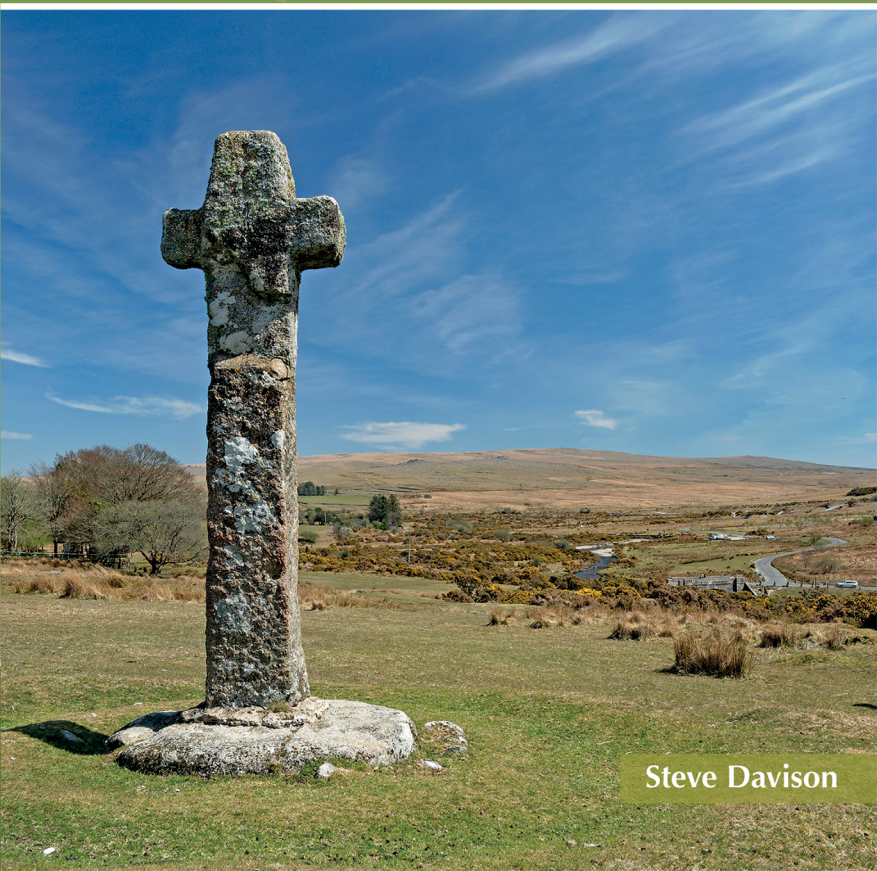


CICERONE

# WALKING ON DARTMOOR

40 Walks in Dartmoor National Park  
including a Ten Tors walk



Steve Davison

# **WALKING ON DARTMOOR**

**40 WALKS IN DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK  
INCLUDING A TEN TORS WALK**

**by Steve Davison**

**CICERONE**

JUNIPER HOUSE, MURLEY MOSS,  
OXENHOLME ROAD, KENDAL, CUMBRIA LA9 7RL  
[www.cicerone.co.uk](http://www.cicerone.co.uk)

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Front cover: Cadover Cross, a Medieval wayside cross on Wigford Down (Walk 19)

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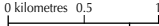
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**Route symbols on OS map extracts**


|   |   |
|---|---|
|  route<br> alternative route<br> start/finish point |  alternative start/finish point<br> route direction<br>for OS legend see printed OS maps |
|---|---|

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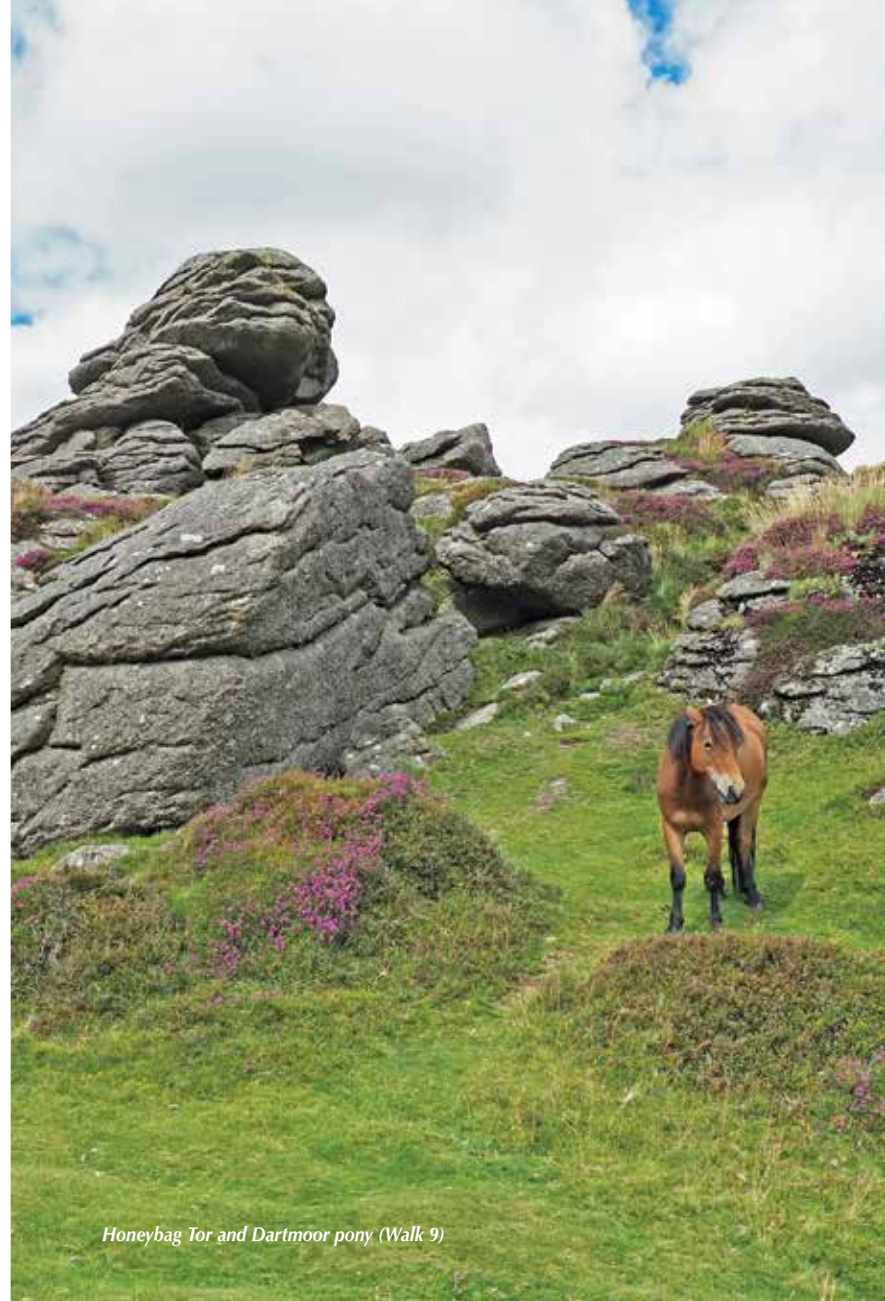
0 kilometres 0.5 1



0 miles 0.5 1



**GPX files**  
for all routes can be downloaded free at  
[www.cicerone.co.uk/1108/GPX](http://www.cicerone.co.uk/1108/GPX)



*Honeybag Tor and Dartmoor pony (Walk 9)*



A woodland stream near Christow on the way to Bowden Farm (Walk 4)

## ROUTE SUMMARY TABLE

| Walk              | Walk title   | Start/finish (grid ref)                  | Distance km (miles) | Ascent (m) | Time (hrs) | Page |
|-------------------|--|--|---------------------|------------|------------|------|
| <b>North-east</b> |  |  |                     |            |            |      |
| 1                 | Drewsteigton and Fingle Bridge                       | Drewsteigton (SX 736 909)                | 9.5 (6)             | 340        | 3          | 26   |
| 2                 | Chagford and Meldon Hill                             | Chagford (SX 702 874)                    | 10.5 (6½)           | 430        | 3½         | 30   |
| 3                 | Moretonhampstead and Mardon Down                     | Moretonhampstead (SX 753 859)            | 15.5 (9¾)           | 610        | 5          | 35   |
| 4                 | Trenchford and Tottiford Reservoirs and Christow     | Trenchford Reservoir (SX 804 823)        | 12.5 (7¾)           | 335        | 3½         | 40   |
| 5                 | North Bovey and Easdon Tor                           | North Bovey (SX 740 838)                 | 11.25 (7)           | 355        | 3½         | 45   |
| 6                 | Challacombe, Grimspound and Water Hill               | Warren House Inn (B3212)<br>(SX 676 811) | 12 (7½)             | 300        | 3½         | 51   |
| 7                 | Lusleigh Cleave, Hunter's Tor and River Bovey        | Trendlebere Down (SX 784 793)            | 14 (8¾)             | 565        | 4½         | 56   |
| 8                 | Widcombe in the Moor, Hamel Down and Bowerman's Nose | Widcombe in the Moor (SX 718 768)        | 15.5 (9¾)           | 450        | 4½         | 61   |
| 9                 | Hound Tor and Haytor Rocks                           | Hemsworthy Gate (B3387)<br>(SX 741 761)  | 12 (7½)             | 400        | 3¾         | 66   |
| 10                | Buckland Beacon and Rippon Tor                       | Hemsworthy Gate (B3387)<br>(SX 741 761)  | 8.5 (5¼)            | 225        | 2½         | 71   |
| <b>South-east</b> |  |  |                     |            |            |      |
| 11                | The stepping stones walk                             | Dunnabridge Pound (SX 642 746)           | 11.25 (7)           | 340        | 3½         | 78   |
| 12                | Dartmeet figure-of-eight                             | Dartmeet (SX 672 732)                    | 13.25 (8¼)          | 450        | 4          | 83   |
| 13                | Dart Valley via Bench Tor and Sharp Tor              | New Bridge (SX 711 709)                  | 18 (11¼)            | 670        | 5½         | 88   |

| Walk | Walk title                                     | Start/finish (grid ref)        | Distance km (miles)    | Ascent (m) | Time (hrs) | Page |
|------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| 14   | Ryder's Hill and Snowdon                       | Holne (SX 706 695)             | 13.25 (8¼)             | 490        | 4          | 95   |
| 15   | River Avon and Eastern White Barrow            | Shipley Bridge (SX 680 628)    | 12 (7½)                | 315        | 3½         | 100  |
| 16   | Old tramways and Three Barrows                 | Shipley Bridge (SX 680 628)    | 15.75 (9¾)             | 365        | 4½         | 105  |
| 17   | Butterdon Hill, Ugborough Beacon and Sharp Tor | Ivybridge Station (SX 647 565) | 16.5 or 12 (10¼ or 7¾) | 450 or 360 | 5 or 3½    | 110  |
| 18   | Erne Valley and Stalldown Barrow               | Ivybridge (SX 635 566)         | 17.75 or 21 (11 or 13) | 460 or 500 | 5 or 6     | 115  |

**South-west**

|    |  |   |                          |            |          |     |
|----|--|---|--------------------------|------------|----------|-----|
| 19 | River Plym and Dewarstone Rock             | Shaugh Bridge (SX 533 636)                          | 6.75 (4¼)                | 220        | 2        | 122 |
| 20 | Drizzlecombe and Gutter Tor                | Ringmoor (SX 558 666)                               | 12 (7½)                  | 300        | 3½       | 126 |
| 21 | Burrator Reservoir, Meavy and Sheeps Tor   | Norsworthy Bridge (Burrator Reservoir) (SX 569 693) | 13.25 or 7.5 (8¼ or 4¾)  | 400 or 230 | 4 or 2¼  | 132 |
| 22 | Down Tor, Nun's Cross and Fox Tor          | Norsworthy Bridge (Burrator Reservoir) (SX 569 693) | 15.25 or 9.25 (9½ or 5¾) | 370 or 235 | 4½ or 2¾ | 137 |
| 23 | Leeden Tor, Sharpitor and Leather Tor      | Sharpitor car park (B3212) (SX 560 708)             | 9.25 (5¾)                | 280        | 2¾       | 143 |
| 24 | Devonport Leat and Black Tor               | Princetown (SX 590 734)                             | 12.5 (7¾)                | 245        | 3½       | 147 |
| 25 | Great Mis Tor and Lich Way                 | Princetown (SX 590 734)                             | 21.25 (13¼)              | 540        | 6¼       | 152 |
| 26 | Longaford Tor, Rough Tor and Beardown Tors | Two Bridges (SX 609 750)                            | 13.25 or 14.25 (8¼ or 9) | 340 or 350 | 4 or 4¼  | 159 |
| 27 | Foggintor, King's Tor and Merrivale        | Four Winds car park (B3357) (SX 560 749)            | 13 (8)                   | 300        | 3¾       | 164 |
| 28 | Cox Tor, Great Staple Tor and Pew Tor      | Pork Hill car park (B3357) (SX 530 751)             | 9 (5¼)                   | 280        | 2¾       | 170 |

| Walk | Walk title | Start/finish (grid ref) | Distance km (miles) | Ascent (m) | Time (hrs) | Page |
|------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|------|
|------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|------|

**North-west**

|    |   |  |                          |            |          |     |
|----|---|--|--------------------------|------------|----------|-----|
| 29 | Peter Tavy and White Tor                          | Peter Tavy (SX 521 779)                  | 11.5 (7¼)                | 380        | 3½       | 176 |
| 30 | Postbridge and Believer Tor                       | Postbridge (SX 649 788)                  | 11.75 or 10.5 (7¼ or 6½) | 365 or 310 | 3½ or 3  | 181 |
| 31 | Postbridge to Fur Tor                             | Postbridge (SX 649 788)                  | 19.25 (12)               | 480        | 5½       | 186 |
| 32 | Fernworthy Reservoir, Grey Wethers and Watern Tor | Fernworthy Reservoir (SX 669 839)        | 17.25 or 10 (10¼ or 6¼)  | 480 or 280 | 5 or 3   | 193 |
| 33 | Fernworthy Reservoir, Scorhill and Kestor Rock    | Fernworthy Reservoir (SX 669 839)        | 18.5 or 15 (11½ or 9¼)   | 515 or 445 | 5½ or 4½ | 198 |
| 34 | Willsworthy, Tavy Cleave and Hare Tor             | Willsworthy car park (A386) (SX 517 834) | 13 or 15 (8 or 9¼)       | 300 or 350 | 3¾ or 4¼ | 203 |
| 35 | Great Links Tor and Widgery Cross                 | Lydford (A386) (SX 525 853)              | 12.5 or 15.75 (7¾ or 9¾) | 400 or 470 | 3¾ or 4¾ | 208 |
| 36 | High Willhays via Yes Tor and Black-a-Tor Copse   | Meldon Reservoir (SX 561 918)            | 14 or 10.5 (8¾ or 6½)    | 470 or 445 | 4¼ or 3½ | 213 |
| 37 | Belstone, Culliver Steps and West Mill Tor        | Belstone (SX 621 938)                    | 14.5 (9)                 | 435        | 4¼       | 219 |
| 38 | Steepterton Tor, Hangingsstone Hill and Oke Tor   | Belstone (SX 621 938)                    | 18.5 or 13 (11½ or 8)    | 535 or 350 | 5½ or 3¾ | 225 |
| 39 | Cosdon Hill and Belstone Cleave                   | South Zeal (SX 652 934)                  | 14.5 (9)                 | 470        | 4½       | 230 |

**Ten Tors**

|    |                   |  |         |      |        |     |
|----|-------------------|--|---------|------|--------|-----|
| 40 | Ten Tors two days | Belstone (SX 621 938) or Okehampton railway station (SX 592 944) | 58 (36) | 1600 | 2 days | 238 |
|----|-------------------|--|---------|------|--------|-----|

## WALK 1

*Drewsteignton and Fingle Bridge*

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Start/finish</b>     | Drewsteignton village car park (SX 736 909)  |
| <b>Distance</b>         | 9.5km (6 miles)  |
| <b>Ascent</b>           | 340m   |
| <b>Time</b>             | 3hrs   |
| <b>Terrain</b>          | Low-level, but hilly walking on good paths and tracks through woods and some fields  |
| <b>Maps</b>             | OS Explorer OL28 (Dartmoor)  |
| <b>Refreshments</b>     | Drewe Arms (01647 281377) and village shop/tearoom at Drewsteignton; Fingle Bridge Inn (01647 281287); café at Castle Drogo (National Trust) |
| <b>Public transport</b> | Buses between Exeter and Moretonhampstead or Chagford stop at Drewsteignton and Castle Drogo   |

From Drewsteignton the walk sets out along the Two Moors Way for a while before joining with the Dartmoor Way to arrive at Sharp Tor with views of the wooded Teign valley; from here a detour leads to Castle Drogo. The walk continues along the Hunters Path just below Castle Drogo before dropping down to the River Teign. The route then follows the tree-shaded river downstream to Fingle Bridge, home to the Fingle Bridge Inn. The final section meanders through woods back to Drewsteignton.

From the far end of the car park at Drewsteignton turn right along a path. Pass a thatched cottage and at the next cottage turn right following the tarred path through the churchyard, passing left of the **church**.

The **Church of the Holy Trinity** in Drewsteignton dates mostly from the 15th century. The thatched-roofed Drewe Arms was known as the Druids' Arms; the name was changed in the 1920s when Julius Drewe built Castle Drogo (see later). For 75 years the pub was kept by Mabel Mudge, who retired in 1994 at the grand age of 99.



Keep ahead through the village square, passing the pub and village shop/tearoom (both on your right), then turn left along the road. Fork right at the junction (direction Whiddon Down) for 120 metres, then turn left at the fingerpost and the Two Moors Way stone. ► Follow the track downhill as it swings right.

Go through a gate at the bottom to enter **Rectory Wood**. Keep right at the junction and at the next junction turn left (Piddledown and Two Moors Way); straight on is a more direct route via steep steps. Having turned left, go right at the next junction and follow the track as it soon swings left to another junction. Turn right and keep ahead past some beech trees. Go through a gate and follow the right-hand fence through two fields. Exit through a gate and keep ahead to a path T-junction.

Turn right along the Hunters Path (now following the Two Moors Way and Dartmoor Way) for 350 metres to a signed junction at **Sharp Tor**. ► To visit Castle Drogo turn right (see detour route), otherwise go straight on along the Hunters Path to the next junction; the castle detour rejoins here from the right.

The commemorative stone is one of four placed along the route when it opened in 1976; the others are located at Ivybridge, Morchard Bishop and Lynmouth.

Take a short detour left for a great view of the valley, but be careful, it's a steep drop.

**Detour to Castle Drogo**

Head north up the steps (signed to Castle Drogo). Go through a gate and keep ahead to a junction with a stony path. Turn right uphill then go left along the drive and fork right, following the signs for the castle entrance. Retrace your steps back along the drive, turn right down the stony path and keep right (straight on) at the junction. Follow the path as it swings right down steps and through a gate to rejoin the Hunters Path and turn right (adds 1.1km<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile).

The early 20th-century **Castle Drogo** – said to be the last castle built in England – was built by Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869–1944) for Julius Drewe (1856–1931), founder of the Home and Colonial Stores, which, in the 1920s, was one of the UK's largest retail chains. Drewe chose the site because he mistakenly believed that his ancestors had connections with the nearby village of Drewsteignton. The castle was given to the National Trust in 1974.

*Looking west along  
the Hunters Path  
near Sharp Tor*

**Main route**

Keep along the wide path below Castle Drogo to a junction near Hunter's Tor where the main route goes right. ▶ Follow the path, with the castle up to the right, go through a gate and turn left down a tarred track (signed Fisherman's Path and River Teign) for 375 metres to a junction. Fork left along the track (Gibhouse and footpath) and, just before the cottage, fork left down a narrower path to a junction. Turn left and immediately turn right across the footbridge – known as the **Iron Bridge** – over the River Teign. ▶

Once across, turn left along the track with the wall on your left. Go through a gate and continue through Whiddon Wood with the River Teign on the left, soon passing the Hydro Turbine building.

The wall once formed part of the boundary of **Whiddon Deer Park** which was enclosed in the mid 16th century to contain a herd of fallow deer. Julius Drewe had two water-driven turbines installed on the River Teign to provide electricity for his newly built castle.

Keep along the riverside track through Hannicombe Wood to a junction at **Fingle Bridge** and turn left over the bridge, with the Fingle Bridge Inn on the right. ▶

The 17th-century **Fingle Bridge** which straddles the River Teign is a fine example of a three-arched packhorse bridge; on the south side of the river is a National Trust car park and toilets.

Head northwards along the lane (parking on right) for 140 metres and then turn sharp left to follow a bridleway up through Drewston Wood for 600 metres to a junction. Turn sharp right (almost doubling back) and follow the bridleway (Hunters Path to Drewsteignton) as it contours round the hill. Go through a gate and keep ahead at the crossing track. Cross a stream, continue to a track junction and keep right. At the next junction, keep

Take a quick 120-metre detour by keeping left and going through a gate to Hunter's Tor, where there is another great view. Return to the junction and turn left.

The path along the north bank of the river is the Fisherman's Path that also leads to Fingle Bridge.

The path joining from the left is the Fisherman's Path from the Iron Bridge.





- 40 contrasting walks in Dartmoor National Park
- explore granite tors, tree-shaded river valleys, ancient stone circles • Ten Tors two-day walk



left behind a fascinating treasure trove from intriguing stone rows to fascinating burial cairns. There are also the stark ruins of Dartmoor's mining heritage, and picturesque villages and hamlets that are home to interesting old churches and cosy pubs.

The walks in this book have been carefully selected to offer both low-level short walks suitable for all abilities and challenging high open moor routes with river crossings. There is also a two-day Ten Tors style walk for those after a challenge.

Dartmoor National Park is a wild, and at times isolated, upland area. A land of blanket bogs and grass moors dotted with fascinating tors, old stone clapper bridges, and a diverse range of wildlife. Our ancestors have

- varied collection of day walks
- walks can be undertaken year-round
- includes High Willhays – highest top in Dartmoor and Southern England

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