



COUNTRYSIDE TEAM
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
LUCOMBE HOUSE
COUNTY HALL
TOPSHAM ROAD
EXETER
EX2 4QW

Discover Devon Differently....

Devon has the most fantastic natural environment and we all want it to stay that way.

Why not leave the car behind for the day and explore Devon by foot, by bike or even by canoe! You can visit places 'off the beaten track' and experience the heart and beauty of Devon at a different pace of life.

Much of Devon's coast and countryside is accessible by public transport and it can be great fun! Why not see the Jurassic Coast, England's first natural World Heritage Site, from the top of a double-decker or enjoy the spectacular birdlife on the Exe Estuary from a ride on the Avocet Line?

10 reasons why you should leave your car behind and *Discover Devon Differently*:

- A bus or train ride can be part of your day-out experience
 - Save money – petrol and parking are expensive
 - Save even more money – many attractions offer discounted tickets for visitors arriving by sustainable modes of transport
 - Nobody enjoys sitting in a hot car in a traffic jam
 - Walking, cycling and other sustainable activities are great fun and can help to keep us healthy
 - Car parking can be hard to find and often stressful
 - Walking, cycling or horse riding allows you to travel at a more leisurely pace of life allowing you to take in the scenery.
 - High volumes of traffic on rural roads discourages other users such as cyclists, walkers and horse-riders
 - Enjoy the fresh air, improved by less congestion
- And most importantly...
- You are reducing your impact on the environment. This is especially important in Devon with its special and sensitive areas such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Why not download a Discover Devon Differently Itinerary from www.discoverdevondifferently.com and enjoy a car-free day out in Devon.

For visitor information including holiday accommodation availability visit www.discoverdevon.com or call the Discover Devon Holiday Line **0870 608 5531**

For up-to-date information on bus and train times call the Traveline on **0870 608 2 608** or visit www.traveline.org.uk



Cover Photo credits: Dartford warbler, Peter Lightfoot; EDW waymarker - follow the foxglove, EDDC Economic Development; Farmed landscape around Newton Poppleford, East Devon AONB; Foxgloves, Ian Dalgleish - Countryside Agency; X53 Jurassic Coast Bus, Nick Gregory - Apex Photography.



Ride & Stride

...around Newton Poppleford along part of the East Devon Way

A half-day walk in a beautiful part of the East Devon countryside, starting from Newton Poppleford. Take a short bus ride and walk back - creating a great walking circuit.



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heading west towards Exeter. Ask the driver to stop near the Half Way Inn, approximately 3km away by the telephone box. Buses run at least every half hour along this road so you should never be waiting too long.

Take care when crossing the road to the other side.

Walk straight ahead past the Half Way Inn heading north along the B3180. After a short distance take the next right along a small track and continue onto the public footpath.

This is Aylesbeare Common, part of the Pebblebed Heaths complex. As the sign indicates, it is an RSPB Nature Reserve. It is worth studying the information board further along the walk which details the heath and its management.

Follow the footpath along and then downhill over the common. Cross the first track and bear left at the next fork. You are now on the East Devon Way.

This part of the route gives superb views over the Otter Valley. Newton Poppleford, the start and finish of the walk, can be seen towards the right. The wooded ridge running north – south on the far side of the valley is especially obvious. Such ridges, parallel to the river valleys, are very typical of this part of East Devon, the result of relatively hard rocks being more resistant to erosion than the valleys.

Keep to the lane as it descends. Where it bears left to Woolcombes Farm take the other, unsurfaced track directly ahead. Keep on this track as it descends to cross a stream. It then rises slightly again, off the heathland now, to arrive at a surfaced lane by a white house. Turn right along the lane, passing Benchams Cottage, looking like a house from a fairy tale. Follow the track which forks to the right shortly after the cottage. Continue along this track over more heathland.

This is Harpford Common, the most easterly of the Pebblebed Heaths and among the most low lying.



Continue on the track as it leaves the common and becomes a tree-lined green lane. At the junction at the end take the path ahead, then almost immediately go left over the stile into the field (or through the gate if it is unlocked) at the waymark. Follow the trodden path ahead over the field to a stile. Cross this and descend the steps. Follow the path to arrive at a lane at Court Barn. Turn right here. Go to the end and cross the road, then go through the gate opposite and diagonally to the left. Follow the field edge round to the right, cross a stile and continue ahead through the orchard.

The village of Harpford now appears ahead, the church especially prominent. Although not apparent from here, Harpford is on the opposite side of the River Otter.

At the bottom of the orchard turn left and almost immediately right down the green lane. Descend the steps at the bottom, turn right then follow the path round to the left to a footbridge. Cross the field ahead and on the far side cross another footbridge and descend from an embankment to another field.

The embankment carried the branch line to Budleigh Salterton from the Southern Railway's main line at Feniton. It was opened in 1897 and closed as part of the Beeching cuts in 1967.

Cross the next field towards a prominent footbridge.

The bridge crosses the River Otter. The river has had its name since Anglo-Saxon times, but for some time in the post-war period it lost the

animals after which it was named. Recently, however, they have made a return to the river. Nevertheless, you should not expect to see one of these shy and nervous animals, which tend to be largely nocturnal.

For a longer walk, the East Devon Way crosses the river to Harpford on its route towards Lyme Regis, but to return to Newton Poppleford this walk now turns right, alongside the river. Go through a kissing gate onto the line of the railway and continue ahead next to the river towards some stock pens. Turn right here to a lane, opposite a children's play area. Go left along the lane, then turn right along the signed footpath alongside the recreation ground. Continue on the path to arrive at a road on a small housing estate. Go ahead on this, taking the first turn left to arrive at the main road in the centre of the village, almost opposite the church.

For further information on the East Devon Way and the wider network of walking routes in Devon obtain the free brochure "Discover Devon Walking" from local Tourist Information Centres or visit the website www.discoverdevon.com which has all the walks information and an order form.

OS Maps for this walk:

- Explorer No.115 Exmouth and Sidmouth (1:25,000 scale)
- Landranger No.192 Exeter and Sidmouth (1:50,000 scale)

Do you enjoy the fresh air out in the countryside?

Have you ever been walking, horse riding or cycling in Devon? If so, where do you turn for information?

Information about the best places and times to walk, ride or cycle in Devon is very important for everyone. Devon County Council is constantly looking to improve the information provided to the public and we would like you to tell us how we can do this... By answering the 6 questions below you will be entered into the FREE PRIZE DRAW with an opportunity of winning a Luxury Devon Food Hamper worth £100. (See Terms & Conditions below)

- How satisfied are you with current information about using countryside paths, bridleways and cycle tracks, e.g. leaflets and guides.

very satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>	satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>	dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>	very dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- How satisfied are you with information about these routes from our website www.devon.gov.uk and www.discoverdevon.com

very satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>	satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>	dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>	very dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- How satisfied are you with information on regional walking and cycling routes e.g. Tarka Trail, Granite Way, East Devon Way.

very satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>	satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>	dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>	very dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- What information do you find useful in walking, cycling or horse riding literature?

Maps Local history Local wildlife Photographs

Detailed description of the route (e.g. turn left after the stile)

Other (please detail)
- How do you normally access the Devon countryside?

Public transport Private vehicle From home on foot/horse/bike/other

Other (please detail)
- How frequently do you visit the Devon countryside for recreation?

Daily Weekly Monthly

Other (please detail)

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Please complete the following section with your details.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Address

Postcode Email address

Recreational interests (please detail)

Age: Under 16 16-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+

What ethnic group do you belong to?

Do you have a disability? Physical Sensory None

We may wish to contact you again to monitor your satisfaction with new countryside information. Please indicate if you are happy for us to contact you. Yes No

Terms and Conditions: The draw closes on 20/09/06. The prize winners will be selected at random within five days of the closing date. The decision of the promoter (Devon County Council) is final. The £100 Hamper is subject to availability. The prizes are non-transferable, and no cash alternative is available. By entering into the promotion all participants are deemed to have accepted and agree to be bound by these terms and conditions. Winners may be required to participate in publicity. The prize on offer is not open to negotiation and is subject to availability. Entries limited to one per household. Promoter: Devon County Council, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD

This walk is based around a bus ride and a stride around Newton Poppleford along the route of the East Devon Way. It offers a pleasant walk through quiet countryside as well as some good views over the valley of the River Otter, one of East Devon's characteristic landscape features.

Getting there: Newton Poppleford is well served by the regular bus routes between Exeter and Sidmouth and between Exmouth and Sidmouth. For bus timetable details contact Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 or visit the website www.traveline.org.uk.

Walk Length: Approx. 5km/3.5 miles; few stiles; generally gentle downhill.

Facilities: Newton Poppleford – toilets, buses, shop, pub. For the latest bus timetable details contact Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 or visit the website www.traveline.org.uk.

The Walk:

The East Devon Way stretches for 38 miles between Exmouth and the county boundary at Lyme Regis, parallel to and inland of the South West Coast Path. It serves a number of settlements, one of which is Newton Poppleford, a relatively large village on the main road between Exeter and Sidmouth.

Newton Poppleford was a deliberately planned new town in the 13th century, which is how it acquired its name – the new town at the pebble ford (over the River Otter). The pattern of the original layout is still seen today, with the buildings fronting the main road. The church dates from medieval times too, but was much rebuilt in the 19th century. Only the tower remains from early times.

Take any bus numbered 52A, 52B, X53/X54 (Jurassic Coast bus) from Newton Poppleford bus stop (near to the church)