

Dartmoor

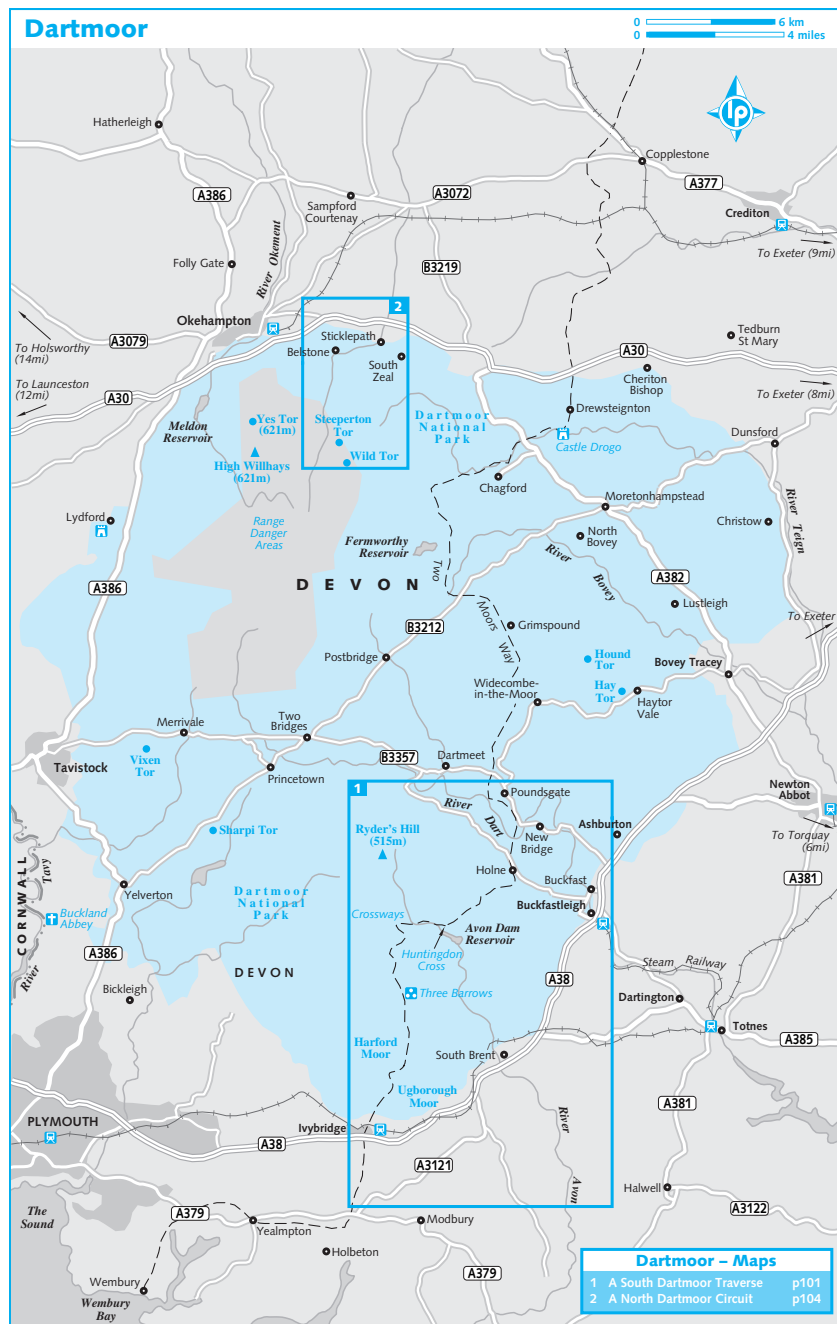
Anchored in granite and topped by bracken; huge and spectacular – Dartmoor provides an elemental, ancient walking environment. Straddling the centre of Devon, its rounded hills are dotted with piles of granite rocks, or tors, looking for all the world like abstract sculptures or the remains of fantastical castles. Dartmoor's past is very present – this moody chunk of southwest England is studded with an extraordinary variety of ancient remains. You can't walk far without stumbling across stone circles, prehistoric burial mounds, stone rows and the largest concentration of Bronze Age hut circles in Britain. You'll also see 1000-year-old stone bridges and medieval crosses (from the days when monks would walk between abbeys), while abandoned mines and dismantled tramways are reminders of more recent, but now forgotten, industrial days. Herds of semi-wild ponies introduce a picturesque element to the mix.

Although once heavily populated, Dartmoor is today the emptiest and wildest area in southern England – more livestock lives here than humans. There's a great feeling of space and you can be further from a road or village than anywhere else in England and Wales. For keen walkers this is its attraction, but the notoriously fickle weather patterns (hazards range from blistering temperatures to mist, rain and even snow) make some of the walking surprisingly challenging – be prepared for highland weather conditions.

Most of Dartmoor lies within the 365-sq-mile Dartmoor National Park (DNP). The northwest slice is the highest and wildest, peaking at 621m at High Willhays – the highest point in southern England. In the southwest, the moor is mostly between 400m and 500m and is particularly rich in ancient remains.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Clambering to the top of **Belstone Tor** (p104) for a view of swathes of rolling moorland – and absolutely nothing else
- Walking the **Abbot's Way** (p102) in the footsteps of medieval monks
- Sitting in your very own stone circle near **Hound Tor** (p105)
- Dangling your feet from an ancient **clapper bridge** (p102) into a cool Dartmoor stream



Dartmoor – Maps

- 1 A South Dartmoor Traverse p101
- 2 A North Dartmoor Circuit p104

INFORMATION Maps

The Ordnance Survey (OS) Explorer 1:25,000 map No 28 *Dartmoor* covers the whole of Dartmoor in good detail. It encompasses our two featured walks and is strong on ancient sites.

Books

Of the guidebooks covering Dartmoor, *Walking on Dartmoor* by John Earle is full of fascinating history but can be tricky to use on the ground. More useful is the *Pathfinder Dartmoor* guide, published by Jarrold, with a good selection of routes and clear mapping. *Weekend Walks – Dartmoor & Exmoor* by Anthony Burton is ideal for keen walkers.

The first walk described in this chapter includes part of the Two Moors Way, well described in *The Two Moors Way* by James Roberts.

For background information, *Dartmoor* by Richard Sale is excellent and has beautiful photos. For archaeological information, local tourist offices stock a huge range of books, covering everything from Bronze Age hut circles to the quarries that produced the London Bridge stone. Most useful as an introduction are the *Dartmoor Pocket Guides*, a series of inexpensive, weatherproof cards covering archaeology and many other subjects.

Guided Walks

The DNP organises excellent guided walks throughout the year. Details are on its website, in the *Dartmoor Visitor* and on leaflets in tourist offices. If you're visiting in spring or autumn, ask about the North Devon and Ivybridge Walking Festivals, which include many guided walks.

Information Sources

The Princetown-based **Dartmoor Tourist Association** (☎ 01822-890567; www.discoverdartmoor.com; High Moorland Visitor Centre, Tavistock Rd) produces an annual accommodation and visitors guide, but isn't generally open to people dropping in. In the same building, however, the DNP's main **visitor centre** (☎ 01822-890414; www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk) definitely is.

Among other tourist offices and information points are those at Okehampton (p103), Ivybridge (p100) and Buckfastleigh (p100).

The free *Dartmoor Visitor* newspaper also contains lots of useful information.

South Devon (☎ 0870 608 5531; www.discoverdevon.com) is a very popular tourist destination with a wealth of tourist offices.

GATEWAYS

The main gateway cities for Dartmoor are Exeter and Plymouth, both served by train and National Express coach from London and other parts of the country. From Exeter and Plymouth you can reach any of the 'border towns' around the moor – including Okehampton, Ivybridge and Buckfastleigh – by public transport. **Traveline** (☎ 0870 608 2608; www.traveline.org.uk) has local timetables. For more on public transport services around Dartmoor, pick up a copy of the *Dartmoor Public Transport Guide* from local tourist offices.

A SOUTH DARTMOOR TRAVERSE

Duration	7–8 hours
Distance	14 miles (22.5km)
Difficulty	moderate
Start	Ivybridge (p101)
Finish	Buckfastleigh (p100)
Transport	train, bus

Summary A sweeping hike over high ground, past evocative burial mounds and Bronze Age hut circles. It finishes with a trek down a track established by medieval monks.

This route follows an inspiring section of the Two Moors Way (p105), taking you far from civilisation and deep into a Dartmoor rich in history and thick with bracken. You pass striking remnants of an industrial heritage spanning centuries – from medieval rabbit farming to early-20th-century quarrying. Later stages pick up a part of the ancient Abbot's Way and provide a great cross section of southern Dartmoor scenery.

PLANNING

You can walk in either direction, but from Ivybridge clear waymarking ensures you make a good start as the early miles follow a winding, dismantled tramway, where it's very hard to get lost. Problems can arise when you turn off east along the Abbot's Way. Here the route is less defined and landmarks are hard to spot if it's misty. On

the moor itself there are very few signs – so this walk should only be done on a clear day and if you're confident with a map and compass. If the weather changes unexpectedly, turn back rather than risk getting lost on the moor.

You might prefer to start from Buckfastleigh and get the potentially difficult bit done first, knowing that the disused tramway will guide you home with few surprises. Most fit people should be able to do the walk in eight to nine hours with time for lunch, map reading and playing historical detective along the way.

What to Bring

There's nowhere to buy food or water once out of town on this walk, so stock up before you go.

Maps

This route is covered by the OS Explorer 1:25,000 map No 28 *Dartmoor*.

Information Sources

Ivybridge's tourist office is inside **Global Travel** (☎ 01752-897035; 19 Fore St; ☹ closed Sun), while in Buckfastleigh the national park has an information point inside the **Valiant Soldier Museum** (☎ 01364-644522; 80 Fore St; ☹ 12.30-4.30pm Mon-Sat).

NEAREST TOWNS Buckfastleigh

The old market town of Buckfastleigh lies just off the A38 between Exeter and Plymouth. Two miles north is **Buckfast Abbey**, which was founded in 1018 and flourished until 1539. Today's abbey, which is still in use, was rebuilt in the early part of the 19th century in mock-Gothic style.

DARTMOOR LETTERBOXING

If you should see the word 'Letterbox' marked on your map, don't expect to send your postcards home. Letterboxing is a peculiar (and typically British) pastime, unique to Dartmoor, in which people hide small boxes in remote areas and other people try to find them.

Each box has an owner, and inside the box are a rubber stamp with a unique pattern or picture, which finders use to mark their logbooks, and a visitor book that the finders sign or stamp with their own personal insignias. The aim is to find as many letterboxes as possible. The craze goes back more than a century, although it really became popular about 25 years ago, and there are several hundred such letterboxes all over Dartmoor. Only a few particularly old or important ones are marked on maps, and these are considered 'too easy' by aficionados. You can get a leaflet with more information from tourist offices.

The town has no ATM but does have a post office, supermarket and several smaller shops.

SLEEPING & EATING

Campers can head for the pleasant little site at **Churchill Farm** (☎ 01364-642844; Church Hill; sites for 2£9), between Buckfast and Buckfastleigh. The friendly owners are happy to advise on local walking routes. It's near a ruined chapel (marked on the OS 1:25,000 map) and can be reached on foot from Buckfastleigh up a steep path from the eastern end of the main street – much better than the long way around by road.

Otherwise, the **Globe Inn** (☎ 01364-642223; Plymouth Rd; s/d £38/63; ☹ lunch & dinner) does reasonable B&B and meals. On the north-east edge of the village, near the A38 off-ramp, is **Furzeleigh Mill Hotel** (☎ 01364-643476; www.furzeleigh.co.uk; Ashburton Rd; s/d £34/62, mains £10; ☹ lunch & dinner), a charming converted corn mill, offering meals and low-season discounts.

Other eating options include the snug **Baker's Oven** (☎ 01364-642531; 71 Fore St; mains £6; ☹ dinner Tue-Sat) for good pizza and pasta, and the chintzy **Singing Kettle Tearoom** (☎ 01364-642383; 54 Fore St; mains £7; ☹ 10am-5pm, dinner Fri & Sat). On the main road between Buckfast and Buckfastleigh, the **Abbey Inn** (☎ 01364-642343; Buckfast Rd; bar meals £7, mains £13; ☹ lunch & dinner) has lovely river-side dining. Of the pubs in town, the **White Hart** (☎ 01364-642337; Plymouth Rd; ☹ lunch & dinner) is by far the most appealing.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

There are at least eight buses every day between Exeter and Plymouth; they stop by the entrance to the steam-train station in Buckfastleigh.

There's also a bus service hourly Monday to Saturday (five on Sunday) between Newton Abbot (for train connections) and Buckfastleigh.

The nearest main-line train stations to Buckfastleigh are at Newton Abbot and Totnes, both on the line between London and Plymouth and served by regular trains. From Newton Abbot you can reach Buckfastleigh by local bus. From Totnes, buses to Buckfastleigh aren't so handy but in the summer months you can travel in old-fashioned style – steam trains run several times a day along the private South Devon Railway from Totnes all the way to Buckfastleigh.

Buckfastleigh is just off the A38 between Exeter and Plymouth.

Ivybridge

Ivybridge is larger than Buckfastleigh, with more in the way of B&Bs, restaurants, cafés and pubs plus shops, banks and other services. If you decide to stay in Ivybridge instead of Buckfastleigh, the tourist office (opposite) can help you with accommodation suggestions.

SLEEPING & EATING

Kevela (☎ 01752-893111; www.kevela.co.uk; 4 Clare St; s/d £30/45) has a compact room in a handily central, Dartmoor-granite B&B. It's strong on floral and peach furnishings.

The four-poster rooms at the **Sportsmans Inn** (☎ 01752-892280; www.thesportsmansinn.co.uk; Exeter Rd; standard s/d £48/70; superior s £60-80, superior d £80-100, roast dinner £6, fish & steak £16) are positively plush, and the others still comfortable. There's a snugly beamed bar and a large restaurant.

The **Duke of Cornwall** (☎ 01752-892867; 3 Keaton Rd; ☹ lunch & dinner Tue-Sun), in the centre of town, serves fairly standard bar food; **Meghna Tandoori House** (☎ 01752-698138; 2 Kimberley Ct, Fore St; ☹ dinner) does good takeaway; while the **Old Smithy** (☎ 01752-892490; 45 Fore St), a few steps down the road, is a good pub for a pint.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

The same eight or more Exeter-Plymouth buses that go every day to Buckfastleigh also stop on the main road about 1 mile outside Ivybridge (not in the town itself). If you're staying in Buckfastleigh, the handiest

bus to Ivybridge and the start of the walk comes through at about 9.20am and takes 15 minutes.

Ivybridge is on the main rail line between London and Plymouth but not all express trains stop here; you may have to change in Exeter.

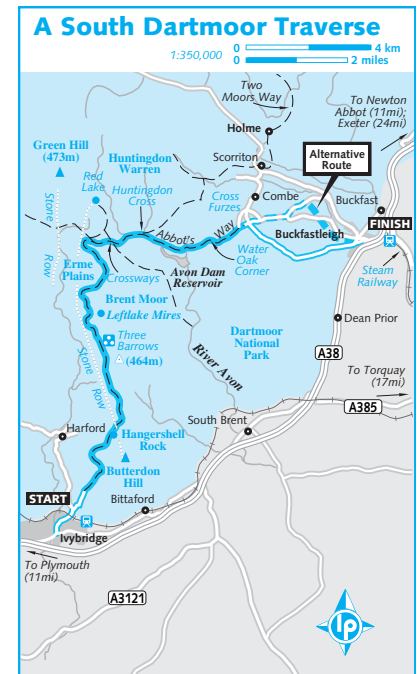
Ivybridge is just off the A38 between Exeter and Plymouth. From Buckfastleigh, **K Kars** (☎ 01364-643531, 0771-844 8673) will transport you to Ivybridge for £20.

THE WALK Ivybridge to Crossways

4½ hours, 8 miles (13km)

The route starts at the car park just north of the South Dartmoor Leisure Centre. The Two Moors Way is clearly waymarked north out of town, up a footpath and then a narrow street called Costly St. On your right, handily enough, is a small supermarket at which to buy lunch.

Cross the main road in front of the supermarket and carry on walking north, up a lane (signposted to Harford) that climbs steeply for about 800m, continuing straight



on at Cole Lane, then immediately over the railway on Stowford Bridge. Look for the signs for 'Dartmoor National Park' and 'Two Moors Way'. (If you've come by train, walk west from Ivybridge train station along the south side of the line to Stowford Bridge.)

Cross the bridge and continue for another 250m to Stowford Farm Cottage, then turn right onto a track signposted 'To the Moor'. After a few steps turn left (north) and continue along an old track, uphill between hedges. At the top, a gate leads invitingly onto the open moor. Follow a gradually climbing path through the grass and bracken towards the cairn on Butterdon Hill. Within 800m of the gate you'll meet the old, dismantled **tramway**; turn left (north).

The tramway was constructed in 1910 to carry china clay from a quarry on the moors at Red Lake to a factory near Ivybridge. It was closed in 1932, but now provides a firm footpath for 6 miles. It takes a rather circuitous route but apparent short cuts don't save much time.

Continue aiming mostly northwards, passing west of Hangershell Rock. Just beyond here, the tramway intersects an ancient 'stone row' boundary, then keeps roughly parallel to it for the next few miles. You pass **Three Barrows**, a cluster of huge burial mounds on a hill to the right, then reach Clay Bridge, where the path cuts through the eerie disused pit and a small, grass-covered spill-heap and pool at **Left-lake Mires**. Over to your left (west) you can clearly see hut circles, the remains of an ancient settlement, on the facing slopes of Erme Plains.

About 7.5 miles from the start, the tramway curves west, then east. In the distance, the old **Red Lake** clay quarry emerges from behind the gorse with its huge, volcano-like spill-heap. At this point, look for a path that branches off right (south), marked with a small 'MW' (Two Moors Way) on a rock. Follow this route, which is vague here but soon swings round to aim east, crossing another tramway (running down from Red Lake) at a point called – naturally enough – **Crossways**. At this stage you're also on the **Abbot's Way**, a walking trail once used by monks to travel between the two abbeys of Buckland, near Yelverton, and Buckfast.

Crossways to Buckfastleigh

3–3½ hours, 6 miles (9.5km)

From Crossways, the combined Two Moors Way and Abbot's Way trail aims northeast, but the path is difficult to see in the long grass so you will definitely need that compass. It becomes clear again as you drop into a valley to reach a wonderful and ancient **clapper bridge** (made of stone slabs), which you cross to the north bank of the River Avon.

Follow the path (boggy in places) down the north side of the river to **Huntingdon Cross**, a standing stone used as a route and boundary marker in medieval times. To the north are the slopes of Huntingdon Warren, a former rabbit farm with the remains of artificial burrows and huts for the 'warreners' who looked after them.

Just after Huntingdon Cross, you ford a small stream, where the Two Moors Way splits off to head northeast up Hickaton Hill. Stay on the Abbot's Way, following the north bank of the River Avon, then heading across the slopes above the Avon Dam Reservoir. To your left (north) you will see several more Bronze Age hut circles in good condition.

The path crosses Brockhill Stream. Here, instead of following the line of the reservoir, you should turn to head east up the steep hillside, then continue across a small, featureless plateau called Dean Moor. Head down to Water Oak Corner, where the open moor ends and you enter private farmland. There's a gate with a very clear sign: 'Abbot's Way, Exit from Moor, to Cross Furzes'.

Keep to the path, following the marker poles through the fields to a stream, which you cross on a little clapper bridge, in a dappled patch of woodland. Continue on a track to the junction just south of Cross Furzes. The easiest way home is to the right, following the quiet lane southeast and east to Buckfastleigh.

There is another, more scenic, route to the finish. From the lane junction go straight on (east) for 1.5 miles, then turn right (southeast) through Button Farm. Make sure you keep to the legal path through the fields, which leads to, and through, the lovely shade of Bilberryhill Copse. From here, an old walled track leads down into Buckfastleigh.

A NORTH DARTMOOR CIRCUIT

Duration	5–6 hours
Distance	10.5 miles (17km)
Difficulty	moderate
Start/Finish	Sticklepath (right)
Transport	bus

Summary An exhilarating walk through wooded valleys and over high ground into the very heart of the moor. Solitude, stone circles and Dartmoor streams await.

This is the northern moor at its best – remote and rugged, with satisfying panoramic views to reward your scrambling ascents of the tors. But it's not all sweeping moorland: this circular walk is also an excellent introduction to Dartmoor's remarkably diverse scenery. Quiet villages lead to captivating woods, where streams are flanked by boulders flecked with moss. The contrast between this sheltered world and the expanse of the higher ground as you stride onto the moor ensures a varied day's wandering.

PLANNING

You can do the walk in either direction, but we describe it anticlockwise so you can limber up in the valley before heading for the tors. Allowing extra time for lunch and sitting in stone circles, the walk will take about six to seven hours. Two notes of caution: first, there's no waymarking on the moor, so only attempt it in clear weather and if you're comfortable with a map and compass; and second, the route fringes a military live-firing area – see the boxed text, below.

WARNING

This route skirts the edge of Okehampton Range, one of three Dartmoor ranges used by the army for training with live ammunition.

In general, you're advised to check if the area you're planning to walk over falls within a range. If it does, you need to find out if firing is taking place on the day or night you want to walk. You can call (free) the **Firing Information Service** (☎ 0800 458 4868; www.dartmoor-ranges.co.uk). On the Okehampton range there's usually no firing in April, May, July, August and early September, nor at weekends, public holidays or Mondays all year. You can walk here then and at other times if no firing is taking place. If the range is being used, red flags fly during the day and red lights burn at night at regular points along the edge of the danger area. Even when there's no firing, you should beware of unidentifiable metal objects lying in the grass. If you do find anything suspicious, don't touch it. Make a note of the position and report it to the police or the **Commandant** (☎ 01837-650010). Some unexploded shells may lie beneath the surface, so use common sense if you need to relieve yourself in the open. While burying your excrement is recommended in most country areas, random digging around Dartmoor is not a good idea.

What to Bring

Buy your lunch before you leave Sticklepath as, apart from an early stop at the pub in Belstone, there's nowhere to get food or water on the way.

Maps

This route is covered by the OS Explorer 1:25,000 map No 28 *Dartmoor*.

Information Sources

The nearest **tourist office** (☎ 01837-53020; 3 West St; ☹ closed Sun) proper is in Okehampton. Sticklepath has an information point (the village shop) – look here for the excellent leaflets describing short walks in the area.

NEAREST TOWNS Sticklepath & Belstone

The delightful little village of Sticklepath is about 3 miles east of Okehampton. **Finch Foundry** is a cottage-sized, water-powered forge dating from the 19th century, sitting in the middle of its main street. It is run by the National Trust, is still working and has a small museum. The nearest ATM is in Okehampton.

SLEEPING & EATING

Sticklepath's camping barn, still marked on many maps, isn't there any more. The nearest budget accommodation is **Okehampton YHA Hostel & Adventure Centre** (☎ 01837-53916; www.okehampton-yha.co.uk; Station Rd, Okehampton; dm/s/d £16/19/35).

In Sticklepath's main street, the **Devonshire Inn** (☎ 01837-840626; d £40) will, intriguingly,

only put you up if you have a dog with you. It also serves good beer and meals if you're staying. The other pub in the village, the **Taw River Inn** (☎ 01837-840377; 🍷 lunch & dinner), will feed and water you irrespective of canine accompaniment.

Dog-less walkers can opt to start and finish the walk at the pretty village of Belstone, west of Sticklepath. Here, the **Tors** (☎ 01837-840689; s/d £30/60; 🍷 lunch & dinner) pub has very comfortable rooms.

There are also B&Bs at South Zeal, a few miles to the east, where you can easily join the walk.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

There are eight buses a day (two on Sunday) between Exeter and Okehampton via Sticklepath. An alternative way into and out of the village is the Okehampton–Sticklepath–Moretonhampstead bus, which runs three or four times daily.

The nearest and most useful rail connection is with Exeter. Technically, the nearest train station is Okehampton, but it's a very limited option: the Exeter–Okehampton service consists of three or four trains, on Sunday only, from late May to mid-September.

By car, Sticklepath is just south of the A30 (dual carriageway) between Exeter and Okehampton.

THE WALK Sticklepath to Steeperton Tor

2½–3 hours, 5.5 miles (9km)

From Sticklepath's main street, aim east, over the main road bridge at the end of the village, and then turn immediately right (south) onto a path alongside the River Taw, signed to Skaigh Wood. Follow this path, going right at the fork to keep close to the river (on your right), with gardens and the backs of cottages on the opposite bank. You then enter the beautiful Skaigh Wood and cross a wooden footbridge, inscribed with a quote from *Tarka the Otter* by Henry Williamson, onto the north bank of the river.

Shortly afterwards, you cross another footbridge back to the south bank, turning right (west) to continue upstream along the river through a steep-sided valley called Belstone Cleave – quite possibly the inspiration for the quote on the bridge you crossed earlier. The path climbs diagonally up the



valley, then down, and crosses another footbridge before leading up to an open grassy area and a lane on the fringes of the village of Belstone. Time for a breather and to admire the view – fortunately, there's a choice of benches provided.

Continue south along the lane, taking a right fork to reach a gate, which leads to the open moor. There's a noticeboard here about firing days so have a final check before you stride out.

The track leads south, with the River Taw to your left. At a suitable point – there's no set path – branch right (broadly southwest) off the track and go steeply uphill to the summit of **Belstone Tor**. Time for another look at the view: to the south, swathes of open moorland fill the horizon; to the north, farmland leads to the distant hills of Exmoor, with (on a clear day) the sea visible behind.

Aim southwest, down from Belstone Tor, through a gap in a huge dry-stone wall (called **Irishman's Wall** – a 19th-century job-creation project) and up to **Higher Tor**. Then it's down again to meet a track coming up

from the valley to your right. Near Winter Tor, you'll also notice the line of red-and-white poles marking the edge of the danger area – which you now enter.

The track follows the broad ridge southwards – a wonderful section with wide views on both sides. You pass just east of Oke Tor, getting an increasingly clear view of Steeperton Tor, marred only slightly by the radio mast on the summit.

After another 800m or so, with the tip of Steeperton Tor directly to the east, take the left fork of the track, leading southwards, into a little valley called Steeperton Gorge. Just before you cross the stream there's a patch of grass on the left that makes a lovely, sheltered lunch spot.

Once across the stream, the path continues, climbing up the other side of the valley, reaching a junction after 300m, where another path turns sharply back (northeast) to reach **Steeperton Tor**. The summit offers great views of the ridge you've just followed from Belstone, and of the next section towards Cosdon Hill.

Steeperton Tor to Sticklepath

2½–3 hours, 5 miles (8km)

From Steeperton Tor it seems Hound Tor is just a short hop across the valley, but don't be tempted – that valley floor is very boggy. Instead, follow the path southeast for about 500m to cross Steeperton Brook by the ruins of an old hut. Then turn northeast, passing more red-and-white posts (you are now leaving the danger area). The path edges west of the rounded summit of **Hound Tor**, then just to the west of a **stone circle**, which is in good condition and well worth a stop.

A path leads directly from the stone circle, north over Little Hound Tor and then gradually up to the summit of **Cosdon Hill**, marked by a trig point. Here you say goodbye to the deserted, open moor to the south and look north to where the bracken gives way to the fields of farming country.

It's all downhill now as you follow a path north from the summit. Be careful not to go too far east towards South Zeal but keep aiming north, straight at Sticklepath and down into a corner formed by the moor boundary wall. Here there are two gates. One leads towards South Zeal. Take the other one and head north down an old sunken lane into Skaigh Wood. Turn right

(northeast) through the gate to run along the top of the steep valley, then zigzag down to meet the same river-side path you walked along at the very start. Turn right to reach the village along the path or go over the small footbridge leading past a small graveyard and into the car park at the back of Finch Foundry.

MORE WALKS

TWO MOORS WAY

Our South Dartmoor Traverse (p99) follows a stage of a wonderful long-distance path: the Two Moors Way. This crosses the southwest peninsula via the rugged national parks of Dartmoor and Exmoor. If you can't resist the urge to keep heading north, most people take a week to complete this 117-mile (188km) trail. Extended in its 30th year to connect with the south coast, it passes through some of the finest (and wildest) scenery in southern England. The **Two Moors Way Association** (☎ 01392-467094; 'Coppins', The Pipers, Pinhoe, Exeter, EX4 9H) has produced an official guide, which also includes maps, and an accommodation sheet. There are rail then bus links to the start at Wembury and from the finish at Lynmouth.

THE DARTMOOR WAY

If walking over moors doesn't appeal, how about walking around one? The circular, 90-mile (145km) Dartmoor Way snakes through the unique, gentle landscape that fringes the national park. Crisscrossing moors and fields, and travelling through peaceful villages and Devon market towns, this six-day ramble also cuts across the southern moor itself to take in Princetown. It's ideal if you're not confident or prepared to tackle the wilder, higher remote moors. See our featured Dartmoor walks for some information and accommodation options. You can get more by contacting the **Dartmoor Way** (☎ 0870 241 1817; www.dartmoorway.org.uk). The vast majority of the route, except for some east/west fringes, is covered by the OS Explorer 1:25,000 map No 28 *Dartmoor*.

A GRIMSPOND GAMBOL

This circular stroll covers thousands of years of Dartmoor history in just 4.5 miles (7.3km). Start at the car park just north of

the Warren House Inn, on the Postbridge–Moretonhampstead road. Pick up the track heading east, cross a stream then navigate up towards Headland Warren Farm. Next it's round to Grimspound – the remains of a massive settlement of 24 Bronze Age hut circles, all enclosed by a stone wall. When you're done wandering amid the ruins, pick up the Two Moors Way head-

ing northwest, before joining the path alongside the road and back (southwest) to the Warren House Inn. This fine old pub makes a fitting finish; check out the black-and-white photos showing it cut off by snow for six weeks. Then warm yourself by the fire – reputed not to have gone out since 1845. Use the OS Explorer 1:25,000 map No 28 *Dartmoor*.