

# Sticklepath and South Zeal

## A village and Dartmoor fringe walk



This is a 4.5 mile walk that starts in the village of Sticklepath. There is plenty of street parking but together with a small car park at the rear of the National Trust Finch Foundry. The walk is quite steep in places but most are short sharp ups and downs. You will cross over the River Taw and skim the edge of Cosdon Hill. You will also walk past 4 pubs so spoilt for choice for a drink when you get back.

Towards the end of the walk before you arrive in South Zeal you will walk down one of the most picturesque footpaths in West Devon. Well I think it is.



**Start by setting off up the road toward Okehampton**



**As the main road bends right take the left turn and then go almost immediately right. You are entering about 200m of quite steep path that does level out at the top and is very pretty.**





**After going through a gate and walking along a level track take the first un-gated left turn. The track will take you down to a farm/stables called Skaigh. Keeping the buildings on your right walk on down their access drive.**



**As the access road bends sharply left turn right.**

**Walk on down hill on the woodland path passing a well on your right.**





**When you reach a wide track turn left.**



**After about 50m fork right to go towards the river**



**and cross the poetic b**



**Step off the bridge and fork right slightly.**



**You are now on a gentle up hill path that curves around the wooded hillside above the Taw river but it does get steeper at the end.**



**At the top go through the gate posts, up the steps and turn right to go through a gate.**



**On the other side of the gate turn left and walk up the hill on a public bridleway.**



**The track soon levels out and you eventually come to a moor gate.**



**Go through the gate turn left and then leaving the open moor go through another gate onto a wide track.**



**At the bottom of the hill ignore the first right turn,**



**and take the second right turn only 50 yards further on.**



**Go up through a sunken lane and then when the track forks go left.**



**When you reach a driveway go straight on but first perhaps sit on the wall and have a coffee and a snack. There are fine views from here.**



**When you get to this curving driveway keep left and stay following the drive downhill.**



**On reaching this next junction go over the wall using the steps on either side.**



**Walk on down hill on this really picturesque woodland path.**



**When the path emerges on a wide muddy track turn left.**



**When you reach the road go under the arch**



**Go past all the house and then left at the junction.**



**In less than 100 yards turn right next to the barn.**



**Go past the recreation field and on reaching the houses ahead of you veer right and out on to the main road which goes through South Zeal.**



**Turn left and walk up the street going either left or right around St Mary's church to reach a cross roads. Go straight across and from here it's not quite half a mile to Sticklepath on the other side of the river Taw.**