlights: The chance to enjoy a flat, largely traffic free walk between the villages. In spring you may even see the famous King Alfred daffodil growing around Newton Poppleford.

A landscape of history

The Church of St Gregory the Great in Harpford has features dating back to late fourteenth century and a list recording the vicars back to 1209.

Newton Poppleford's claim to fame is the King Alfred daffodil which was bred by the Hill family and received an RHS Gold Medal in 1899. The original daffodil field has now been built over, but groups of bulbs were planted around the village and can be seen flowering every March.

Important wildlife

There is a wealth of birdlife on the River Otter. Look out for moorhens, mallards, kingfishers and grey herons all the year round.

Directions:

1. Follow the footpath alongside the River Otter south from the East Devon Way near Harpford Bridge. Continue through the kissing gates and on to join a minor road.
2. At the road junction with Back Lane turn left and follow the road past the tennis courts.
3. Turn right along a footpath with a brook on your left. When you reach the houses stay on the grass alongside the brook until you come to a road.
4. Turn left along the road and walk out to the main road.
5. Turn left and follow the pavement to a pedestrian crossing. Cross the road and turn right, then left up a path to the right of the church to reach the car park.

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