

The Land's End Trail

Part II – Tavistock to Avebury



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NOTE:

1. Stages 14 & 15 and 14/15 offer alternative easy and hard routes across Dartmoor
2. Mileages after South Molton may be subject to amendment

INTRODUCTION to the complete Land's End Trail

This long distance path makes its way up the central spine of Cornwall, Devon and Somerset and on to Avebury.

It originated with an idea by Hugh Miners in 1984 and has been developed by Robert Wicks, Robert Preston and Robin Menner. The Trail complements and relieves the over-used South-West Coast Path. It does not use the Michael-Mary line and links directly with the Wiltshire Ridgeway and with paths leading to the Cotswold Way, and so on to Eastern England and the Midlands. Eventually it will be part of the long awaited Land's End to John o'Groats path.

The Trail starts at Land's End, joining the Tinnars Track for 9 miles towards Trencrom Hill. From St. Erth it leads to Carn Brea and Carn Marth then to Chiverton Cross. From Mitchell it crosses farmland to Castle-an-Dinas and on to Bodmin. Then it uses the Camel Trail to reach Bodmin Moor, climbing Brown Willy, Cornwall's highest point, before crossing the high moor to Caradon Hill. Then on by Callington to Horsebridge to cross the Tamar into Devon. After Tavistock the trail crosses Dartmoor by a choice of two routes to join the Tarka Trail, leading to southern Exmoor. It then it crosses the Quantock Hills and Somerset Levels to Glastonbury, through Pewsey Vale to Warminster and over Salisbury Plain to Avebury. It ends inside Avebury stone circle, linking directly to the Ridgeway.

The route avoids towns except where lodging is available. Villages encountered have a variety of cottage architecture and fine old churches. Much of the Trail crosses open moorland with evidence of prehistoric habitation and abandoned mines contrasting with farmland and woods elsewhere. Scenery may surprise those accustomed to coastal or mountain landscapes. Mixed broad leafed trees are more picturesque than coniferous plantations. The route uses some riverside routes, a fine contrast with the high places of open granite moors.

The Trail is mostly on registered footpaths or Open Access land, with some farm lanes and minor roads. Permissive paths are shown in the text. Stout boots, 1:25000 maps and a compass are essential when first walking the Trail. Parts may be overgrown and tough going; way-marking is sparse. Paths may be under water even in summer. Cornish rain is wind driven so walking the Trail north-easterly keeps the rain from the face. Because of sudden low cloud, you should use a compass crossing moorland. Direction and condition of footpaths alter with time; please tell local Ramblers of any problems encountered. Please treat the countryside kindly and follow the Country Code. Never leave gates open for animals to stray and leave no litter, especially cans, bottles or plastic, animals may be cut or choked. Consideration for the countryside helps keep the goodwill of the farmers who work the land that the Trail crosses.

Please do let us have your feedback – email contact button on html web pages

The Land's End Trail

Part II Tavistock to Avebury

Published to the web by Oliver's Cornwall



Some notes about the Tavistock to Avebury section of the route

Robert Preston, one of the original Land's End Trail researchers, walked Belstone to Avebury in April 2009. Most of these pages are based on his revised notes so anyone familiar with the original route details will find changes. (a) The Dartmoor stage now has a two stage alternative via Lydford. (b) The Tarka stage has been divided into two stages with a break at Sampford Courtenay. (c) Later stages have some route variations. Robert's walk was charitable, fund-raising for the Truro Cathedral Central Tower Appeal. Stages 14 and 15, and 14/15 from Tavistock to Belstone, were walked by Oliver Howes. Directions for the route crossing Dartmoor have been expanded from the original but the route remains the same. The moorland route over Dartmoor is definitely not recommended for less experienced moorland walkers and, on occasion, may be closed for military live firing exercises. The alternative route offered via Lydford, using well established existing trails, is very easy going and many may choose to do it as a single stage.

Now that the Land's End Trail has left Cornwall, the character of the landscape changes., although the moors will feel a little familiar to those who have already crossed West Penwith and Bodmin Moor. Most notable landscapes are those of Dartmoor, Exmoor, the Quantocks, the Somerset Levels and the Wiltshire Downs. After Dartmoor, Cornish hedges and Cornish stiles mostly give way to drystone walls, Devon banks, hedgerows and wooden stiles. Points of particular interest appear in *bold italics*. These are described, with photos, in the **Trail Interest** page. There is also a **Robert's : Land's End Trail** page; this is his personal commentary on the Tavistock to Avebury section.

Glossary of Terms

Barrow	Bronze age (usually) burial mound. In Cornwall called cairn, made of rocks, may be grassed over
Clapper bridge	Rough stone piers, large flat stones laid across. Best known example at Postbridge on Dartmoor
Furze	Gorse. In places this can be more than head height and quite impenetrable
Cornish Hedge	A Cornish hedge is a soil bank faced with stone, battered for strength, usually growth covered
Hedge	An English hedgerow, made of trees and shrubs, traditionally trimmed and layered for strength
Leat	Man-made watercourse, usually serving a mine or a mill waterwheel
Peat Pass	Passage cut through blanket bog on Dartmoor. More information on the Trail Interest page
Rhyne	Man-made drainage channel on the Somerset Levels. Sometimes rhine, reen or rean
Stiles	<i>Proper Cornish stiles</i> (cattle, sheep and coffin) are of stone, usually granite or slate <i>Wooden stiles</i> are used by the English; most on this section are wooden and just called stiles <i>Crude stiles</i> (my term) are too haphazard to meet any of the above descriptions

Abbreviations used in the text – They may be obvious but here they are anyway

CP Car parking	L Left	R Right	T T junction	FB Footbridge
FP Footpath (sign)	LH Left-hand	RH Right-hand	WM Way-mark	X Cross (roads)
Chevron WM	Yellow single chevron denoting Land's End Trail direction, encountered where no other WM			

Accommodation: You can download a PDF file. **Links** - LET, Cornish Section and Tavistock to Avebury home pages

Trail Maps

Each stage is headed by its own map. Scale of these is mostly about 1 inch to the mile, printed on A4. Orientation is north in every case. Points are shown to help location; these appear on the relevant OS map. Roads are shown where they relate to the trail. The Trail is shown in red; roads black, railways hatched black, coast and rivers blue. Stage and intermediate distances in the text are adjusted to take account of terrain but are approximate. These maps are intended only to provide rough stage guidance. We hope to include improved maps later. .

OS Explorer 1:25000 maps required for the complete route

Cornwall: 102, 104, 106, 109, 108;

Dartmoor National Park OL28. On to Exmoor 113, 127; **Exmoor National Park OL9.**

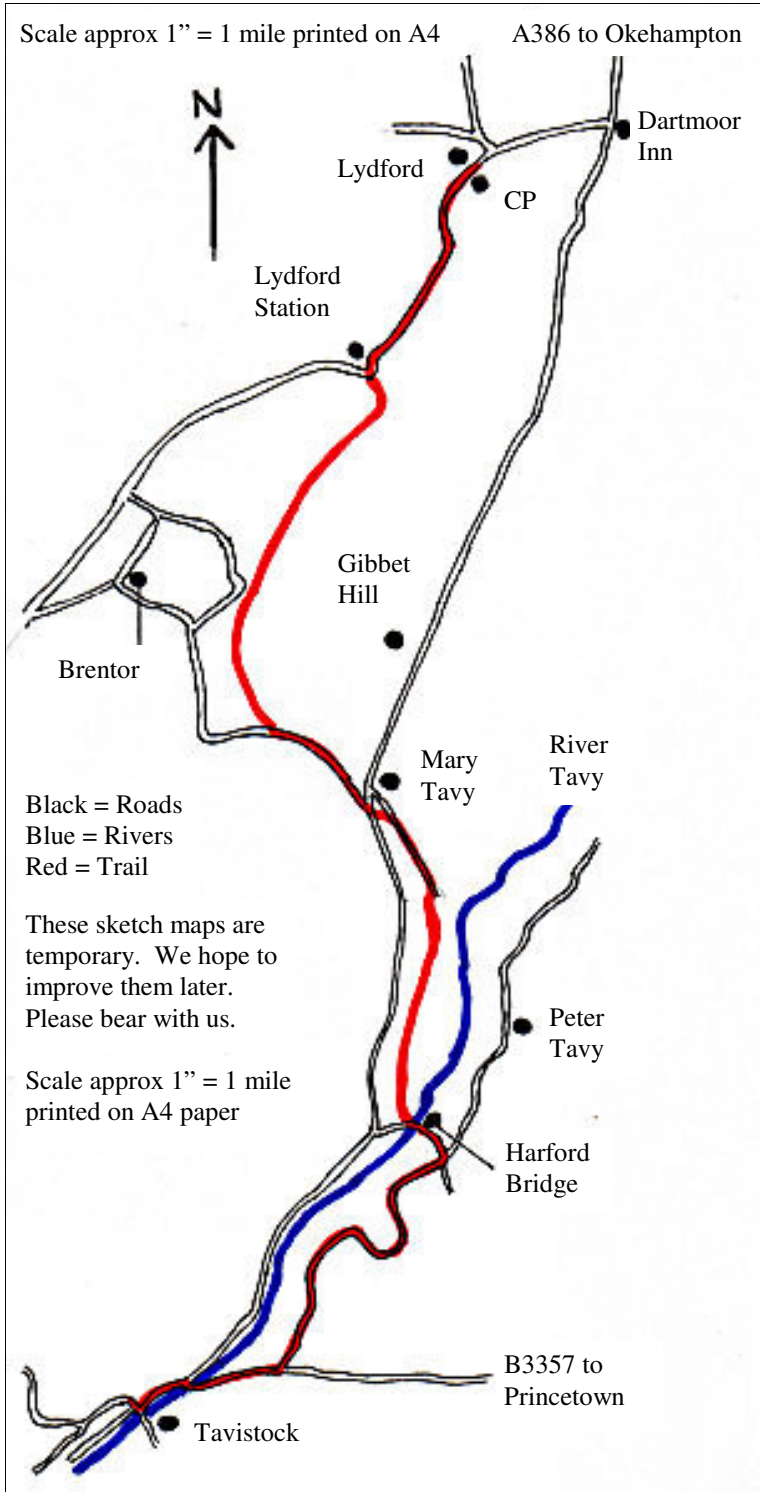
Eastwards to Avebury: 140, 141, 142, 143,130

STAGE 14 DARTMOOR FRINGE I Tavistock to Lydford 10 miles Maps OS112 and OL28

Car Parking: Public Car Parks in Tavistock on south side of river.

Trails: This stage utilises the West Devon Way (newly waymarked 2009) Shown as WDW in text.

Bus: Beacon Bus 118 runs between Tavistock, Lydford and Okehampton. For timetable ring Beacon 01805 804240 or contact Tavistock TIC 01822 612938 or Okehampton TIC 01837 53020



From the Church and Town Hall in Tavistock cross the bridge over the River Tavy and follow footway along A386 Okehampton road past roundabout. At fork turn R uphill on B3357 Princetown road. After school entrance turn L (first WDW) on unsigned Old Tavistock Road (lane, occasionally track) to follow it for about 2 miles. At Xroads after Radge Farm turn L (sign Tavistock) to cross Harford Bridge (caravan site on your L). **(3 miles)**

Shortly, by red post box, bear R (FP and WDW) on track past Beggars Hatch. At end of track go through galvanised gate (no WM) and bear R through gap and diagonally L to ladder stile (FP). Continue roughly N to galvanised gate (WM) then follow LH hedge, passing isolated granite gateposts, to cross ladder stile. Go R & L into next field and follow LH hedge through 3 fields (passing WDW and FP) and with Mary Tavy church ahead. Over stile on L and go R down green lane between hedges. Cross FB and follow path up to stile to lane. L on lane (WDW), passing church, to T. Go R on minor road signed Horndon (WDW). Ignore next Hordon turning and at the top of the hill by Oak Hayes go L (WDW) on bridle path to busy A386 at Downs Garage at Mary Tavy. **(5 miles)**

Cross A386 and continue on Brentor road (WDW) uphill. At open ground on R, take broad bridleway (WDW), the middle of three grassy tracks. This climbs contours obliquely, starting NW, passing low modern cairn and veering NNW. After crest it veers NE to join a tarmac lane (WDW) which becomes stony track. Where track bears L to house bear R (WDW and NCN 27) to follow grassy, becomes stony, track through furze to pass smallholding on L. **(8 miles)** Here go through wooden gate on L (WDW) on to track over bridge at former Lydford railway station. Go R on road and follow it into Lydford village, passing church and castle, to Castle Inn and car park opposite

High ground variation after Mary Tavy:

After Moorland Hotel take bridleway on R past Lower Spring Farm, through wooden gate and go NE to climb Gibbet Hill (1200 ft). From summit head due N to rejoin WDW at wooden gate to bridge over former Lydford Station.

Lydford: **Parking:** Free Public Car Park opposite Castle Inn OS OL28 500/849
Interest: *Lydford Gorge and Lydford Castle*

STAGE 15 DARTMOOR FRINGE II Lydford to Belstone 13 miles Map OS OL28

Car Parking: Lydford free CP opposite the Castle . Belstone free CP N side of village OS OL28 622/937

Beacon Bus 118: Tavistock, Lydford, Okehampton. Timetable Beacon 01805 804240 or Tavistock TIC 01822 612938

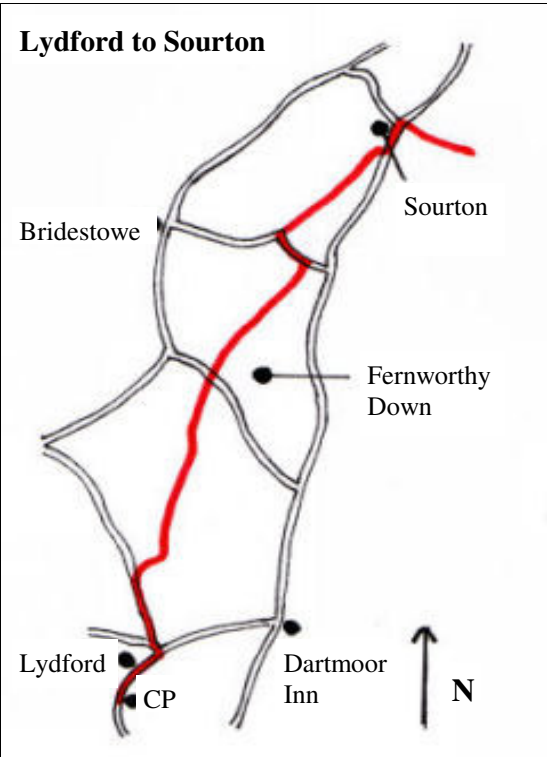
Trails encountered along the way – West Devon Way and Tarka Trail available from <http://www.walkingpages.co.uk>

West Devon Way: Plymouth to Okehampton – 36 miles – newly waymarked in 2009, shown in text as (WDW)

Granite Way: Lydford to Okehampton – 11 miles – cycle path on former railway, part follows Dartmoor Railway

Devonshire Heartland Way: 43 mile trail Okehampton to Exe Valley; here it links the Granite Way and Tarka Trail

Tarka Trail: N. Devon figure-of-8 between Barnstaple and Belstone – 180 miles – part cycle way, (TWM) in text



Lydford to Sourton

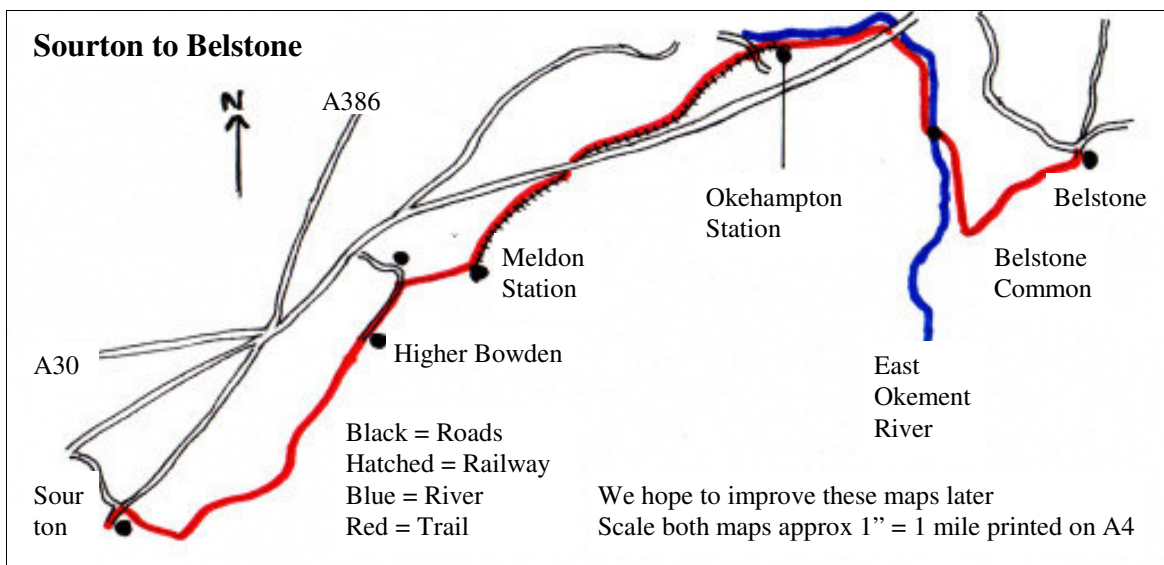
From Castle Inn go N on road to War Memorial. L on road (WDW) then R (WDW) past Lydford Caravan Park. After cottages on R go R down bridle path (WDW) to T. R on track (WDW), through wooden hunting gate (WDW), over clapper and bear L on track which follows W edge of Fernworthy Down. At end go through galvanised and wooden gates on byway (WDW) to Bridestowe road. Continue past Little Cranford and cross two clapper bridges, then up to road leading to Lake. **(3.5 miles)**

L on road (WDW) to T. L (WDW) and at L bend cross ladder stile on R (FP & WDW). Follow RH hedge over two ladder stiles, one stile (WM) and continue through gap. Cross to stile (WM), follow RH hedge over two wooden stiles (second, by barn, has WM). Follow LH hedge to stile (WDW) and gate. Continue past buildings to gate (WM) to cross busy A386. Go L on footway to green opposite Highwayman Inn. **(4.5 miles)**

Sourton to Belstone

At green bear R (WDW) on lane past church, becomes track over bridge. Go though gate (WDW) onto open moor below Sourton Tors. Follow LH hedge and continue ESE for 200 yards to turn L on clear grassy track NE veers E for 0.5 mile to where low bank joins high hedge. Through gap on L and on to wooden gate (WDW). Follow track between hedges. 100 yards after next gate follow FP Meldon (WDW) and continue on track between hedges to Higher Bowden House on R. **(6.5 miles)**

Follow lane to T at Meldon Bridge, go L up slope and R on Granite Way. Cross Meldon Viaduct and pass Meldon Station (**Dartmoor Railway**). 0.5 miles after station the Way jinks L & R under A30 road to follow Dartmoor Railway. At Okehampton Station (good café) **(10 miles)** L on Klondyke Road and R on Devonshire Heartland Way, signed FP East Okement Valley. Follow path through 3 hunting gates and under A30 road to Fatherford Viaduct. At Tarka Trail (TWM) go SE to follow W bank of East Okement River. Cross tributary by FB and continue S along river to cross wooden FB (TWM) **(11.5 miles)** onto Belstone Common. Bear L uphill on lower of two clear paths At top go R (no WM) on clearly defined stony and grassy track to follow LH hedge in direction of Belstone Tor, passing ruined Watchet Cottage on L. After end of hedge take any grassy track which hairpins L to follow line of LH drystone wall After farm on L go through iron gate (TWM) and down lane to southern green at Belstone and the Tors Inn.



Belstone: Parking: on N side of village, on minor road from A30, opposite village hall OS OL28 622/937

STAGE 14/15 THE HIGH DARTMOOR ROUTE Tavistock to Belstone 22 miles Map OS OL28

Car Parking: Tavistock: Public CP on S side of river. Belstone: Free public CP on north side of village.

WARNING At 22 miles this is a stage only for truly serious walkers. The route across *Dartmoor* from Lanehead to Belstone is over open moorland. After Lanehead there is no clearly defined path for 7.5 miles to Hangingstone Hill and there are no waymarks. High moorland can be subject to bad weather so always check the local weather forecast before setting off. And, unless you are an experienced moorland walker, or foolhardy, do not attempt this route in bad weather. Be sure to take a good compass and a large scale map. A handheld GPS may be useful. The route crosses two Army firing ranges, Willsworthy and Okehampton. Do not take this route on a live-firing day when warning flags will be flying. Go to <http://www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk/> or ring 0800 458 4868 or 01837 650010 to check the situation.

Tavistock to Lanehead (8 miles).

From town hall cross the road bridge over River Tavy. L along A386 Okehampton road past roundabout. At fork turn R up B3357 Princetown road. After the school entrance, L (WDW) Old Tavistock Road. Follow lane for 2 miles. At Xroads after Radge Farm (2.5 miles) on to Peter Tavy and on past Cudlipptown. Then at spot height 239m (5 miles) L through gate (FP) and follow LH hedge to gap, then bear R downhill to gate, through woods to steps up to Horndon Bridge. L on stony track, crossing River Tavy, and uphill to leat. R over stile (FP) through Creason Wood to Hill Bridge. (6.5 miles) L to wooden gate and L on lane to Lanehead CP on moor.

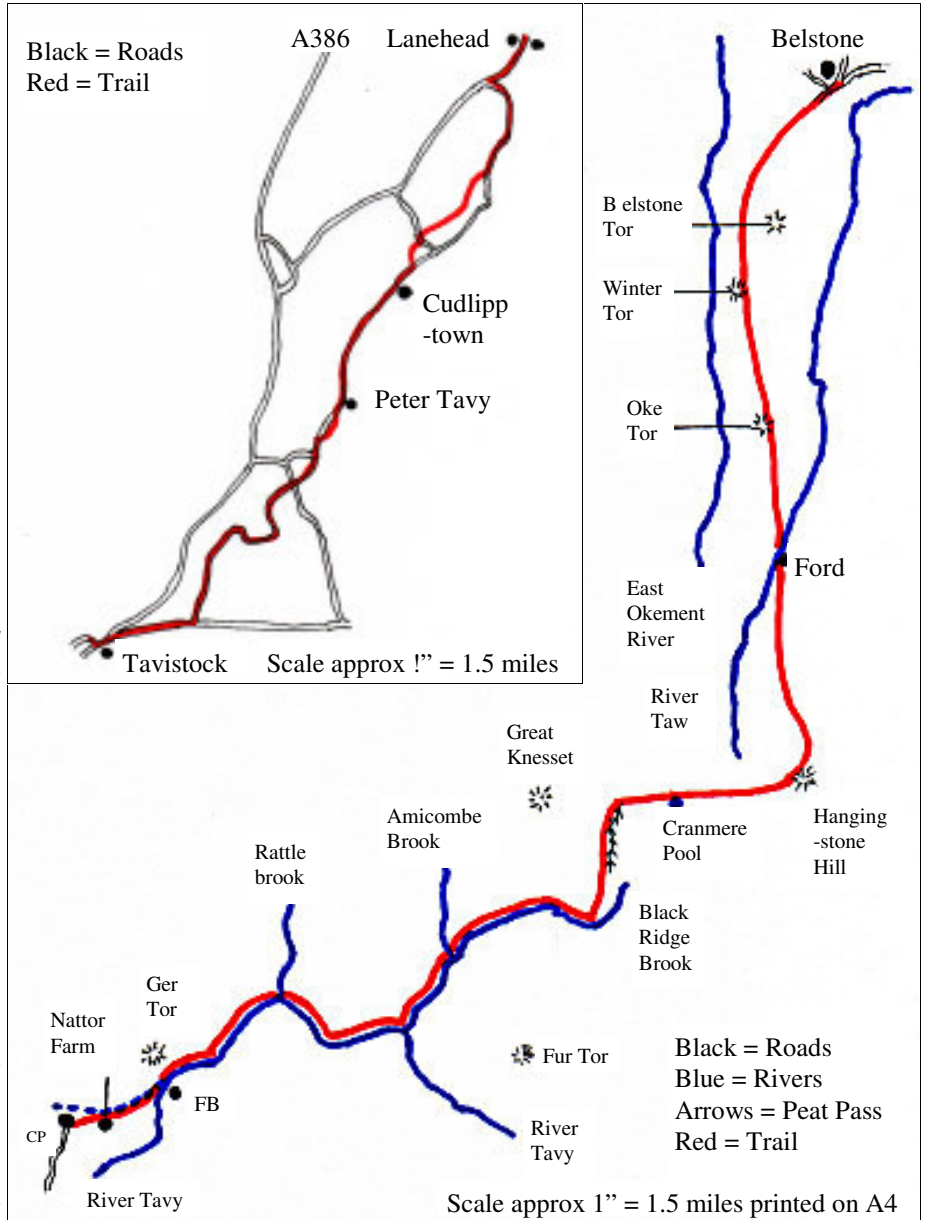
Lanehead to Black Ridge (6 miles)

A mix of moderate path, very rocky ground and partly dried blanket bog means that this section may take longer than the map suggests. Along the rivers and streams the ground is generally easier near the water. Go R on farm track to Nattor Farm, then turn L uphill to mine leat. Follow leat on clear path, entering Willsworthy Range, keeping leat on your L, for 0.7 mile. Leat leaves R. Tavy at stone sluice hut. Cross a small concrete bridge so that the river is on your R. Follow river for about 1 mile until Rattlebrook comes in from N. Cross brook on convenient rocks to follow River Tavy for about 1 mile to Sandy Lake, (entering Okehampton Range halfway). River Tavy now leaves to S. Follow Amicombe Brook for about 1 mile more to approx. 447 spot

height. Cross the now very narrow Amicombe Brook and follow Black Ridge Brook for about 1 mile before heading N across largely dried blanket bog to climb Black Ridge to southern end of **Peat Pass** number 2 (shown on OL28 but not named). Follow peat pass to N end, at N limit of peat hags. Peat pass hard to find but follow its line. Some may prefer to climb Black Ridge once across Amicombe Brook. You can see Hangingstone Hill OP from Black Ridge.

Black Ridge to Hangingstone Hill (1.5 miles) Ground may be saturated, especially from Black Ridge to Taw Head. From N end of Peat Pass Number 2 head just S of due E past Cranmere Pool (letter box) and continue to just S of Taw Head. From here head ENE to Army OP and Cairn on northern summit (2000 feet) of Hangingstone Hill.

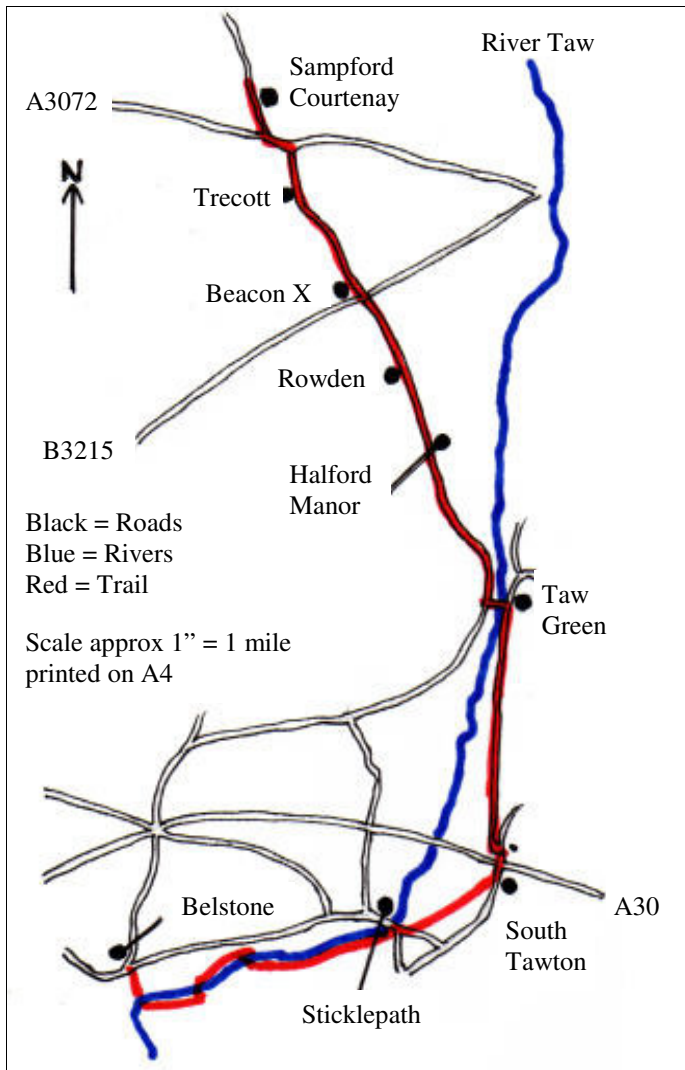
Hangingstone Hill to Belstone (6.5 miles) Easy going, mostly on tracks, variously rocky, grassy, wet or indistinct. From Cairn and Army OP on northern summit track heads first N then generally NNE (heading is Steeperton Tor) down to easy ford over stream at 'Knack Mine' in Steeperton Gorge. Track then climbs steeply. At the top heading is Belstone Tor. Track passes Oke Tor, just to its E, and undulates gently to pass just E of Winter Tor, leaving Okehampton Range at red and white post. Track now descends, with Belstone Tor to E but, where track bends L to valley, bear slightly R and continue past **Nine Stones Cairn Circle**. After a while follow LH drystone wall past farm to iron gate (Tarka WM) and down lane to Belstone village near the Tors Inn..



Stage 16 TAW STAGE Belstone to Sampford Courtenay 8 miles OS OL28

Parking: North side of Belstone village, on minor road to A30, opposite village hall OS OL28 622/937

Trail: This stage uses the Tarka Trail – available from <http://www.walkingpages.co.uk> – shown in text as (TWM)



From southern village green follow lane past Tors Inn to open ground. Go SE downhill on grass, becomes stony path, to a wooden (gated) FB just S of ford. Cross FB to S bank of river. Go L on stony path and take L fork on rocky path to roughly follow S bank of **River Taw**, entering woodland after a while. Before long the path bears L down to river and hugs it for 0.5 miles to FP Skaigh sign. Cross river to N bank on second wooden FB and continue for approx 0.25 miles along N bank through woodland on path nearer to river. **(1.25 miles)**

At third (gated) wooden FB cross river to S bank and follow path close to river through Skaigh Wood. After 0.75 miles go through wooden gate and follow clear well defined path which becomes track, (*Sticklepath village is now on N bank*) passing weir at Cleave Mill on N bank. At T (FP sign Sticklepath) go L and through wooden gate to follow well made track between Cornish type hedges. (*Soon FP L goes to centre of Sticklepath village and Finch Foundry*) The track continues to former A30 at medieval bridge over River Taw. (By the bridge is the first identifiable TWM) **(2.5 miles)**

Cross road, fork L past Tawside House for 100 yards and turn L on metalled track (TWM) between high banks. Track climbs to 800 feet then descends to **South Tawton** close to the church. **(3.5 miles)** Here go L on road passing Blackhall Farm on L. Follow road on bridge over A30 and continue N for 1 mile to Taw Green. **(5 miles)**

Turn L (signed Halford, Langabeer) to cross River Taw then R (signed Halford, Rowden). Narrow, winding, blind-cornered minor road passes Halford Manor **(6 miles)** and Rowden. At Beacon X **(7 miles)** cross B3215 and continue past Trecott to fast A3072 road. Go L and turn R at New Inn into **Sampford Courtenay** to church at top of hill.

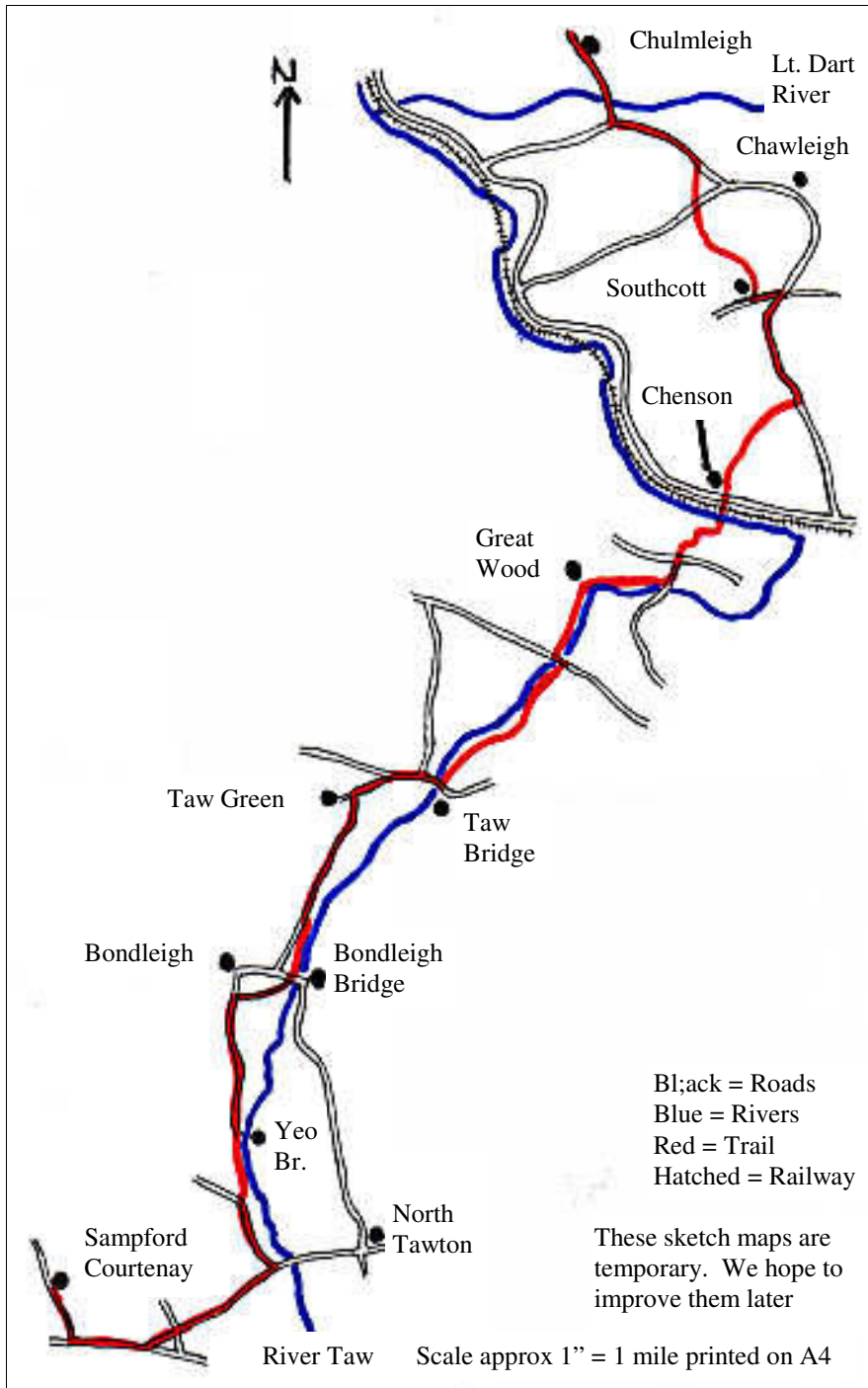
Refreshments: **Sticklepath**, Devonshire Inn, Taw River Inn, Finch Foundry (NT)
South Tawton, Seven Stars Inn **Sampford Courtenay**, New Inn

Interest: **Sticklepath** Finch Foundry
South Tawton 15th century church and Tudor Church House museum
Sutton Courtenay 15th century church

STAGE 17 TARKA STAGE Sampford Courtenay to Chulmleigh 15 miles Maps OS 113 & 127

Parking: Some street parking in centre of Sampford Courtenay

Tarka Trail: Stage uses Tarka Trail – available from <http://www.walkingpages.co.uk> – WM shown in text as (TWM)



From Sampford Courtenay church go S on village road to A3072. Go L (E) on A3072 for 0.5 mile to fork. Bear L along A3124 to Culm Cross Xroads and forward on minor road to bridge over **River Taw** at **North Tawton** (*good verge to walk on*). **(2.5 miles)** Turn L along W bank on minor road past Bridge Farm. At LH bend turn R (TWM) to wooden gate. Path bears L and R, follow TWM's to metal kissing gate and into wood to track to Yeo Bridge. Continue straight on to Bailey's Ford and FB. **(4 miles)** Follow muddy track to L uphill to Bondleigh Wood Xroads. **(5 miles)**

Turn R on minor road to Bondleigh Bridge for 0.5 miles then go L on path along W bank of River Taw to stile at minor road. Go R and follow road to Tawgreen Cross. **(7.5 miles)**

Go R at T and R on B3220 to Taw Bridge for 0.5 miles. **(8 miles)** Turn L over stile (TWM) to E bank of River Taw and go through field to metal gate and stile. Follow RH hedge to stile. Turn R on track to metal gate, then L (TWM) in field to FB. Follow River Taw to Westacott Wood, over stile and follow track through metal gate to minor road. **(9.5 miles)**

Turn L to cross River Taw then R (TWM) on E bank of river through field and over FB to metal gate. Head NNE to LH corner, with Wood Farm (derelict) on L and head NE to wooden gate. Take track through Great Wood and Burrowcleave Wood. **(10.5 miles)**

Go in SE direction through field to wooden stile and metal gate, then follow RH hedge to metal gate (TWM). Turn L on a minor road uphill to T at Hawkridge Farm. Turn R and L, through two metal gates and yard, then down concrete track to wooden gate on L, and then down a track through wood to River Taw and Chenson Bridge. **(11.5 miles)**

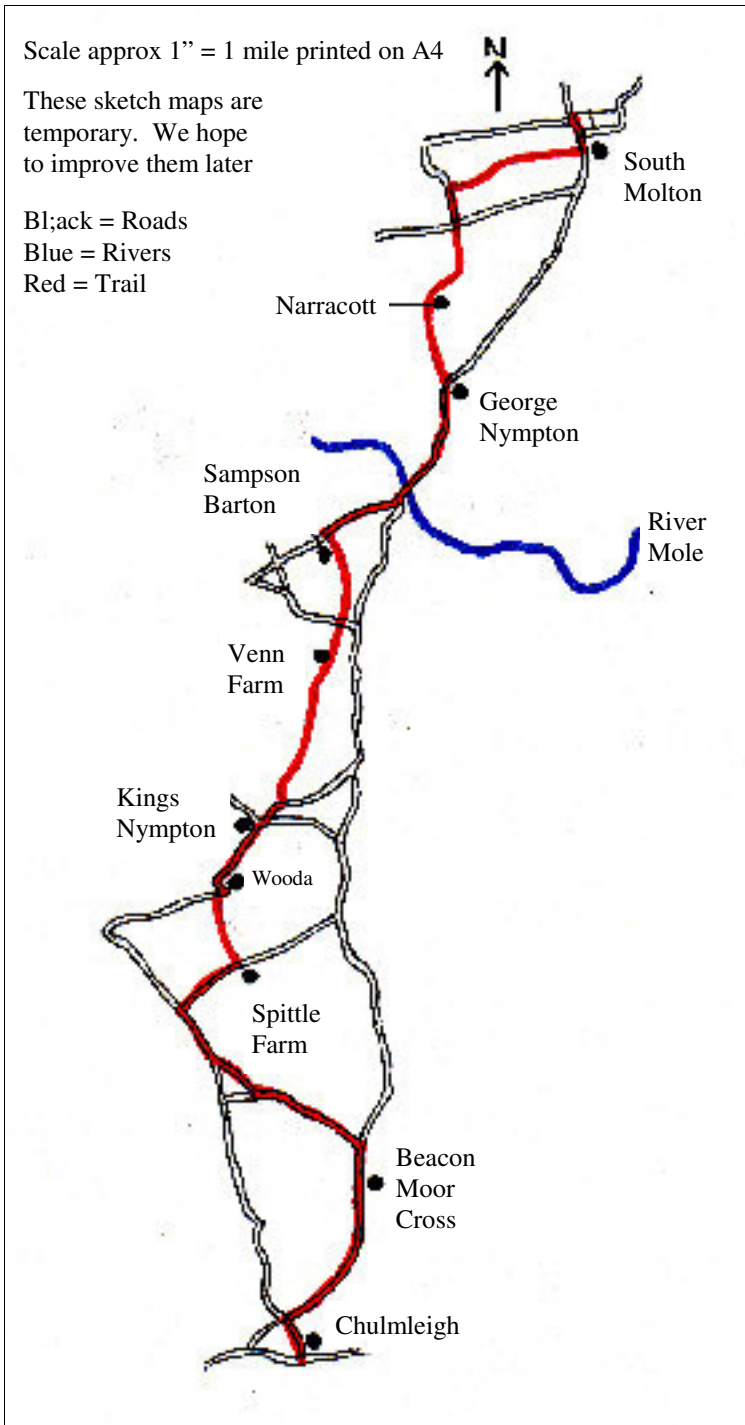
Cross railway line to main A377 road. Cross road and take path (FP Chawleigh). Turn L

along track and follow LH hedge and track which can be very muddy in wet weather. Turn L on road to T at Southcott Cross. **(12.5 miles)** Turn L on minor road to stile on R (FP). Follow RH hedge to awkward gate, then downhill to footbridge and stile. Up very steep hill following RH hedge to B3042. Cross road, go through gate and follow LH hedge to gate and B3096 road. **(13.5 miles)** Turn L downhill to Moortown Cross and Chulmleigh Bridge. **(14.5 miles)** Across bridge over the Little Dart River and up very steep hill on main road to the centre of **Chulmleigh**. **(15 miles)**

Websites: **Chulmleigh** is at http://www.britinfo.net/index_Chulmleigh.htm & <http://www.chulmleigh.org/>

STAGE 18 NYMPTON STAGE Chulmleigh to South Molton 11.5 miles Map OS 127

Parking: Near Globe Inn next to Church in Chulmleigh. OS 127 Grid ref: 687/143



Go N on South Molton Street and head NNW to Xroads at Community College. *The direct route would continue NNW downhill and uphill via Bond's Cross and Trunk Bridge to Dobbsmoor Cross but the climb is very steep. To avoid this at Xroads go R to head NE via Parsonage X and N to Beacon and Dobbsmoor X. (1.5 miles)* Turn L on minor road NW to Tollbar Cross (1.75 miles) At Highlands, on your R, fork R to Cutland Cross (2 miles) and on to Spittle Cross. (2.5 miles) .

Turn R (NE) to just before Spittle Farm and L (FP) down track to Catham Lake stream. (3.5 miles) X FB uphill to minor road at Catham Bridge. Go R on road, bears L at Wooda Bridge and R uphill at Lower Wooda, to King's Nympton village and T junction. (5 miles) Turn R and L. Immediately after next R bend take track on L (FP). Follow track to stile in corner then LH hedge through gap and scrub to stile in corner and FB across Colley Lake. Go L of cottage and uphill along RH hedge through 2 wooden gates and metal gate. Then diagonally R to kissing gate near building. Turn R and L through gate (WM) and head for stile.. Continue to second stile and track to Venn Farm (6 miles) and minor road.

Cross and go down LH hedge to half way along, then slightly L and follow RH hedge to metal gate to tree on skyline (South Molton and Exmoor views) and follow LH hedge to metal gate, then RH hedge to stile. Now go downhill to stream and stile and on uphill to Sampson Barton (FP). (7 miles) Go R on minor road downhill to Wampford Bridge. At T turn L uphill, crossing River Mole, to George Nympton. (8 miles) On uphill on road past church, past Hillside on R, to R bend and take path (FP) on L. Follow LH hedge to small footbridges, follow LH fence to gap and gate, then RH hedge to stile on R to Narracott Farm. (9 miles)

Through stepping stones on R in wall, then follow farm lane to B3227 road (FP) Turn R on road for 70 yards, then L on minor road to stile on R (FP). (10 miles) Go ahead to next stile and follow RH hedge to another stile. Now go diagonally L, following LH hedge over stile into field with hedge on R. At stile near houses go along tarmac path to Normandy Way and Livarot Walk. Turn L to Raleigh Park and follow road to B3227. (11 miles) R West Street, R Barnstaple Street, L into South Molton centre.

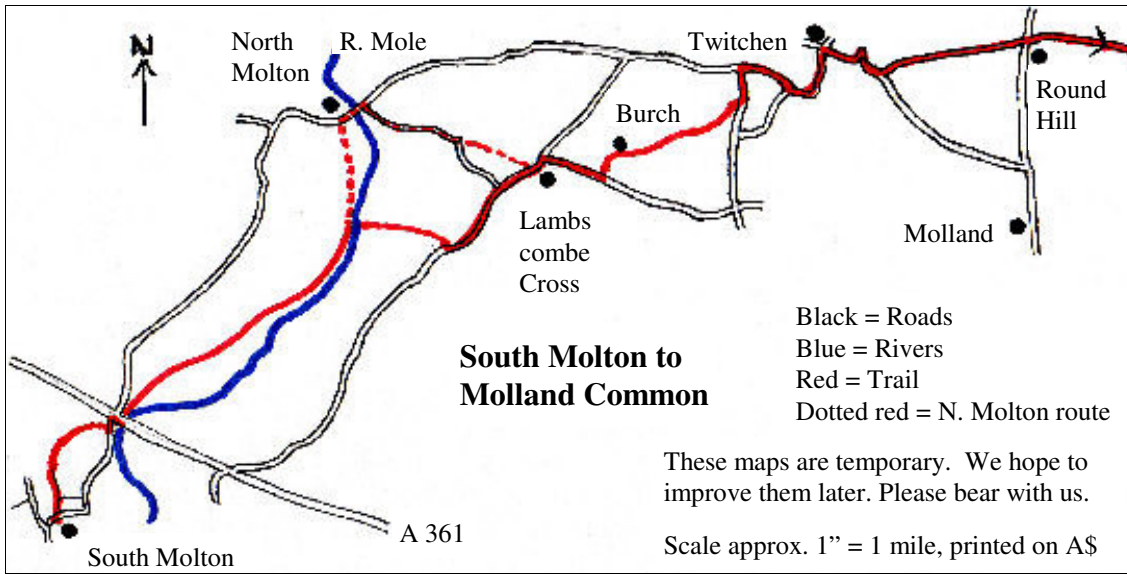
Some walkers may prefer to continue to North Molton, an additional 4.5 miles, making this a 16 mile day. This will shorten Stage 19 to 16 miles and give more opportunity to linger over the landscapes of Exmoor and the Exe Valley.

From Broad Street, at E end of The Square, L on Duke Street, L on North Street and R on Parsonage Lane which bends L/R. At the end go R (NE) along tarmac FP through Community Woodlands and into an Industrial Estate. The path bends L to a road which follow R to T at end of rugby ground. Turn R to road from South Molton. Turn L to A361 and go R for 10 yards to WM to follow path SE to N bank of River Mole. There go L on path following river under A361. Path continues N away from river to crossing track. Turn R along track which bears L and R and L and to East Marsh Farm. (13.5 miles) Track finishes, over stile into field and through wooden gate into next field, then follow RH hedge to Underhill Wood. Ignore cross track (may be double gated) to River Mole at Bicknor Bridge and continue NE along path and through sometimes boggy field with Holdridge Wood on L and River Mole on R to FB. (15 miles) Continue N with River Mole on R and wood on L and river on R to a fork where the path gradually goes NW to a stile onto a sunken lane. This goes L and R across a stream, then L again, as Dure Lane, NNW past cottages and over FB to East Street in North Molton. (16 miles)

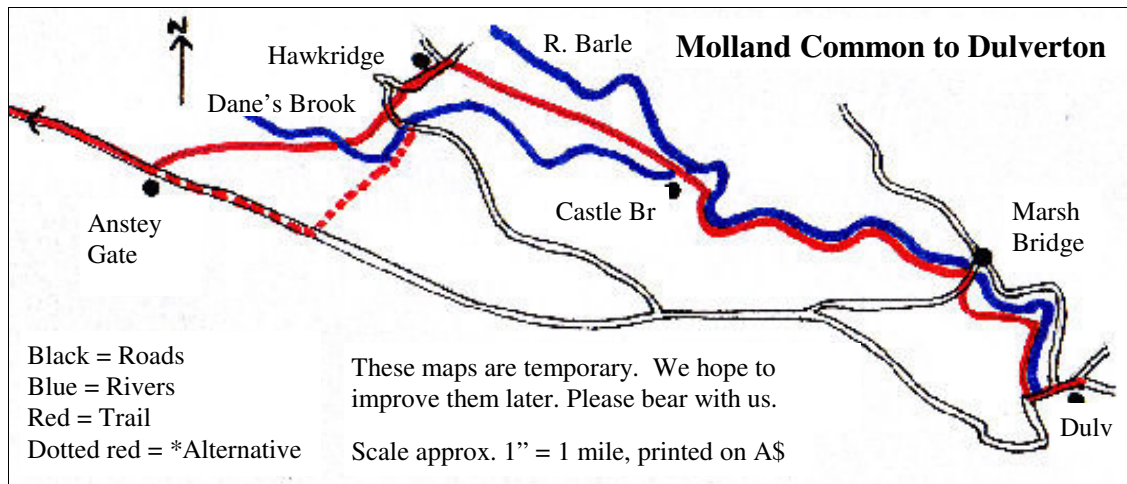
Stage 19 EXMOOR STAGE South Molton to Dulverton 19 miles OS Explorer OL9 Exmoor

Parking: Large Public Car Park to south of Broad Street

Trails: **Exe Valley Way (EVW)**, inconsistently waymarked, is used for 5.5 miles between Hawkridge and Dulverton.
Two Moors Way, inconsistently waymarked, encountered briefly between Slade Lane and Hawkridge.



From E end of Square, go L Duke Street, L North Street, R Parsonage Lane which bends L/R. At end, R on tarmac FP through Community Woods into Industrial Estate. The path bends L to a road which follow R to end of rugby ground. Turn R to road and L to A361. Go R over stream and look for WM down slope to River Mole. Turn L to follow N bank of River Mole under A361 to track. Turn R on track, bears L/R/L to East Marsh Farm. (2 miles)



Track finishes, cross stile on R into field and on to wooden gate, then follow RH hedge to gate and Underhill Wood. Ignore cross track to River Mole at Bicknor Bridge and go along FP through field with river on R to far RH corner of field. Turn R to cross FB over River Mole (3 miles) and go uphill through wood and wooden

gate to follow RH hedge to gate and track. (WM) Follow track past Limeslake Farm to minor road. (3.5 miles) Turn L on road to Ley Cross and Lambscombe Cross. (4.5 miles) Turn R downhill to track on L (FP). Follow track bearing R and L uphill to Burch Farm. (5.5 miles) Go up green lane to wooden gate. Follow LH hedge to wooden gate, then RH fence to wooden stile. Skirt round Marledge farm on your R and go through two wooden gates to join track to minor road (FP sign). (6 miles) Turn L on road to crossroads at Headgate. Turn R and L to sharp RH bend and across stream to Twitchen church. (7 miles) Skirt R round church to Molland turning, go down steep hill across stream and then zig-zag uphill on road to Cussacombe Cross. Turn L on road uphill (just N of E) to Ridgway Cross. (8 miles) Continue on road E/SE to Brimblecombe Hill and Anstey Gate. (10.5 miles) After cattle grid take bridleway (sign) half L (just N of E) across Anstey Rhiney Moor. *Ford Dane's Brook and pass Zeal Farm to Slade Lane. (12.5 miles) Turn L uphill to L/R bend and take FP (Hawkridge 0.5 miles) on R through field to wooden gate, then R on road to Hawkridge church. (13.5 miles) From church, take clear byway on R (sign Dulverton 5.25 miles) along Hawkridge Ridge. Track is partly green lane, partly through fields (several gates). In last field go downhill to wooden gate to continue fairly steeply downhill to cross Castle Bridge. (15 miles) Bear L (FP), through woods above R. Barle, on track which bends L and R and comes to Marsh Bridge (B&B - and cream teas in the season). (17.5 miles) Go R on minor road for 250 yards, then L on **path (EVW) for 1.5 miles, then L/L on road into Dulverton.

*Dane's Brook may not be easily fordable. If in doubt, go R following Dane's Brook on your L to Slade Lane. Go L on lane, cross Dane's Brook at *Welcome to Somerset* sign and continue uphill to rejoin the route. Alternatively, from Anstey Gate you could continue SSE for 1 mile and turn NE on a bridleway (sign) for 0.75 miles to Slade Lane. (Adds 0.5 miles)

** If there is subsidence on path, best to turn L at Marsh Bridge to B3223 and turn R with River Barle on R for 1.5 miles

Walkers starting at North Molton, cross bridge over River Mole, turn R on minor road for 0.75 mile uphill to RH bend, take FP on L through gate and follow RH hedge to stile and gate to minor road. L on road then R at Lambscombe Cross.

STAGE 20 HADDON HILL STAGE Dulverton to Wiveliscombe 13.5 miles OS OL9 Exmoor
Parking: Three public car parks in Dulverton

Sketch map under development

Take the B3222 road eastwards uphill to Jury Cross and downhill to Hele Bridge across the River Exe and up to junction at A396 road. (*Beware of traffic here!!*) Turn R, then L and R again uphill on minor road which skirts round hill and to hamlet of Bury. (*3 miles*)

High Level Hill Route

For high level walkers, cross River Haddeo by hump-backed bridge on minor road to bridleway on L next to cottage (FP Haddon Hill 1.5 miles). Head uphill on mucky green lane through two wooden gates, bridleway bears L to wooden gate and eventually to stile and WM to Haddon Farm. (*4 miles*) Through farm along track to beginning of copse on L. Through copse to wooden gate which goes to Access Land. Up track for a little way, then look for path through heather to reach the trig point of Hadborough Hill at 1070 feet. (*5 miles*) From summit, head due East on path, then turn R on well defined track to just before car park. Head east on track which goes over minor road (*6 miles*) Continue straight on parallel with B3190 road on R, then dart L downhill steeply to bridleway. Turn R to wooden gate, and onwards to B3190 road. (*7.5 miles*)

Low Level River Route

For walkers who wish to walk on the valley bottom due to inclement weather on top of Hadborough, proceed from the hamlet of Bury turning L on road to Hunts Farm, take bridleway track on R, fork due N then NE along River Haddeo to Hartford. (*5 miles*) Continue on track across river and bear L on track which bears R to junction with another track. Ignore this and go uphill on track to Wimbleball Lake and Deer Park. The track now goes gently uphill, above Upton Cleave, and eventually comes to a wooden gate. (*6.5 miles*) Continue to the B3190 road. Turn L on road towards Upton Church on R and onto Lowtrow Cross Inn (*8.5 miles*) Turn R on minor road to Leeford Farm. Take Bridleway on L through Leemoor Plantation to Junction with track on R. Follow this to another X track. Turn L and follow LH fence uphill to wooden gate. Through to LH bend to gate, then turn L downhill to gate and road at Sholford Farm. Turn L on road and find FP sign on R. Go through metal gate and onto Higher Shute Farm. (*10 miles*) Through gate, find FP over stile and head roughly SE across field to another stile, then follow LH hedge to stile and barbed wire. Along RH hedge to Hart's Farm, around farm and follow LH hedge to cross tracks, and onwards to Paddock's Farm. Over new stiles along RH hedge to field hedge, then head NW to stile and follow RH hedge to gate into Huish Champflower. (*11 miles*) Turn R on road, then L to small track and gate. Head diagonally R to stile into field, path goes into RH corner. Through gate then R along LH hedge to footbridge across River Tone. Follow LH hedge through gap on L and over stile. Go uphill on path slightly R to metal gate and track leading to road. Turn L into Maundown (*12 miles*) and minor road to junction on R. Take road on R uphill which becomes a bridleway, Jew's Lane (West Devon Way), which goes R and L then heads downhill to junction on R. Follow track on R into West Street, Wiveliscombe. (*13.5 miles*)

Wiveliscombe: Ample public car parking North Street and elsewhere

The route for this stage is provisional and may be subject to subsequent minor amendment