



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 The heathland provides a breeding ground for many species including curlew, yellowhammer and the rare Dartford warbler. The area is famed for its population of the Dartford warbler which is more commonly found much further south, but the dense gorse provides an excellent habitat which allows it to thrive.

Nightjar For the amateur or professional birdwatcher the heaths are a fantastic location to spot a variety of birds. The nightjar is a rare summer visitor that nests on the ground. You will need to look hard to see it as it flies at dawn and dusk to make best use of the light in which to hunt moths.



Walk 3: Woodbury Castle
Car Park Circuit



Woodbury castle



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).



Dartford warbler



Nightjar - Image courtesy of RSPB



EAST DEVON PEBBLEBED HEATHS CONSERVATION TRUST

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Walk 3

Woodbury Castle Car Park Circuit Walk

- 1) Face the entrance to the car park. At the left hand side a track goes through the high gorse, follow this track down the hill until you are nearly at Four Firs Cross.
- 2) As you get near the road you will come to a junction of tracks and turn left (in the right hand corner amongst the shrub you can see a tumuli). Pass 'Old Tree' enclosure by the old beach and rowan trees. Cross over the track ahead, and walk up towards the corner of the plantation.
- 3) At the corner of the plantation follow the firebreak along until you pass the Model Airfield car park to your right.

The airfield is a few meters to your left. If you wish to see the aircraft, be careful of any that may be low flying or landing close by.
- 4) At the corner of the plantation, turn left and walk over some steep ups and downs with puddles and wet, pebbly scree slopes.
- 5) At the T junction turn left. You are now on the major wide track going back up to Woodbury Castle. Follow the right edge of the plantation up to the green barrier and through to the car park.

ROUTE: 3-4 km

TERRAIN: Easy to Moderate

PERMITTED:

