



02 DEVON CULMSTOCK BEACON

▶ Distance: 9 miles/14.2km ▶ Time: 4½ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



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FEATURE
ON PAGE 64



Heading up to the Wellington Monument.

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY...

PHILIP THOMAS

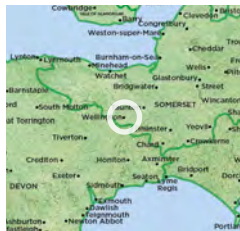
Straddling Devon and Somerset, the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers a greensand plateau carved up by pastoral river valleys. This circular walk starts over 250m up on the prominent hilltop where a 53m, three-sided obelisk commemorates the Duke of Wellington's victory at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Traversing the northern scarp of the Blackdown Hills, it crosses Black Down Common to Culmstock Beacon, where a stone hut once supported a fire beacon that spread news of the Spanish Armada's arrival in the English Channel

in 1588. This swathe of heathland enjoys a clear sightline across the M5 towards Exmoor and the heart of Devon. Turning downhill into the quiet village of Culmstock, footpaths and lanes shadow the River Culm upstream, before a steady climb returns you to the start.

1 Start

At the far end of the car park, take signed 'Fir Drive' path towards Wellington Monument. Follow trail L of monument into woods, following RH side of beech hedge bank. Descend and turn R down to gate (leaving NT land). Swing L up muddy bridleway to road. Cross to verge and turn R along road.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking

National Trust Wellington Monument car park, (P&D) TA21 9PB, grid ref ST143167

Is it for me? Follows often muddy paths/bridleways, over fields/heath. Briefly steep in places. Sections on quiet roads/lanes.

Stiles 9

PLANNING

Nearest town Wellington

Refreshments Strand Stores café and Culm Valley Inn, Culmstock

Public toilets None

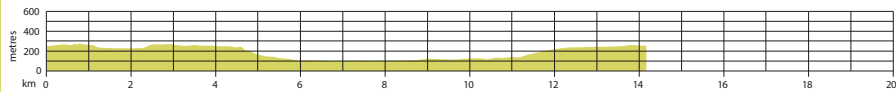
Public transport Bus 20 (Mon-Sat, from Honiton/Taunton) serves Culmstock, stopping near Point 4 (dartline-coaches.co.uk)

Maps OS Explorer 128, Landranger 181 or 193

When road bends R, continue ahead on lane signposted 'Sampford Moor'. When lane bends R further on, continue



GRADIENT PROFILE



02 DEVON CULMSTOCK BEACON

► OS Explorer map 128 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

straight on following signposted bridleway.

2 1½ miles/2.4km

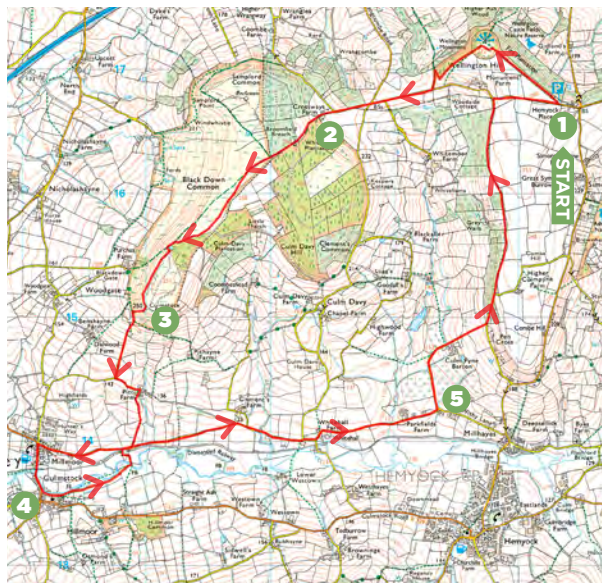
Follow track past Crossways Farm, through gate and into forestry plantation, emerging by gate at edge of heathland. Fork R on track through heather to meet a broader track ahead. Turn L and follow track (merging into another) to pond. Turn L up second track after pond and follow it to Culmstock Beacon.

3 3 miles/4.8km

From beacon, take footpath R of bench going steeply downhill to gate. Turn L along muddy footpath and carry straight on at signpost, through gate and down paved lane. At junction turn L (signed 'Pitt Farm Only'). After bungalow, but before barn, turn R on signed footpath into field. Aim for stile in corner of hedge opposite, then cross next field to gate in far R-hand corner. Turn R along lane into Culmstock. Take first L after old mill, following lane L then R to T-junction. Turn L, taking care on road, past the Culm Valley Inn and over bridge.

4 4½ miles/7.2km

Turn L up lane 'The Cleeve' at War Memorial. When lane bends R around church, carry straight down track past 'Cleeve Cottage' (signposted footpath), through gate into



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field. Bear L for gate in far bottom corner, ignore footbridge ahead and follow muddy path R beside river. Cross small bridge, then bigger footbridge over river further on. Turn L to gate, then veer R up to road. Turn R and take care following road for next 1¾ miles, going straight on at first two junctions, twisting L with road around Whitehall Farm at next.

5 6½ miles/10.9km

At fourth junction, turn L up lane signed for 'Culm Pyne ¼', following lane R uphill to T-junction. Turn L uphill and as lane swings R, go straight on over stile on signed footpath. Cross next stile

and stay ahead on higher track above woods, then cross paddock to next stile on path into copse. Cross stile and follow path along R edge of field, then cross next stile into wood. Cross stile to follow muddy track to next stile into field, and a follow L edge to stile/road. Turn R and follow road verge to cross L back to car park. **CW**

DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

VIEW THE WALK ON
OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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