

Trinity Hill Trot!

Walk: 1.5 miles

Time: 30 minutes

Terrain: Some uneven ground, one incline

What to bring: Sturdy footwear. Long trousers are recommended to avoid ticks. Binoculars for bird watching and enjoying views over the Axe Valley.

Car park: There are some car parking spots at Trinity Hill Local Nature Reserve, if the car park is full there is a Forestry Commission car park further down Trinity Hill Road (towards Rousdon).

A visit to Trinity Hill offers a chance to explore a beautiful heathland habitat. Located just outside Axminster, the site has an extensive network of footpaths allowing you to fully explore the reserve or extend your walk further afield.

Heathlands provide important habitats for many scarce and threatened invertebrates, plants and birds. Bring your binoculars and look out for linnets, yellowhammers and stonechats singing from tall shrubs on the heath.

To start this circular walk, head north east by turning left out of the car park along a path that runs parallel to the main road.

Follow the path as it turns right and along the back edge of the reserve.

Whilst you are walking keep an eye out for reptiles, try to tread lightly whilst walking round the reserve and you may be lucky enough to spot a lizard, slow worm or even an adder!

The path follows the reserve boundary to the right until it reaches the main road. Carefully cross the road and take the vehicle track down the hill. Continue past a junction until you reach a footpath that turns sharply right.

Follow this path back up the hill, taking the next turning on your right to head out across the reserve.

From Trinity Hill you can enjoy spectacular views across the Axe Valley. Keep an eye out for a small herd of Exmoor ponies that graze the site during the summer and early autumn. Grazing ponies help to restore the heathland and prevent scrub invasion.

Finally turn left, back uphill towards the car park and take in the scenery before heading to one of the rural pubs or into Axminster town.

Did you know Trinity Hill is a designated Dark Sky Discovery site? This means the site is a recognised great place to watch the night sky. Visit during a clear summer's evening to enjoy the stars and listen out for the elusive nightjars which breed on the reserve.

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