



Chagford and the Two Moors Way

A varied walk along quiet country lanes, rough tracks, woodland, riverside and field paths; several steep climbs and descents

Essential Facts

- Route distance: 14.0 km (8.8 miles)
- Approximate time: 4 hours
- Optional shorter route: 10.0 km (6.4 miles)
- Approx. total ascent: 240 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: SX 701 874
- GPS Ref: SX 70198 87447
- Recommended O.S. Map: Outdoor Leisure 28
- Toughness Rating: Devon 2

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

**Up For A
CHALLENGE ?**

**Take a Great Walk and HELP
your favourite charity with**

**A Donation
An Individual Walk
A Team Effort**

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

From the car park in Chagford, **S**, adjacent to the Village Hall, turn left along the road to pass the church, the Globe Inn and the Three Crowns and walk straight on through the square to bear right into Mill Street leading to Gidleigh and Throwleigh. At Factory Cross, **A**, go straight ahead on the road to Holy Street and Leigh Bridge; shortly kennels are passed and the lane passes through deciduous woodland. The Tudor Holy Street Manor is passed and the road climbs then descends to pass Puggiestone, which was once home to the West Country sculptor John Skeaping (1901 -1980), who was briefly married to Dame Barbara Hepworth.

Cross Leigh Bridge over the River Teign and shortly a notice indicates the Gidleigh Park Hotel to the right. Go straight ahead, **B**, onto a sunken stony track which is part of the Two Moors Way. The undulating track passes the entrance to North Hill and emerges onto a minor road, from where there are good views. Go straight ahead along the road to Teigncombe and shortly, at **C**, turn right onto the indicated path to Gidleigh. Over a stile the path descends into woodland and shortly the path is indicated to the left. Go straight down the steep narrow path to the river and a wooden footbridge to follow the clear path and wide track ahead. When the path turns left again there is a steep climb through the conifer trees, following a roughly NNW course. Another path sign is reached, **D**, where there is a clearing and here go ahead along the wide track which offers spectacular views both ahead to Cosdon Hill and on the right towards Drewsteignton.

At the road turn right, then left where indicated to Gidleigh. A short descent leads to Holy Trinity Church, and just beyond is a gate through which the Castle can be seen, standing in a private garden. It dates from the 13th or early 15th century, but is not the original. It is built on the site of an earlier castle and was in fact more of a fortified manor house.

Continue along this road to a T-junction and turn right along the narrow lane to Chapple. At Chapple Cross turn right to Chagford; at Blackaton Cross again turn right to Chagford and at the next junction – Yarnapitts Cross – turn right to Murchington; at Higher Murchington Cross turn left for Chagford. Pass through the attractive hamlet of Murchington with its granite and thatched cottages and disused chapel (St Olaves), which is now a private house. At Chagford Cross, bear right uphill to a stile and footpath on the right indicated to Chagford, **E**. Keep alongside the right-hand hedge to descend the field to a stile and stepping-stones and a path through mixed woodland. Follow an easterly course to emerge via a stile onto a minor road and turn right.

For the shorter route continue along this road to cross Chagford Bridge and return to Factory Cross, **A**. Turn left to return to Chagford along the outward route.

Immediately prior to Chagford Bridge go left through a gate onto a sign-posted footpath, **F**. Chagford Bridge is known to have been in existence in 1224 and it is recorded that there were Cloth Mills here around that time. Walk alongside the fence to a gate and join a path running alongside the river. Pass through several fields and gates and cross a wooden footbridge into a field from where the way lies diagonally right into another field and Rushford Bridge is straight ahead.

At the road turn right over the bridge and almost immediately left onto a path running SSE. Turn left at the road and very shortly right onto the path to Adley Lane, **G**.



Cottages at Chagford



St Michael's Church



Gidleigh Castle Ruins

Go straight ahead to a stile and climb; follow a south easterly course across the next two fields, turning right at the road. At the T-junction turn right and pass Westcott Farm and Cottage. After a property 'Footaway', turn left up a sunken lane leading to Nattadon, **H**. At the top of the track follow a roughly southerly course through the fields; look back to enjoy the views – to the far left is Throwleigh Common and to the far right is Prestonbury Common, with its Iron Age hill fort. Castle Drogo may also be seen perching high above the Teign valley. The field path leads to a stile and from here walk straight ahead along the edge of the field to exit onto a minor road. Turn left to cross a cattle grid and immediately right onto Nattadon Common. Keep to a NNW course over the Common, descending to a shallow stream. Pass through a gate onto a path between properties and turn right at the road; when the road forks bear left and the church is soon seen ahead. Turn right to the car park, **S**.

Refreshment

The Globe Inn
Public House
9 High Street, Chagford
Tel: 01647 433485
Pub with food

The Three Crowns
Hotel
13th century hostelry
High Street, Chagford
Tel: 01647 433444
Bar snacks; a la carte or
table d'hote menus



The Three Crowns

LOCAL INFO

Chagford has had many guises in its long history – until 1790 it was one of the Stannary Towns for the assaying of tin and was prosperous through the Middle Ages. It later became a thriving Market Town, with the evidence for this seen in the Square - the polygonal granite Market House is known locally as the 'pepper-pot'. Chagford is now a popular tourist centre for Dartmoor activities.

The mainly 15th century church has a deal of history to commend a visit. There are many interesting features within the church, including lovely carvings and an impressive tomb in the chancel. Sir John Whiddon, a Justice of the Kings Bench who died in 1575, is commemorated by a brightly painted monument. At the time of his death he was a considerable landowner, possessing not only the manor of Chagford, but also land at nearby South Tawton and the lease of the manor of North Bovey. Also in the chancel is a verse in memory of Mary Whiddon, who was shot by a jealous former lover as she left the church on her wedding day in 1641. It reads:

'Reader wouldst know who here is laid,
Behold a matron yet a maid.
A modest look, a pious heart,
A Mary for the better part.
But dry thine eyes, why wilt thou weep,
Such maidens do not die but sleep.'

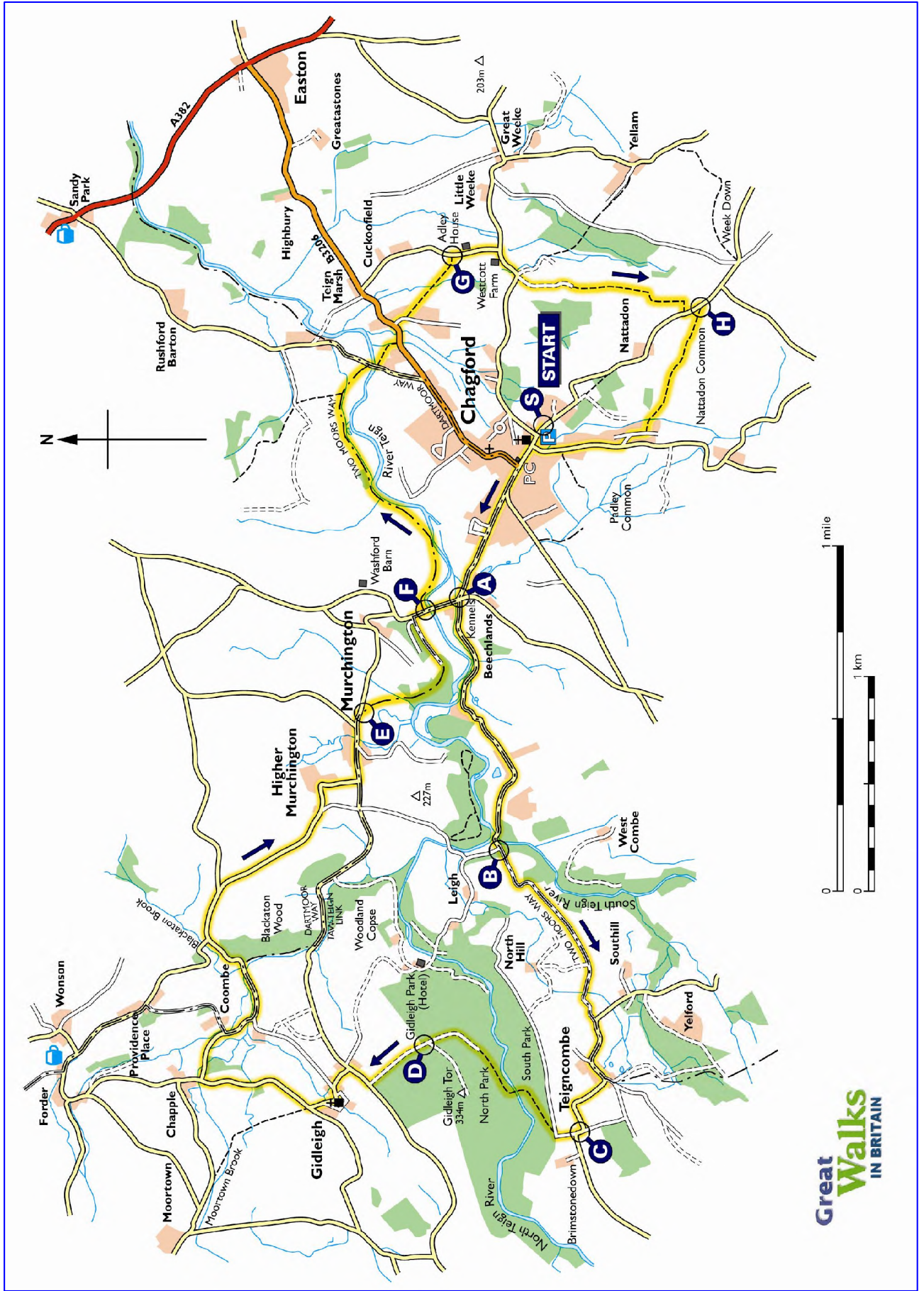
The font, pulpit and screen are relatively modern, but the parclose screens are part of the medieval screen. In the roof, among the carved and painted bosses, is one of three rabbits with conjoined ears – the tanners' symbol.

In the churchyard will be seen a polished granite headstone on the grave of James Perrott and his wife Mary. This was erected in Perrott's memory by the then incumbent of St Olaves, Murchington. James Perrott possessed great knowledge of Dartmoor and for over 50 years acted as a guide for tourists, hiring out horse-drawn vehicles and taking visitors to any picturesque spot and anglers to any stream offering a good catch.

The Three Crowns Hotel, formerly Whiddon House and the home Sir John Whiddon, was occupied overnight by Royalist Forces on 8th February 1643. One of these men was Sidney Godolphin, a Cornishman and son of Sir William Godolphin; he preferred writing poetry and hymns to fighting. When Cavalier forces caught up with the Royalists, a battle ensued and Sidney Godolphin was shot by a musket and died in the porch of the Three Crowns. It is said his spirit still haunts the building.

CHAGFORD AND THE TWO MOORS WAY G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
CHA S	S	SX	70198 87447	177
CHA A	A	SX	69423 87827	139
CHA B	B	SX	68262 87638	166
CHA C	C	SX	66931 87258	308
CHA D	D	SX	67356 87975	333
CHA E	E	SX	68905 88276	224
CHA F	F	SX	69366 87994	171
CHA G	G	SX	71025 87846	171
CHA H	H	SX	70744 86735	309



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

Most of our **Devon & Dartmoor** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise the map segments and our recommended Ordnance Survey maps, together with the route guidance notes.

The toughest walks should be undertaken or led only by experienced mountain walkers with navigational expertise. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks. There may be prolonged steep ascents, and perhaps several ascents over the whole walk. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.
4. The toughest walks, requiring considerable fitness and navigational experience. There may be prolonged steep ascents. The ability to navigate by compass may be essential.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in Devon & Dartmoor