

# RUBY



## COUNTRY

# Ruby Trails

## Holsworthy / Chilsworthy Trail

### Green Lanes

This is a deep lane trail running through fairly intensively managed farmland containing

hedges rich in flora and fauna. The trail passes through an attractive green lane and several areas of woodland.

Front cover photo: Heath Fritillary, English Nature. Inside spread: Bog Asphodel, English Nature. Ruby Red Cattle, Kit Hill Farm. Back page: Wild Rose, English Nature.

### FACT FILE

Holsworthy is served by a regular bus service between Bideford and Barnstaple, which also links to Tavistock, Okehampton and Exeter. Traveline have timetable details 0870 6082608.

**Grid Reference**  
SS 342 038

**Walk Length**  
6.4 km/4 miles.  
There are four stiles and this is a fairly level walk, along parts of the Bude Canal.

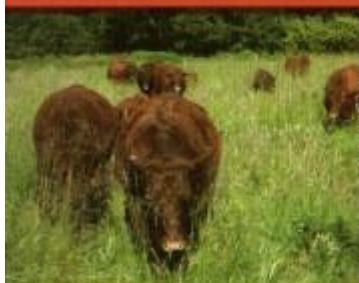
**Facilities**  
Holsworthy has buses, shops, pubs and cafes. Park at Holsworthy Manor car park.

[www.therubycountry.com](http://www.therubycountry.com)





# The Walk



The walk from Holsworthy incorporates the old canal, which is an important historical feature and in an area of high ecological importance. It supports wetland, wet woodland and broadleaved woodland. The wet woodland and Culm grassland areas are particularly interesting as they are a priority habitat in the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan.

**1** Start at the Manor car park in Holsworthy. Take the main exit/entrance out and cross the road following signs for Bideford and the A388. Passing the churchyard on the right, walk along the pavement until you reach the roundabout and walk straight across up North Road.

**2** Take the left turning towards the hospital and then turn right down Dobles Lane. Continue

past the hospital (care must be taken as the route takes you along the side of a lane without a pavement). Continue straight up the lane over the crossroads, past the Holsworthy Biogas Centre.

Ruby Country has long been a centre of agriculture. The Biogas centre disposes of animal waste without polluting the environment (previously a constant problem for dairy, pig and sheep farmers). The centre turns animal waste from farms into gas for generating electricity without the use of fossil fuels. As an added bonus, the farmer gets back cleaned manure for use as fertiliser. The latest environmental technology is turning farmers into energy suppliers, and at the same time saving them money.

**3** Stay on the lane around several bends. When you reach North Hogs Park Farm turn

left along the farm track. Walk down past the riding stables on the left, keeping dogs on the lead through the stables. Pass the farm buildings and take the stile on the right by the canal. This path will take you along the old Bude Canal towards Chilsworthy. Continue walking along the lane running parallel to the canal.

The Bude Canal was constructed between 1819 and 1825 a system of waterways with three branches totalling 57 km in length. The canal was primarily used for carrying sea-sand from Bude, which was used for sweetening the acidic pastures of the area. The canal was the second canal in the world to use water-powered tub boats!

This section of canal still has some water in it and supports associated wetland species including yellow flag iris,

## OS maps for this walk:

**Landranger:** No. 190 Bude and Clovelly [1:50,000 scale]

**Explorer:** No. 112 Launceston and Holsworthy [1:25,000 scale]

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marsh marigold, meadowsweet, pendulous sedge, wild angelica and cuckooflower. Part of the canal has completely succeeded to willow carr and forms a small piece of wet woodland, providing a valuable habitat for birds such as the willow warbler, as well as lying up areas for otters.

**4** On reaching the road turn right into the village of Chilsworthy. At the Post Office turn left down the farm lane and just after farmhouse, take the left-hand side gate. The path follows the right-hand side of the field next to the hedge and then a fence.

**5** Follow the field boundary right down to reach a stile, and once over, walk diagonally across the field to reach the gate and brook. Cross the brook, walk diagonally across two fields to the next gateway. Through the third gate you enter an old road, which is now a pretty green lane. At the lane junction take a left turn.

The unmanaged hedges provide an interesting and enclosed feature. In some places the hedges have become so overgrown that they extend



out into the lane, forming a strip of linear woodland with continuous cover - ideal for species like dormice.

**6** The lane becomes gravelled. Continue walking down the lane, enjoying the views ahead of Holsworthy and fields of Culm grassland. When the lane reaches the road turn left. Turn right over the River Deer at Gulliver Bridge for a short distance, then take the road leading to the left, again take care as there is no pavement. At the next junction a right turn takes you back past the hospital to Holsworthy.

