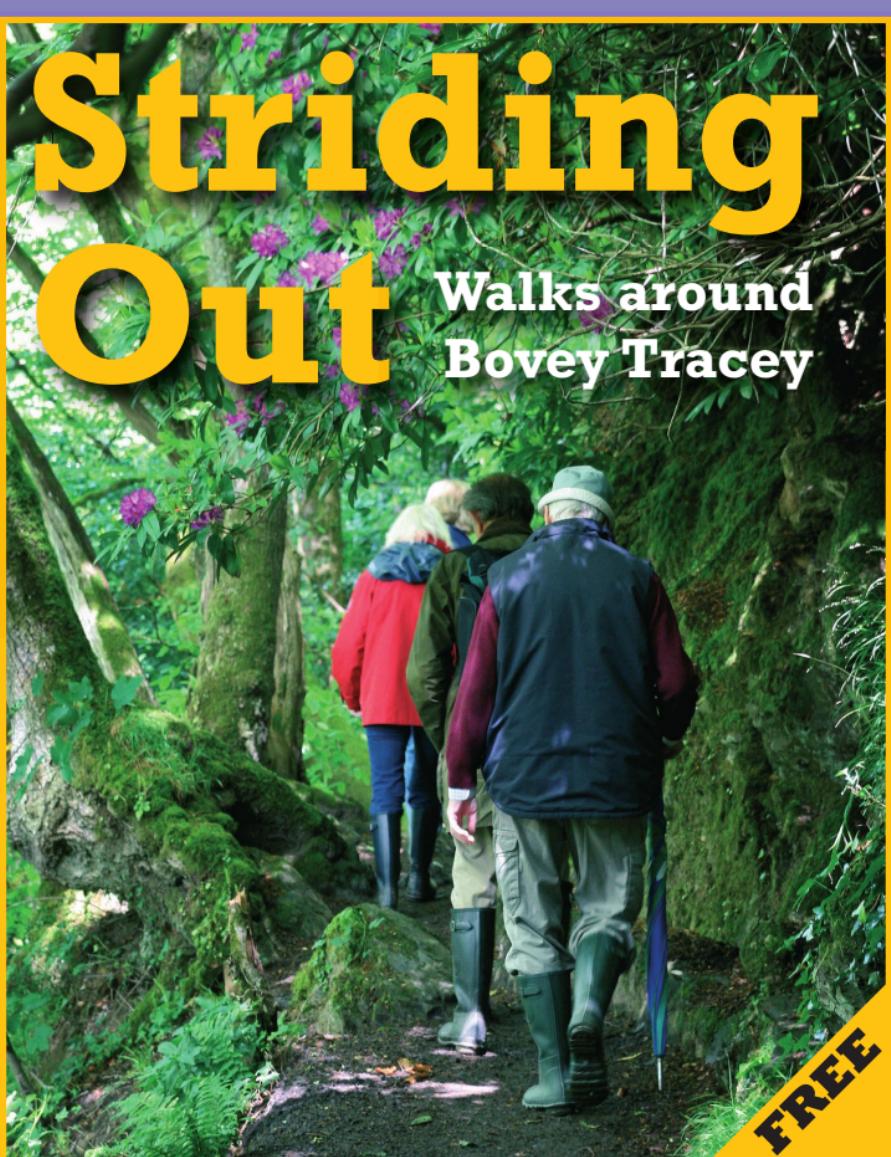


Striding Out

Walks around
Bovey Tracey



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Welcome to Striding Out

WE hope you enjoy these six circular walks through shady woodland and riverside paths as well as more open routes with stunning views.

Maps are provided for guidance and the distance between marked points is given at the end of each paragraph.

All walks begin and end at the Bovey Tracey

Information Centre in Station Road, where there is Pay and Display parking available.

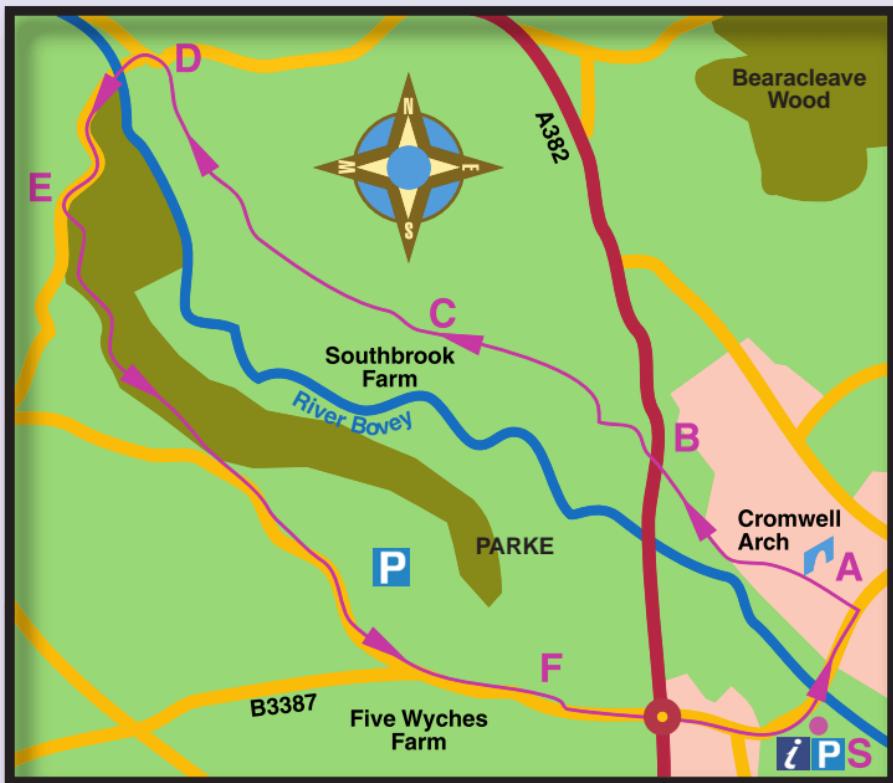
Every effort has been made to check the accuracy of the walks, but the publishers cannot take responsibility for route changes or inaccuracies.

Walkers are advised to check the weather forecast and wear suitable clothing and footwear.



Walk 1 Parke

Farm and Field – mostly level, some uphill



One of the many footpaths at Parke.

5½ km or 3½ miles

1. From the Station Road car park (**S**), turn right and cross the bridge over the River Bovey. Continue up the main street to the Cromwell Arms Hotel (**A**) – 250m.
2. Turn left, go to the left of Cromwell's Arch, and continue to the end of Cromwells Way. Take the footpath between two houses in the left hand corner which will take you down steps into Bullands Field. Turn right hand to follow the edge of the field and the stream along the back of houses and up a slope to a kissing gate, and down steps to the A382 Moretonhampstead Road (**B**) – 600m.
3. Cross the road and take the public footpath almost opposite, passing through another kissing gate keeping a post and rail fence on your left hand side. At the end of the path turn right onto a short track at the end of which turn left, onto a lane which takes you to the hamlet of Southbrook (**C**) – 400m.
4. Cross a stream and take the path between two buildings. Continue to pass through a kissing gate into the Parke Estate woods. Keep straight on avoiding sidetracks, passing through another kissing gate, across a field, over a stile and continue through the woods until you are near the road. Go down a few steps and turn left to go through a gate, turn right down a short track and go through another gate onto the road to pass through the former railway bridge (**D**) – 1.25km.
5. Ignoring the right turn to Lustleigh, continue up the road to Forder Cottage and Tower Lodge on your right hand side (**E**) – 400m.
6. Go through the kissing gate opposite them to re-enter the Parke Estate. Take the right hand path ahead for about 75m and then turn right onto a path which goes up steps up the hillside. At the top of this path turn left onto another path which follows the top of the woods and leads to a kissing gate. Pass through, keep to the right hand side of the field and follow the hedge to the far end of the field. Pass through another kissing gate and continue along a path which follows the hedge separating it from the road. It goes through a further kissing gate and, after yet another gate, turn immediately left to emerge shortly onto a gravelled path. Turn right, cross the main driveway to Parke, and after a few metres come out onto Haytor Road (**F**) – 1.75km.
7. Turn left and follow the road to the roundabout. Take the road ahead into town past the Dolphin Hotel on your left to reach the Station Road car park – 700m.



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Striding Out

Walks around Bovey Tracey

This booklet was produced by
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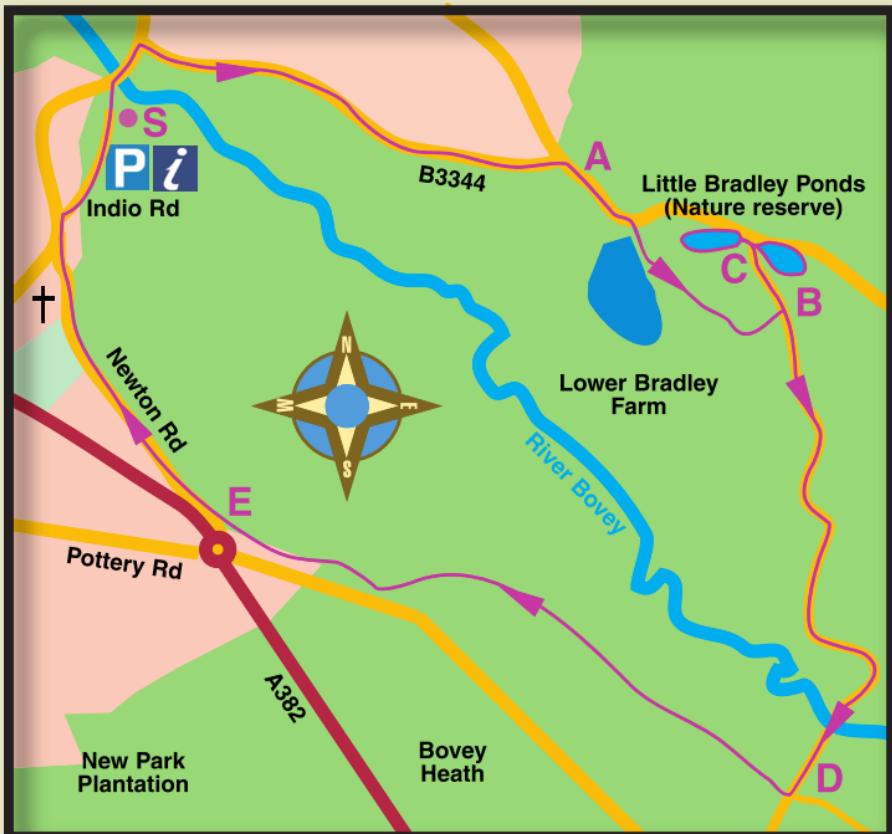
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Walk 2

Bradley Ponds

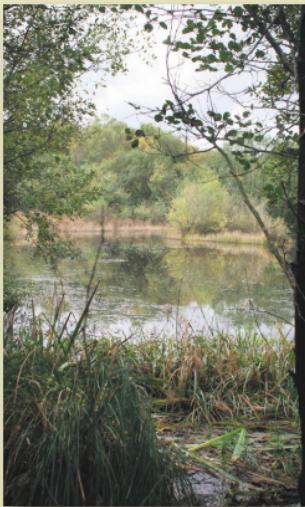
A dry weather walk



Pictured left and
opposite, Little
Bradley Ponds

6 km or 3³/₄ miles (without optional detour)

1. Turn right from the Station Road car park (**S**), cross the bridge over the River Bovey and turn right after the Methodist Church into Le Molay Littry Way. Continue until you reach the end of the pavement on the left. Cross the road and continue a short distance to a public footpath sign on the right just past the speed de-restriction sign (**A**) – 1.3km.
2. Go through the gate, turn left and keeping the hedge on your left hand side cross the field to a stile and public footpath signpost in the far hedge. Go over the stile, across the lane and round the left hand side of the metal gate opposite. At a public footpath sign just ahead turn left and follow the path which brings you to the left side of Bradley Pond. After following the edge of the pond for a bit, the public path turns left, indicated by an arrow, the path ahead being private. Follow the footpath over a stile and keep to the right hand side of the field, past a house to a stile and path which shortly brings you to a gate onto a lane. Turn left here and follow the lane to the T-junction with another lane (**B**)* – 700m.
3. (*To visit the other two Bradley Ponds, turn left at the T-junction, and walk down almost to the main road (**C**). Footpaths on your left and right go round the two ponds. Return up the lane to the T-junction to resume the walk.)
4. If you do not intend to visit the other two ponds, turn right on arriving at the T-junction and follow the road past Little Bovey Farm House to cross two bridges and the old primary school on your right (**D**) – 1.4km.
5. At the crossroads, just beyond the school, turn right along the public bridleway, past the houses and through the gate. Continue on the bridleway through the trees until it brings you into a lane which you follow past some ramshackle buildings until it brings you out close to the busy Pottery Road roundabout (**E**) – 1.5km.
6. Turn right onto the Newton Road and, after a short rise, you will pass the Recreation Ground and St John's Church on your left. Take the first right after the church into Indio Road and follow the road round to the left where a public footpath sign will be seen. Follow this path and it will bring you back to the Station Road car park from where you set out – 1.2km.



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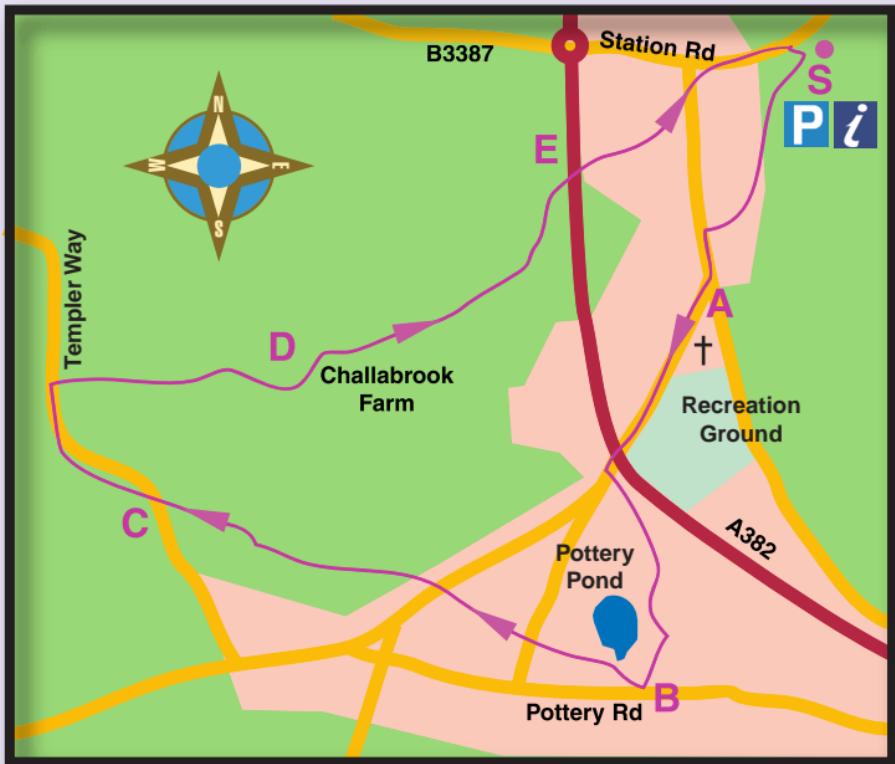
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Walk 3 Pottery Pond and

A gentle stroll, mainly level



Pictured left
and opposite,
Pottery Ponds

Challabrook 3½ km or 2¼ miles

1. From the Station Road car park (**S**), go up the footpath to the right of the public toilets, with the river on your left. When the path emerges onto a road, continue until its end. Turn left and after about 40 metres turn right into Ashburton Road, with St John's Church (**A**) on your left – 500m.
2. Continue past the Recreation Ground on your left and across the bridge over the A382, and turn left into Brimley Halt. At the end of the road go through the gate and follow a footpath behind some houses and then past Pottery Pond to go through a further gate where the path meets Pottery Road (**B**) – 600m.
3. Do not go out onto the road but turn sharp right to follow another track. This follows the line of the old granite tramway which was used to bring stone down from the Haytor quarries and is now the Templer Way. Look out for the '3 miles' milestone on the right hand side just after some garages. Follow the path, crossing Ashburton Road and then Brimley Road. Shortly after this you will see the granite rails of the tramway. Continue to the road junction at the end of the path (**C**) – 850m.
4. Turn right, taking a footpath opposite which runs parallel to the road and after crossing an old tramway bridge with an information board adjacent, rejoins the road. Continue along the road for about 100 metres and take the signposted footpath through a farm gate and along a metalled track to Challabrook Farm (**D**) – 600m.
5. Approaching the farm, pass through another gate, turn right following the footpath sign to go through the farmyard. After passing through some gateways turn right to pass in front of a large barn. Pass through another farm gate to follow a grassy track between post and wire fences. Go through a wooden gate, over a culvert and past a seat and the memorial cross to a Royalist Officer slain in 1645 and continue alongside a stream until the A382 (**E**) – 600m.
6. Cross the road with a gate each side, to rejoin the footpath which after a short while brings you to a road junction. Go straight on until you reach a T-junction where you turn left and then right opposite the Dolphin Hotel, into Station Road. The car park is then on the right hand side after about 100 metres – 400m.



Walk 4 Lower Crownley

Hilly, but gorgeous views!
Steep up hill and down hill



3½ km or 2¼ miles

1. From the Station Road car park (**S**), turn right, and cross the bridge over the River Bovey. Continue up the main street to the Cromwell Arms Hotel (**A**). Turn left then right in front of Cromwell's Arch and go up Hind Street to the T-junction at the top. Turn left and continue to a right turn for the hospital, Furzeleigh Lane (**B**) – 750m.
2. Climb steeply up Furzeleigh Land for about ½ km, to find a footpath sign by a gate on the right hand side. Go through the gate and cross the field to the gate on the top side (**C**). Look back and enjoy the view – 600m.
3. Pass through the gate, cross a track and take the left hand of the two gates opposite (or the stile alongside it). Follow the path along the right hand hedge, ignoring two gates in the right hand hedge, to a gate directly in front of you towards the top of the field where the hedge continues around to the left. Pass through this gate and again keeping to the right hand hedge walk down the field to a stile. Cross the stile and follow the post and wire fence on your left until you are passing a telegraph pole in the end of a hedge and can see some houses downhill to your right (**D**) – 500m.
4. At this point, leave the fence and drop down the hill to the left of the telegraph pole and hedge and look out for the stile at the rear of the farmhouse. Cross it, go down the steps and turn left through the gate in the wooden fence (shutting it behind you) to walk along the track in front of some farm buildings to the point where the track meets the road, Trough Lane (**E**) – 200m.
5. When the track meets the road, turn right and follow it up a rise and then down towards Bovey Tracey. Along this stretch there are some lovely views across the town. Continue along this road until the T-junction (**F**). The Parish Church of St Peter, St Paul and St Thomas (*pictured*) is just to your left here and well worth a visit – 900m.
6. Turn right into East Street and follow it past the Town Hall, keeping left down the hill to bring you back past the Cromwell Arms and down to the Station Road car park – 700m.





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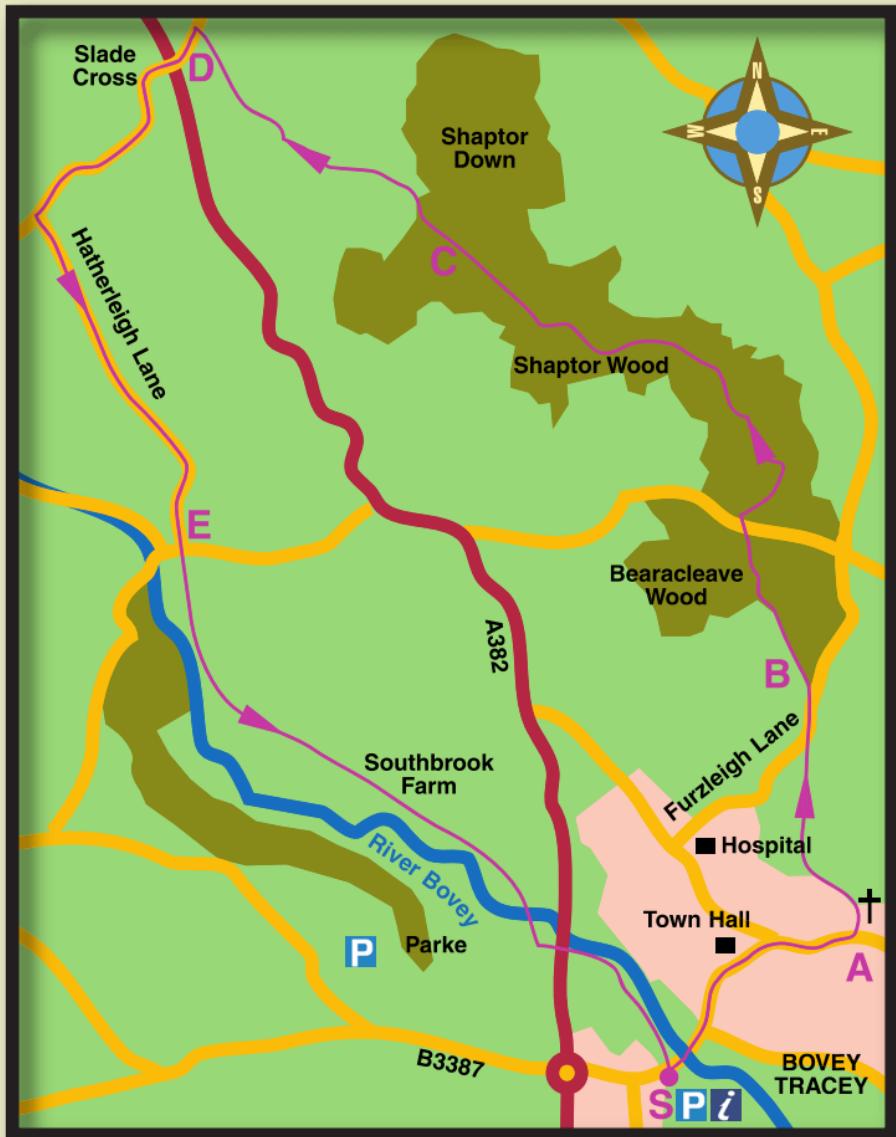
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Walk 5 Shapton Woods and Steep uphill and downhill



Bovey Valley 9½ km or 6 miles

1. Turn right from the Station Road car park (**S**), and cross the bridge over the River Bovey. Continue up the main street through the town, passing the Town Hall on your left, and on up the hill until you reach the left turn into Trough Lane, just before the Parish Church (**A**) – 800m.
2. Walk up this steep lane and continue up a track where the road turns right. The track passes a communications mast and climbs steeply to end where a road joins from the left. Continue on the road climbing more gently to the next bend when you will find a gate on the left into Bearacleave wood (**B**) – 800m.
3. Follow the main path through the woods until it drops down a hill through an avenue of beech trees and meets a cross track. Turn left and very shortly go through a gate on the right next to a map board and 'Permitted Path' signpost into Shapton Woods. Follow the well trodden path through the woods for a considerable distance, climbing much of the time, until you come to a signpost (**C**) – 2.2km.
4. Take the left hand path (actually almost straight ahead) signed 'County Road near Slade Cross' and, now almost level, it will take you to a stile which you cross and shortly afterwards come to a track. Cross the track and take a narrower unsigned path opposite which descends steeply to another track, at which point you will see a yellow waymark. Crossing this track, the path continues to descend through fir woods. After passing an old cistern on your right, it follows a garden fence on the left before climbing briefly to pass through a gate. Continue alongside the hedge to pass through another gate, turn right and then almost immediately left (with a path signpost in the hedge). At the end of the hedges bear slightly right to a stile. The path then continues between woods and farmland to a tarmac lane. Turn left and descend the short distance to Slade Cross (**D**) – 1.2km.
5. Taking care, cross the A382 and take the lane opposite. Follow it for some distance; after a sharp left turn (ignore the track ahead) it drops steadily down Hatherleigh Lane to a junction where you turn right into another lane which will bring you to a road junction near a former railway bridge (**E**) – 1.8km.
6. Go through the gate in front of you and up to the line of the old railway. Cross this and take the path opposite down to the bank of the River Bovey. Keeping it on your right, follow the river downstream through the woods. Ignore the footbridge you pass shortly and also in due course a stone bridge. After that, the path crosses a stream, takes you up round a rocky outcrop and then down and round an area of grassland (still with the river on your right) to take you up a few steps onto the railway path. Turn right to cross the river and then shortly bear left to rejoin the river (now on your left) and follow the path which takes you under the main road next to the river. Continue on the now tarmac path to come out into Station Road by the bridge with the car park almost opposite – 2.6km.

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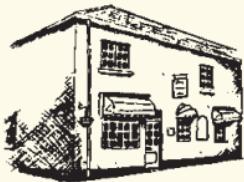
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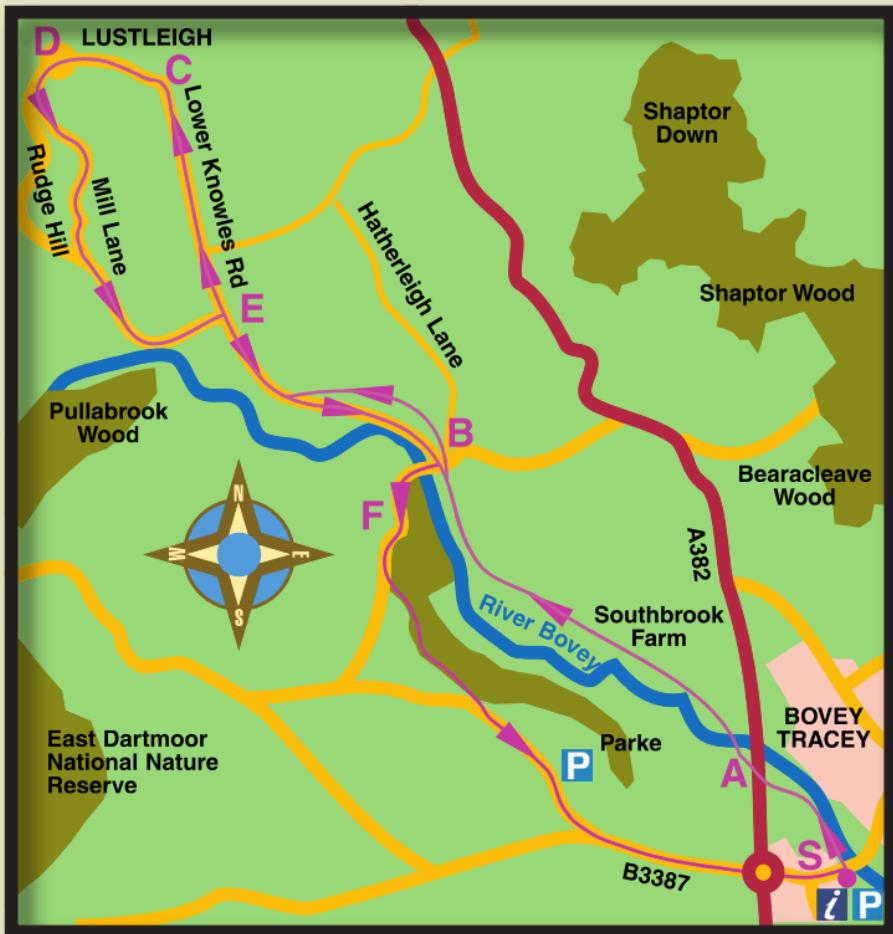
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Walk 6 Lustleigh

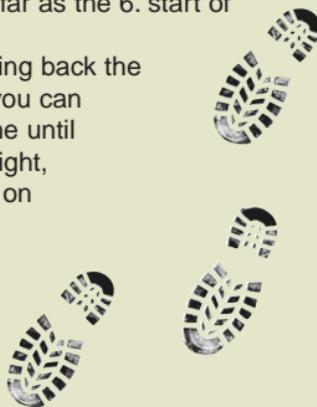
Mostly level but some uphill



Mill Marsh Park

9½ km or 6 miles

1. From the Station Road car park (**S**), cross the road turning right towards the bridge. At a gap in the railings turn left and follow the tarmac path through Mill Marsh Park keeping the river on your right to the A382 (**A**) – 500m.
2. Follow the path under the A382 and emerge into the National Trust woodland known as Parke. The path brings you onto the old railway track which you follow for approximately one mile, 2. to cross a newly reinstated bridge over a lane. (**B**) – 1.7km.
3. After a further 0.5km, the track ends, joining a road. Continue on this road, until you see a post box in the wall on your right and a road junction ahead. Ignore the left turn and continue straight ahead until you see the road sign indicating you are entering Lustleigh (**C**) – 1.9km.
4. Take the next left turn after the road sign and follow the tarmac path. This path will bring you through Wreyland, passing some pretty thatched cottages to Lustleigh village centre where there is an Inn and tea rooms (**D**) – 400m.
5. From the cross on the green, keeping the church on your right, walk to the crossroads. Turn left here, signposted Rudge, and follow the road downhill. Cross over a bridge. Take the left fork in the road, following the stream running alongside the road on the left. Continue on, passing the cemetery on the right, until you reach the T-junction. At the T-junction turn left. Follow the road down the hill to the next T-junction, turn left, cross over the small bridge and continue along the road passing beneath an old two arched railway bridge to another T-junction (**E**) – 1.5km.
6. Turn right and retrace your outward walk as far as the 6. start of the railway path – 0.5km.
7. You can now return to Bovey Tracey by walking back the way you came, along the old railway track, or you can continue under the railway bridge along the lane until the next T junction at Wilford Bridge (**B**). Turn right, continue up the road until you see two houses on the right, with a kissing gate opposite on the left. (**F**) Follow the instructions for sections 6 and 7 of walk 1.



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