

On the trails you will discover tranquil woodlands, splendid viewing points and peaceful, meandering rivers. The trail maps in this pack are designed to ensure that the routes are easy to follow, and provide you with interesting information

along the way. Where possible the circular trails start in towns and villages. In addition to the Red Ruby waymarkers, Ruby Trails also link with national routes such as the Tarka Trail and the Devon Coast to Coast.



RUBY



COUNTRY

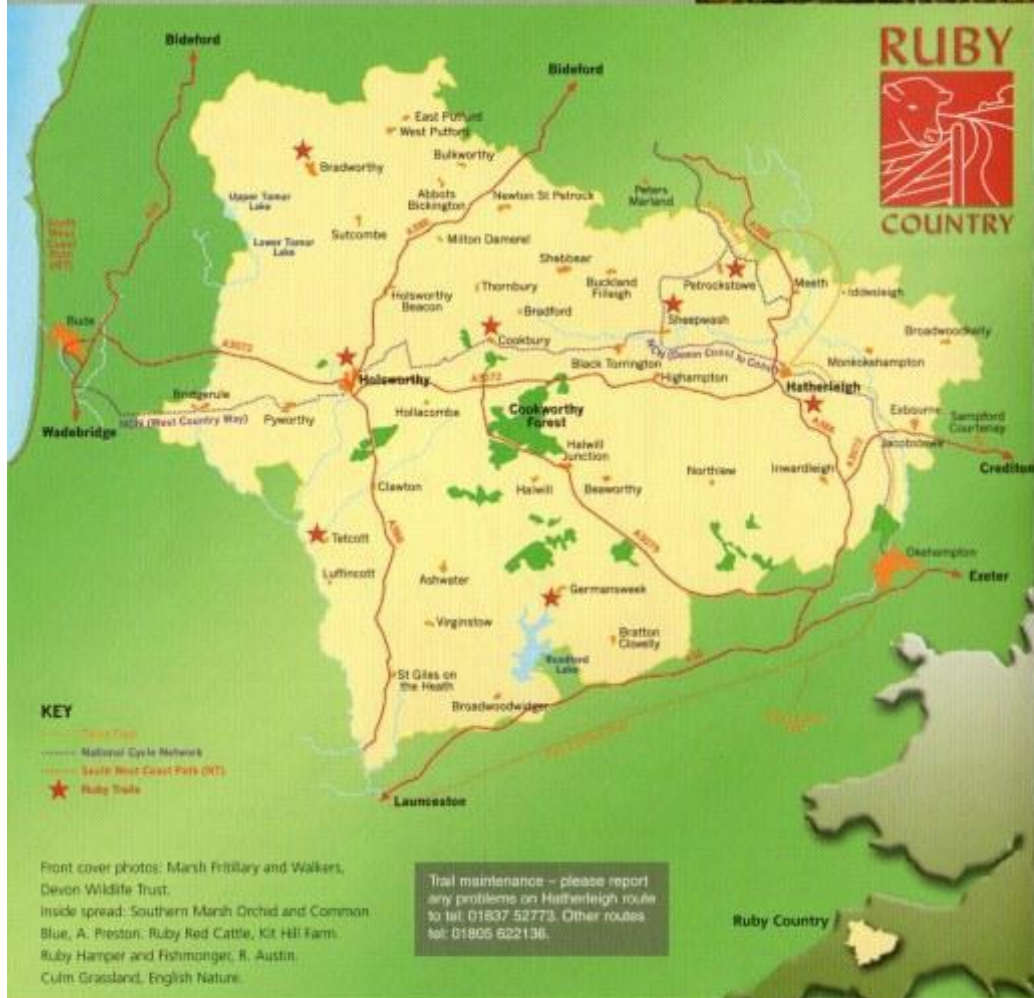
Explore

Ruby Trails



Devon

Our area is renowned for some of Devon's most beautiful and unspoilt countryside. Varying in distance, from one to seven miles, the circular Ruby Trails offer a chance to explore this beauty.



Front cover photos: Marsh Fritillary and Walkers, Devon Wildlife Trust.
 Inside spread: Southern Marsh Orchid and Common Blue, A. Preston; Ruby Red Cattle, Kit Hill Farm; Ruby Hamper and Fishmonger, R. Austin; Culfm Grassland, English Nature.

Trail maintenance - please report any problems on Hatherleigh route to tel: 01837 52773. Other routes tel: 01805 622138.

www.the.rubycountry.com

The Ruby Country initiative is supported by a wide range of local organisations. Core funding for this project has been secured through:



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Hatherleigh and Holesworthy Market and Coastal Towns Initiative.



Ruby Trails – A wealth of natural beauty

Visitors are always struck by the diversity of Ruby Country, particularly the wonderful views of Dartmoor and Exmoor, the range of wildlife and the clarity of the night skies. Ruby Country also supports one of the world's most endangered landscapes, Culm grassland, which is now scarcer than the tropical rainforests.

As some sections of the trails can be muddy we recommend wearing stout footwear, and taking weatherproof clothing.



What is this thing called Culm?

Our area is renowned for its Culm grassland, which is arguably Devon's most important habitat. Visitors who walk through this landscape can experience the sounds of grasslands teeming with life – a real wildlife orchestra.

Culm grassland is characterised most particularly by purple moor grass, the tussocky deciduous grass which gives Culm its distinctive pale brown colour in winter, and is the reason why it is sometimes

locally known as the "white lands" (e.g. Whiteleigh Meadow – white meadow). On most Culm sites the grass shares prominence with rushes, particularly sharp-flowered rush, together with patches of willow and birch scrub. The rich variety of flowering plants supports an equally rich insect fauna. Butterflies are especially prominent, with species like marbled white and small pearl-bordered fritillary being quite common, despite their national scarcity.

A walk through Culm during summer with bog asphodel in flower at your feet and marsh fritillary butterflies playing about your head is an experience not to be missed!

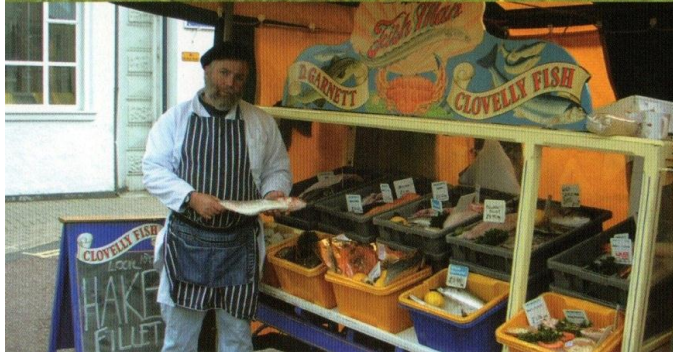
Typical birds of Culm include breeding and wintering snipe, barn owl and short-eared owl. Common countryside animals like fox and deer also find shelter on Culm grassland.



The Ruby Initiative Promoting Quality

The Ruby Country Initiative is a rural regeneration project covering 45 parishes in North Devon surrounding Holsworthy and Hatherleigh. It aims to promote the area and the quality of its local produce, crafts and culture.

The Initiative takes its name from the Ruby Red cattle, which have grazed the native Culm grassland for generations, helping to shape the landscape into what we see today.



Further Information

NAME: _____

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CITY/TOWN: _____

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