

Easy-Going Dartmoor

Access for All: A guide for less mobile and disabled visitors to the Dartmoor area



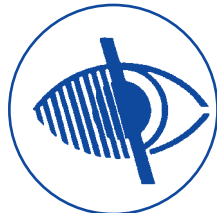
People with a mobility problem



People who use a wheelchair



Parents with pushchairs and young children



People who are visually impaired

Contents

Introduction	2
Key	3
Dartmoor National Park Map	4
Toilets	6
Types of Walks	8
Dartmoor Towns & Villages	9
Viewpoints	26
Suggested Driving Route Guides	28
Route One (from direction of Plymouth)	29
Route Two (from direction of Bovey Tracey)	32
Route Three (from direction of Torbay / Ashburton)	34
Route Four (from direction of the A30)	36
Further Information and Other Guides	38
Guided Walks and Events	39
Information Centres	40
Horse Riding	42
Conservation Groups	42



Introduction

Dartmoor was designated a National Park in 1951 for its outstanding natural beauty and its opportunities for informal recreation. This information has been produced by the Dartmoor National Park Authority in conjunction with Dartmoor For All, and is designed to help and encourage those who are disabled, less mobile or have young children, to relax, unwind and enjoy the peace and quiet of the beautiful countryside in the Dartmoor area. This information will help you to make the right choices for your day out.

Nearly half of Dartmoor is registered common land. Under the *Dartmoor Commons Act 1985*, a right of access was created for persons on foot or horseback. This right extends to those using wheelchairs, powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters, although one should be aware that the natural terrain and gradients may curb access in practice. Common land and other areas of 'access land' are marked on the Ordnance Survey (OS) map, Outdoor Leisure 28. There is also open access on most of the land owned by the National Trust and Forestry Commission – check on the OS map.

Dartmoor National Park has approximately 449 miles (730 km) of footpaths and bridleways. These rights of way permit access on foot or with a 'usual accompaniment' such as a pushchair, wheelchair or scooter. Again, in practice, access may prove difficult in places because of surfacing and gradients. Please be aware that some footpaths have stiles but the National Park are working to replace these with accessible gates where possible. Clarification of the routes of footpaths and bridleways can be gained from the OS map.

Main Key For Walks

 Roads with no accessible pavement

 Roads with accessible pavement

 Bridge

Paths

 Smooth

 Compacted

 Coarse

 Rough

 Rugged

Restrictions

 Motorised chair restricted width


 Wheelchair restricted width

Gradient

 Gradient 1:20 or greater

 Gradient 1:10 or greater
points downhill

Camber

 1:20 or greater

 1:10 or greater

downhill camber in direction of arrow

Obstruction

 Steps  Cattle Grid

 Gate

Facilities

 Accessible Toilets

 Toilets

 Disabled Parking

 Parking (no designated spaces)

 Accessible Information Centre

 Information Board

 Refreshments available (sometimes van/kiosk)

 Accessible Resting Place

 Resting Place

 Accessible Bird Hide

 Bird Hide


 Viewpoint

 Orienteering Course

Walks

 Guided Walks /Event starting point

 Circular Walk

 Linear (there and back) Walk

Trees/Woodland

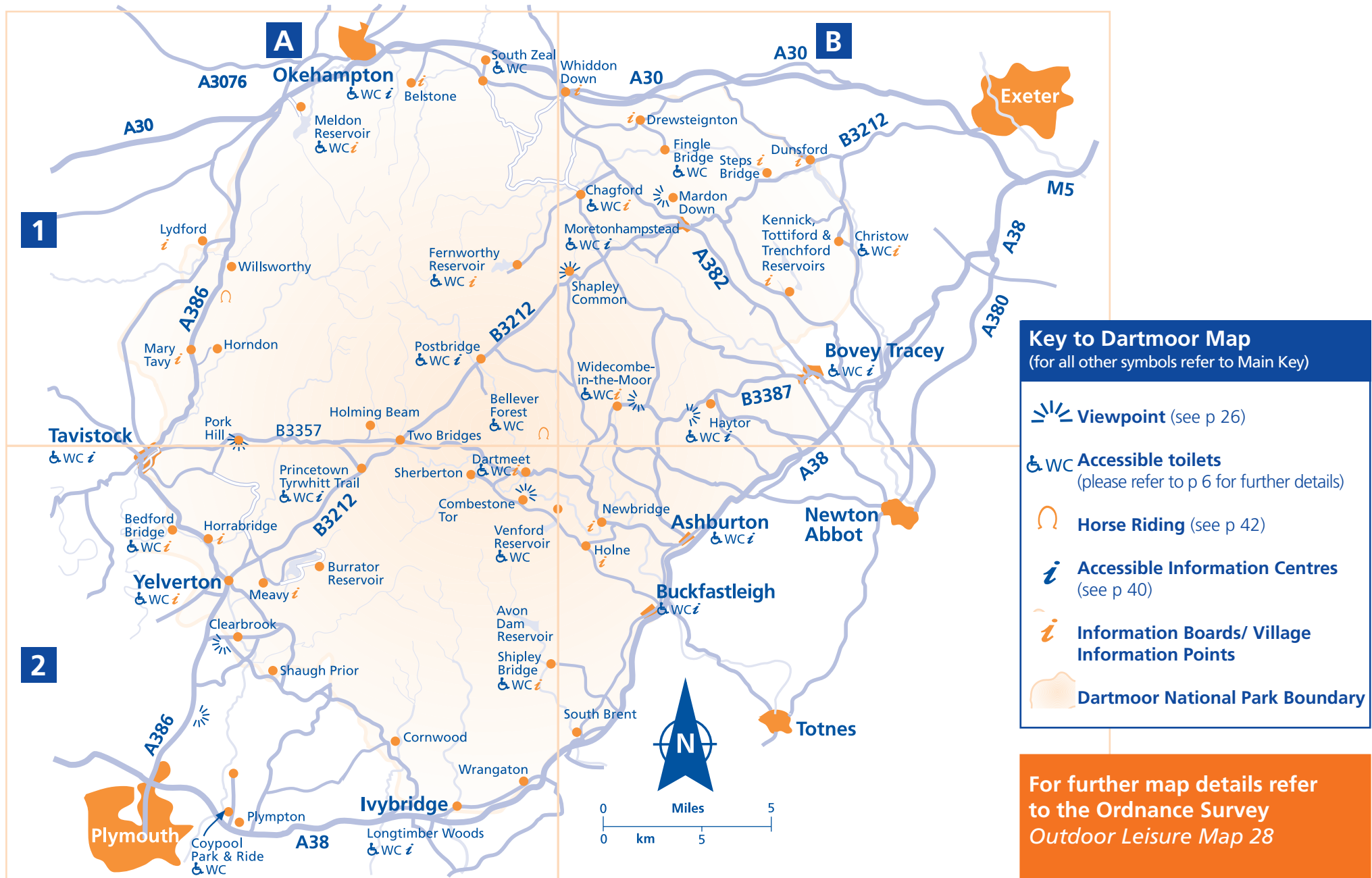
 Broadleaved

 Coniferous

Moorland

 Walk maps and key
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Dartmoor National Park Map



Toilets

The locations of accessible public toilets are listed here in alphabetical order and are shown on the map p 4-5. Some of these toilets are part of the RADAR National Key Scheme. If you do not have your own key, they are locally available from:

















- Exeter City Council (01392) 277888
- Plymouth City Council (01752) 668000,
- Plymouth Guild of Voluntary Service (01752) 201766;
- South Hams District Council (01803) 861234
- Teignbridge District Council (01626) 361101;
- West Devon Borough Council (01822) 813600;
or contact RADAR directly on (0207) 250 3222 or at www.radar.org.uk

Those toilets with a RADAR key are available 24 hours; in some cases a RADAR key is available from the nearest Information Centre during opening hours (see key). The majority of other toilets are locked overnight.

Key for Toilets

	Accessible Toilets		RADAR key needed from Information Centre
	Separate Facility		Baby Changing
	RADAR key needed		Winter Closing (November to Easter)

Ashburton - Kingsbridge Lane			
Bedford Bridge (Horrabridge)			
Bellever Forest			
Bovey Tracey - Station Road			
- Mary Street			
Buckfastleigh - Woodholme Car Park			

Chagford - Jubilee Hall			
Christow			
Coypool Park and Ride			
Dartmeet			
Fernworthy			
Fingle Bridge			
Haytor			
Ivybridge Watermark Centre- Leonards Road			
Meldon Reservoir			
Moretonhampstead - Court Street			
Moretonhampstead - Station Road			
Okehampton - Fairplace			
Okehampton - Market Street			
Okehampton - Mill Road			
Postbridge			
Princetown - main car park			
Shipleigh Bridge			
South Brent - Stockbridge Lane			
South Zeal			
Tavistock - The Wharf			
Tavistock - Brook Street Car Park			
Tavistock - Bus Station (Mon - Sat 8.30 - 18.30) (Sun 8.30 - 12.00)			
Tavistock - Guildhall Car Park			
Venford Reservoir			
Widcombe-in-the-Moor			
Yelverton (Roundabout)			

Types of Walks

Easy Going Walks

These are the walks on Dartmoor which are most suitable for people with limited mobility for whatever reason. Each map illustrates what you can expect in terms of gradient, surface, camber and obstacles. Please refer to the key on p 3. From this information you should be able to make an informed choice about which site is best for you. All the walks described are situated close to car parking facilities. Those with dedicated parking spaces are shown by the relevant symbol. Please bear in mind that this information is intended solely to provide general information of interest to the reader. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure accuracy, neither Dartmoor National Park Authority nor Dartmoor For All can accept responsibility for any errors or omissions, or any loss or damage arising from the use of this information. Paths are subject to natural erosion and accumulation and their quality may vary, not only according to the seasons but possibly from day to day. Maintenance of these paths may also be ongoing and, at times, variations may be unavoidable. If you have any comments or suggestions about these or other suitable routes please contact Dartmoor National Park Authority's Access and Recreation Officer on (01626) 832093.

More Adventurous Walks

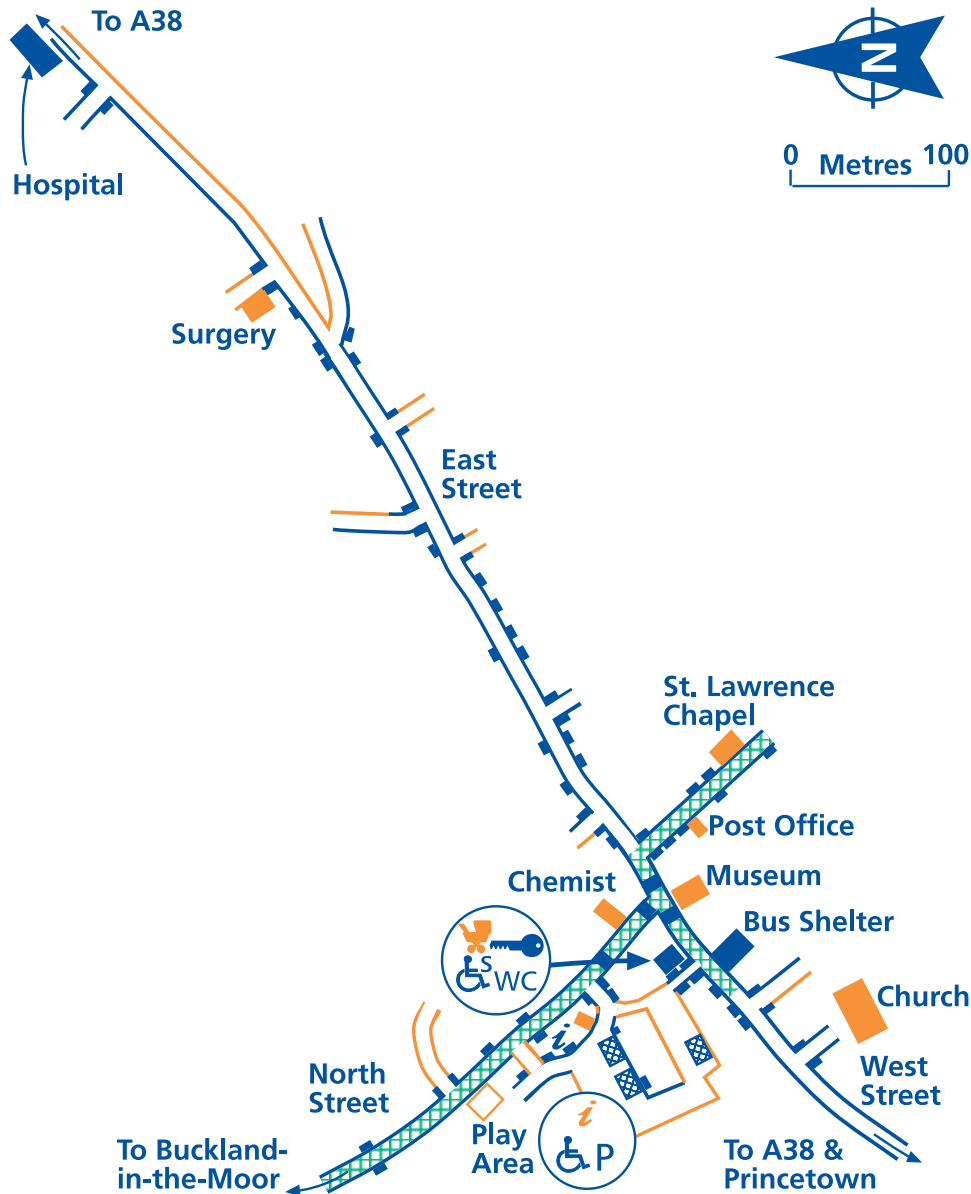
These are for those people who want to experience a more challenging walk or day out. Again, each map illustrates what you can expect in terms of gradient, surface, camber and obstacles. From this information you should be able to make an informed choice about which site is best for your requirements. All the walks described are situated close to car parking facilities. Those with dedicated spaces are shown by the relevant symbol.

Dartmoor Towns and Villages

There are a number of historic towns and villages within the National Park with many narrow streets and interesting architectural features. Due to the terrain many of these settlements were built wholly or partly on a slope.

We hope these maps on p 10-25 will give you an idea of what to expect and make your visit easier and more enjoyable.

Ashburton

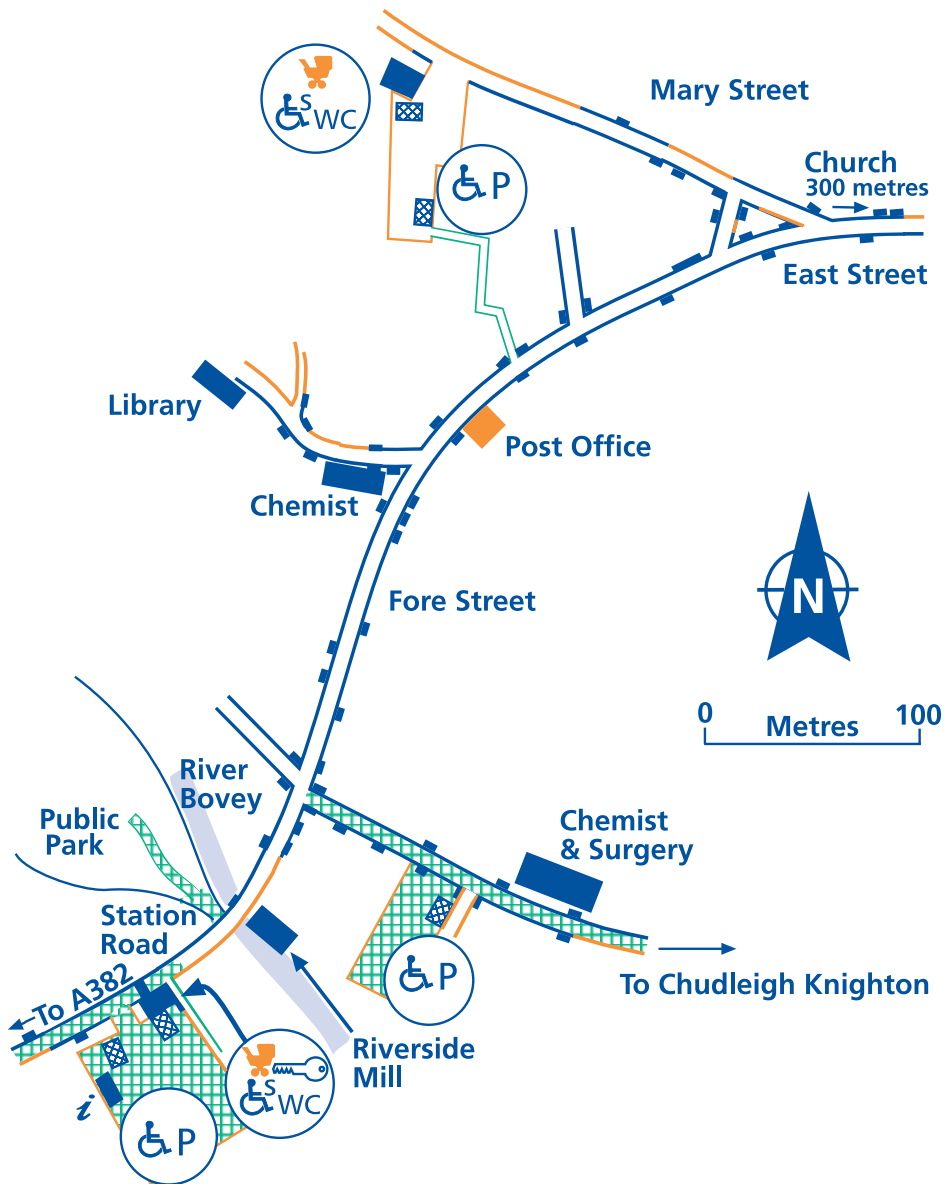


Ashburton, the largest town within the National Park, is nationally renowned for its outstanding architecture. The main reason for the town’s growth has been its location on the southern edge of Dartmoor - the interface between moor and lowland. There is a wide selection of shops and small craft and antique enterprises situated around the level centre of the town. All are easily reached from the conveniently sited car park.

The towers of the Church of St Andrew and Chapel of St Lawrence dominate the Ashburton sky line. The latter building has been a chantry chapel and a grammar school and, for a long time, the traditional meeting place of the ancient Courts Leet and Baron. With a grant from English Heritage in the 1980s, the Dartmoor National Park Authority oversaw the complete restoration of this historic building. The community-run Information Centre, behind the Town Hall and close to the main car park, can provide a wealth of local knowledge as can the local museum.

Key to Dartmoor Towns and Villages			
	Road with accessible pavement		Accessible building
	Road with no accessible pavement		Building (accessibility unknown at the time of writing)
	Path		Parking (no designated spaces)
	Dropped kerb		Disabled Parking
	Flat areas with gradient of less than 1 in 20		Disabled parking space
	Accessible Information Centre		Accessible toilets (refer to p 6 for detailed toilet symbols)
	Information Board		

Bovey Tracey

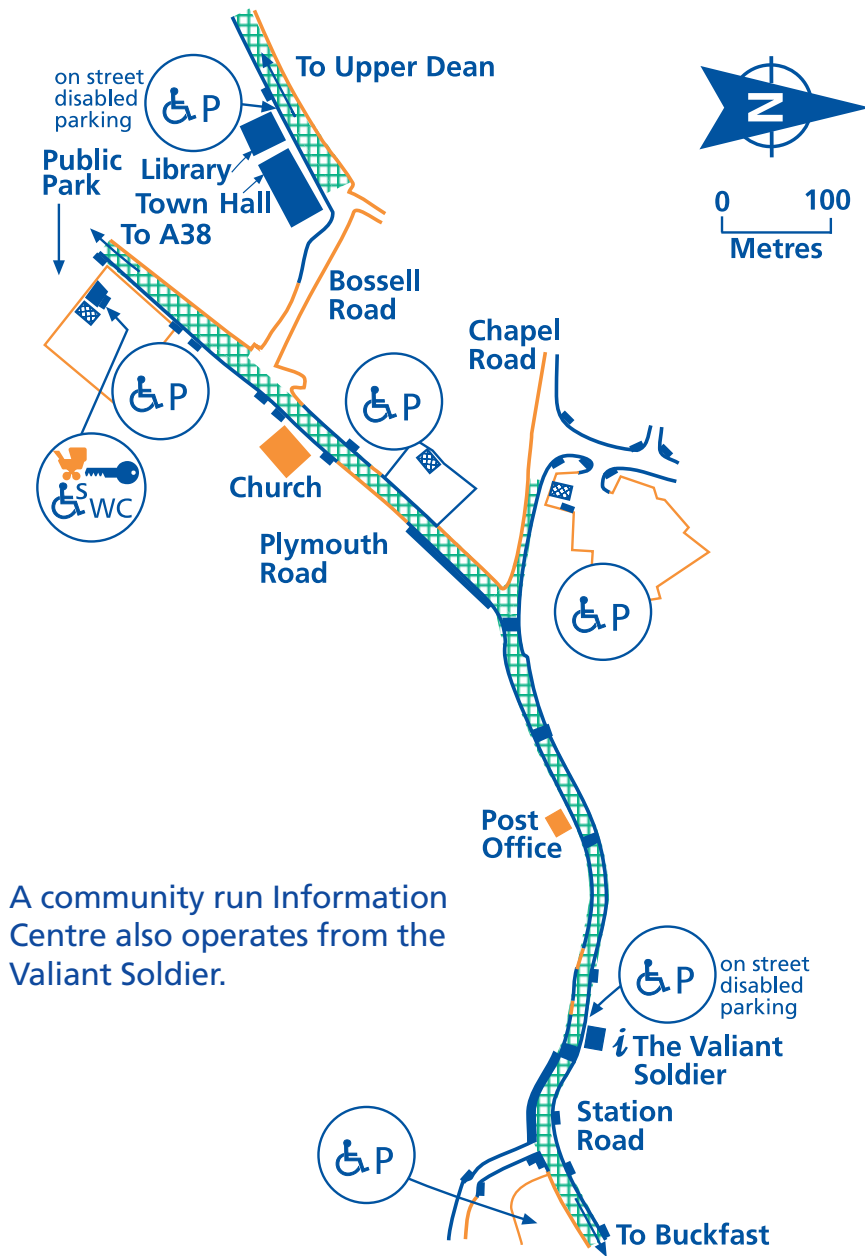


Situated on the south eastern foothills of Dartmoor, Bovey Tracey is rich in history and legend. In the centre of the town the River Bovey flows under a bridge which was crossed by Oliver Cromwell on his way to the battle of Bovey Heath in 1646.

There is an Information Centre and a good range of small shops including the Riverside Mill where the prestigious Devon Guild of Craftsmen hold exhibitions of locally made arts and crafts. A number of good restaurants, pubs and tea rooms offer menus to suit all tastes. The town has a variety of other fine amenities including a level park, planted with many interesting specimen trees, an outdoor heated swimming pool and two nearby golf courses.

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Buckfastleigh



A community run Information Centre also operates from the Valiant Soldier.

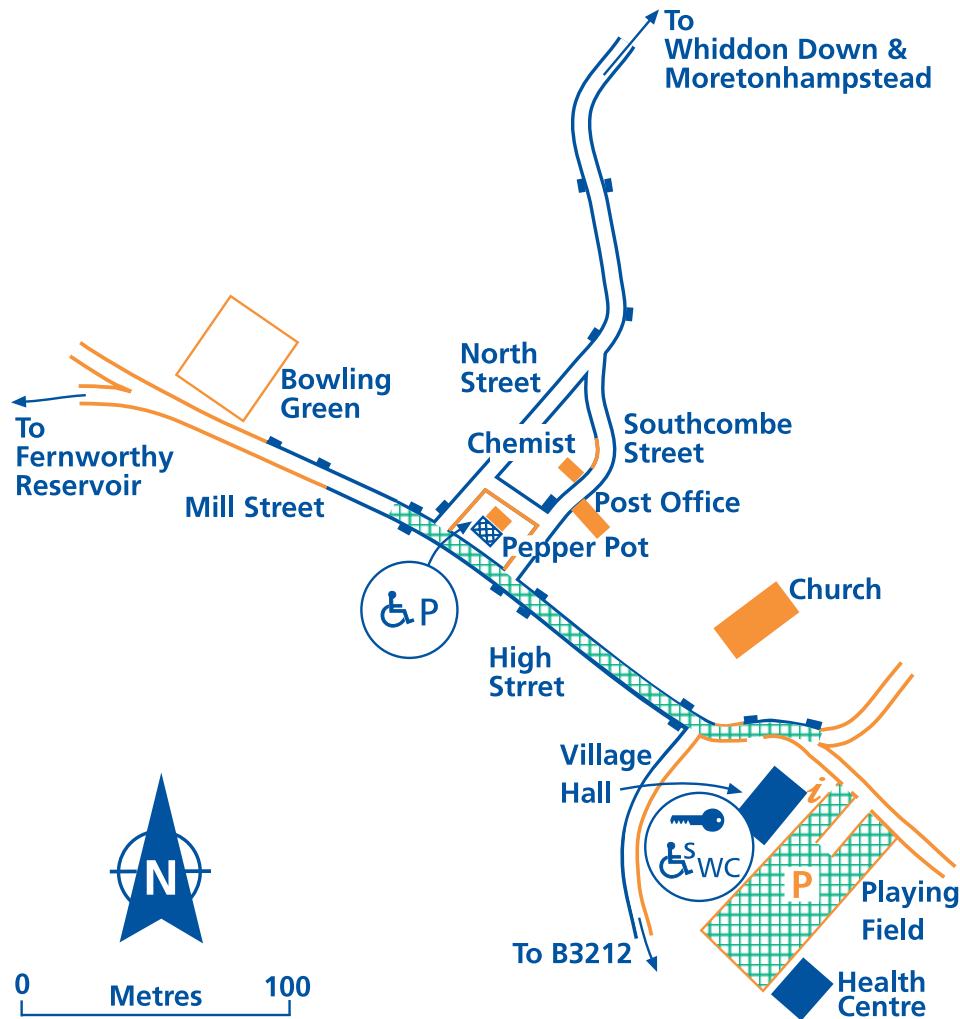
Buckfastleigh is an historic mill town on the southern border of the National Park. The town has a range of interesting shops selling locally produced arts and crafts and a Thursday morning Farmers' Market. The town's origins are obscure. It may have begun as a key settlement of the Cistercian Abbey of nearby Buckfast. The Cistercians were associated with sheep husbandry and the wool trade. In 1018, a Benedictine Abbey was founded at Buckfast. In 1148, the Abbey became a Cistercian monastery and remained so until its dissolution. The present Abbey Church was consecrated in 1932. The new church and monastery, built by the monks of a community of French Benedictines, are well worth a visit.

The Valiant Soldier was a pub for nearly 200 years. It closed in the 1960s and time stood still. Furniture, pub artefacts and day-to-day household items were simply left where they stood as the last customer walked out. Now the former inn has been turned into a fascinating place to visit from Easter to the end of October. The atmosphere and sounds of the time have been recreated.

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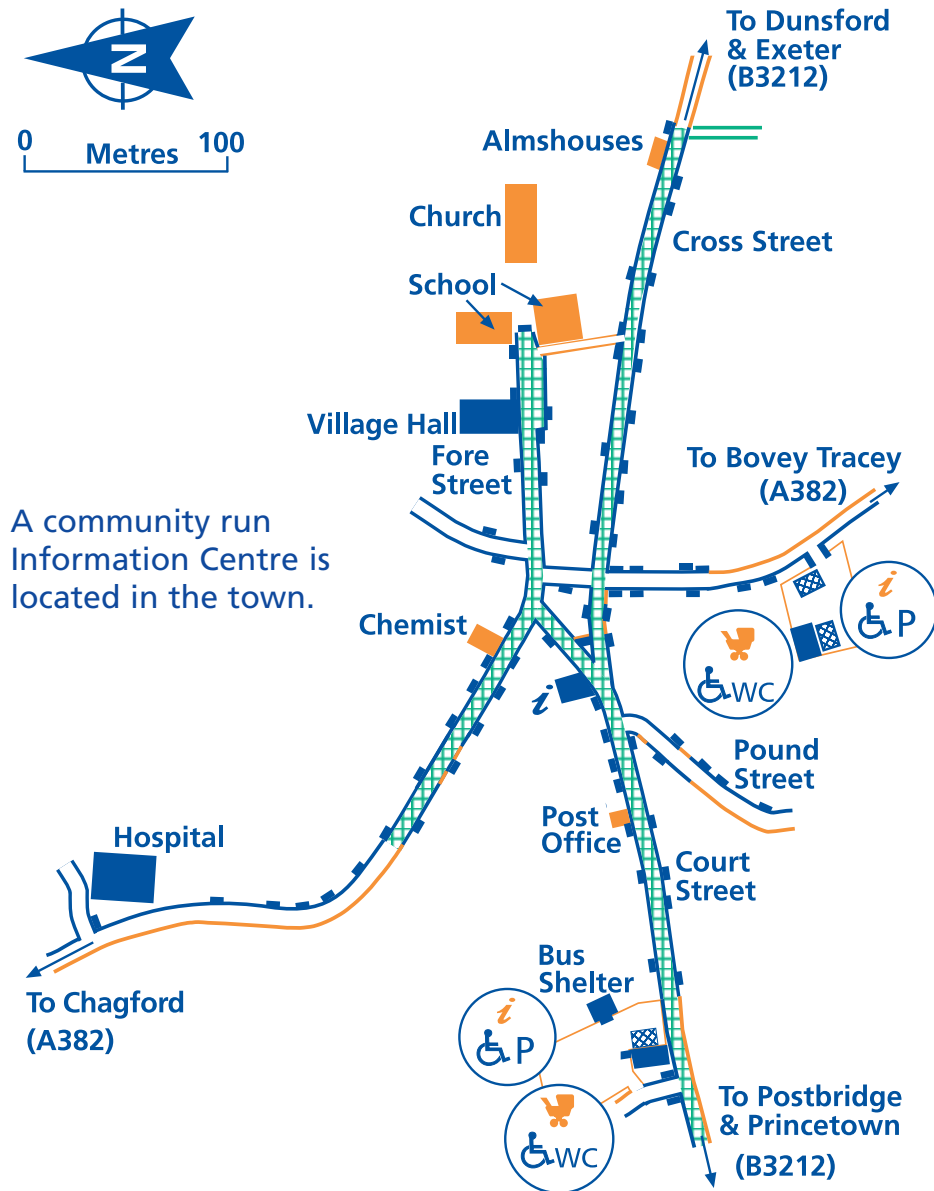
Chagford



Chagford is a parish rich in historic remains and it is likely that the area has been continually settled for more than 4,000 years. A charter of 1305 ordained that Chagford should be one of the Stannary Towns of Devon - a place where smelted tin was collected for stamping and taxation. An early record of the tax paid in Chagford showed that more than 40 per cent of Devon's tin production passed through the settlement. Chagford also shared in the prosperity enjoyed by Devon's woollen industry during in the 16th, 18th and 19th centuries. The church and churchyard of St Michael are well worth a visit. Look out for the finely carved roof bosses, one of which depicts the symbol adopted by the tanners - three rabbits, each depicted with two ears. However, only three ears in total are carved on the boss. Also look out for the inscription on the sanctuary floor dedicated to Mary Whiddon, who died on 11 October 1641. The story is that Mary was shot on the steps of the church immediately after her marriage. Could this have been in R.D. Blackmore's mind when he was writing Lorna Doone? Today Chagford is a thriving local centre, with many shops and places to eat and stay, situated around the distinctive 'Pepper Pot' markethouse.

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	Information Board		

Moretonhampstead



Moretonhampstead is an old market town, lying on an historic cross roads on the eastern slopes of the National Park, surrounded by some fine countryside. Take time to explore the town. There is a good selection of shops and places to eat and stay, all within easy reach of the car park. From the parish church (circa 1450), situated on the high ground adjoining the Sentry, there are wonderful views of the surrounding countryside. The Sentry is a park-like enclosure providing rest and quiet. Part of it has been used as a children's playground for many years.

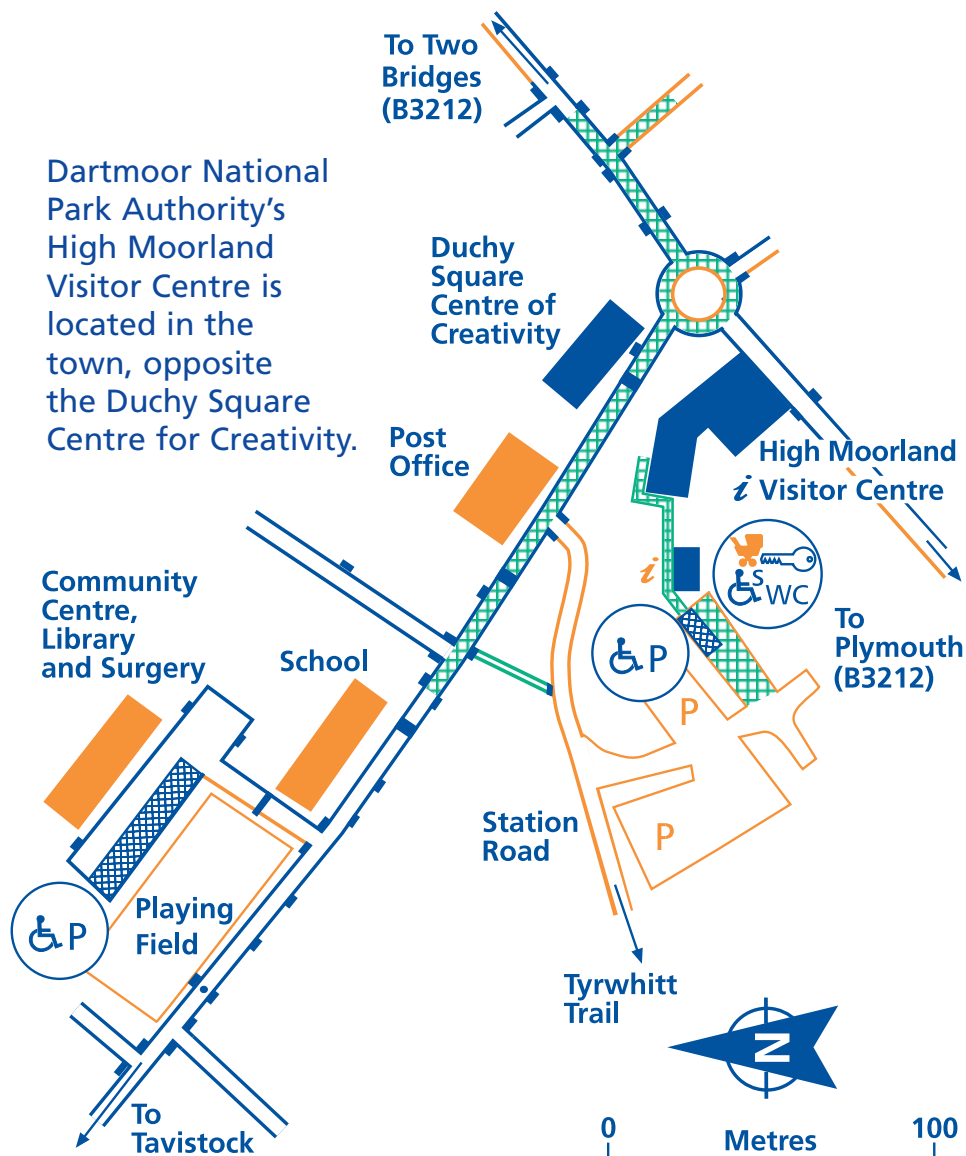
To the north east of the Sentry is Mardon House built in 1902 as the rectory, though now a private house. It was a gift of the Hon. W.F.D. Smith (later Lord Hambleton), son of W.H. Smith, founder of W.H. Smith and Sons. He was Lord of the Manor from 1892 to 1928. In 1907 he built a new house (now the Manor House Hotel) on the Princetown road.

The Almshouses with their granite arcade date from before 1637 and the 'Cross Tree', now only represented by a cross, minus its shaft, is nearby.

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Princetown

Dartmoor National Park Authority's High Moorland Visitor Centre is located in the town, opposite the Duchy Square Centre for Creativity.



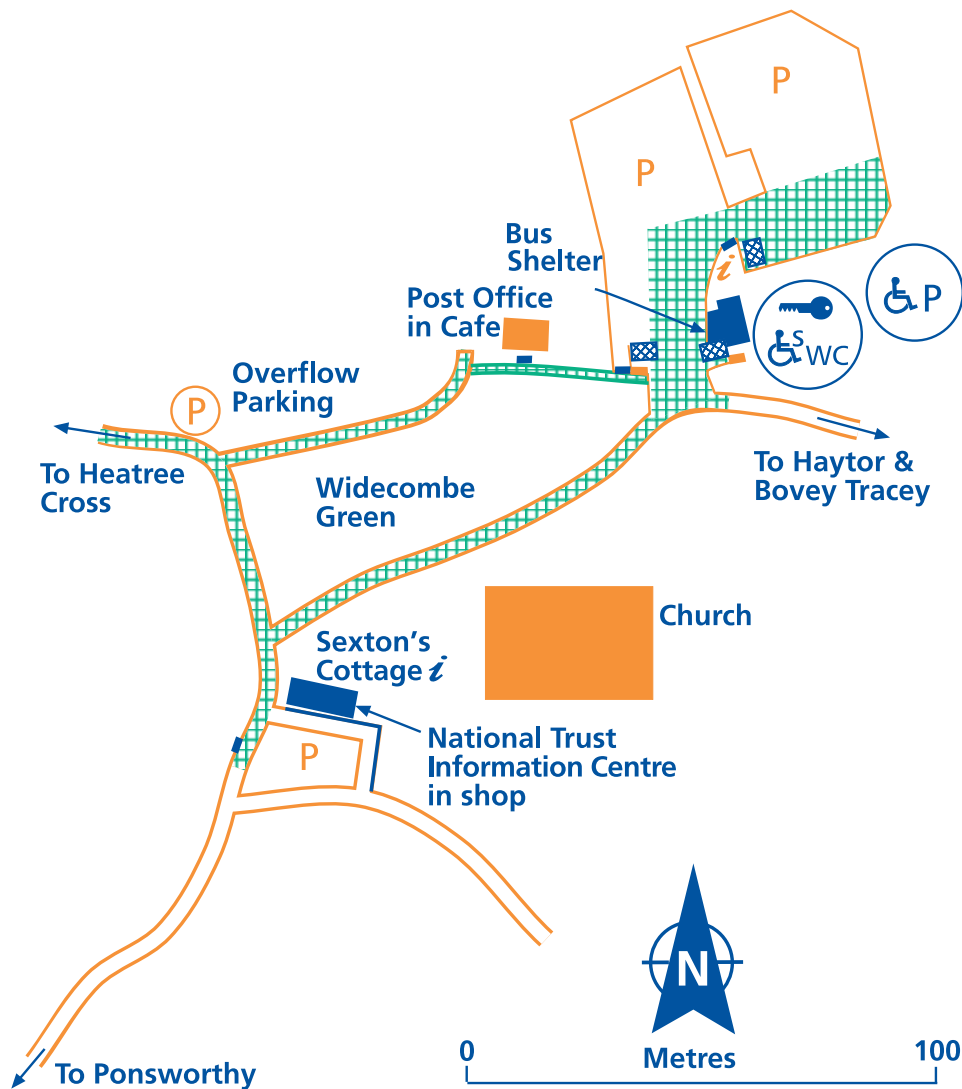
Situated in the heart of the National Park, Princetown is the highest town in England and is famous for HM Prison Dartmoor, which once housed prisoners from the Napoleonic Wars. Here, too, is the Dartmoor National Park Authority's award-winning High Moorland Visitor Centre. The Centre offers a comprehensive information service, contains induction loops and a number of audio and sensory displays that will appeal to all ages. A wheelchair is available if required.

To the west of the town is the 198m (644ft), North Hessary Tor, BBC transmitter mast. This was built in 1955 to serve Devon and Cornwall.

The Tyrwhitt Trail gives a good insight into the history of this fascinating settlement and provides the opportunity to gain a feel for the high moorland beyond. Refer to the Adventurous Walk, Tyrwhitt Trail, Princetown, which follows this disused railway.

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Widcombe-in-the-Moor



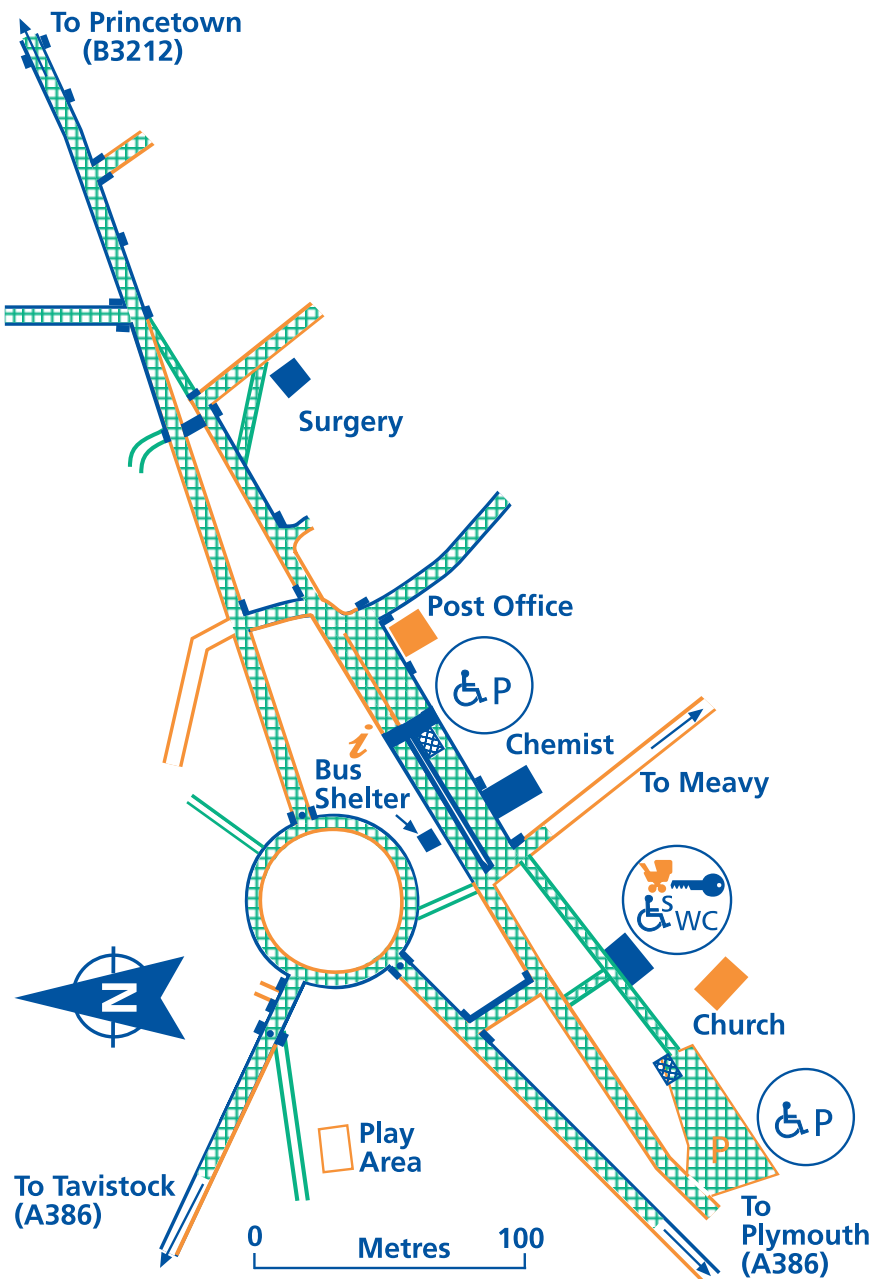
Widcombe-in-the-Moor has become world famous as a result of its annual fair, held on the second Tuesday of September, and the associated song featuring Uncle Tom Cobby and his old grey mare.

Sheltering in its own valley Widcombe-in-the-Moor appears to be situated at a low altitude. It is in fact 244 metres (800ft) above sea level. The parish is one of the largest in the country and the village is dominated by the magnificent church of St Pancras. The church house is now owned by the National Trust and is used as an Information Centre and shop.

The village green, with its ancient sycamore trees, is often grazed by ponies that have come down from the surrounding commons. However, during the 15th century it bore witness to a far less relaxing sight. Formerly known as Butt Park it was used by the young men of the parish to practise their archery skills.

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Yelverton



Once known as 'Elford Town', Yelverton developed with the arrival of the railways running from Plymouth to Princetown and Tavistock. Parts of these railways have now been converted into Drake's Trail, the Millennium Cycle Route and the Princetown to Burrator cycle path. The small parade of single storey shops has a history; the upper storeys were removed to assist safe take off and landing when the nearby airfield on Roborough Down was in use during the Second World War.

There is an information board located in the village as well as designated disabled parking close to the shops and in the long stay car park, close to the accessible toilets.

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	Information Board		

Viewpoints

There are many places to stop and admire the beautiful countryside, and perhaps to have a picnic. The following are suggestions for some of the best views in the National Park and many are included in the Route Guides on pages 28 to 37 – there are many others too, and exploring the Dartmoor area is a joy in itself. The nearest accessible public toilets to each viewpoint are given. Please check the section on toilets for full information on page 6.

Combestone Tor

DNP map ref: A2

OS grid ref: SX 670 718



- Venford Reservoir

Combestone Tor is on the road between Holne and Hexworthy. The views across high Dartmoor and the Dart valley are tremendous (weather permitting).

Haytor - Top Car Park

DNP map ref: B1

OS grid ref: SX 759 767



- Haytor Lower Car Park

Here, at the bottom of the famous tor, you will be treated to good views towards the Teign estuary and the south Devon coast.

Leat Car Park above Clearbrook

DNP map ref: A2

OS grid ref: SX 519 650



- Yelverton Roundabout

A popular car park, situated in an area of heather, splendid in July and August. The views southwards are down the Plym valley, and include Bickleigh Church and Plymouth Sound.

Mardon Down

DNP map ref: B1

OS grid ref: SX 762 874



- Moretonhampstead

Mardon Down, is situated close to Moretonhampstead. The complete panorama includes Cosdon Beacon to the north and Haytor and Hound Tor to the south.

Moorgate, Shapley Common

DNP map ref: B1

OS grid ref: SX 698 834



- Moretonhampstead

A fine viewpoint, about 3 miles (5km) west of Moretonhampstead, on the B3212. You will see fine views of north Devon.

Pork Hill

DNP map ref: A1

OS grid ref: SX 531 751



- Tavistock

This car park is right on the western edge of the high moor, off the B3357 between Princetown and Tavistock. From here, you will see fine views across west Devon, and Cornwall to Bodmin Moor.

Roborough Down

DNP map ref: A2

OS grid ref: SX 51 68



- Yelverton Roundabout

Roborough Down is a large area of open moorland on the western edge of the moor.

Widcombe Hill

DNP map ref: B1

OS grid ref: SX 734 767



- Widcombe-in-the-Moor

Widcombe Hill is located between Haytor and Widcombe-in-the-Moor. From the small parking area there are excellent views over this fine Dartmoor village.

Suggested Driving Route Guides

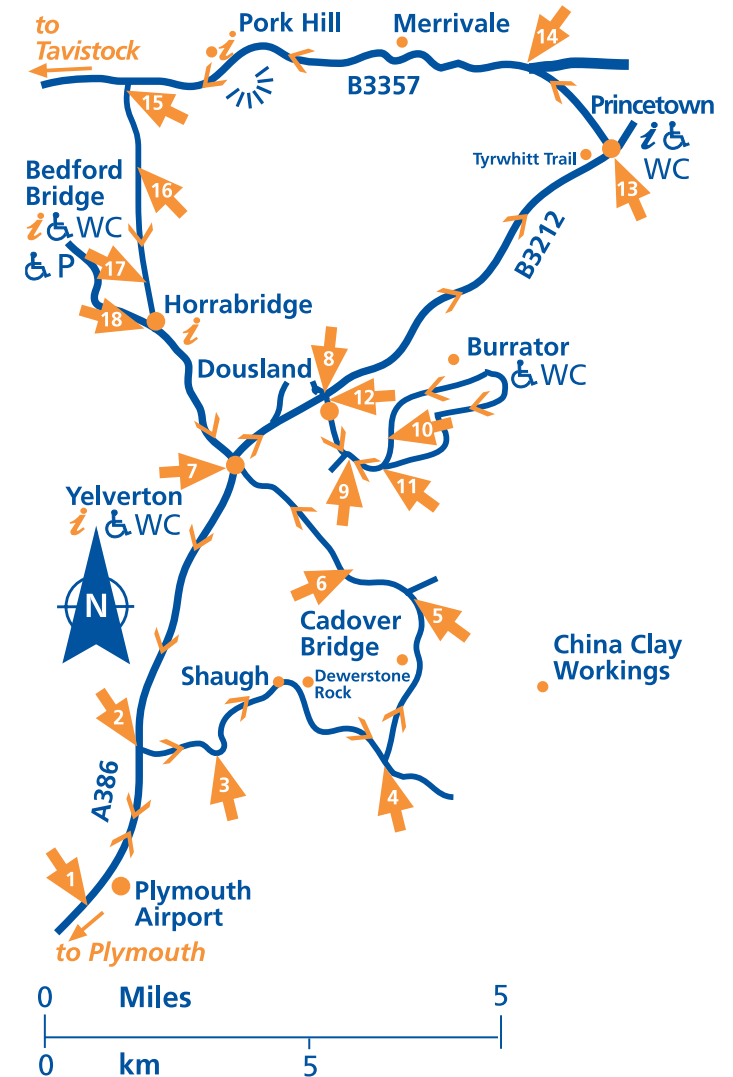
The route guides are designed to give you an enjoyable drive in the National Park. There are four suggested routes starting from the directions of Bovey Tracey, Torbay, Plymouth and Whiddon Down. Directions are given only at crucial points using numbered arrows. The route direction is also shown. Useful facts are given about the route, along with information about what you can see from your car window. Please refer to Ordnance Survey *Outdoor Leisure Map 28* for extra detail.

Route Guide One

- 1 Leave Plymouth on Tavistock road A386
- 2 Turn right *Bickleigh 1/4*
Shaugh Prior 2/4
Hursley Business Park at Bickleigh Cross
- 3 Turn left signed *Shaugh Prior 2/2*
- 4 Turn left signed *Meavy 4* *Yelverton 5*
- 5 Follow road round signed *Clearbrook 2*
Meavy 2/2 *Yelverton 2/2*
- 6 Follow road round signed *Meavy 1/4*
Yelverton 1/4
- 7 Turn right *Tavistock A386* Then off roundabout *Princetown 6* *B3212*
- 8 For Burrator loop turn right signed *Meavy 1/2* *Sheepstor 2/4*
Burrator Reservoir
- 9 Turn left *Sheepstor 1/2*
Burrator Reservoir 1/4
- 10 At the dam go straight on.
Sign *Parking 1/2*
- 11 At T-junction turn right (note - no sign) Retrace to Dousland
- 12 Turn right *Princetown B3212*
- 13 Turn left *Tavistock B3357*
- 14 At Rundlestone Cross turn left *Tavistock B3357*
- 15 Turn left after campsite
Langstone Manor 1/4
Whitchurch Down 1/2 *Moorshop 1/4*
- 16 At Warrens Cross go straight over signed *Horrabridge 2/4*
- 17 Turn left over bridge *Plymouth 10*
Tavistock 5
- 18 Turn left Plymouth A386 retrace your steps to Plymouth

Route Guide One - From the direction of Plymouth

Approximate journey time starting and finishing at Plymouth - 1 1/2 hours, 39 miles (63 kms).

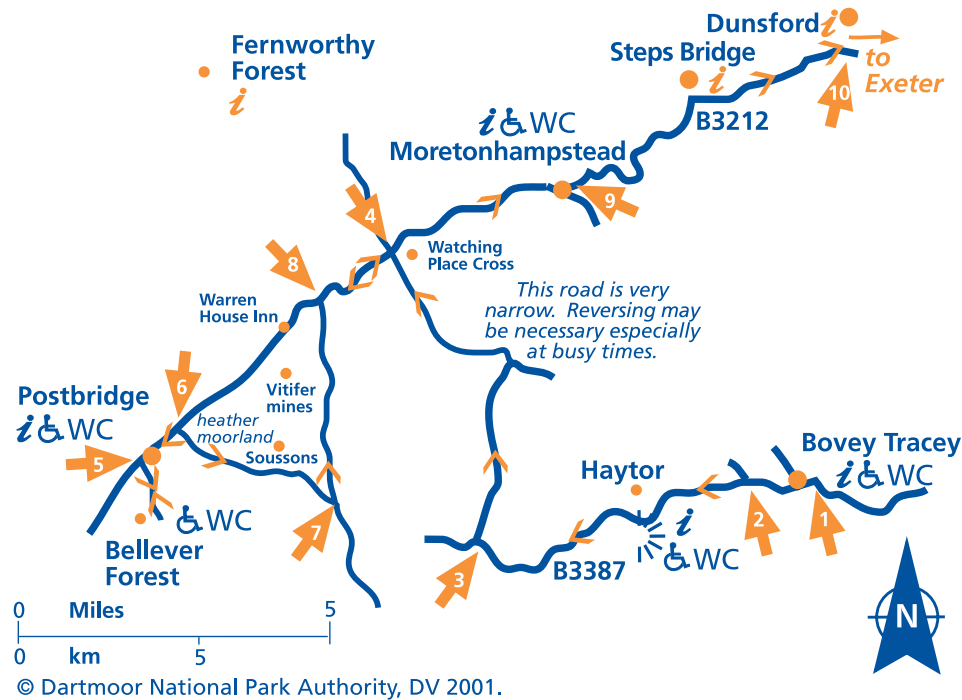


© Dartmoor National Park Authority, DV 2001.

- **Shaugh Bridge** - Located at the top of Bickleigh Vale, the bridge marks the spot where the Rivers Plym and Meavy meet. The ruins in the car park are those of kilns for drying clay, while those near the confluence of the two rivers were once part of an iron mine.
- **Dewerstone Rock** - If you are lucky, particularly during the winter months, you may catch a glimpse of the dramatic Dewerstone Rock. In prehistoric times the Rock was a hillfort, defended by two massive walls, the remains of which can still be seen today.
- **Cadover Bridge** - A very popular picnic spot for visitors, Cadover Bridge spans the River Plym. Upstream, the grassy flood-plain provides a soft landscape, backed by the rocky piles of Trowlesworthy Tors.
- **Yelverton** - In the past Yelverton was a very important holiday destination, as can be seen from the striking architecture of the main buildings, which look similar to a marine parade. During the Second World War, the area immediately surrounding Yelverton was used as an airfield.
- **Tyrwhitt Trail** - The track of this railway can be spotted in several places between Dousland and Princetown. It was 25 miles (40km) in length and was originally built to carry granite down to Sutton Pool and supplies up to the Prison. The railway was the idea of Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, the famous Dartmoor 'improver'.
- **HM Prison Dartmoor** - The prison was first constructed to house French prisoners of war captured during the struggle against Napoleon, and the foundation stone was laid in 1806. In 1850 it became a convict prison. The land around the prison is farmed by inmates.
- **Merrivale** - A small hamlet which has grown up around the Merrivale granite quarry. Stone from here was used to build the London Bridge. From the road you can see the prehistoric double stone row at Merrivale. Almost three quarters of the Dartmoor stone rows have a burial monument at one end; a number have a tall terminal stone known as a menhir. Here there is also a cist – a prehistoric grave composed of four granite slabs and a large flat cover stone.

Route Guide Two - From the direction of Bovey Tracey

Approximate journey time between Bovey Tracey and Dunsford - 2 ¼ hours, 37 miles (60 kms).



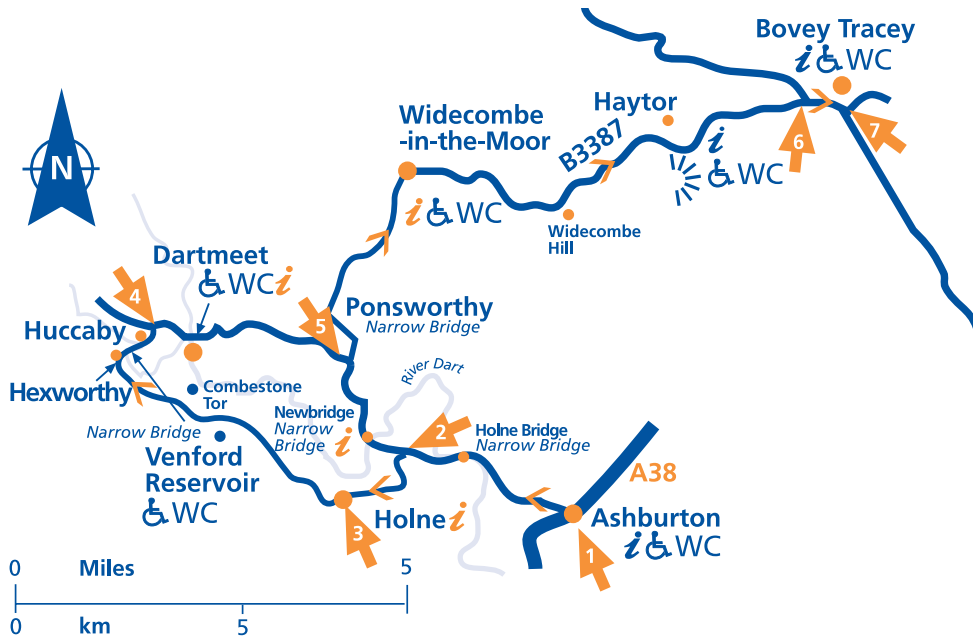
Route Guide Two

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Follow signs for <i>Bovey Tracey</i> from A38</p> <p>2 Bear left signed <i>Haytor</i> and <i>Widcombe B3387</i></p> <p>3 Turn right signed <i>Houndtor 1½</i> <i>Manaton 3</i>
<i>Moretonhampstead 8</i> <i>Chagford 8</i></p> <p>4 Turn left at Watching Place, signed <i>Postbridge</i> and <i>Princetown B3212</i></p> <p>5 Turn left signed <i>Bellever 1</i>
From Bellever Forest retrace your steps to Postbridge and turn right back onto the B3212</p> | <p>6 Turn right signed <i>Widcombe 6m</i></p> <p>7 Turn left signed <i>Moretonhampstead</i></p> <p>8 Turn right at Challacombe Cross signed <i>Moretonhampstead B3212 4m</i></p> <p>9 At Moretonhampstead go straight on at the cross-roads, signed <i>Dunsford 5m</i></p> <p>10 To return to Exeter follow the road you are on</p> |
|---|---|

- **Haytor** - Probably the most famous and, some would say, most impressive tor on Dartmoor. It stands at 457 metres (1,499 feet) above sea level.
- **Watching Place Cross** - In medieval times the trackways across Dartmoor were marked by crosses, many of which are still standing. This cross is medieval and is most likely to be an old way-marker.
- **Warren House Inn** - Here, the tin workers gathered after their long day's work and doubtless they drank and gambled enthusiastically. Legend has it that the fire in the bar has been kept burning for well over 100 years.
- **Postbridge** - The famous clapper bridge here probably dates from the 13th century, at which time it would have carried all the traffic – pack ponies, riders and foot travellers – across the East Dart River. The last mounted postman in the country operated from the Post Office in Postbridge until the 1960s.
- **Bellever Forest** - For further information on Bellever, please refer to Bellever walk.
- **Heather Moorland** - This area of common is particularly striking in the late summer and early autumn when the heather is in flower – a purple sheet stretching into the distance. In earlier times heather was cut for bedding, thatching, basket making and fuel.
- **Soussons** - Soussons Down was one of the last coniferous plantations to be planted on Dartmoor. Planting was carried out by the Forestry Commission in the late 1940s. Here there is a cairn circle which can be seen from the roadside.
- **Vitifer Mines** - The whole area south of the road is riddled with gullies and mines from the tin working days which were at their height here in the 1860s. The lodes of tin were traced up the hillsides and excavated with pick and shovel.
- **Fernworthy Forest** - Although it is impossible to glimpse Fernworthy Reservoir from the road, looking across the open moor you can see some of Fernworthy Forest. This coniferous forest was planted in the 1930s by the Forestry Commission.
- **Dunsford** - On the edge of the National Park, the village of Dunsford is very picturesque with its traditional thatch, stone and cob buildings and a 14th century church.

Route Guide Three - From the direction of Torbay / Ashburton

Approximate journey time between Ashburton and Bovey Tracey - 1 1/2 hours, 20 miles (32 kms).



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Route Guide Three

- 1 Leave A38 at Peartree Cross signposted *Ashburton B3352, Landscope, Two Bridges, Princetown*. Turn towards Ashburton from slipway
- 2 Turn left signed *Holne 1 1/4*
- 3 If you wish to detour into Holne turn left signed *Holne village centre* and *Buckfastleigh*. Return to route. Turn left signed *Hexworthy*
- 4 At Hexworthy Cross turn right signed *Dartmeet B3357*
- 5 Turn left signed *Leusdon, Ponsworthy, Widecombe*
- 6 At the T-junction turn right signed *Bovey Tracey*
- 7 Return to A38

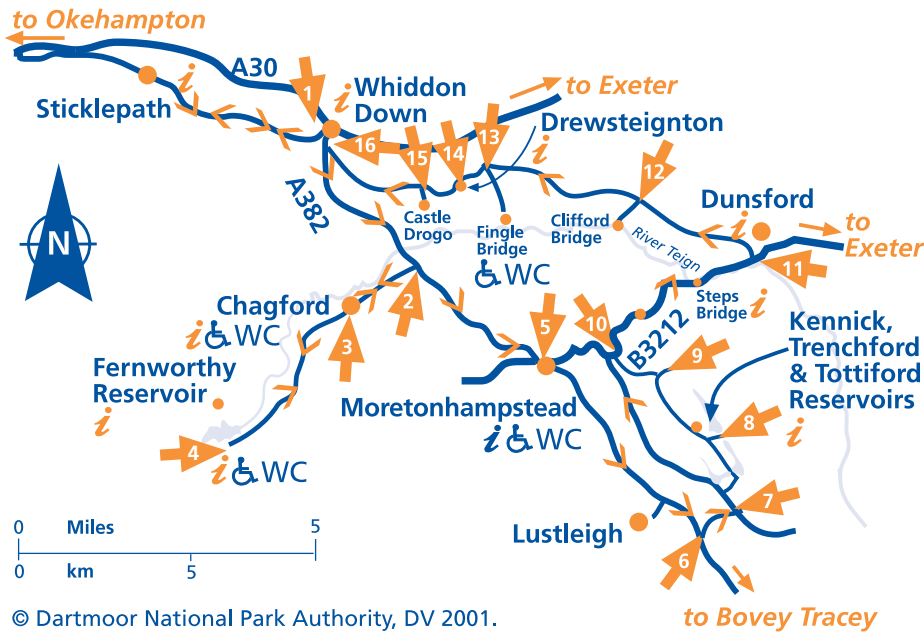
- **River Dart** - The River Dart flows 46 miles (74km) to the English Channel from sources at about 550m (1,800 feet) in the highest, north-western, section of the moor.
- **Holne Bridge** - The present bridge was built in 1413 to replace an older one destroyed by a flood. The bridge is very narrow and shows evidence of much damage done by over-large vehicles trying to cross it.
- **Holne** - Holne is a small and attractive village, little changed in size since medieval days. Charles Kingsley, author of *Westward Ho!* and *The Water Babies* was born at the Rectory in 1819. His father was curate-in-charge of the parish.
- **Venford Reservoir** - The conifer-fringed expanse of Venford Reservoir covers 13ha (33 acres). It was constructed between 1900 and 1907 by damming the little Venford Brook. The reservoir is the source of Paignton's water supply.
- **Huccaby** - Huccaby Bridge was built in the late 18th century with high enough arches to withstand the floods which swept its predecessor away. You can also see the old mission chapel of St Raphael which was opened in 1868.
- **Ponsworthy** - The village of Ponsworthy nestles in the valley of the West Webburn River, which is crossed by another very narrow bridge. The ford that you can see at Forder Bridge Cross is known as Ponsworthy Splash.
- **Widecombe-in-the Moor** - The song below, first recorded and published in 1880, is what has made Widecombe Fair, and thus the village so famous. St Pancras Church is characteristic of moorland churches - built of granite with pinnacles at the 4 corners of the tower. The tower is 41 metres (135 feet) high.

*Tom Pearce, Tom Pearce,
Lend me your grey mare,
All along, down along, out along lee.
For I want to go to Widecombe Fair
With Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney, Peter Davey,
Dan'l Whiddon, Harry Hawke,
Old Uncle Tom Cobley and all.*

- **Haytor** - Haytor is probably the most famous and, some would say, most impressive tor on Dartmoor. It stands 457 metres (1,499 feet) above sea level.

Route Guide Four - From the direction of A30

Approximate journey time - 2 ¼ hours starting and finishing at Whiddon Down, 36 miles (58 kms).



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Route Guide Four

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| <p>1 At Whiddon Down turn left at signpost <i>Moretonhampstead A382</i></p> <p>2 Turn right at signpost <i>Chagford B3206</i></p> <p>3 In Chagford Square turn right and follow signs to <i>Fernworthy Reservoir</i></p> <p>4 Fernworthy Reservoir Return to route back through Chagford to A382. Turn right to Moretonhampstead</p> <p>5 Moretonhampstead stay on the A382 towards Bovey Tracey</p> | <p>6 At Slade Cross turn left at sign, unsuitable for wide vehicles</p> <p>7 At junction turn left and in short while turn right. Signposted <i>Kennick Reservoirs</i></p> <p>8 At T junction turn left, signposted <i>Moretonhampstead 4</i>. At next Junction <i>Moretonhampstead</i> left</p> <p>9 At next junction turn left</p> |
|--|--|

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>10 At Crossroads turn right onto B3212 signed <i>Exeter 10</i>.</p> <p>11 Turn left into Dunsford Village then left at the Royal Oak and follow signs to <i>Drewsteignton</i>.</p> <p>12 At Clifford Bridge carry straight on main road.</p> <p>13 Turn right at signpost for <i>Drewsteignton and Exeter</i> Turn left if you want to visit <i>Fingle Bridge</i>.</p> | <p>14 At Drewsteignton go straight ahead, signed <i>Whiddon Down, Chagford, Moretonhampstead, Castle Drogo</i>.</p> <p>15 Fork right for Whiddon Down and Okehampton Keep left to visit Castle Drogo, approx 1/2 mile.</p> <p>16 At T junction with the A382 turn right, signed <i>Okehampton, Exeter (A30)</i>.</p> |
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- **Chagford** - It is likely that the Chagford area has been continually settled for more than 4,000 years.
- **Fernworthy Reservoir** - Constructed in 1942 and extending to 30 hectares (76 acres) Fernworthy Reservoir is surrounded by forest and open moorland. There are a number of waymarked trails around the reservoir and forest (see Fernworthy Reservoir walk for details of a wheelchair accessible route). The area also contains a wealth of wildlife. A Special Protection Zone has been established on the south western arm of the reservoir, managed by South West Lakes Trust in conjunction with the Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society. There are two bird hides, one of which is suitable for wheelchair users.
- **Moretonhampstead** - Moretonhampstead is an old market town with a number of striking buildings, including the church of St Andrews, situated on the high ground adjoining the Sentry and dating from 1450. Close by are the almshouses with their arched granite arcade. There is a good selection of shops and places to eat.
- **Kennick, Tottiford and Trenchford Reservoirs** - These three beautiful stretches of water are surrounded by forest and farmland. A number of waymarked walks meander through the woodland and along the water's edge. There are also two easily accessible picnic sites. During early summer the rhododendron flowers make a blaze of colour.
- **Steps Bridge** - In the Teign valley, the road winds through woodlands and crosses the River Teign at the foot of the 6 mile (9.6km) long Teign Gorge. There are a number of short woodland walks in the area which is famous for its spring time wild daffodils.

Further Information and Other Guides

Dartmoor National Park Authority

(01822) 890414 www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

A range of publications and maps is available from Dartmoor National Park Information Centres and online shop.

South West Lakes Trust

(01566) 771930 www.swlakestrust.org.uk

Forestry Commission (Forestry Enterprise)

(01392) 832262 www.forestry.gov.uk

The National Trust

Dartmoor Office (01626) 834748

Access Office (01793) 817634

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Accessible Trails in Devon Leaflet

Available from Public Rights of Way, Devon County Council. Download from www.devon.gov.uk

Provides a variety of routes around the county, including Dartmoor National Park, for a range of user groups.

Accessible South West web site

www.accessiblesouthwest.co.uk

A directory designed to assist visitors with disabilities travelling to south west England to find suitable places to stay and visit.

(01392) 229168

Accessible Countryside for Everyone (ACE)

www.accessiblecountryside.org.uk

This web site gives information on walks and access to the countryside and green spaces in England and Wales.

Guided Walks and Events

Dartmoor National Park Authority organises a Guided Walks, Activities and Events Programme which is published in the free leaflet *Explore Dartmoor*, and is also on the Dartmoor National Park Authority web site www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

There are a wide variety of walks which cater for most abilities. The following guidelines on what to expect from the various types of walk may be useful.

1-2 hour walk/stroll - Easy route and pace, little steep ground, suitable for fairly slow walkers. Some walks are suitable for children. If you have a special need, are unsure about the suitability of a walk, or require a helper, contact the Access and Recreation officer on **01626 832093** at least two weeks in advance if possible.

2-4 hour walk - Average route and pace, may be some steep or rough ground, suitable for anyone used to walking.

Easy Going Dartmoor Tours - Offer people with mobility problems, and their carers, the chance to go out in a mini-bus and enjoy a day out visiting sites on the high moor accompanied by a National Park Guide. For more information on departures from Newton Abbot, Okehampton, Tavistock and Ivybridge, contact the Access and Recreation officer on **01626 832093**.

Remember that many of the walks and strolls do not start in towns or villages so there will be no local facilities.

The Dartmoor National Park Authority Guided Walks and Events Programme has something for everybody. However, if you are unsure about the suitability of a particular walk or event, contact the High Moorland Visitor Centre, Princetown on **(01822) 890414**.

Information Centres

There are Information Centres at the following locations. All are accessible.

Dartmoor National Park Authority Information Centres

The High Moorland Visitor Centre, Princetown

(01822) 890414



The Centre is fully accessible and provides a wealth of information about Dartmoor. Many of the displays are interactive or audio visual in nature. Allow at least one hour for your visit. A wheelchair is available on request and staff will be only too pleased to lend a hand. There are dedicated spaces in the main car park.

Haytor Information Centre

(01364) 661520



Postbridge Information Centre

(01822) 880272



Other Information Centres and Points

Ashburton Information Centre

(01364) 653426



Bovey Tracey, The Lower Car Park,

Station Road (01626) 832047



Buckfastleigh, The Valiant Soldier,

Fore Street (01364) 644522



**Ivybridge Tourist Information Centre,
Watermark Centre**

(01752) 897035



**Moretonhampstead Community
Information Centre, The Square**

(01647) 440043



**Okehampton Tourist Information Centre,
White Hart Courtyard (01837) 53020**

(cobbles lead up to the Centre)



**Tavistock Tourist Information Centre,
Town Hall Building, Bedford Square**

(01822) 612938



Horse Riding

The following establishments will cater for people with a range of disabilities, please ring before making a visit.

Babeny Farm Stables, Poundsgate

(01364) 631296

www.babenystables.co.uk

DNP map ref: A1

OS grid ref: SX 672 752

Cholwell farm & Riding Stables, Mary Tavy

(01822) 810526

www.cholwellridingstables.co.uk

DNP map ref: A1

OS grid ref: SX 512 875

Conservation Groups

If you are interested in doing practical conservation work in and around the Tavistock or Okehampton areas why not join one of the following groups on one of their day tasks. Both are suitable for people with disabilities, please contact:

Tavistock Taskforce

(01822) 610071

Sticklepath and Okehampton Conservation Group (STOC)

(01837) 840435



DARTMOOR FOR ALL

DARTMOOR FOR ALL

Dartmoor For All (DFA) has been formed to address the wide range of issues involving access in the Dartmoor area. All the members of the group are volunteers, many are disabled themselves, and all are keen to improve access throughout the area for those who are less mobile.

The group is keen to hear from anyone who experiences a problem or has any suggestions about access in the Dartmoor area.

For further information and any comments please contact the DFA Secretary c/o the Access and Recreation Officer:

Dartmoor National Park Authority

Parke

Bovey Tracey

Newton Abbot

Devon TQ13 9JQ

Tel: 01626 832093

For information about Dartmoor National Park contact:

High Moorland Visitor Centre

Old Duchy Hotel

Princetown, Yelverton

Devon PL20 6QF

Tel: 01822 890414

www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk