

Bystock nature reserve and East Budleigh village Wild Walk



Details

Approx time: three hours

Approx length: six miles (9.5 km)

Terrain: Footpaths, muddy in places, tracks, narrow roads, boardwalks

Start: Bystock nature reserve north car park (OS map SY 030849). Or East Budleigh car park or bus stop

Child friendly: Yes, but there are ponds and some narrow roads

Dog friendly: Dogs on leads. There are a number of stiles

Refreshments: Pub and shop in East Budleigh

Public transport: East Budleigh Stagecoach 157 and 57



Bystock nature reserve (David Chamberlain)

Species to look out for

- Stonechat
- Exmoor pony
- Small red damselfly
- Sphagnum moss
- Round-leaved sundew plant
- Bog-bush cricket
- Emperor dragonfly

- Yellowhammer
- Speckled wood butterfly
- Grayling butterfly
- Bell heather
- Glow-worm
- Silver-studded blue butterfly
- Common pipistrelle bat
- Blackcap
- Dingy skipper butterfly



Silver-studded blue butterfly (Chris Root)

Introduction

This walk combines the varied heathland habitats and ponds of Bystock nature reserve with a pleasant walk through the East Devon countryside to the delightful village of East Budleigh, returning past Hayes Barton, the birthplace of Sir Walter Raleigh.

The walk is mainly on footpaths and tracks. It will take approximately three

hours, which will provide a good afternoon stroll. There are some sections of minor narrow road with high banks, please take care.

The route includes beautiful views of the East Devon pebbled heaths SSSI-designated landscape. Look out for the heathland species listed above. Listen out for stonechats and spot dragonflies around the ponds.

Contact details

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Directions

1) Go through the gate at the corner of Bystock nature reserve north entrance car park and downhill across the field to a wooden gate at the bottom. After the gate take a narrow path on the right and turn right in front of a large beech tree, then left onto a boardwalk. At the end of this loop turn left uphill. About 400 yards later at a path junction go left and very shortly afterwards descend towards the ponds. Follow the boardwalk past a pond to the end and then go straight onto a path. At a T-junction turn right over a bridge and through a gate, and eventually you arrive at a large pool. Go past a bench and continue round the boardwalk as it bends right and along the end of the pool to a lane. This marks the reserve boundary.

2) Turn left along the lane and right at the top of a rise onto a footpath. Follow the yellow waymarkers down the right-hand edge of a clearing, then past Squabmoor reservoir, keeping the reservoir on the right. At the dam follow the waymarkers down a field edge into a wood. Continue straight on, eventually passing a metal field gate where you continue straight on until you bear right onto a track and left onto a lane at Dalditch Farm. Go straight on along the lane to Brookside Cottage where you take a track on the left and approximately 300 yards later turn left onto another track.

3) After 300 yards bear right by a yellow waymarker onto a path. Take the left path at a fork, which goes uphill

along the edge of a wood. At the top of a rise ignore a small path on the right and continue straight on along a grassy path into a clearing. Cross a couple of forest tracks to a yellow waymarker then continue five yards and turn left to a stile. Cross this and follow the field boundary, ignoring a metal gate. At the bottom of the field go through two gates and over a stile. Follow a yellow waymarker straight on, down a track and over a stile. Cross a second stile onto a track and turn left.

4) At the lane turn right past the free car park (alternative start point for the walk) into the village of East Budleigh. After your visit to the village, opposite the Sir Walter Raleigh pub retrace your steps up Hayes Lane, past the free car park.

5) Continue about one mile (1.6km) until you pass Hayes Barton. This private house was built in about 1484 and was the birthplace of Sir Walter Raleigh. Walk another 0.5 miles (0.8km) to a T-junction where you go left. At the next road junction take a path on the right and turn left after 10 yards to join a path parallel to the road you have just left. At a fork in the path go left, leaving some quarry workings on the right. 100m after this junction turn left up a path to rejoin the road, where you turn right back to the Bystock nature reserve car park.

