

WALK 2 2.5 miles/4 km

Colyton, Hillhead, Colyford, Colyton

A short walk that gives lovely views over the Axe Valley.

Timing: allow up to 90 minutes to complete the walk at a relaxed pace.

Terrain: country lanes, and paths beside the River Coly.

Number of stiles: 0.

Refreshments: pubs, tea rooms, and restaurants in Colyton. 2 pubs in Colyford.

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

Always follow the Country Code <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code>. The most important advice is

- keep to public rights of way
- leave gates as you find them (either closed or open)
- keep your dog under effective control

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, which contains shops and the Colcombe Castle pub in the centre of Colyton, walk uphill towards the Colyton Memorial Social Club. **Turn left** into South Street (**SP Seaton Colyford Lyme Regis**) and immediately **turn right** and walk up Hillhead.

2 Ignore all roads that turn off until reaching a **fork** near the top of the hill. Here **fork left (SP Seaton)**. Continue along this road for **400 metres** (7 mins), passing a picnic area on the left which gives splendid views of the Axe Valley, to reach a crossroads known as Four Cross Elms.

3 **Turn left** down Fairview Lane for **120 metres** (2 mins) and then turn **left** down an **unsignposted sunken path** (this is easily missed so if you reach a bungalow you have walked too far down the road). This path widens towards the bottom, becomes a tarmac lane, and passes some houses to reach the B 3161 Colyton to Colyford road.

4 **Cross over** and **turn right** along the pavement until reaching the A 3052 road. **Turn left (SP Lyme Regis)** and continue along the pavement until it ends just before a bridge.

5 **Warning!** Keep very close to the left-hand edge of the road for **30 metres** (30 secs) and **turn left** through a **KG (SP)** immediately after crossing the bridge.

6 The clearly defined path follows the bank of the River Coly through a **KG (WM)** for **620 metres** (11 mins) to a sewer pipe carried on concrete supports. Pass under the pipe to a **KG (WM)**.

7 Pass through the **KG (WM)** and **bear left** along the path that hugs the river bank (the other path is **not** a right of way) for **105 metres** (2 mins) to reach a **bridge**.

8 **Do not cross the bridge** but **turn right** and **follow the river bank** to the end of the field. Pass through a **KG (WM)** and continue along the river to a substantial **bridge**.

9 **Cross the bridge** to the far river bank. A few metres after descending the steps the path **forks**. **Take the right-hand fork** and follow the river for **200 metres** (4 mins) to reach a **KG (WM)**.

10 **Continue ahead** through a small business park and past some waste-collection skips, to reach a road on the outskirts of Colyton. **Cross the road** and **turn left** along the pavement above the River Coly

11 The pavement will take you into Rosemary Lane at a **right fork (SP 'Town Centre')**. Continue for **200 metres** (4 mins) to the Gerrard Arms. Here **turn left** and almost immediately **turn right** and walk up the tarmac path that runs past the church to the Market Place where your walk began.