



Pebblebed Heaths CONSERVATION TRUST

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS WALK



HISTORY

Woodbury Castle is an Iron Age hill fort dating back to 500-300 BC. At this time trees would have been cleared to provide building materials, firewood and tools to build the fortifications and dig burial mounds in the area. This ancient monument comprises multiple ditches and ramparts and was probably used as a stronghold by the local chieftains.



ANIMAL LIFE

Dartford Warbler Beneath the ramparts of Woodbury Castle the heathlands attract a variety of birds including stonechat, yellowhammer and the rare Dartford warbler, which the area is famed for. The habitat provides an excellent breeding ground for the Dartford warbler which favours the dense gorse and this is a particularly good place to spot them.

Southern Damselfly The heathland habitat provides the perfect habitat for dragonflies, including the southern damselfly, a rare species in Britain that is confined to just a few parts of the south west of England. Among the 21 breeding species recorded here are the small red damselfly and the emerald damselfly.



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Walk 1: Woodbury Castle to Colaton Raleigh



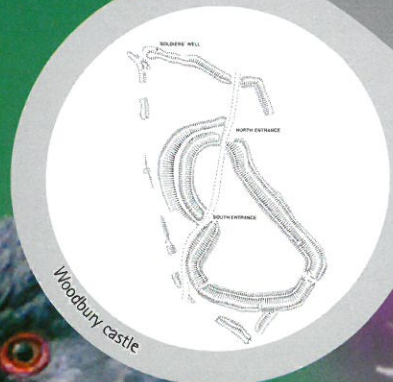
Southern damselfly



THE EAST DEVON PEBBLEBED HEATHS CONSERVATION TRUST

The establishment of the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust is a landmark in the history of the heaths and an important opportunity for their future. The Trust has been established to ensure that a sustainable plan is put in place to safeguard the future of the Pebblebed Heaths.

To date responsible management has resulted in dramatic heathland improvement with the return of many rare wildlife species. The heathland is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and has been recognised by both UK and European designations including a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).



Woodbury castle



Dartford warbler - Image courtesy of Richard Austin



EAST DEVON PEBBLEBED HEATHS CONSERVATION TRUST

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Walk 1

Woodbury Castle to Colaton Raleigh

- 1) Start at Woodbury Castle car park. Go through the barrier at the back right hand side of the car park. Walk along the main wide track past the castle plantation. Look out for Dartford warblers in the gorse!
- 2) At the corner of the wood carry straight on between the plantation. (You can take a short cut across the bank past the wooden coral and follow this track to 7)
- 3) Pass right junction. Turn left at next junction - do not go up the hill in front.
- 4) Walk along track to the cross junction. Take a left down the steep bank between trees to the bridge over the ponds and walk through the wet area. Follow path past the junction to the left slightly uphill.
- 5) At the barrier turn left and through next barrier, at the end of the field turn right. You now follow the back of the common and the fields. Look out for badger sets. During the summer months look in the wet areas for dragon flies, damselflies and insectivorous plants.
- 6) At the next barrier turn left walk uphill past sign for Fire Point 19 on the corner of the field. Carry on uphill to the Y junction at the corner of the wood. Turn left and uphill to next cross junction, walk over this junction and straight on.
- 7) Arrive at the grassy area with banked small wood enclosure and a merging of tracks. Walk straight across and carry on the track that takes you to Woodbury Castle. Walk around the bowl shaped area to the Castle.
- 8) At the edge of the castle plantation turn right and walk around the edge of the plantation and the embankment to the Castle back to the car park where you started the walk.

ROUTE: 8 km
 TERRAIN: Easy to Moderate
 PERMITTED:

