



COLYTON STATION CIRCULAR

Route Summary

A delightful short walk starting and finishing at Colyton Tramway Station. This route takes you through quiet lanes to water meadows alongside the River Axe with the chance to see a range of water birds up close including swans, mallard ducks, little egrets and moorhens.

This is a low lying walk so please take care if flood warnings are in operation.

Start/End: Colyton Tramway Station.

Distance: 2.4 miles/3.9km

Estimated time: 1 hour 4 minutes

Difficulty: Category 3

Nearest postcode: EX24 6HA **What Three Words:** ///eggshell.slam.helpful

Access: Category 3 - Some sections are not accessible to mobility vehicles and buggies/pushchairs due to a stile, kissing gate and three 2 in 1 gates.

Terrain: Tarmac, stones, grass and mud. There may also be standing water in the water meadows after heavy rainfall.

Field furniture: 6 gates (including three 2 in 1 gates), 1 kissing gates and 1 stile

Total ascent: 174ft (53m)

Maximum gradient: 1 in 7.6 (13%) ascent for approx 200 metres; 1 in 5.8 (17%) descent for approx 100 metres.

Narrowest path width: 74cm

Map: OS Explorer 116 Lyme Regis & Bridport

Other useful information:

Dogs: Welcome under close control.

Refreshments: There is the Tramstop Cafe at Colyton Station and a range of shops and places to eat in Colyton.

Highlights: A short walk exploring quiet lanes and watermeadows alongside the River Axe with the chance to see a range of water birds.

A landscape of history

Running along part of the Seaton Branch Line which closed in 1966, the Seaton Tramway is an electric tramway running between Seaton on the Jurassic coast and the market town of Colyton. It was set up in 1970 by Claude Lane, owner of the Lancaster Electrical Company which was based in Barnet in London and built battery electric vehicles such as milk floats.

Today the tramway offers a wonderful opportunity to view the countryside and wildlife along the Axe Estuary and the Seaton Wetlands Local Nature Reserve.

Colyton, now a market town with a range of shops and places to eat, was reputedly one of the first Saxon settlements established in Devon. It is known as 'the most rebellious town in Devon' due to the 105 local men and boys who supported the Duke of Monmouth in the Monmouth Rebellion, a plan to overthrow the King James II in 1685.

Important wildlife

The River Axe is home to many different water birds. Look out for swans, herons, mallard ducks, moorhens and little egrets.

Directions:

1. **Walk down the entrance road and turn left at the T-junction** passing between the columns of an old railway bridge (now dismantled)
2. **At the T-junction turn left into Cownhayne Lane** and follow it for approx 0.6 miles/1km passing under the tramway and continuing to Higher Cownhayne Farm.
3. **Turn left at the farm onto a footpath** along a track that forms part of the East Devon Way and follow it to the fields.
4. **Go through the kissing gate and follow the hedge** on your left until you come to a metal pedestrian gate on your left.
5. **Go through the gate, turn right and follow the hedge** on your right through the first field and through a gap into the second field. Continue alongside the hedge on your right to a stile on your right.
6. **Climb over the stile and head diagonally left** across the field towards a post. Cross a culvert and bear left to a field gate.
7. **Go through the gate and bear diagonally left** to follow the river on your right for a short distance before bearing diagonally left to the top left corner of the field.
8. **Go through the 2 in 1 gate and continue** parallel with the fence and hedge on your right to another gate.

9. **Go through the 2 in 1 gate into the next field** and continue parallel with the hedge on your right to the next 2 in 1 gate. Go through and over a culvert and bear slightly left to follow the footpath across the centre of the field to a metal pedestrian gate.
10. **Go through the gate and turn left**, leaving the East Devon Way and following the track through Nunford Dairy and up over Kingston Hill.
11. **Turn left along the entrance road to the Tramway Station to return to the start.**

This route was originally developed by James Baldwin and checked by Ted Swan. It was reviewed and updated in 2025.