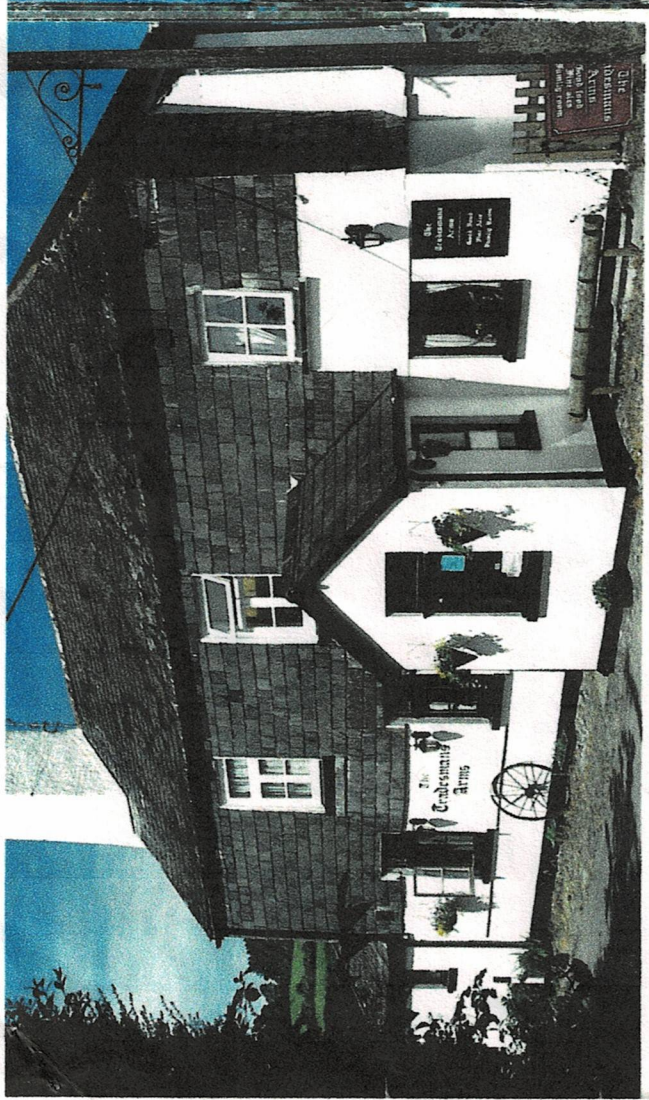




Walk 7 Scoriton, Huntingdon Cross and the Tradesman's Arms

Distance: 12.5 km (7¾ miles) Duration of walk: 4 hours

Character: A walk with lovely views and full of archaeological interest, including tin workings and a stone cross. Parts wet underfoot.

Map and compass essential. At the time of writing, the Tradesman's Arms is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Park at the signed village hall car park (SX704687) in Scoriton or at the Tradesman's Arms (phone first).

The Tradesman's Arms

Tel (01364) 631206, www.thepub@scoriton.net. 'Tradesman' originally referred to a craftsman (as in trades union) though it is more used today to mean a retailer. There is another Tradesman's Arms at Stokenham near Dartmouth, and one in Plymouth, as well as a Tradesman's at Bideford.

The Scoriton Inn is thought to be between two and three hundred years old and must have been a welcome sight for thirsty miners trekking back from the moor. Many would have used the Abbot's Way, by which we shall ourselves return.



The hamlet of Combe

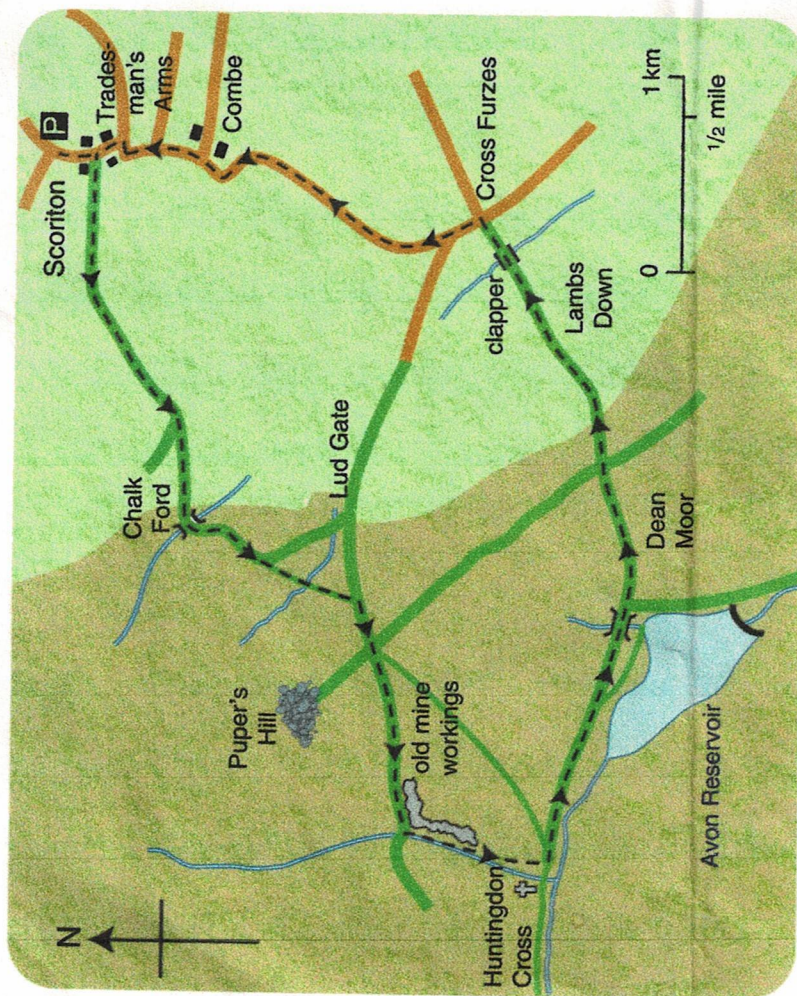
Huntingdon Cross stands at the confluence of the infant River Avon and the Western Wella Brook (SX665662), by a relatively recent but very well constructed dry stone wall. The cross was a boundary stone built *in situ* to mark the bounds of the Manor of Brent in 1557. Huntingdon Cross also marks the old ford across the Avon.

From Huntingdon Cross take the Abbot's Way, which linked the abbeys of Buckfast and Tavistock. Originally this was known as the Jobber's Path because wool jobbers, with their trains of packhorses laden with wool bales, used it to cross the moor.

Keep the Avon on your right. The Abbot's Way skirts the north bank of the Avon Reservoir, completed in 1957. When the water level drops during drought, the ruins of a medieval settlement and prehistoric hut circles are revealed.

Continue on the Abbot's Way (don't take the path to the right, nearer the reservoir). Ford a brook and walk over Dean Moor on a ENE bearing. Leave the open moor by a wooden gate, marked ABBOT'S WAY and keep to the waymarked path for CROSS FURZES as directed. Cross a stream at the bottom of Lamb's Down by a clapper bridge, marked 1703, 1737 and 1972 (when it was restored).

Walk up the track to a lane and turn left for COMBE/SCORTON. Fork right when the lane divides at Cross Furzes. Make the steep descent to Combe and the steep but shorter ascent towards Scorton. At Whitey Cross, turn left for the Tradesman's Arms.



From the car park turn left, walk past the pub and turn right into a no through road. This soon becomes a stony track. Keep to the main track, uphill. At the next footpath sign ('MW' = Two Moors Way) keep left, CHALK FORD AND LUDGATE. Cross the brook by the footbridge at Chalk Ford and continue on the Two Moors Way LUDGATE FOR CROSS FURZES.

Follow the path uphill to the left through bracken and scrub. Splendid views open out. Keep going uphill. When the path bears off to the left, continue uphill in a SSW direction. When you strike the track which comes from Lud Gate, keep right, uphill and WSW. Do not be diverted by the various animal tracks.

Arriving at a junction of paths beneath the rock pile of Puper's Hill, walk ahead on the beaten track. This follows a westerly course, diverging from the Two Moors Way. Follow the track past old mine workings to the Western Wella Brook. Turn left and follow the eastern bank downstream, picking your way carefully to avoid wet ground. Tinnars' waste, mostly covered in grass and heather, is strewn liberally around the banks.