

Walks from the Railway

BELSTONE

A varied walk (rugged in places) through the wooded East Okement Valley to the village of Belstone and back across the moor

7 MILES | 3-4 HOURS*

**dependent on ability. Walk time only.*

Line	Dartmoor Line
Start/End	Okehampton station
Facilities	Cafe and toilets at Okehampton station Pub & tearoom in Belstone
Train times	GWR.com or 03457 484950
Emergencies	999 (ask for Police, then Mountain Rescue)

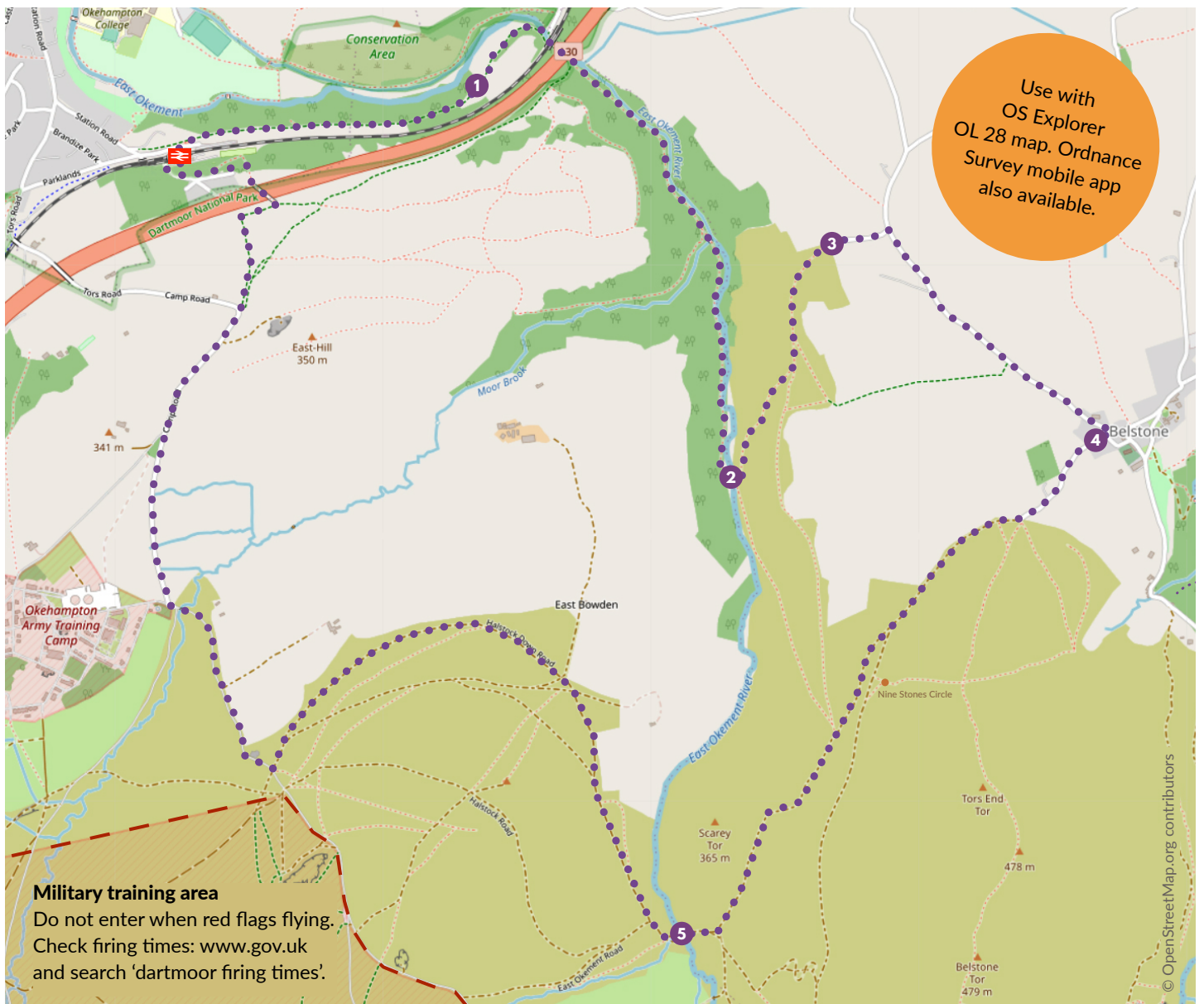
Dartmoor is notorious for rapid changes of weather. Come well prepared with waterproof clothing, walking boots, map, compass - if you know how to use one - and mobile phone.



From the station entrance, cross over to the green gate* opposite and down the narrow steps to the Public Bridleway below. **If gate closed, walk down the slope from the station. At the road stay right, then hook immediately right to join the path.*

Turn right and go through the gate marked Tramlines Woods. This is also part of the cycle network, so beware of cyclists. Continue along the track, and after a few minutes you will come to another gate.

The track then opens out into a field (1) where occasionally cattle will be grazing.



Military training area

Do not enter when red flags flying. Check firing times: www.gov.uk and search 'dartmoor firing times'.

Keep to the track! One more gate and then you are at the railway viaduct at Fatherford.

Passing the ford, carry straight on under the viaduct. There is a fingerpost pointing the direction to Klondyke Corner. Go through the gate and follow the path to the point where it forks.

Take the left path for the best views of the East Okement River. As the path re-joins the main track, continue onwards with the river on your left.

After several minutes, cross the small bridge on your left. Stick to the right and go through the gap in the stone wall.

After some time, the path rises up, and then dips back down to the river again. Keep going until you see a handrail.

Take the steep hill upwards, with great waterfall views on your left. When the handrail ends, carefully continue up, passing one more very short section of handrail.

Continue on the path up a gentle incline. The path continues onwards, winding through the woods. It dips back down and eventually comes to a bridge on the left (2).



Cross the bridge and take the left path which soon gently rises up and to the right. Continue as the views in front open out.

At the 'T' junction continue left up hill. The path briefly runs alongside a wall. When the wall veers off to the right, ignore it and carry straight on. The path becomes faint, but curves round to the right to a gate (3).



Go through the gate and along this (often muddy) lane to a road. Turn right. This lane leads all the way into the village of Belstone.

Turn left towards the phonebox (now a defibrillator) to explore the village. From the phonebox you will see the Tors Inn on your right (continue down the lane beside the pub for its "360° beer garden") or carry straight on to visit the village's charming Old School Tea Room.

When you're ready to continue, head back to the phonebox and onward up the hill, signed as a cul-de-sac (4). Follow this lane as it winds up the hill. At the top go through the gate on to the moor.



Follow the track alongside the wall. As the path starts to head down hill you can take a short detour off to the left to visit the bronze age Nine Stones Circle, also known as the Nine Maidens (legend has it that the name derives from a group of young women caught dancing on a Sunday who were turned to stone).

You may wish to continue up to explore the summit of Belstone Tor. If you do so, take care - including watching your step on the way back down to re-join the track.

Once you've re-joined the downhill track, it curves right and you will cross a pair of small bridges (5). After the second bridge follow the path round to the right. The path then splits - take the narrower branch, straight ahead, gently uphill.



Carry on up the slope until the path eventually reaches a crossroads. Carry on straight across. The path then almost instantly splits again - take the left fork (straight on).

Continue along this track, with the wall and far-reaching Devon views to your right.

The path curves round to reach a road. Turn right down the hill. Follow the road down and round, eventually crossing a bridge and cattlegrid in quick succession at the Moorgate. Take the road to the right, which rises and then dips down again. You will come to a sharp left hand bend with two gates in front of you. Take the left hand gate marked Public Bridleway and follow the wide grass path down to the fence at the bottom of the field.

At the bottom the path turns right and runs alongside the footbridge for about 100 metres until you reach the fingerpost, gate and footbridge that crosses the A30.

Cross the bridge to find another gate and a fingerpost. Follow the narrow path down the hill marked 'Permitted path to Okehampton'. Just a little way down you will be at a 'T' junction in the path. Turn left and after a few minutes you will arrive at a gate opening onto the road.

Turn right down the hill and after 50 metres turn right again into the car park. On the opposite side of the car park is the railway station. Cross over the line via the footbridge.

More walks to enjoy

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