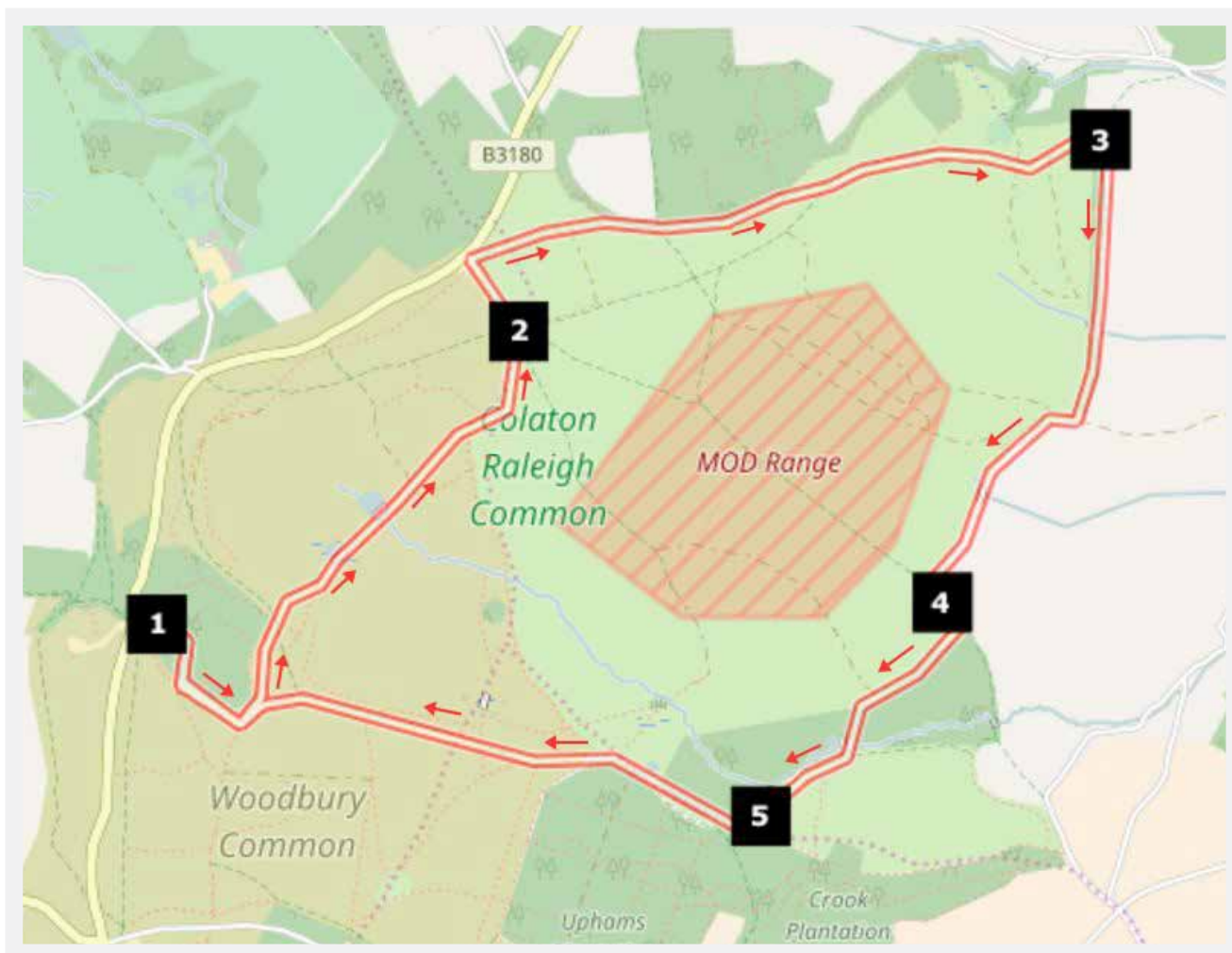
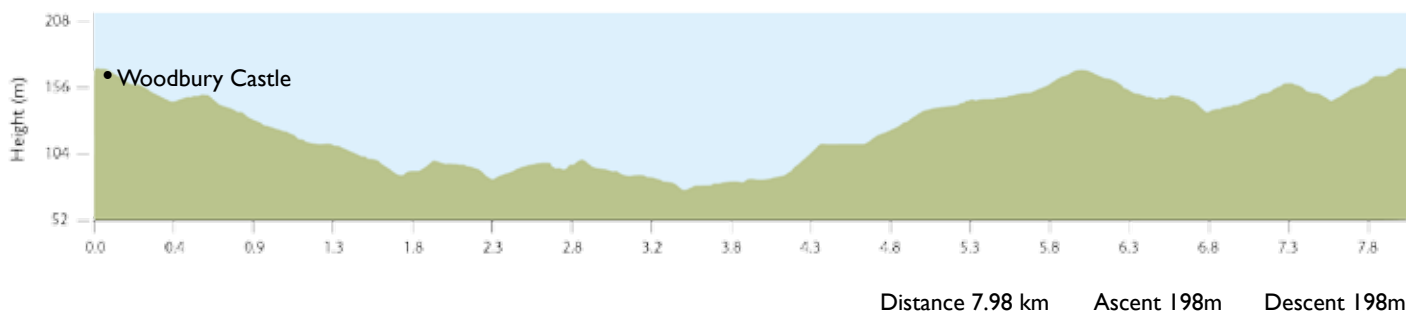


Circular 2

Colaton Raleigh Common Circular



Difficulty: Leisurely
Walking time: 2 hours 45 minutes
Length: 8.00km / 5.0mi



Circular Route 2

Colaton Raleigh Common Circular



Difficulty: Leisurely

Walking time: 2 hours 45 minutes

Length: 8.00km / 5.0mi

Start location: Woodbury Castle, east car park.

Route Summary: The heathland area was created by Neolithic farmers around 4000 BC when they started clearing the area of deciduous woodland to create pasture for their animals. Further clearance, grazing and burning over the centuries created the heathland.

Description

[1] From the car park, turn right on a track by the waymarked East Devon Way and proceed downhill. As track turns sharply right, turn left on path through trees following the East Devon Way waymarks. The route keeps to the right of the castle earthworks and emerges from the trees. Turn right on the track (left signed East Devon Way) for about 150 yards to woods corner, then follow a track across the heath in a north easterly direction. Cross a boggy area using railway sleepers to a ring of pine trees and a path junction.

[2] The route reaches the East Devon Way here but cross over it, heading to the left to follow a track to a car park (The Warren). Just before reaching a road, turn right and follow a broad track along the northern edge of Colaton Raleigh Common and Hawkerland Brakes. The path finally joins the East Devon Way.

[3] Keep ahead on the East Devon Way, following the waymarks until reaching a low metal barrier across the track. Turn a sharp right onto a bridleway along the eastern edge of the common. Keep on this track on the common edge until meeting a farm track then turn right (bridleway sign). Proceed on common edge to a bridleway T junction, turn left.

[4] Follow this track down to a low metal barrier where turn right on a path that keeps to the right of a wood edge. As the trees end, keep on the path over the heath. Cross a wet area over a bridge and ascend steps to another T junction track. Turn right (bridleway sign) towards woods. At path T junction again turn right (bridleway sign) and keep straight ahead on this track which takes you back to Woodbury Castle.

This elevated stretch has excellent views of East Hill, the Otter Valley, Muttons Moor, the coast and Peak Hill, near Sidmouth. Looking up the Otter Valley on a clear day Dumpton Hill and the beginning of the Blackdown Hills can be seen. The village of Colaton Raleigh can be seen to the south east and Aylesbeare Common to the north. This section was part of the old road along which the stage coach passed on its journey from Topsham to Newton Poppleford, where passengers could board a London bound coach.

[5] Bear right again where you meet the next track and you are on the home leg (SY048866). Before reaching the Castle, follow the track northward to the corner of the beech lined plantation and back to the car park.

From the path across the heath you may be lucky and see or hear a Dartford warbler, immediately recognisable with its long tail and grating call. You may surprise a basking common lizard or adder and grayling and gatekeeper butterflies are common here on a sunny August day.

Route developer: James Baldwin

Route checker: Ted Swan