

## **10 mile route exploring the Moor either side of the Walkham Valley.**

*This route will take approximately 5 hours depending on the pace, weather and length of stops. It involves walking across open Moorland on undefined paths and should not be attempted without a map, compass, clear idea of the route and appropriate clothing for the unpredictable Dartmoor weather.*

*The Dartmoor Inn at Merrivale is a good halfway stopping point, phone ahead to check opening times (01822 890340).*

*The route can be followed in either direction, but clockwise gives particularly good views up the beautiful Walkham Valley. The notes follow the route clockwise.*

### **Route notes:**

Turn left out of the church past the Church House and follow footpath signs through five fields into an ancient grassy lane, follow this lane out onto the moor and continue in a north easterly direction until you reach the old railway line.

Walk along the railway line as it contours around the tors and over a stream. You will notice a wall on your left and at the point where the wall is closest to the railway line there is a small path leading away to the right; if you take this path it will lead you up to a siding which once served the granite quarry here and you will walk past 12 granite corbels (on your right) originally destined for London Bridge.

This siding will rejoin the main track but after a short distance follow the faint remains of the track to the right which will bring you around and under the railway line.

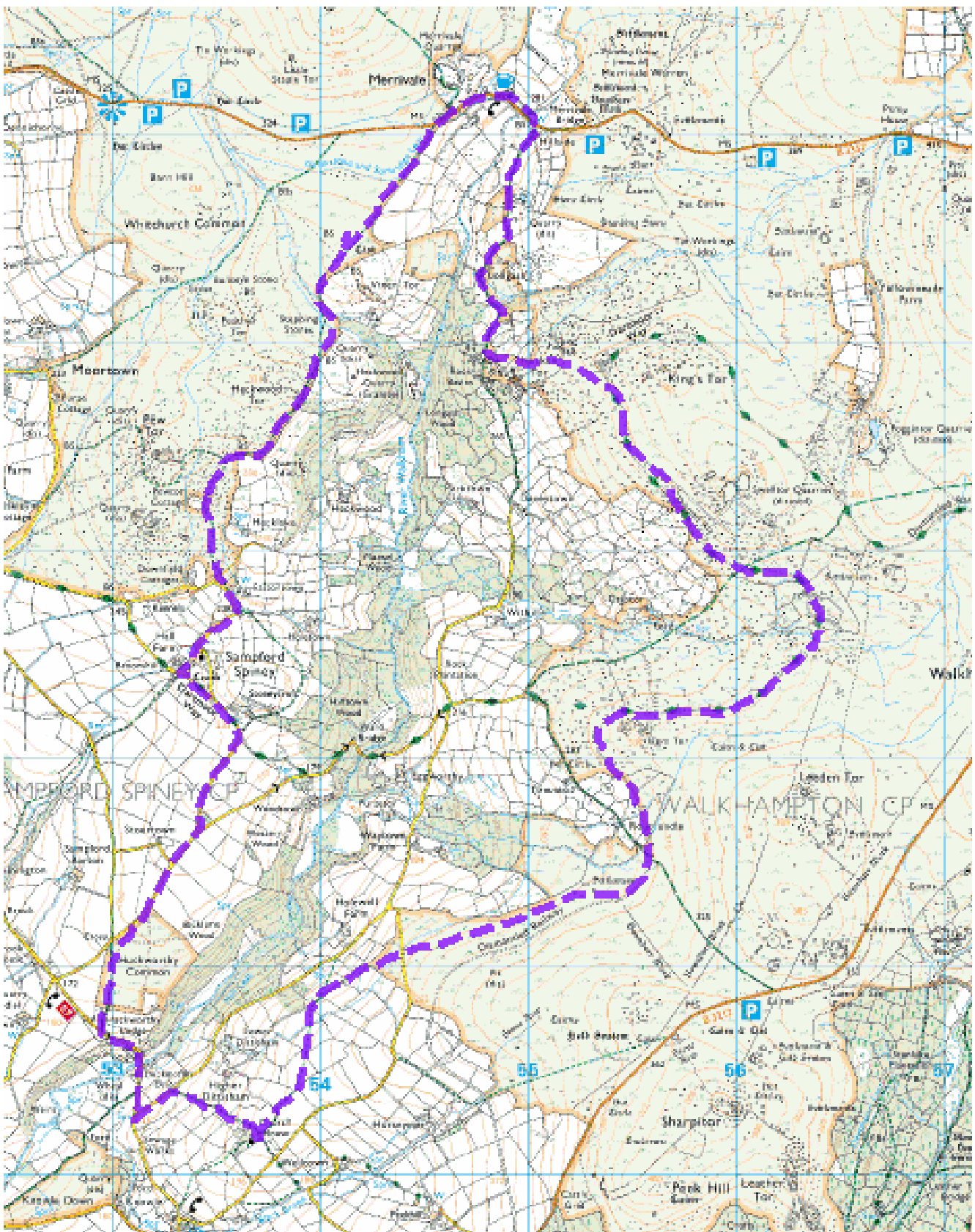
Now head in a north westerly direction for just over 200 metres towards the wall and cross this wall over the stile. Take a westerly course down through the remains of fields towards the valley, the tor on your left is Hucken Tor; you will reach a clear track, turn right up the valley passing through Longash Farm and then onto the B3357. The Dartmoor Inn is on the north side of the road – careful as you cross! You are now approximately halfway.

The route continues up the hill with the waste from Merrivale Granite Quarry (closed 1997) towering precariously above you on the right. You will soon come to a leat and a moorland track running close to it, follow this track and keep close to the wall on your left. You will pass Vixen Tor – the Sphinx of the Moor in enclosed land on your left.

Eventually you will come to a crossing over a brook, walk uphill, still close to the wall on your left; you will come to a track. Follow this track in a south westerly direction; it will lead you off the moor to the road which goes through the tiny hamlet of Sampford Spiney. Here it's well worth taking the minor detour over the wide grassy area beside the church, the old school and manor house.

Use the map to follow the lanes to Huckworthy Common, walk along the road beside the common and just before you reach the cattle grid turn down left over the common, following the grassy track down to a gate and a stony track to the road.

The road will lead down to the river Walkham which you will cross on Huckworthy Bridge. Up the hill and take the first left (sign posted Eggworthy), 200 metres, then take the narrow track on your right. This is a steep rocky path (Jimmy Bickles lane) which will eventually lead you over two fields and back to Walkhampton Church.



### Prayer to begin the Journey

Holy God, you journey with us through life often unseen, often unheard:  
As we journey today may we be attuned to your presence:  
Give us eyes to see and ears to hear your presence in all we experience. Amen

### Prayer to end the Journey

Holy God as you have journeyed with us through the ups and downs of this walk so travel with us  
in the same way through our lives. Guard us and guide us in all we do. Amen.