

Walk One – Nattadon Common

Distance: 3 miles (4.8km)

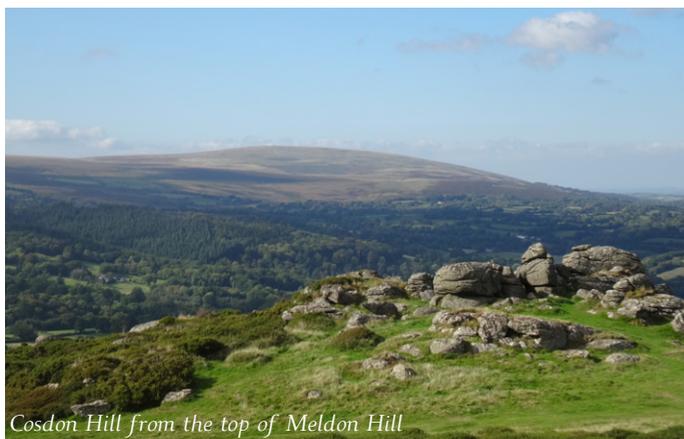
Time: 2hrs

Terrain: Field and woodland paths, open common; steady ascent to Week Down; very steep descent off Nattadon

- 1 Cross the road and go through a gate into the churchyard. Keep ahead to a four-way junction; bear half-right along the yew walk to pass the east end of the church. Turn left downhill, passing the war memorial. A gate at the bottom gains a lane; continue ahead, gently downhill, and into the countryside. Pass the gates to Linden Spinney (left); the lane descends.
- 2 As it starts to bear left turn right on a footpath (Nattadon). A few steps up turn left on another footpath (Yellom, Great Week) through a gate. Cross rough grass to meet a track; turn right, gently uphill.

Where the track bears away right towards a big barn cross rough grass ahead and pass through a small gate into woodland. Descend big steps, then drop to cross a rocky stream (no stepping stones). Ascend boulder 'steps'; pass through an old hedgebank then ascend very steeply to cross a stile onto a path crossroads.

- 3 Turn right (bridlepath Week Down), on a beautiful ascending woodland path, passing through two gates. Eventually the open ground of Week Down is reached, threaded with grassy rides. Follow the right edge to a double signpost at the top.
- 4 Turn right along the lane for 200m to reach a



Cosdon Hill from the top of Meldon Hill



parking area on the edge of Nattadon Common (just before a cattle grid sign).

- 5 Turn left up the left edge of the common, soon passing a bench. At a path split bear left. The path contours right around the hill, with spectacular views: Easdon, Hameldown, Meldon, Kes Tor, then Cosdon, with Chagford below; further right Castle Drogo and Teign Gorge.

When Chagford is almost behind you (just before another path comes in right), bear left on a narrow path (heading straight for Castle Drogo) to reach a split granite outcrop at a path junction.

- 6 Turn left on the second of two paths that descend very steeply – take care – down the edge of Nattadon Common. At the bottom follow the path into trees, cross another then drop steeply to meet a streambed; bear right to a gate and footpath post. Descend to a residential lane. Turn right, soon bearing left to reach Meldon Road.
- 7 Turn right into Chagford, bearing left into the High Street to find the Three Crowns.

Walk Two – Meldon Hill

Distance: 3 miles (4.8km); short cut 1½ miles (2.4km)

Time: 2hrs; short cut 45 mins

Terrain: Field paths, open common; steady ascent of and very steep descent off Meldon Hill

- 1 Turn right along the High Street, bearing right into New Street. As the houses are left behind cross a cattle grid, and a few steps later pass a path leading right between low granite posts. *Short cut: turn right and follow the path along the bottom of Meldon Hill to Point 6 below, then turn right.* The lane ascends steadily, passing Meldon Hall.
- 2 A few metres on (opposite Meldon House) turn right on a steeply ascending lane. As it levels turn right over a stile into a field; walk diagonally left to find a stile in the top hedge, about 50m from the field end. Cross the bottom corner of the next field and over a stile to regain the lane. Turn right uphill, soon reaching open ground.
- 3 Just before a telegraph pole bear right on a track that rises gently; where it splits into two grassy paths keep left, climbing gently, with increasingly fantastic views. Cross another path: keep ahead, then turn right onto a broader one that ascends towards the summit. Pass to the left of the first granite outcrop, then bear right to reach the trig point.
- 4 Facing the blocky outcrop of Kestor Rock in the distance turn right on a narrow path that heads towards the middle one of three granite outcrops. Turn right on a broader path towards the rightmost outcrop. Pass to its right.
- 5 Almost immediately turn left downhill on a grassy way that soon narrows and becomes more defined. Descend very steeply through bracken, eventually to emerge onto the clear ground of Padley Common.
- 6 Pass between two iron seats, then continue gently down the middle of the common. The path runs along the back of the football ground, through a kissing gate and later through another to meet the drive to the playing fields. Turn right to meet the road.
- 7 Turn right uphill back into Chagford.



THREE CROWNS
CHAGFORD



A collection of delightful circular walks

*Walks & photos: Sue Viccars OWPG,
Editor – Dartmoor Magazine*

**All walks start at the Three Crowns Hotel,
Chagford, facing St Michael's Church.**

Dogs should be kept under control at all times
and on leads through fields (livestock) and
1 March to end July (lambs and ground-nesting birds).

Take an OS map with you! OS OL28 Dartmoor or
Landranger 191 Okehampton & North Dartmoor

The Three Crowns is open
8.00am–11pm every day

Food is served 8.00am–9.00pm Sunday to Thursday
& until 9.30pm on Friday & Saturday

High Street, Chagford, Devon, TQ13 8AJ
01647 433444 email: info@threecrowns-chagford.co.uk
www.threecrowns-chagford.co.uk

Walk Three – River Teign

Distance: Short walk 2¼ miles (3.6km); extension 2 miles (3.2km): total 4¼ miles (6.8km)
Time: 1½ hours or 2½ hours
Terrain: Easy riverside path, uneven in places, quiet lanes; steep descent to Chagford Bridge

1 Turn left through The Square, passing The Pepperpot, and continue down Mill Street. Where the road forks keep right (Gidleigh/Throwleigh), soon descending steeply between rock cliffs. At an informal crossroads (Factory Cross) bear right to cross Chagford Bridge over the River Teign.

2 Turn right (Two Moors Way) through a gate and follow the river through a run of gates and bridges and rolling fields.

Pass through a gate into pretty woodland by a weir: the river bears away right but the path continues alongside the leat (leading to Rushford Mill). Walk along the bottom edge of fields via gates to cross a footbridge: head across the field to a gap in the hedge. Cross the next field towards a metal gate onto the road by Rushford Bridge. *For the short walk turn right.*

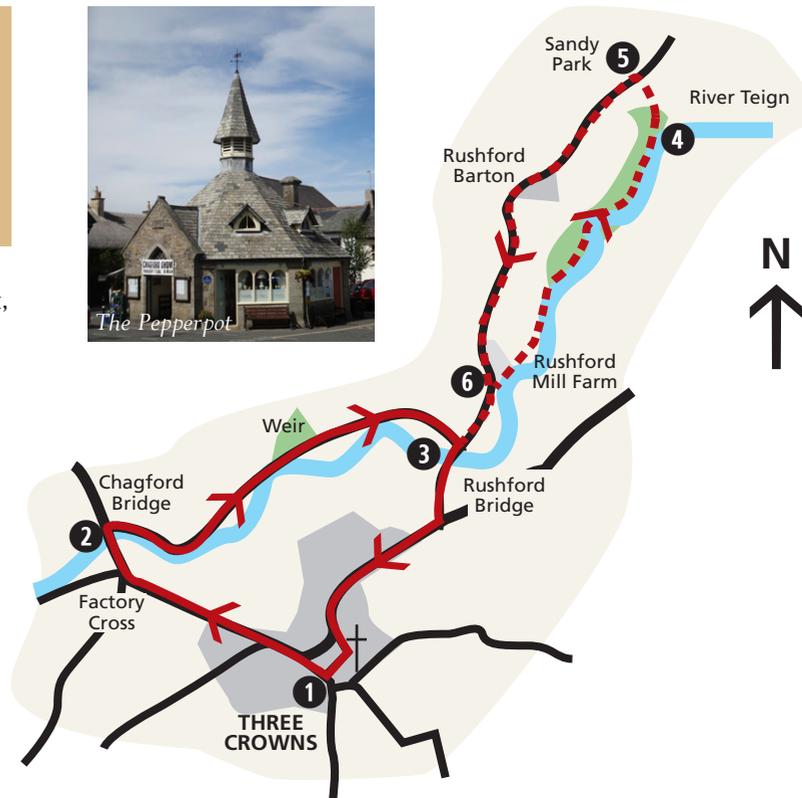
Extension

3 Turn left, soon passing the swimming pool. At Rushford Mill Farm turn right through a gate to pass the farmhouse, then through a gate into a large field. Cross the field, alongside the river, and go through a gate in a fence. The path follows the river, then enters woodland.

4 At a path junction bear left, signed Sandy Park. A footbridge leads into a field, with views towards Castle Drogo; bear left across it to find a metal gate onto the lane. (**Note** You may wish to retrace your steps to Point 3 rather than take children and dogs on the lane from this point.)

5 Turn left along the lane, soon passing Rushford Barton then descending, with lovely views towards Nattadon and Meldon.

6 Pass Rushford Mill Farm; walk on to Rushford Bridge (Point 3).



Both routes

From Point 3 follow the lane uphill to the T-junction at Crossways; turn right and head back into town. At The Courtyard Café take the left fork; keep left of Black's Delicatessan and through the lychgate to a four-way junction. Turn right, and exit the churchyard opposite the Three Crowns.



Walk Four – Two Moors Way

Distance: 7 miles (3.2km)
Time: 4 hours
Terrain: Quiet lanes, tracks and open common: steady ascent from Leigh Bridge, very steep descent off Meldon

1 Turn left through The Square, and continue down Mill Street. Where the road forks keep right (Gidleigh/Throwleigh), soon descending steeply.

2 At an informal crossroads (Factory Cross) keep straight on (Gidleigh Park/dead end). The lane passes Holystreet Manor and follows the Teign to cross Leigh Bridge, where North and South Teign join.

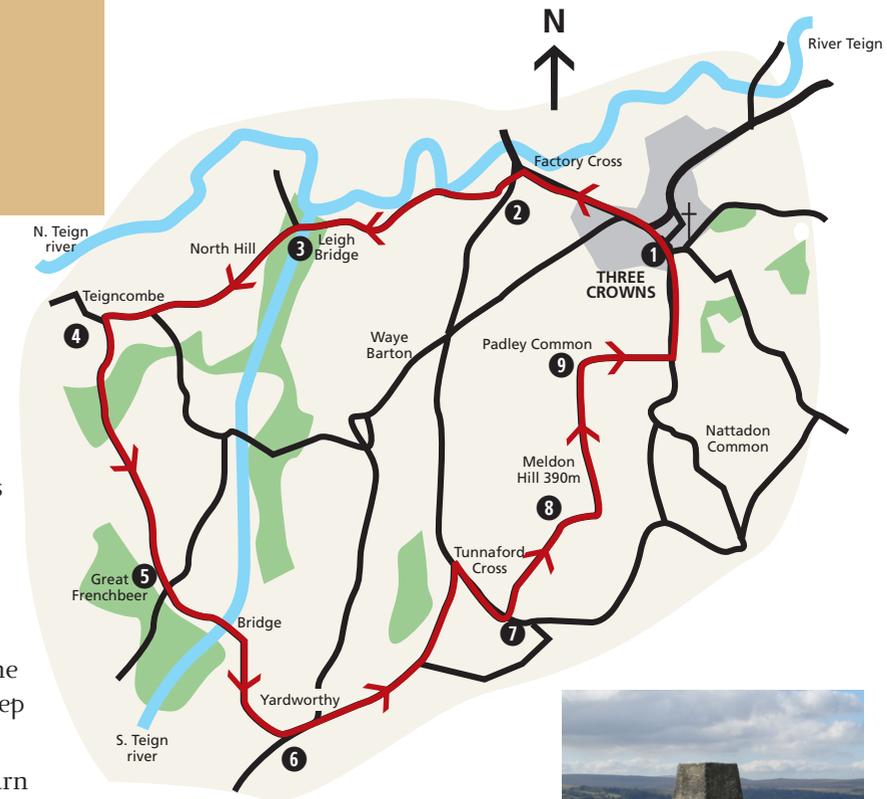
3 At a sharp right-hand bend, bear left up a steeply ascending byway (to Teigncombe). Reach a lane on a bend. Keep straight on: at the next sharp right bend (Teigncombe Manor) keep ahead up a track.

4 Just before a wooden bungalow (right) turn left through a gate on the Mariner's Way/Two Moors Way, then through another and turn right along the field edge, at the end of which cross a bridge. Follow the well-signed path through woods and fields via gates, stiles and boardwalks to reach a lane at Great Frenchbeer.

5 Cross the lane and go through the gate (slightly right, unsigned) ahead. Pass between farm buildings via gates; follow the path along the garden wall then past gates at Teignworthy. The way descends rough grassland steeply to cross the South Teign on a footbridge. Ascend under beech trees and over a stile; keep along the left edge of two fields to reach Yardworthy, then follow the farm drive to a lane.

6 Turn left; follow the lane to its end at Tunnaford Cross. Turn right.

7 On reaching a beech hedgebank corner (left) turn left on a grassy track that ascends Meldon Hill. Climb steadily, crossing a grassy track. As Haytor comes into



view (right), keep right at an obvious fork, still ascending. Cross a broad grassy ride just below the trig point, then make your way towards it.

8 Facing the blocky outcrop of Kestor Rock in the distance turn right on a narrow path, heading towards the middle one of three granite outcrops. Turn right on a broader path towards the rightmost outcrop. Pass to its right.

Almost immediately turn left downhill on a grassy way that soon narrows and becomes more defined. Descend very steeply through bracken, eventually to emerge onto the clear ground of Padley Common.

9 Turn right along the bottom of the hill, eventually ascending to the road. Turn left and follow Meldon Road back into Chagford and the Three Crowns.