



EAST DEVON WAY LINK ROUTE - UPLYME TO AXMINSTER

Route Summary

Leaving the East Devon Way near Uplyme and ending at Axminster Railway Station, this route takes you on a wonderful journey past Uplyme Pinetum which contains many specimen trees that date back to the 1840s - 1860s including a champion yew which is an exceptional example of its species due to its size. Travelling on through the plantations on Hoyton Hill you will have a chance to learn about the changes that are being made to prepare our forests for the future, before emerging onto the open heath of Trinity Hill which is now a Local Nature Reserve supporting a wide range of species including Dartford warbler and nightjar. From there you will drop down towards Axminster, with stunning views out across East Devon.

Start: East Devon Way near Uplyme

End: Axminster Railway Station

Distance: 4.7 miles/7.6km

Estimated time: 2 hours 13 minutes

Difficulty: Category 3

Nearest postcode: EX13 5RJ **What Three Words:** ///honest.mount.puddings

Access: Category 3 - Some sections are not accessible to mobility vehicles and buggies/pushchairs due to stiles, steps, a 2 in 1 gate and narrow footbridges.

Terrain: Tarmac, stone, grass and mud.

Field furniture: 7 gates (including a 2 in 1 gate), 3 stiles, 2 footbridges and 6 steps.

Total ascent: 492ft (150m)

Maximum gradient: 1 in 7 (12.6%) ascent for approx 190 metres, 1 in 6 (14.5%) descent for approx 110 metres.

Narrowest path width: 45cm

Map: OS Explorer 116 Lyme Regis & Bridport

Other useful information:

Dogs: Welcome under close control on paths. Trinity Hill Local Nature Reserve is a very special place. Many birds nest on the ground in the Reserve and are easily scared by dogs. Please be aware of the Paws on Paths initiative and always follow Nature Reserve signage for current rules.

Refreshments: There are a range of shops and eating places in Axminster. There is also a village shop at Uplyme 831 yards/760 metres further east along the East Devon Way and shops and places to eat in Lyme Regis approx 2 miles/3.2km to the south east of the end.

Highlights: A chance to explore the heathland habitat of Trinity Hill Local Nature Reserve, to learn about the changes taking place in our forests to prepare them for the future, to enjoy far reaching views and to stargaze at night.

A landscape of history

Trinity Hill has the remains of 17th century beacon and beacon house near the highest point. Although there is no longer evidence of the beacon house above ground, the Scheduled Monument with its low flat-topped earth bank and surrounding ditch can still be seen. It is thought to be an unusual and relatively late type of beacon and an important part of the coastal defences at the time.

The name Axminster has been synonymous with carpet manufacture since 1755. However, when a disastrous fire destroyed the factory, production was paused in the town for some time. In 1937 the manufacturing of carpets was relaunched in the town and continues in Axminster to this day. Carpets made in Axminster have been designed for the Royal Household and can be found in luxury houses around the world.

Important wildlife

Specimen trees from the Americas in Uplyme Pinetum dating back to the 1840s-1860s.

Trinity Hill Local Nature Reserve is an important area of mainly acidic lowland heath with three different types of heather - bell heather, ling and cross-leaved heath. It is the home to many species of bird. Look out for the brightly coloured yellowhammer and the dusky Dartford warbler, listen for the melodious linnnet, the chirr of the nightjar at dusk in summer, and the clack of the stonechat. It is also an important area for moths including the True Lover's Knot, Peppered Moth and the Drinkler. You may also see common lizards on patches of sun warmed exposed sandy soil.

Directions:

1. **Take the bridleway north past the entrance to the Pinetum** and continue to follow it uphill, ignoring side turnings, to a hairpin bend on Cathole Lane.

2. **Turn left up the hill and follow the road to another T-junction.** Turn right and follow the road for approx 470 yards/430 metres along the edge of woodland to find a bridleway on your left.
3. **Turn left up the bridleway** and follow it, ignoring all side paths, until you come to a wider forest track.
4. **Turn right along the track and follow the bridleway,** ignoring side turnings, until you come to a bridleway leading off on the right.
5. **Turn right along the bridleway and follow the track.** Just before the gate turn left on the bridleway. After a short distance the bridleway turns left. Continue straight on following the waymarker.
6. **Follow the right hand edge of the reserve for approx 186 yards/170 metres,** then turn left along a path that heads straight across the centre of the reserve.
7. **Go straight on to the car park and TAKE CARE crossing Trinity Hill Road.**
8. **Opposite the car park follow the path downhill to a junction of paths.** Turn left and follow the path to a surfaced lane.
9. **Turn right along the footpath and follow it downhill** along the lane ignoring all side turnings until you come to a T-junction with a minor road.
10. **Keep left (straight on) along the road** and after approximately 131 yards/120 metres turn right through a gate and along a footpath through fields.
11. **Follow the footpath, staying parallel with the field boundary** on your right until you come to a stile out onto a minor road.
12. **Turn left along the road going through an underpass.** Shortly afterwards turn right over a stile onto another footpath through fields.
13. **Bear left and follow the footpath through three fields,** through a 2 in 1 gate and along a short section of track to Woodbury Lane.
14. **Turn left along the lane and then after a short distance** go through a gate on your right onto a footpath.
15. **Continue to follow the footpath over a footbridge** and straight on to a junction of paths. This section can be quite muddy at times.
16. **At the junction of paths turn left, leaving the fields** and following Morton Way into Boxfield Road and down to the T-junction with Musbury Road.
17. **Turn right along Musbury Road and take the first left into Widepost Lane,** following it to the next junction.
18. **Go straight across King Edward Road into Station Yard** and follow the road around to the left to Axminster Station.

This route was originally developed by James Baldwin and checked by Ted Swan. It was reviewed and updated in 2026.