

## Reflection and Prayer

This section of The Archangel's Way takes you right up onto Dartmoor alongside tumbling rivers, visiting ancient woodlands below the tors of the High Moor. It will bring you 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 3A

Church of St Thomas à Becket, Sourton  
to St Mary the Virgin, Belstone  
(moorland 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 3A

## Sourton to Belstone



There is a choice of routes between Sourton and Belstone.

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

If the Red flags are flying, denoting that the Okehampton Military Firing Range is active you **MUST** take the Low Route (Stage 3) between Sourton and Belstone.

From the church, return towards the moor, do not cross the bridge but take the left-hand path and follow the Granite Way to the Prewley Works entrance (on the Moor side), and take the track up towards the building entrance.

Bear right, keeping the works and wall on your left and head for the stone wall in front of you, bearing right to pass between two granite posts where Sourton Tor can be seen directly in front. Bear left and then left again onto the grassy track that leads down towards the stream.

Cross this, follow the tracks left and cross another stream and then along the top of the hill in front, the side of Homerton Hill. The track brings you out above Vellake Corner and with a bit of slaloming you arrive down at the weir, crossing the West Okement River that feeds Meldon Reservoir.

Cross the river and turn right at the wide path leading along the north-east side of the West Okement River.

Stay on this path, rounding a walled enclosure, negotiating the rocks and wet areas, then work your way along the bank of the river following the paths until you reach Black-a-Tor Copse a rare stretch of ancient oak woodland on Dartmoor. It is worth spending some time here.

Just before entering the Copse you passed a path going left up the hill to Black Tor and you now need to return to this.

Head north from the Tor and take the trackway north for 1km. Just after a track comes across from the south west, veer off the track to the right heading NE.

After a couple of hundred metres, you will see another track at right angles to your direction with a path continuing beyond it, heading NE. Keep on this path until you can follow some waymarker posts indicating the route around the edge of Okehampton Common.

Excellent views down and across Red-a-ven brook are in front of you and then to your left as you proceed eastwards and slowly descend to the brook.

Cross the brook via the stepping stones and then head on the clear track north.

This track levels out, with Okehampton Camp to your left and Rowtor and West Mill Tor, to your right. Take a path leaving the track on the right, heading down to a further, obvious track crossing a stream, towards Row Tor.

After the stream, continue on the track contouring around the northern flank of Rowtor for about 0.5km until you see a grass path leading off to the right, heading ESE.

This will take you up to one of the military roads where there will usually be cars parked. There is a barrier across the road leading south into the moor.

Cross this road and head for the upper road and follow this to the right (south-east). You will pass a small car park area in an old quarry on your left.

Do not continue on the road towards the ford but take the track to the left.

This track leads down to the East Okement River at Cullever Steps, an area steeped in military history, dating back to horse drawn gun carriages being pulled through the water.

Cross the river, then fork left with Scarey Tor on your left and the Belstone Tor ridge on your right.

This track leads continuously uphill for a while and when it joins a stony track coming in from the right, cross it and find a narrow track on the right heading NE to Nine Maidens stone circle. You may not hit them first time but persevere they are there! (All 13 of them!)

From here, head left (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.