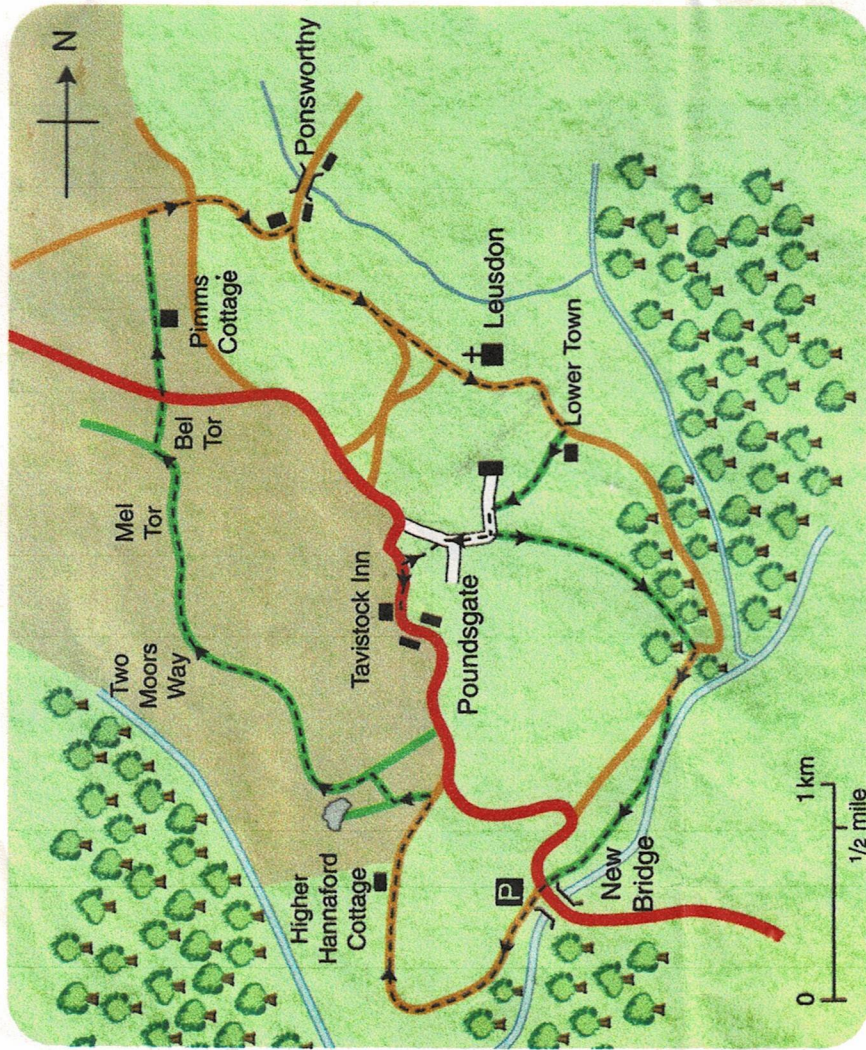




Walk 4 New Bridge, Dr Blackall's Drive and the Tavistock Inn

Distance: 11.3 km (7 miles) Duration of walk: 4 hours

Character: A combination of beautiful moorland, woodland and riverside walking along footpaths and quiet lanes. There are splendid views of both the deeply eroded Dart valley and the surrounding tors.

Start from the car park (SX 711709) by New Bridge – which is medieval. Walk upriver along the minor lane from the back of the car park. Stay with the lane as it diverges from the Dart. Continue uphill past the Hannaford Farms.

About 500m after Higher Hannaford Cottage, a stony track joins the road from the left: turn sharp left onto this – heading towards a disused quarry – and then after 100m bear right uphill to meet a broad track.

Turn left and follow this track (marked Two Moors Way and Dartmoor Way on the OS map) for 2.5 km. It is fairly level because it



was designed as a carriage drive in Victorian times by Dr Blackall for his invalid wife, to enable her to enjoy the wonderful vistas.

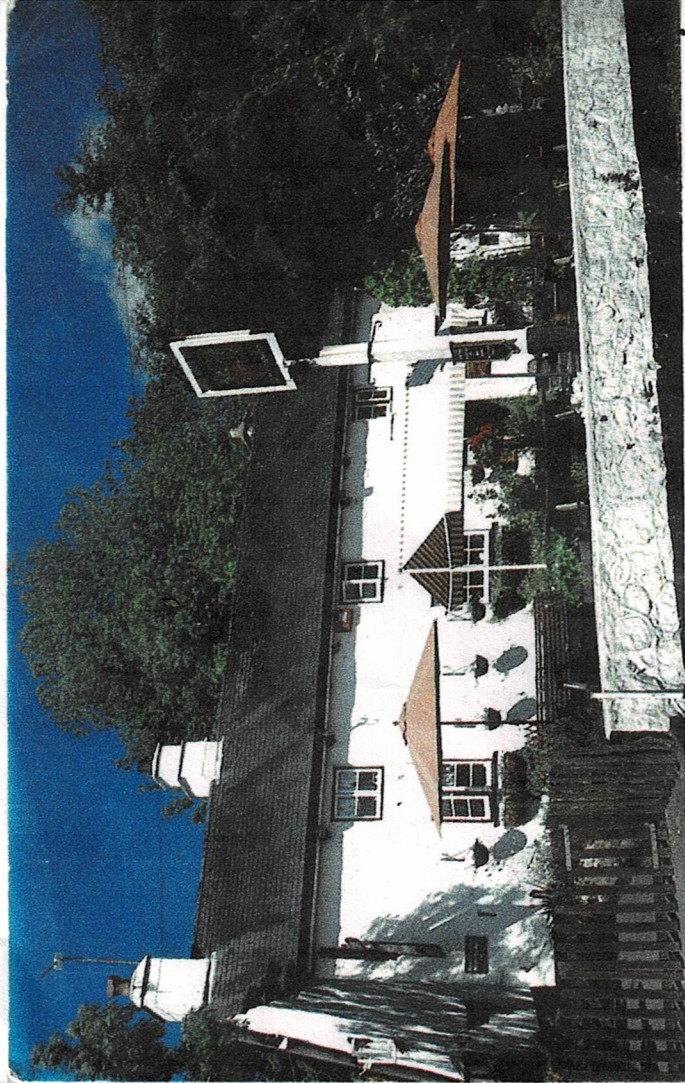
Beyond Mel Tor the track continues between stone walls. When it divides, turn 90° right and follow the stone wall up to the road at Bel Tor Corner. Cross over and continue ahead on the well-beaten path. Keep right down towards Primm Cottage, then follow the track to the left of the enclosure. At the end of the enclosure keep left and walk ahead to a tarred lane.

Turn right and walk past Lookgate Cross to Ponsworthy. Turn right for DARTMEET and walk on for 1 km. Bear left for LEUSDON CHURCH/LOWER TOWN. Pass the church and continue downhill for 350m to a red post box on the right.

Turn right here and follow the track to a wooden gate with a yellow FOOTPATH sign. Walk on through fields as signed, keeping the hedge on your right. On reaching a lane, turn left. The next path junction has a tall fingerpost.

To visit the Tavistock Inn turn right up the lane. Keep right, into an avenue, then turn left through a spiky metal gate (PUBLIC FOOTPATH) beside a leat. Turn left onto the road, which can be busy, but the pub is only 250m along it.

On leaving the pub, retrace your steps to the tall fingerpost. Walk



ahead through a metal gate, keeping the hedge on your left. On reaching Great Wood, fork left down the broad track (waymarked at the first stile) to a tarred lane. Turn right and take the next turning right for DARTMEET.

Follow the lane alongside the river, past the handsome lodge of Spitchwick Manor, until the lane diverts from the bank. Walk ahead across the meadow, keeping the river on your left. This is a fine bathing place in summer and ablaze with colour in the autumn, but most dramatic when the Dart is in spate. Walk on to New Bridge.

The Tavistock Inn

Tel: (01364) 631251. Medieval in origin, the Tavistock gets its name from being on the Ashburton to Tavistock Road. It is thought to have been a farmhouse before it became specialised as an inn, which is not uncommon – travellers in remote areas used to rely on roadside farms for their refreshment. Its ancient stone staircase is remarkable. Enjoy the beer garden with its flowers, or the comfortable bar with its log fires according to the season.

Trust you won't meet the Devil, who is said to have popped in one Sunday in 1638 on his way to destroy Widecombe Church by fire and thunder. The beer sizzled in his throat. He left scorch marks on the bar, and the seventeenth century equivalent of a bouncing cheque – his money turned to dry leaves as soon as he left!