

WALK 1 1.5 miles/3 km

Colyton, Ridgeway Lane, Four Cross Elms, Colyton

A short walk along little-used country lanes that gives extensive views over the Axe Valley. This makes an ideal stroll when the footpaths are muddy.

Timing: Allow up to an hour to complete the walk at a relaxed pace.

Terrain: One easy climb followed by a steepish descent into Colyton.

Number of stiles: 0.

Refreshments: pubs, tea rooms, and restaurants in Colyton.

Toilets: in Colyton car park opposite the Colcombe Castle pub.

What to wear: The walk is on tarmac so what you wear on your feet is unimportant.

Map: Ordnance Survey *Explorer sheet 115; Lyme Regis and Bridport* (not essential).

Abbreviations used in the text

FB: Footbridge.

KG: Kissing gate (a narrow gate hung in a stock-proof U or V-shaped enclosure).

PG: Pedestrian gate (narrow gate designed for walkers).

SP: Signpost.

WM: Waymark (a Devon County Council sign with a yellow arrow on a green background bearing the legend 'PUBLIC FOOTPATH', or a blue arrow on a white background indicating a 'PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY').

Route description

1 From the Market Place in the centre of Colyton, which contains shops and the Colcombe Castle pub, walk uphill towards the Colyton Memorial Social Club and then **turn right** into Queen Street. Take the **second turning on the left** (opposite Soanes Cycle shop) **SP 'Exeter Sidmouth'**.

2 After 90 metres (1.5 mins), **fork left** along The Butts to pass the school on your left. Continue along the lane uphill for 300 metres (5 mins) until reaching an offset crossroads. **Cross** Burnards Field Road and **continue ahead** into Ridgeway Lane.

3 After 130 metres (2 mins), **turn left** along a narrow lane that climbs uphill for 440 metres (8 mins) to reach a **crossroads**. **Continue ahead** for 310 metres (5 mins) and you will arrive at Four Cross Elms.

4 **Turn left** (**SP 'Colyton'**). After 270 metres (5 mins) you will pass a charming picnic site on your **right**. It's worth entering via the **PG** to enjoy the extensive panorama of the Axe Valley, and the viewpoint plaque that points out the main features of interest.

5 Return to the road via the main entrance and continue to walk for 450 metres (7 mins) downhill into Colyton. **Turn left** at the T-junction at the bottom of the hill and immediately **turn right** into the Market Square.