

Reflection and Prayer

This section of The Archangel's Way takes you up onto the moor and past the 'Nine Maidens' stone circle, a Bronze Age burial mound.

As you look around you take a moment to remember that Bronze Age people lived and worked in this area over 4000 years ago and in fact humans have inhabited areas of Dartmoor for over 12,000 years.

As you drop down into the little village of Belstone this is an opportunity to consider how adaptable we are as a species. Perhaps give thanks for all the modern inventions that you are grateful for in your

own life, and be encouraged that others have weathered many storms here and found strength.

In St Mary's Church in Belstone you'll find a standing stone with a simple cross etched into it. The stone dates from the 7th century and is one of the earliest examples of a stone cross found on Dartmoor.

Trace your finger along the etched cross. How many others have traced this cross with their finger? Where did they find their strength?



I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where
does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and
going
both now and forevermore.

(Psalm 121, NIV)

Share your journey with us [#DevonPilgrim](#)

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The Archangel's Way

wander and wonder

STAGE 3

Church of St Thomas à Becket, Sourton
to St Mary the Virgin, Belstone
(low route)



'Look and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls'

(Jeremiah 6:16)

STAGE 3

Sourton to Belstone



There is a choice of routes between Sourton and Belstone.

This card covers the easier, low level route, while Stage 3A (moorland route) describes the higher level, more challenging, moorland route.

From the church, return towards the moor, but do not cross the bridge. Instead, take the left-hand path towards the Granite Way. Turn left and keep on the tarmac surface past Prewley Moor.

You will soon reach Meldon Viaduct, and at its end, turn right and head for the steps below the old railway coach.

Descend the steps to the bottom, turn left and follow the path.

Cross the road and take the path opposite that will lead you to a gate. Go through the gate; there is an old lime kiln to your left and other ruined buildings, as you are now entering the old Meldon Quarry works, with the river on your right.

Follow the track as it winds its way eventually up to the left, through another collection of buildings and structures before heading right following the Red-a-Ven brook up to the south-east.

Do not cross the bridge on your right, but continue along the track, following it up to the left, in front of an old mine working. Head up to the stone wall corner. This marks the boundary of part of the quarry (and danger area).

Follow this wall, keeping it on your left, all the way to Okehampton Army camp.

Make sure you don't stray across the red and white marker poles to your right. These denote the limits of the Okehampton Firing Range.

The track leads onto a tarmac road, before a bridge is reached. Do not cross this, but turn left, crossing the cattle grid. Then turn right and follow the road out away from the camp.

Shortly, there is a road to the right, leading to Lower Halstock Farm. Follow this road right through the farm, until it bears right after the buildings. Then take the signposted footpath to the left.

This track leads between some old stone walls, before curving right well above the Moor Brook. Pass through some trees and a gate, then down through the woods, and you will reach a delightful spot alongside the East Okemont River.

Sit a while either side of the bridge – it is a lovely spot. You will also need a rest as it is all uphill to the finish at Belstone!

Having crossed the bridge, head left along the track that leads steadily northwards and upwards.

When you reach a higher track, turn right and follow this track back south, enjoying wonderful views both ahead and behind along the East Okemont valley.

Once the ground levels out and opens up, take a path diagonally to the left. When you reach the stony track coming up from the right, cross it.

At the next track, find a narrow path opposite leading to the Nine Maidens stone circle. You may not hit them first time but persevere they are there! (All 13 of them!)

After getting your breath back, head north-east towards the flagpole on the top of Watchet Hill. Reach this, and it is then all downhill to the gate and the lane into Belstone village.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is off to your right down a small lane, with The Tors Inn close by.

