

The Countryside Code

RESPECT • PROTECT • ENJOY

Respect other people

Please keep your dog on a lead when approaching others; they may be fearful of it even if it's friendly.

Please leave gates and property as you find them.

Protect the natural environment

When birds are nesting, from March through August, please keep your dog on a short lead.

Leave no trace of your presence and take any litter home with you.

Please keep to paths, especially in sensitive wildlife areas. This prevents damage to plants and animals, and reduces the risk of coming across adders and ticks.

Bag it and bin it! Dog mess is unpleasant for everyone, but it can also spread disease and the increased nutrients in the soil can affect rare plants. Please ensure you always look after your dog responsibly, thank you.

Enjoy the outdoors

Follow advice and heed local signage. Notices are there to protect you, wildlife and farm animals, and to allow management or farming work to be carried out safely.

Plan ahead and be prepared. Take care on muddy paths and riverside walks, and ensure you can easily be seen when walking along rural roads.

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WALKS AROUND

Newton Poppleford



WILDLIFE • HISTORIC LANDSCAPES • PANORAMIC VIEWS

Extensive map and routes
Ideal for dog-walkers
Lots to discover!



So much to explore...

In your local area are some of the most scenic landscapes in East Devon. There are many public paths through this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), offering a great variety of scenery and glorious panoramic views.



The local landscapes have a fascinating history, with features dating back to the Bronze Age, and a wealth of rare and interesting wildlife can be found throughout.



The walks in this leaflet cover a variety of lengths and difficulties, suitable for a broad range of activities including dog walking, cycling, running or a family day out. Try some for yourself and see what you can discover...



The beautiful River Otter is famed for its wildlife including *otters*, *kingfishers*, and most recently *beavers*. It also has a rich cultural history and has been modified by human hand since monastic times. This has included the reclamation of land for agriculture through the building of flood embankments, and micro-hydro schemes such as the *Archimedes screw turbine* at Tipton (Route 5). A walk along its many paths can provide solitude, wildlife sightings and insights into local social history.



Wildlife is abundant in Devon's ancient hedgerows, many of which date back over 500 years. The county supports about one fifth of all the species-rich hedges remaining in the UK, with 2,000 species once identified along a single length. Providing stock-proof barriers, hedges also delight throughout the year with *blackberries*, *dog-rose* and *sloes*. At the right time of year you'll find *poppies* scattered through the fields, and the bright red *scarlet pimpernel*. Try the Stoneyford walk (Route 2).



Home to the iconic *Dartford warbler*, the Pebblebed Heaths are one of Europe's most precious and sensitive conservation areas. The open landscape, dominated by *gorse* and *heather*, was forged by the commoners of old who for centuries extracted the bare necessities of life from the landscape. There are wonderful walks to be enjoyed here but please be sure to follow the Countryside Code. On a summer evening at Hawkerland (Route 4) listen for the 'churring' of the nationally rare *Nightjar*.



Woodlands are magical places to explore. Listen for the hammering of *woodpeckers* and the two-tone call of the *chiffchaff*. Look for delicate spring flowers, such as *bluebells* and *primroses*, both signs that the woodland is of ancient origin. In shady spots, find intricate gardens of *ferns* and *mosses*. Great woodland walks can be enjoyed at Harpford Wood (Route 6) and Core Hill (Route 8), with the former providing a chance to walk along the line of the historic *Sidmouth railway*.

River Otter, Colaton Raleigh
This delightful walk follows a quiet lane and the cliffs above the *River Otter*, with views across the floodplain and organic dairy fields. A mill stood at Dotton Farm for almost 900 years, until it was demolished in 1968, with only the weir remaining. The mill was one of fifty located along the river. The route is directly accessible from Newton Poppleford, or limited parking spaces can be found nearby. Moderate grade.

ROUTE 1
GRADE 2
KM 4.0

Stoneyford
This walk takes in a number of quiet roads and lanes with *flower-rich verges* surrounded by arable fields, wet woodland and heathland. The ancient hedges in this area are great for wildlife. These quiet lanes are good for runs and bike rides too.

ROUTE 2
GRADE 3
KM 4.2

Mutter's Moor
Woodland and open heathland with excellent views across the Otter valley to Woodbury Castle and out to sea. The site was used to spot smugglers approaching local inlets and coves. There is a range of easy or challenging terrain, with good parking and accessibility. Please keep dogs on leads from March through August to protect ground nesting birds.

ROUTE 3
GRADE 1
KM 2.5

Hawkerland Valley
With wide-reaching views, this walk is at its best in the autumn when the heather is blooming. Look out for emerald *green tiger beetles* scurrying along the paths. There is parking for this route at Joney's Cross. Please keep dogs on leads from March through August.

ROUTE 4
GRADE 1
KM 3.3

River Otter, Tipton St John
This short walk offers views along the open floodplain, including carpets of *buttercups* and the fascinating hydro-powered Archimedes screw. The route also takes in a nearby playing field that's great for exercising your dog and kids! Many other routes are available in the area, and several parking spots can be found in Tipton St. John.

ROUTE 5
GRADE 1
KM 2.0

Harpford Wood
Tall stands of majestic *Douglas fir* are home to many woodland species. Ferns thrive in the shade of steep slopes and gullies. Now a bridleway and cycleway, the historic *Sidmouth railway* line runs through this wood. The best access is via Newton Poppleford Pavilion across the footbridge.

ROUTE 6
GRADE 2
KM 3.3

Venn Ottery and East Devon Way
Walks along the famous *East Devon Way* and around Venn Ottery will take you by open fields, through an orchard, and down a quirky, sunken lane, in the shade of *ash* and *hazel*. The ways around Venn Ottery are ideal for cycling too. Suggested routes are 3.3km and 5km. Accessibility is good, although there are a number of stiles and kissing gates to negotiate.

ROUTE 7
GRADE 2
KM 3.3

Harpford Common and Core Hill
Look out for *bluebells* in both the woods and on the heath. Giant *beech trees* line the ancient boundary banks. The site provides lovely autumn colours and views through the trees in winter. The suggested circular walk is 2.5km, but there are plenty of other paths. Parking is available at Core Hill Road and Fire Beacon Lane, and there's a larger car park at White Cross.

ROUTE 8
GRADE 3
KM 2.5

Legend

Good views	Stiles	Grade 1	Easier route
Good cycling	Flatter terrain	Grade 2	Moderate route
Dogs exercised	Tougher terrain	Grade 3	Challenging route
Dogs on leads MAR - AUG	Route length		

