

# Route Info:

## Start:

National Park Visitor Centre at Haytor, TQ13 9XT

## Distance and timings:

Allow 3 hours for this 8km (5 miles) walk but it can be extended as there are many places to explore.

## Terrain and description of paths:

This moorland route follows some unmade paths and some stone tracks. When it reaches Emsworthy Mire there are pockets of wet willow woodland and wide expanses of bog and mire so the ground is wet in places, though there are a few boardwalks. Boots are essential and, as Dartmoor weather can be very unpredictable, waterproof clothing is also needed.

## Public transport:

Haytor Hoppa operates in the summer months only.  
[www.dartmoor.gov.uk/enjoy-dartmoor/planning-your-visit/travel-information/haytor-hoppa](http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/enjoy-dartmoor/planning-your-visit/travel-information/haytor-hoppa)

## Toilets:

National Park Visitor Centre at Haytor.

## Essential equipment:

Waterproofs, warm clothing, sturdy boots, Compass, OS 1:25000 map, OS Explorer OL28

## Grid reference & postcode:

SX765771 / TQ13 9XS

The information in this leaflet was correct at the time of going to print. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure accuracy, the Magnificent Mires project and its partners cannot accept responsibility for any inaccurate, incomplete or out of date information, or any loss or damage that may result from reliance on it. Please be aware that you may find some walks challenging and that you should take care to exercise within your own limitations. Please remember that you walk all routes on Dartmoor at your own risk. You should always wear suitable clothing and footwear and carry a good map (Ordnance Survey or equivalent) and compass when walking on open moorland. This leaflet is not suitable as your only means of navigation.



# Bog Walks:

## Haytor to Emsworthy Mire

Follow this Bog walk to Emsworthy Mire, a nature reserve managed by Devon Wildlife Trust as an expanse of wet woodland and marshy ground fed by the Becca Brook. This is a fantastic place to see a valley mire as the boardwalks get you close to the remarkable plants and animals that live here.

## Why are bogs important?

Dartmoor's bogs are of international importance, home to remarkable wildlife, they also provide vital services to our everyday lives.

There are two main types of bogs on Dartmoor, valley mires and blanket bogs. Many of Devon's major rivers start their journey on blanket bogs. Their ability to absorb and store water at the top of the hills helps to reduce the risk of flooding and drought.

The bogs also act as a carbon store to help combat climate change. As bog plants grow, they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The plants then die but are only partially decomposed as the waterlogged, acidic environment slows bacteria and fungi breaking down the dead plant matter. This partially decayed plant material forms the peat deposits which act as a carbon store.

This leaflet is part of a series of bog walks created by the Magnificent Mires project. To find out more visit:  
[www.devonwildlifetrust.org/magnificent-mires](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/magnificent-mires)

Discover the Dartmoor story at  
[www.dartmoorstory.org](http://www.dartmoorstory.org)



# Magnificent Mires

Celebrating the internationally important blanket bogs of Dartmoor

## Haytor to Emsworthy Mire

Circular walk - 5 miles (8km)



*circular walking route*



**Devon**  
Wildlife Trust

Funding raised by  
**The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



The Magnificent Mires project is led by Devon Wildlife Trust in partnership with Dartmoor National Park Authority, Dartmoor Preservation Association and The Duchy of Cornwall. The project is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund.



# Haytor to Emsworthy Mire Trail Route

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## Sundews

Sundews are insect eating plants. The peat in which they grow is nutrient poor so the sundews supplement their diet by luring unsuspecting insects with their glistening dew-covered tendrils. Once trapped in the plant's sticky dew, the insect is then liquified and absorbed.



## Sphagnum moss

Twelve species of sphagnum moss can be found on Dartmoor, ranging from vivid greens to dark velvety reds. Look out for the variety known as cuspidatum or 'drowned kitten moss'. This is one of the more easily recognisable sphagnum species and looks like wet fur. You can spot it in and around pools.



## Shorter Route

A shorter alternative route of 4km (2 1/2 miles) starts from the car park near Saddle Tor (SX754764) and will take 1 1/2 to 2 hours. This route is easier to navigate but still crosses some wet ground in Emsworthy Mire. Boots are essential and waterproof clothing is advisable.

The route starts at the roadside car park, just to the east of Saddle Tor. Follow the grassy path to the top of Saddle Tor where the spectacular view includes the old stone walls and red roofed barn of Emsworthy Mire. Walk down the hill, keeping the stone walls on your left until you find the gate at the north-eastern corner of the nature reserve. Enter Emsworthy mire and head towards the red barn, following the way markers around the reserve. Enjoy the old meadows, wet woodland and mire habitats as you walk. Complete the circular walk around the mire, returning to the gate where you entered the nature reserve. Retrace your route back up to Saddle Tor and back to the car park.

## Common cotton grass

This familiar plant likes Dartmoor's boggy pools. Its roots can reach up to 60cm downwards into the waterlogged peat. Air canals in the stems of common cotton grass help it take oxygen from the air, down the plant and into its roots – a bit like a snorkel!



- 1 From the car park, cross the road, turn right and walk downhill for approximately 200m. Look out for the valley mire next to the road with bog asphodel, cotton grass, heather, sundew and sphagnum.
- 2 Opposite the café (SX767773) take a track (which runs roughly parallel to the right side of a water leat) heading NW directly towards a small fenced enclosure.
- 3 Skirt around the right side of the enclosure, and head NW until you see two granite spoil heaps of Haytor Quarry (the quarry is well worth a visit). Follow the path between the spoil heaps, and then follow the granite tramway ahead, which then curves to the right.
- 4 At the tramway junction, (SX761777) turn left, initially heading NW. Continue following the tramway.
- 5 As the tramway becomes less visible, by a granite spoil heap on your left (SX754774), head SW, descending slowly downhill, looking for a gate (SX 747770) in the stone-walled enclosure to enter Emsworthy Mire.
- 6 Go through the gate, walk straight on, and then follow the signed posts to guide you around the mire. When the path splits (SX743772), take the right path, heading SE.
- 7 Once you have returned to the mire entrance gate, head SSE, keeping a stone walled enclosure on your right, and head for the 'saddle' of Saddle Tor, enjoying the spectacular views of the surrounding landscape.
- 8 From Saddle Tor, follow a NE grassy path heading to the right of Haytor Rocks and then return downhill to the Visitor Centre. Alternately you can follow the road back.

**Dogs:**  
Please help us protect wildlife and livestock by keeping dogs on short leads during the lambing and bird breeding season. (1st March – 31st July)

## Map Key

- Normal Route:
- Shorter Route:
- Grid References: