

# BBN – Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024



**BBN walking  
Holiday  
Ilfracombe  
North Devon**

**Ilfracombe** has something for everyone with its picturesque historic harbour of quaint pastel coloured houses, a 14th Century chapel perched on Lantern Hill and Damien Hirst's statue Verity standing guard in the harbour surrounded by dramatic clifftop scenery which is directly on the South West Coast Path. With its beaches and coves including the famous Tunnels Beaches, great eateries, art and craft galleries, independent shops, activities and attractions galore, all make it the perfect destination from which to explore North Devon.

Ilfracombe comprises of two distinct communities; a farming community around the parish church called Holy Trinity, parts dating from the 12th century, and a fishing community around the harbour formed between Capstone, Compass and Lantern Torrs. It is recorded that the lands by the church were part of the estate owned by Champernowne family, while those by the harbour belonged to the Bouchier family—Earls of Bath.

Until the mid-19th century Ilfracombe's economy was based around maritime activities: importing lime and coal from Wales; fishing for herring; and international trade, including to West Africa and the West Indies. In George III and the Regency period the town was home to many navy personnel – four admirals, numerous captains, and other commissioned and non-commissioned sailors.

Our main walks on Saturday & Sunday, concentrate walking the South West Coast Path in either direction from Ilfracombe. On arrival Friday afternoon we'll stop off in Exmoor for a walk around its highest point and on Monday we'll stop-off in the Quantock hills before departing for home.

This programme gives information about the walks and their starting points. If anyone has difficulty in getting to the start points or is delayed please contact:

**Roy Carter 07784208997**

Accommodation has been booked at the **Imperial Hotel**, Wilder Rd, Ilfracombe, **EX34 9AL**.

Walks are on OS Explorer Maps 139 & OL9 'Exmoor, Bideford, Ilfracombe & Barnstaple'.

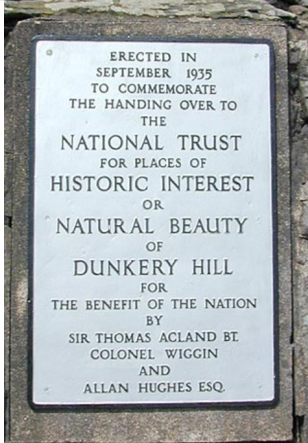
It's 220 miles from Milton Keynes to Ilfracombe and takes 4½ hours to drive, outside rush hour. The direct route being: A421>A420>M4>M5>A361 west to Barnstaple & Ilfracombe.

# BBN – Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024

## Day 1: Wheddon Cross – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August – 1:30pm – 8.0 miles – Dunked

The walk starts from the Free Car Park behind the Rest & Be Thankful Inn at Wheddon Cross on the A396/B3224 intersection. The idea being to walk to highest point on Exmoor – Dunkery Beacon from the highest village in Somerset. Good views on a good day and there's a pub at the start and finish of the walk. It's half way between the M5 and our destination in Ilfracombe. It is possible to walk a shorter distance by parking (P on map) on small roads closer to the Beacon.

**Explorer Map OL9    What3Words: joystick.hubcaps.slicer    Postcode: TA24 7DR**



*NT Plaque on the Beacon*



*Dunkery Beacon Cairn*

Dunkery Beacon at the summit of Dunkery Hill is the highest point on Exmoor and in Somerset. It is also the highest point in southern England outside of Dartmoor. The sandstone hill rises to 519 metres (1,703 ft) and provides views over the surrounding moorland, the Bristol Channel and hills up to 86 miles away. The site has been visited by humans since the Bronze Age, and contains several burial mounds in the form of cairns and bowl barrows. Sweetworthy on the lower slopes is the site of Iron Age hill forts or enclosures and a deserted medieval settlement.

### Parking Information:



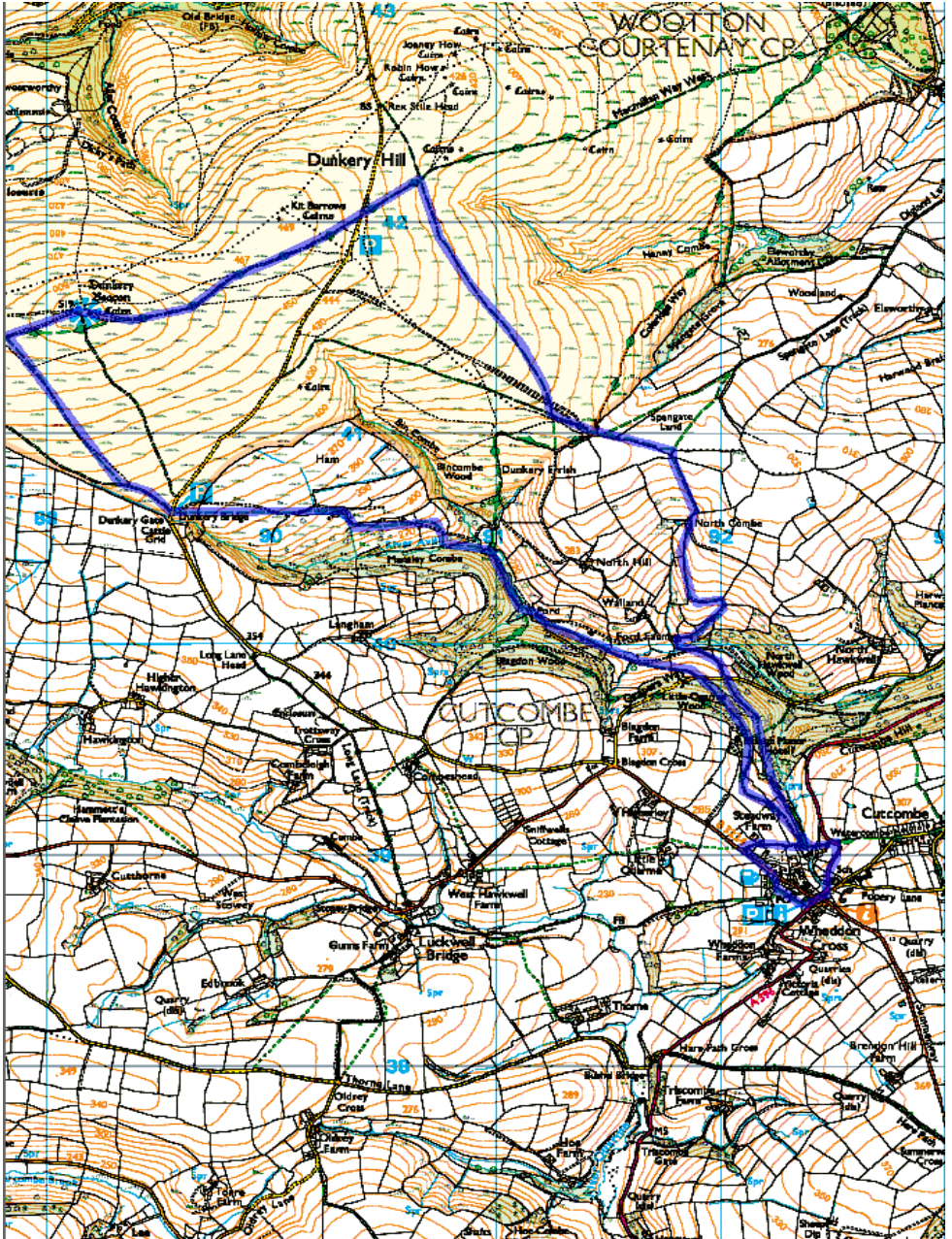
The Free car park is behind the Rest & Be Thankful Inn, TA24 7DR. The direct route is from M5 J25 through Taunton onto the A358 then B3224. About a 45 minute journey.

Free Parking with Toilets  
Perhaps have a drink before starting

Start Time 1:30pm  
From The Rest & Be Thankful Inn,  
TA24 7DR

You are 45 minutes from Ilfracombe.

# BBN - Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024



# BBN – Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024

## Day 2: Ilfracombe: Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August – 9:30am – 16 miles – SW Coast Path

The walk starts by looking at the harbour which includes the Verity sculpture before heading eastwards along the SW coast path to Combe Martin for lunch. The afternoon walk is a circular along the cliffs to Holdstone Down and back to Combe Martin for 16:15 bus 301 to Ilfracombe. A shorter walk exists along the same coastline towards Combe Martin returning on bus 301.

**Explorer Map OL9    What3Words: [tribe.routs.prepped](#)    Postcode: EX34 9AL**



*Damien Hirst's Verity Sculpture*



*Combe Martin*

Verity is a 2012 stainless steel and bronze statue created by Damien Hirst standing 66.4 ft tall in Ilfracombe harbour. The statue depicts a pregnant woman holding a sword while carrying the scales of justice and standing on a pile of law books. Half the sculpture shows the internal anatomy of the pregnant woman, with the foetus clearly visible.

"Combe" is derived from Old English cumb meaning "wooded valley" and the 'Martin' suffix on the place name is from the name of the FitzMartin family, feudal barons of Barnstaple, from which large barony the manor of Combe was held. There are several disused silver mines on the eastern ridge of Combe Martin. There are items in the Crown Jewels made from Combe Martin silver and a large part of the war expenses of Edward III and Henry V were paid for by the sale of silver mined here.

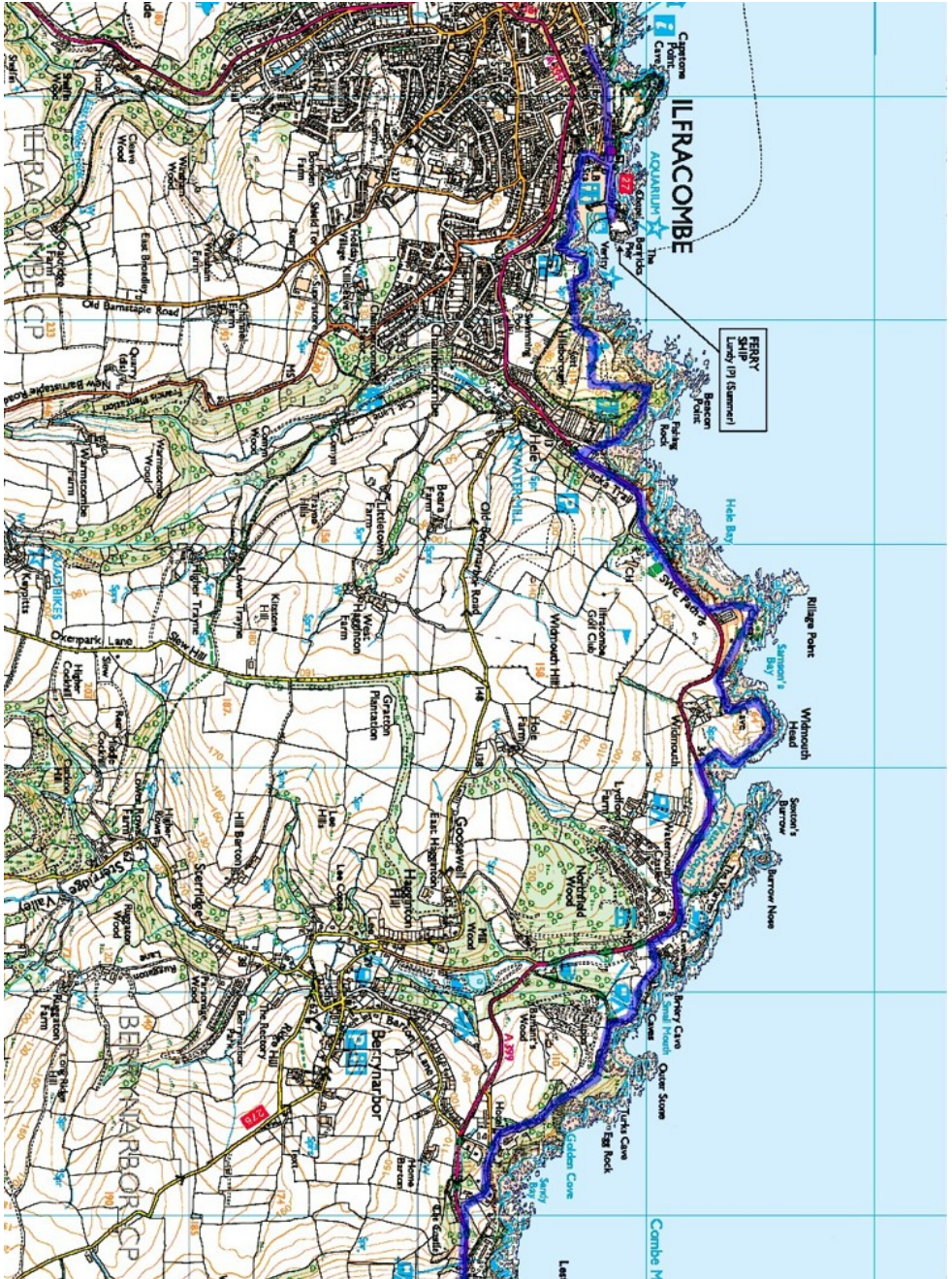
### Parking Information:



Nearest car park to hotel:  
Brookdale Car & Coach Park –  
EX34 8AY – Long Stay –  
Level to Seafront & Harbour.

Start Time 09:30am  
From the Imperial Hotel  
EX34 9AL

# BBN - Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024



# BBN - Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024



# BBN – Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024

## Day 3: Ilfracombe: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September – 09:30am – 16 miles – SW Coast Path

The walk starts from the Imperial hotel and heads west along the SW coast path to Bull Point for a mid-morning break. The walk goes around Morte Point into Woolacombe for lunch. The return is either walk along the disused railway back into Ilfracombe or continue into Croyde and catch number 21 bus service back to Ilfracombe down the A361. A shorter walk exists.

**Explorer Map OL9    What3Words: [tribe.routs.prepped](#)    Postcode: EX34 9AL**



*Woolacombe Bay*



*Bull Point Lighthouse*

Like a number of British beaches, Woolacombe was privately owned and until 1948 the beach and much of the surrounding land was owned by the Chichester family, who acquired it in 1133 during the reign of King Henry I. When Lady Rosalie Chichester, the last of the line, died in 1949 it had been in her family's possession for over 800 years. On her death the Chichester's land in Woolacombe and Morte Point had been willed to the National Trust. The beach has over the years been recognised as one of the best beaches in Europe. During the Second World War, the U.S. Army Assault Training Centre was based at Woolacombe, where thousands of small boat crews and infantry practised amphibious landing assaults on the beach in preparation for the Invasion of Normandy, part of Operation Overlord.

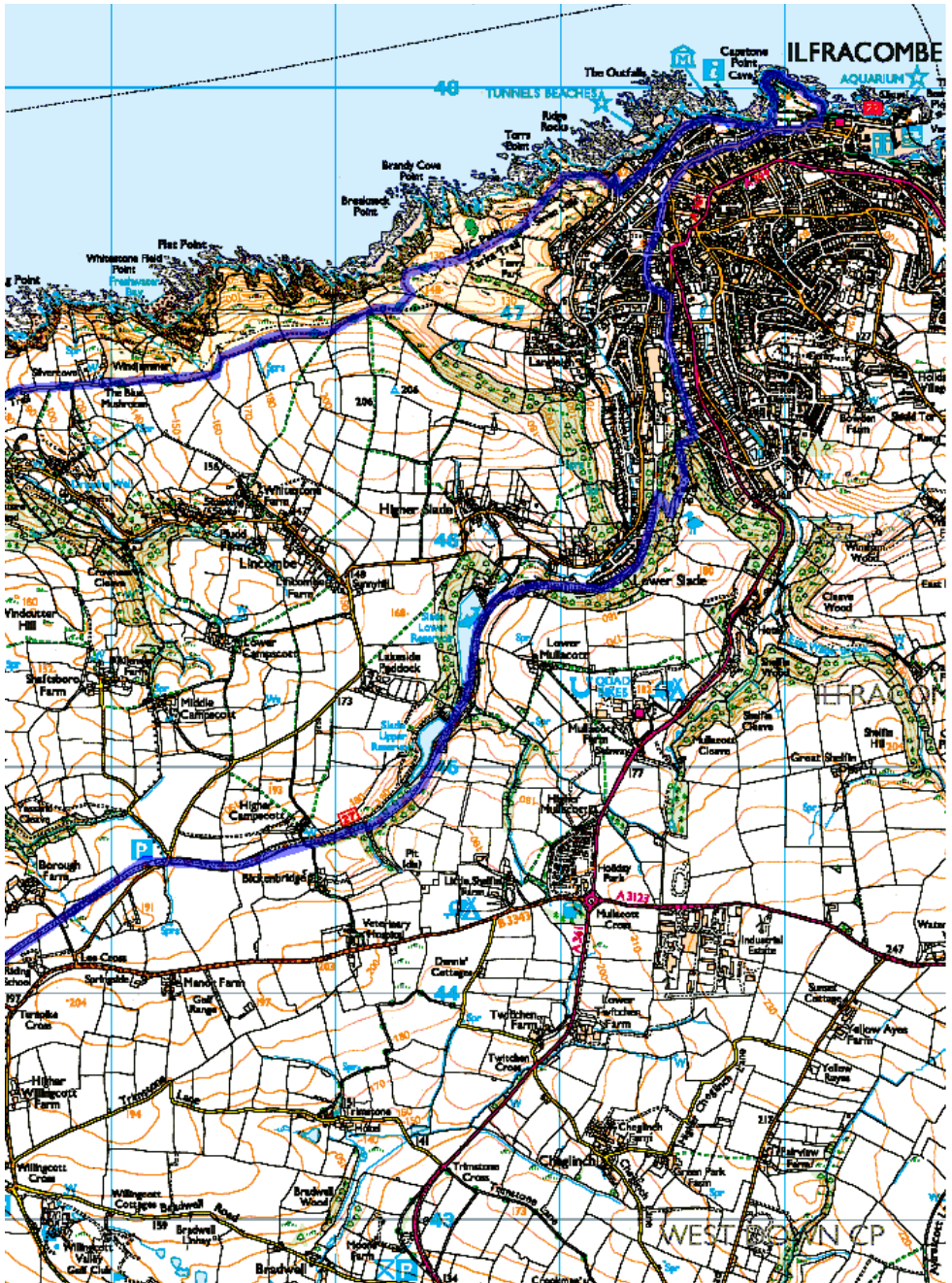
### Parking Information:



Nearest car park to hotel:  
Brookdale Car & Coach Park –  
EX34 8AY – Long Stay –  
Level to Seafront & Harbour.

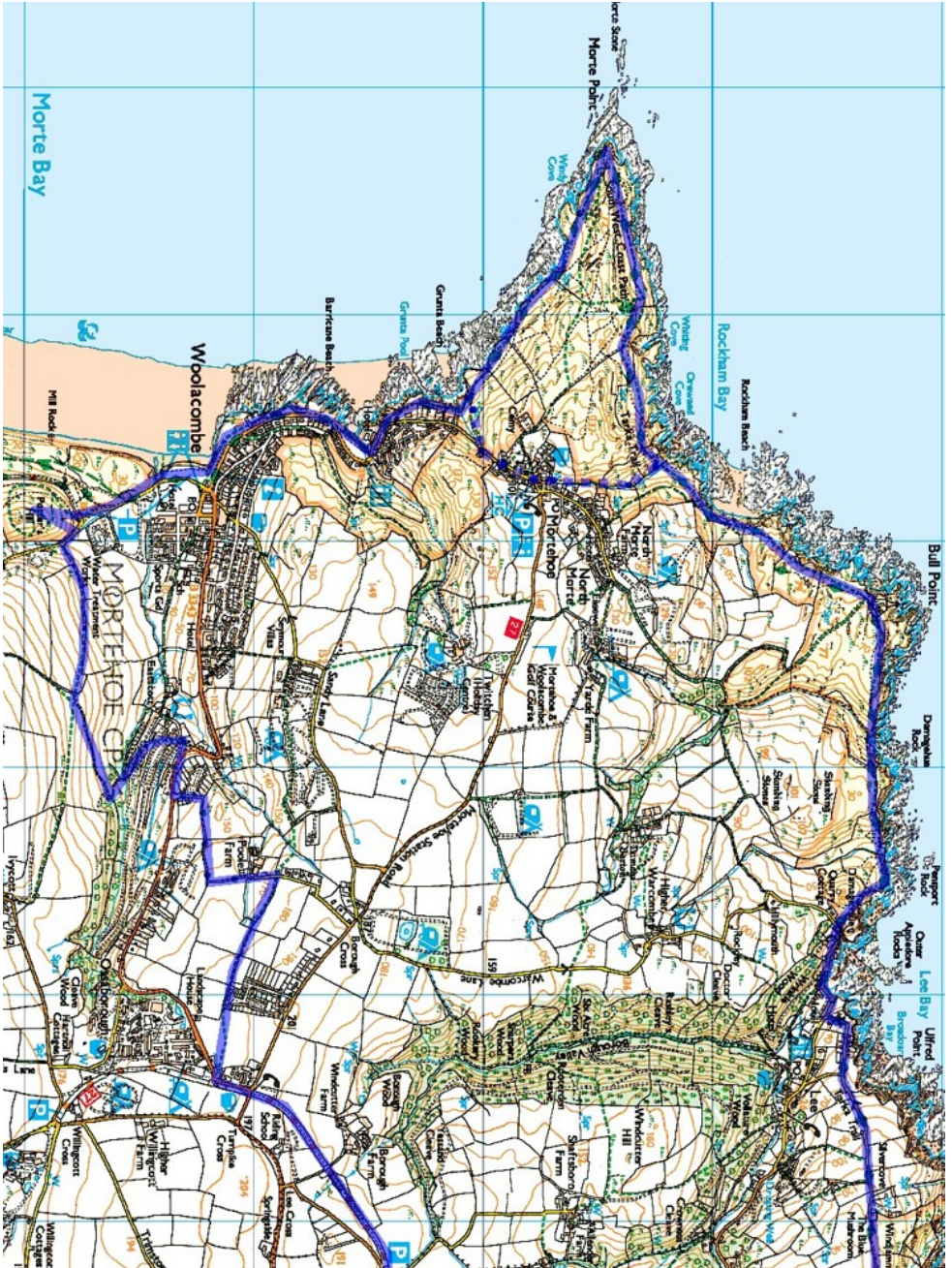
Start Time 09:30am  
From the Imperial Hotel  
EX34 9AL

# BBN - Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024





# BBN - Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024

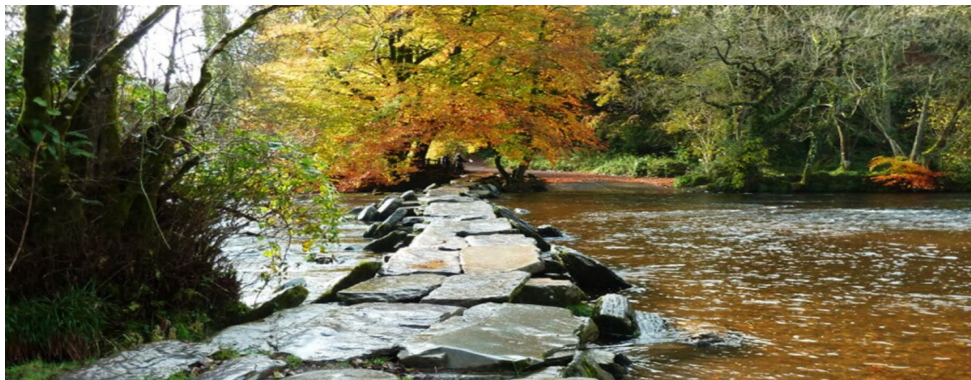


# BBN – Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024

## Day 4: Withypool – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – 10:00am – 8 miles – Tarr Steps

The walk starts from the free car park in Withypool just off the B3223 and B3224 which we drove along on Friday. The walk follows the Two Moors Way & Exe Valley Way along the Barle valley to reach the famous Tarr Steps that cross the River Barle. Here there's a pub lunch stop before returning back to the tearooms in Withypool. No short walk option today.

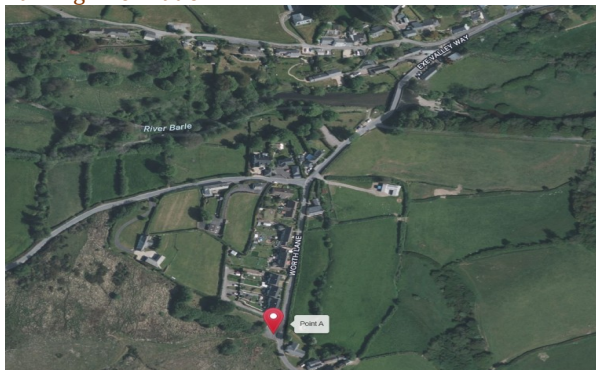
**Explorer Map OL9    What3Words: crunchy.shoulders.inform    Postcode: TA24 7RB**



*Ancient Clapper Bridge – Tarr Steps*

Tarr Steps is an ancient clapper bridge that crosses the River Barle in the Exmoor National Park. It is made of un-mortared stone slabs and possibly dates back to 1000BC. The bridge is a Grade I listed structure and is the longest of its kind in Britain. According to legend, Tarr Steps were created by the Devil as part of a bet with a giant who lived in the area. The Devil claimed he could build a bridge across the river using only stones. The giant, confident in his own strength, accepted the challenge. The Devil worked through the night, placing each stone carefully to create the clapper bridge we see today. When the giant saw the completed bridge, he was furious and accused the Devil of cheating. In a fit of rage, the giant picked up a stone and threw it at the bridge, leaving one of the stones slightly out of alignment. That's why, if you look closely, you'll notice one stone is not perfectly aligned with the others. Legend has it that the Devil won the bet, and the Tarr Steps remain a testament to his craftsmanship.

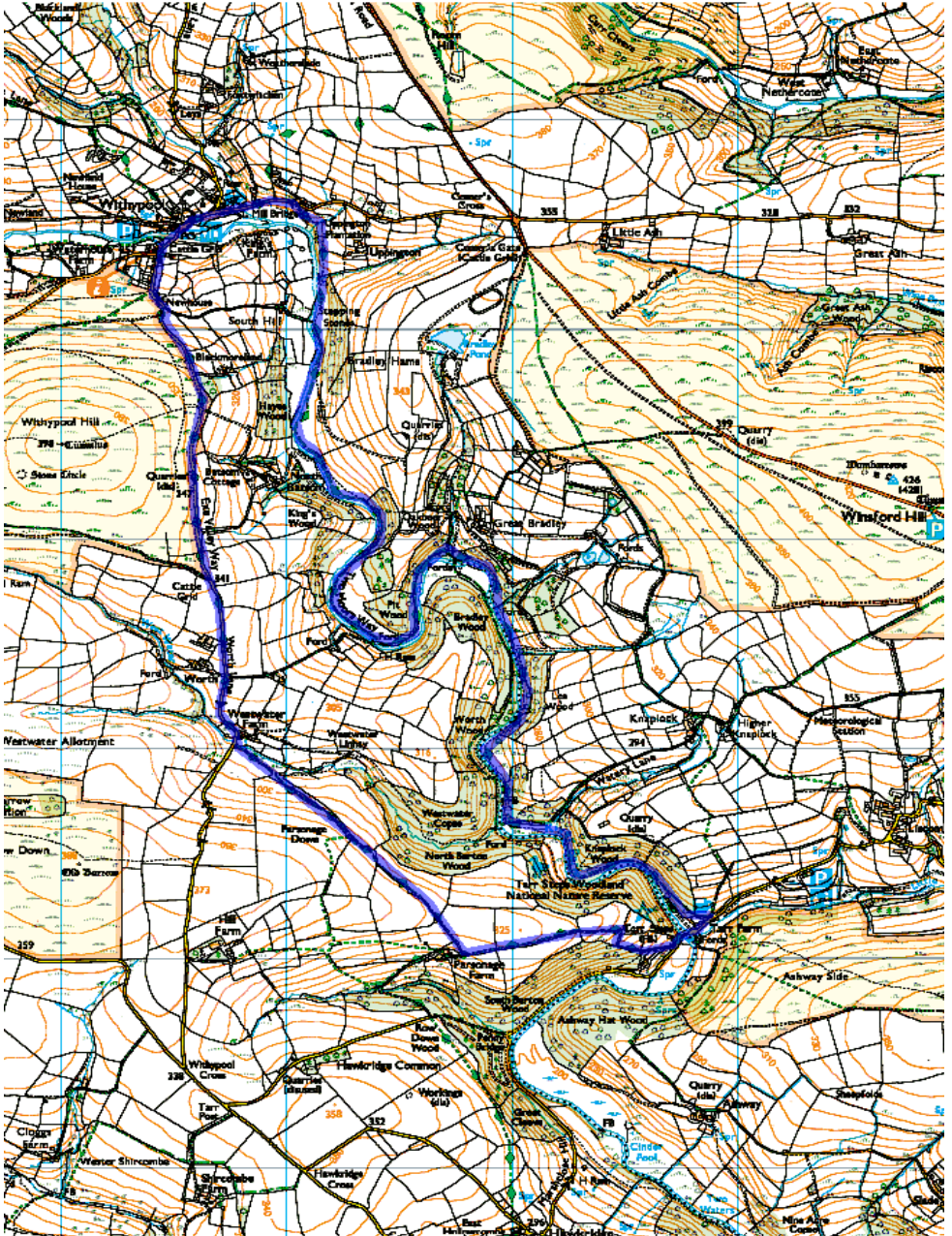
### **Parking Information:**



Meet at the free car park in  
Withypool off the B3223.  
TA24 7RB

Start Time 10:00am  
From Withypool Car Park  
TA24 7RB

# BBN - Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024



# BBN - Ilfracombe: 30<sup>th</sup> Aug - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2024

