

Four Walks in Exmoor on the Moorland Ramblers Weekend Away – 5th -8th June 2020.

Note. Distance and ascent is according to my GPS and cannot be guaranteed!

Friday 5th June; Withypool, Tarr Steps. 9 miles and 479m ascent.

Start at car park in Withypool; GR = SS 844 354, Post code = TA24 7QT

A relatively easy walk for the first day. A lovely riverside walk from the village of Withypool down the river Barle to the famous Tarr Steps, an ancient clapper bridge where we cross the river and walk back up the valley, climbing to Withypool Hill and back to the car park. Lunch stop will be at Tarr Steps where there is a café.

Saturday 6th June; Porlock Weir, Dunkery Beacon. 15 miles and 1100m ascent.

Start at car park at Porlock Weir; GR = SS 865 479, Post Code = TA24 8PB. CP charges apply

The hardest walk of the weekend with over 1000m of ascent. From Porlock Weir on the coast the route will take us into Porlock village then continue uphill through Horner Wood to Stoke Pero and to Dunkery Beacon which at 519m is the highest point on Exmoor. On a clear day there are excellent views across the Bristol Channel to South Wales. The second half of the walk is largely downhill across moorland, farmland and woodland. If the weather is good, I hope to stop for lunch at Dunkery Beacon.

Sunday 7th June; The Chains. 14 miles and 563m ascent.

Start at lay-by on Goat Hill., GR = SS 724 405, Post Code = TA24 7LL (please car share if you can as there is limited parking space)

The Chains is a moorland plateau which is the source of many of Exmoor's rivers. The rivers Exe, Barle, West Lyn and Hoar oak all rise on the Chains. It was heavy rain on the Chains (over 200mm in 24 hours) which led to the flooding of Lynmouth in August 1952. Some of the walk will be familiar to those who have walked the Two Moors Way.

Monday 8th June; The Quantock Hills. 13 miles and 770m of ascent.

Start at car park in Holford; GR = ST 154 410, Post Code = TA5 1SA

The Quantocks is composed of hills and steep sided, thickly wooded combs which is 384m at the highest point. We will get a flavour of all the features of the Quantocks on this walk which will take us over East Quantoxhead and up to Beacon Hill and Bicknoller post then to Crowcombe Gate and Great Quantocks Farm before going through Seven Wells Wood and the iron-age hill fort at Dowsborough.

Note: There will be a group evening meal at the Exford White Horse on Saturday 6th June. Postcode is TA24 7PY