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MCS Sponsored Walk The Templar Way

Purpose

To raise money for either your child's MCS skiing trip or Devon Air Ambulance.

The main thrust of this event was to allow the children to do some work, to raise a little money towards the costs of an expensive holiday/sport skiing. I am of the firm belief that children should be encouraged to be self-sufficient, and money management is a key component of this. We also have many children in the school who are not attending the trip this year, they may like to start saving for another year or to raise money for a good cause, in this case the Air ambulance.

Distance

The total route is 27k, however we are offering a number of options allowing people to choose their target distance &/or allow points to drop out if necessary.

Haytor to Stover Country Park 13k, 4hrs (approximate time, allowing 4kmh walking pace)

Haytor to Newton Abbot docks, 19.5k, 6hrs

Haytor to Shaldon, 27.5k, 9hrs

Date / Time

Sunday 29th June 2003

@ Stover Country Park Car park @ 7:30am, to be shuttled up to Haytor Car park to start walking at 8am (rain or shine).

Information about the route

The route follows as closely as possible, the line of the Haytor Granite Tramway, the Stover Canal and the Teign Estuary. It covers a whole range of terrain from open moorland through quiet woodland, field tracks and country lanes to estuary foreshore. It is very well marked throughout the entire distance by the Templar Way logo apart from the first section on Haytor Down. However, on this section it is possible to follow the line of the tramway.

Constructed in 1824 by George Templar who had obtained a contract to supply granite for the construction of London Bridge. This railway has granite tracks, not iron bolted onto granite sleepers. Wooden trucks on iron wheels that fitted into grooves cut into the stone, this tramway even had points controlled by a 'tear shaped' iron wedge that when put in the correct position steered the trucks onto the correct track. Drawn by horses, this ran from Haytor and Holwell Quarries to Ventiford where it joined the Stover Canal. The granite then being transferred to Teignmouth by barge and then on to London. The distance is about 7.5 miles and this too had its milestones. At Holwell Quarry a 'Bee-hive Hut' can still be seen, its purpose still open to conjecture - was it just a simple shelter when blasting took place, a store for tools, somewhere to keep or dry out the quarrymen's clothes? We can only guess but it has to be remembered that there were cottages for the men and their families around there at that time. What a lot of workers and inhabitants Dartmoor had in those bygone days!

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Reply slip

I would like my son / daughter to take part in this MCS sponsored walk.

Child's name:

The following people will be accompanying him/her:

Adults:

Children:

Route Plans

I have very detailed route plans, with photos, but they are quite expensive to reproduce & so I will only be providing those to children/parents who express an interest.

A copy is on display in the front entrance hall of the school.

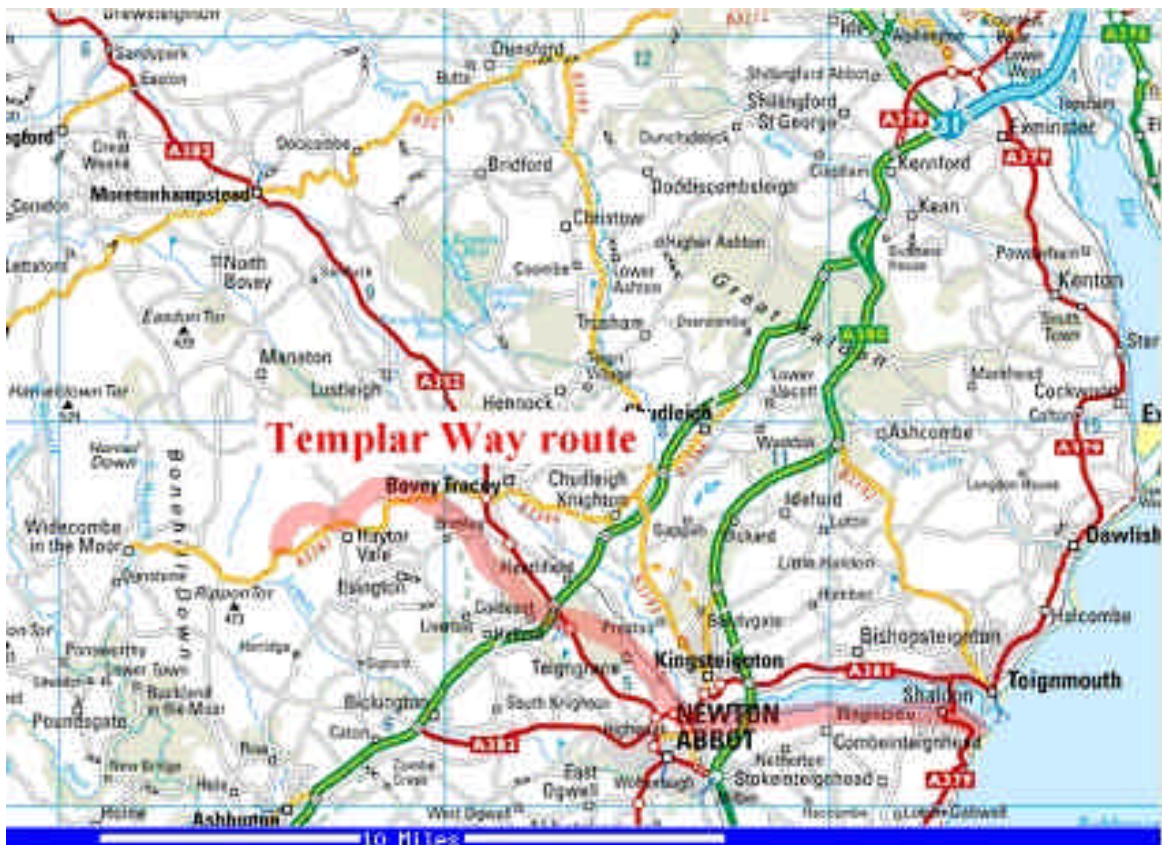
Who can go?:

Firstly I would like to encourage parents, family & friends to join us. It is a great family event, also it makes my life easier if I have adults to supervise their children, as there are several road sections to the route, with one short section on a fast section of road.

The route is easy in terms of terrain & climbs (there aren't any, its all down hill or flat). The full distance is a very hard days walk for the fittest of us, but I have given several distance options so children from about 6-7yrs old up should be able to undertake the shortest sections.

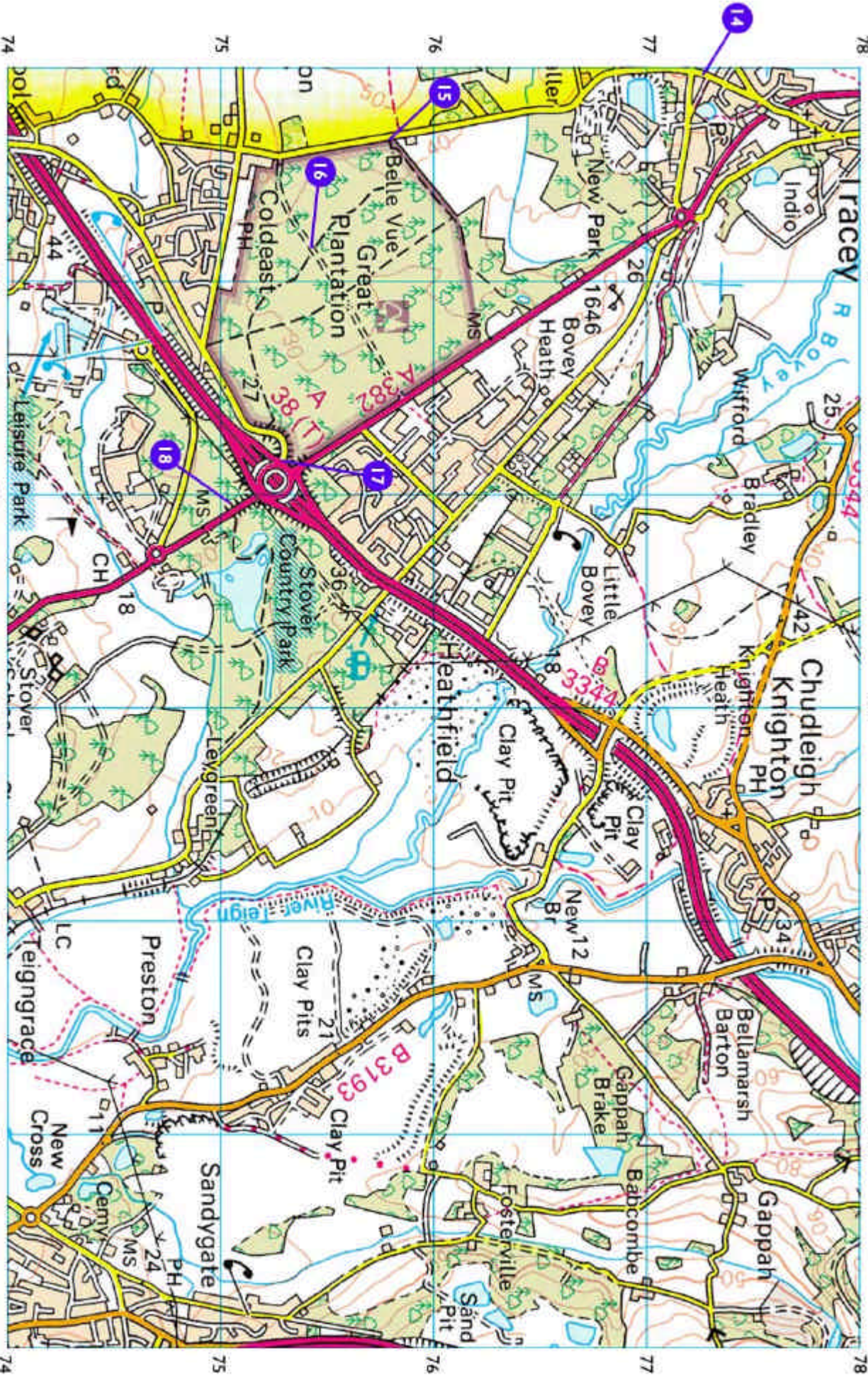
We will be providing a mini-bus service, at key points to drop you back at your car when you finish, or when you are too tired to go on or if you lag too far behind. Although I have set the timings for the shorter routes to allow for a really leisurely stroll, the entire walk is very different & will require 110% commitment & great physical/mental effort.

In comparison, the Junior Exmoor challenge route is 26k, with some hard climbs, which might give you a measure of the walk.



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The Templar Way B



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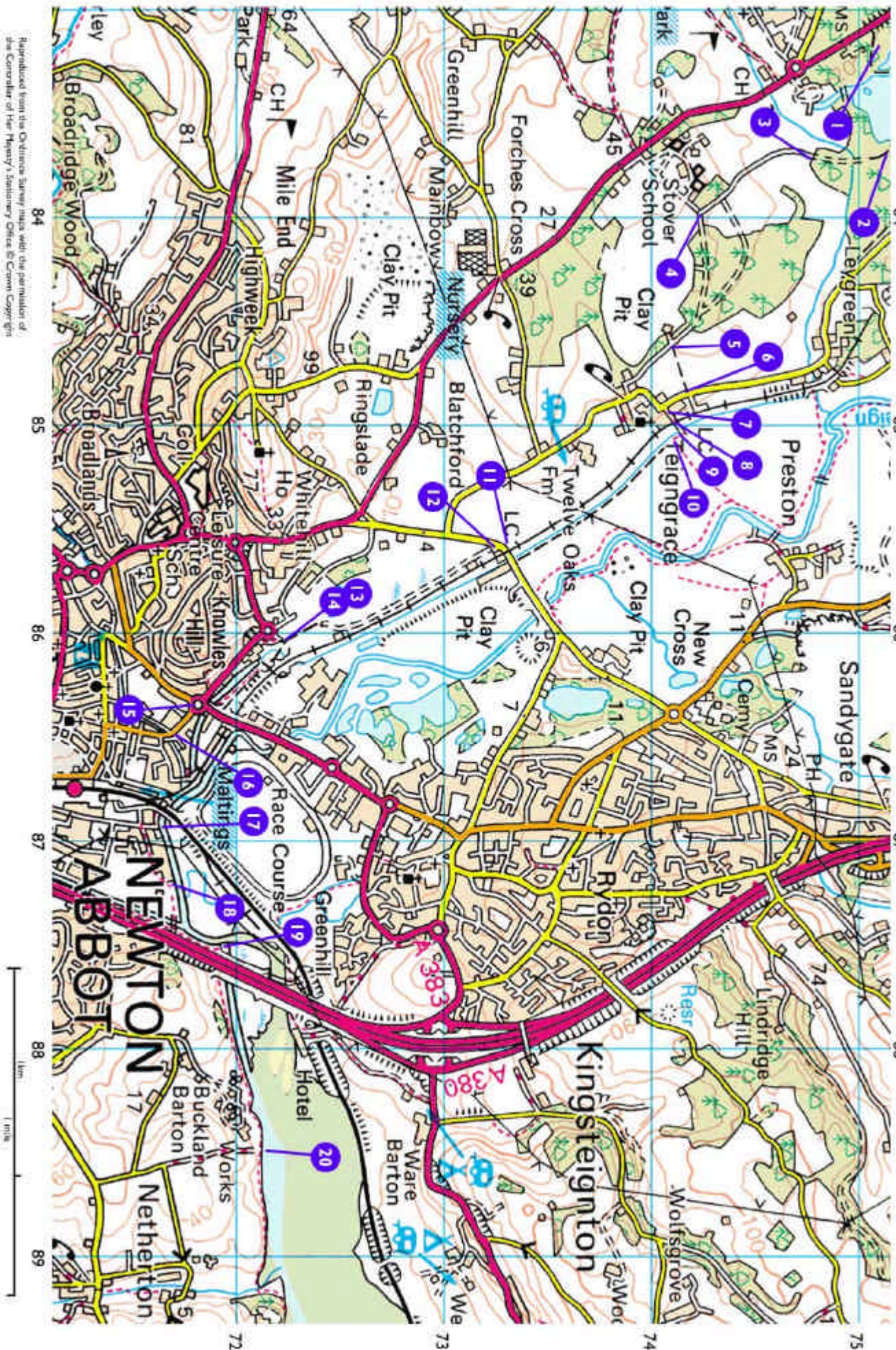
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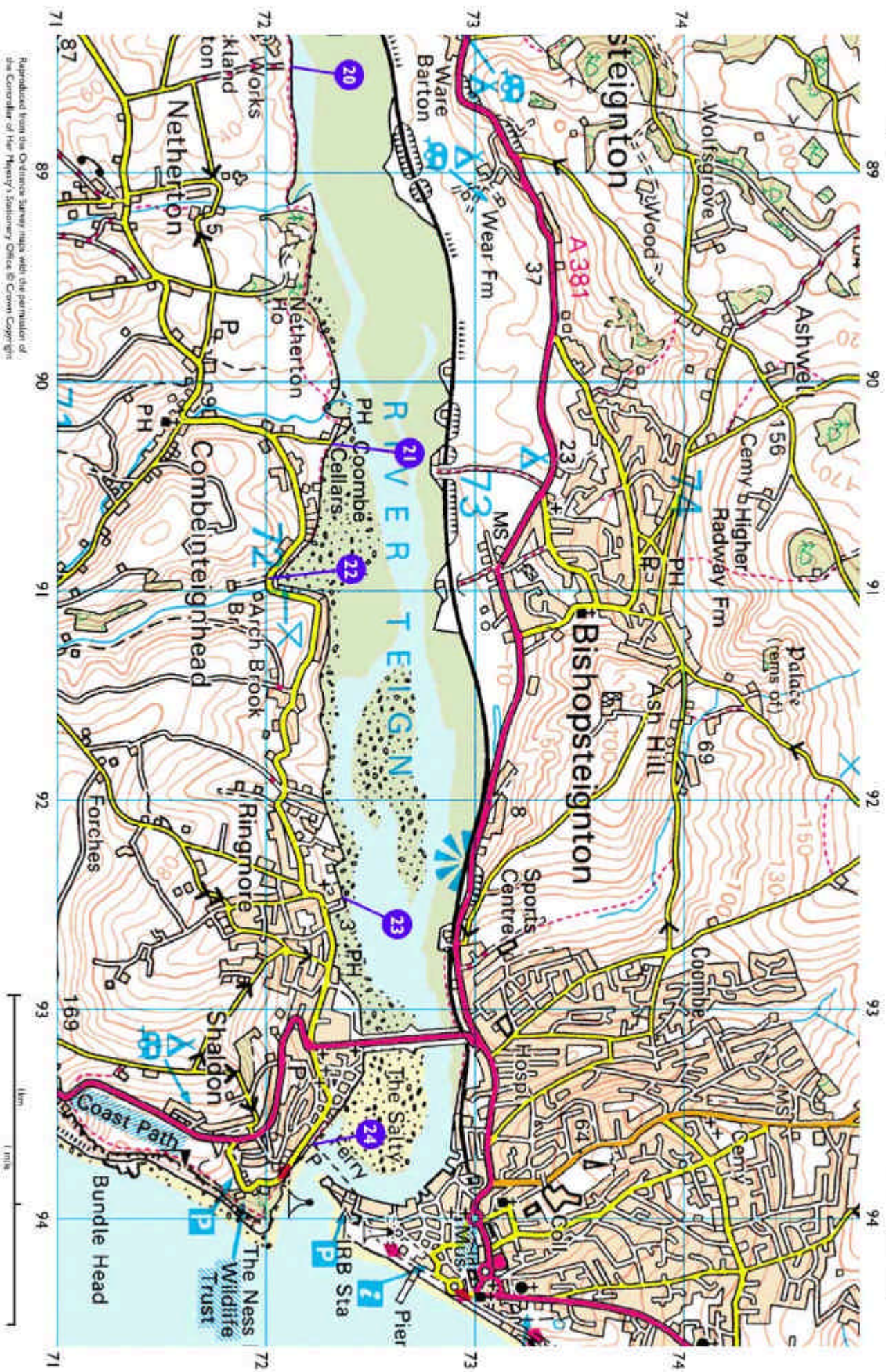
The Templar Way C



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The Templar Way D



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The Templar Way PART 1

Distance	27.37 kilometres
Typical time	9hrs
Height gain	0 metres
Map	Outdoor Leisure 28 & Explorer 31
Contributor	Tim Stone
Additional Information	<p>The route gets its name from The Templar family. The story of the route started in 1722 when James Templar was born in Exeter. As an orphan, he ran away to sea and made his fortune in India, building docks. He returned to England in 1765 and bought Stover House and the estate, which at the time was very run-down but was then renovated. The canal at Stover was built in 1792 by his son James Templar II to carry clay from the workings on his land for export. His son, George Templar, built the tramway which was officially opened on 16 September 1820. It was used to carry granite in tramway wagons from his quarries at Haytor to Ventiford. Here it was loaded onto barges by crane and carried to the New Quay at the mouth of the Teign Estuary. The New Quay was also built using granite from the quarries. From there, it was carried by sea to London and was used to build London Bridge, the British Museum and the National Gallery. The use of the quarries did not last long and by 1858 the quarry was deserted and the tramway disused. However, part of the tramway and the canal were purchased for the construction of the Newton Abbot / Bovey Tracey railway line. The lower section of the canal continued in use for the transportation of clay until the 1940s. There is still a large industry transporting ball clay that continues today.</p> <p>Anybody wishing to follow the route in one day should allow up to 10 hours. The foreshore path is not passable from 3 hours before to 4 hours after high tide. Make sure you know the tide times as there are no "escape routes" between Arch Brook and the Strand, Ringmore. If it is not possible to continue along the foreshore, you can follow the B3195 road from Arch Brook Bridge. However, care should be taken as the road is narrow and twisting and is quite busy in the summer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Low water Sun. 29th June 2003 1pm Giving us safe passage between 10am to 5pm Tide & Weather dependant.</p>

- 1 759767** From top car park head N towards the east face of Haytor Rock.
- 2 759771** On reaching the rock look for the well-defined path that leads NE downhill past the lone tree towards Haytor Quarry. If you have time, pay a visit to the quarry. It is a very quiet and secluded spot, as most people just visit the rock itself.
- 3 762776** On reaching the trees by the boundary stone and keeping the quarry on your left, look for the granite railway tracks heading NNW. Follow the railway tracks which head back towards the road in a large crescent. Listen for the distinctive call of the skylarks which nest in the area. The railway tracks are very visible but occasionally they are a little overgrown but where this is the case, the wide track will lead the way.
- 4 769775** Head over the road by another boundary stone and continue to follow the railway through the thick bracken. Again, the railway tracks will disappear and reappear frequently but the path, although narrow, is very easy to follow. You should head downhill keeping to the track just above the main road that should be on your right-hand side. There are superb views over the valleys below which give you some idea of the distance you will be travelling. Look out for the first waymarked post just below Bel Ap House. Follow the track downhill until you cross another better-defined track. Head across this to the wooden gate.
- 5 781778** Climb over the stile by the gate (it can be slippery when it is wet) and follow the hedge-lined path. Eventually it will pass through some trees and bear right 90° with a paddock on the left. Continue on this path through the trees until you come to a narrow road by Yarner Lodge.
- 6 782781** Cross the road and head slightly to the left and look for another signpost on your right. Follow the path until you come to the entrance to Yarner Wood Nature Reserve.
- 7 783782** Go through the gate and enter the wood. Head along the track until you come to a fork where there is an information board.
- 8 784782** Keep to the left path. You should now pick up the granite railway again heading through the beech trees. The railway is very well defined here. Take some time to look at the view on the left over to Lustleigh Cleve. This is an extremely quiet spot. Keep going until you reach the wooden gate at the exit to the wood. Look out for a tramway milestone in the wood that measures the distance from where the tramway met the canal.
- 9 787785** Leave the wood through the exit and follow the path keeping the fence on your left and the steep field on your right. The railway is still visible in places, although it is mostly overgrown. The path continues through high ferns until it comes to a metal gate.

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- 10 791784** Go through the gate and turn right. Head uphill along the path between the trees, passing a boundary stone in the middle of the path. The path will take you back to the main road. There is no public access across the fields. On reaching the main road turn left and follow the road downhill to Lowerdown Cross by the Edgemoor Hotel. Extreme care should be taken on the road, as although it is very wide, it can be busy in the summer months.
- 11 799782** On reaching Lowerdown Cross, head right down Stentiford Lane. There is a signpost marking the way. Carry on along this road for some distance until you reach the end of the trees. You will then pick up the railway again as it leaves the wood on your right-hand side. There is also an information board here.
- 12 802776** To the left of the information board there is a path that leads through the trees parallel to the road. Follow this until it comes out onto the road again.
- 13 804775** As you come out onto the road, cross it to the public bridleway opposite, taking care to watch out for traffic. Follow the bridleway where you can again see the railway. Head along the path until it comes to a road. Cross the road, continuing along the path until you come to another road. Cross this road and follow the path until you come to a third road, where you should turn right along the pavement. Continue until you come to the crossroads at Thorns Cross.
- 14 810772** At Thorns Cross turn left by the phone box along the road signposted for Liverton. There is also a waymarker here. Continue along this quiet road, passing Slade Mead on your right and Newcourt on your left. Keep on the road past Langaller Farm and cross Binney Bridge. If you look over your right shoulder, you will get a glimpse of Haytor provided it is a clear day. Continue along the road until you reach Templar House. Just past this, turn left into Great Plantation.
- 15 813757** Climb the stile and follow the path into the clearing in the wood. There is a slight fork in the path but keep to the path on the right and follow it to the first marker post. There are a number of owls nesting in these woods so keep your eyes open. Continue to follow the marker posts through the heather and into the dense forest. After a while the path comes to a wide Forestry Commission track. Do not be tempted to follow this track but head almost straight across it onto the path through the gorse and heather. A marker post will soon confirm that you are on the right path.
- 16 818754** After heading across the track continue to follow the marker posts through the thick forest. The path covers a considerable distance and there are about 40 marker posts to look out for which should keep you on the right track. After a time, the winding path finds its way to some steep wooden steps.
- 17 828753** Climb the steps out of the forest and onto the pavement. Turn left and head towards Drum Bridges roundabout. Extreme caution should be taken when crossing the roundabout as it is very busy. You need to get to the other side onto the road signposted for Stover. After heading off on the exit for Stover, follow the pavement for about 50 metres and look for a waymarker on your left into Stover Country Park. If you look back over your shoulder you should be able to see Haytor again.
- 18 830750** Go through the gate and follow the path into Stover Country Park. To continue this walk please print out Part 2, Walk ID 484.

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The Templar Way PART 2

- 1** 831 751 Continuing from the waymarks in Walk 228. Once in Stover Country Park, eventually you will come to a fork in the path. Follow the footpath on the right to the next information board before you get to the lake. On your right you will find toilets and a visitor centre. Continue around the lake keeping it on your right side. There are many different kinds of wildfowl on the lake. You will pass an Arboretum on your left. After following the path around the lake you will cross a wooden bridge. The path splits here and you have the choice of following either path.
- 2** 836 751 The path splits into a circular walk known as the Heritage Trail. Templar Way walkers can follow it in either direction. The left path goes to Ventiford where the tramway and canal met and the right to Locks Bridge where there are remains of the old lock gates. The route described assumes that the Locks Bridge route has been taken. Follow the trail through the woods until it forks. Take the left fork into the forest. There is a marker post showing the way. Continue through the forest until you come open meadows.
- 3** 837 747 Follow the path through the open meadows. Before you cross over a stone bridge you should see Stover House in front of you. This was the home of the Templar family but is now a girl's school. Continue on the path until it comes to a junction.
- 4** 839 742 On reaching the junction, head left towards the trees. There is no right of way heading right, as this is the rear entrance to Stover Girls School. Continue along the track and through the trees until you come to a lane by the entrance to ECC Quarries on your right.
- 5** 846 741 On reaching the lane, there is a wooden gate on your left with a waymarker. Go through the gate and cross the field along the pathway. You will see the tower of Teigngrace Church on your right. After crossing the field you will come to another wooden gate.
- 6** 848 741 Go through the gate and turn right, onto the road to Teigngrace. After about 50 meters, on the left in front of a house, there is a sign saying "Private Road to Teign Manor".
- 7** 849 740 Turn left by the sign and follow the path to the level crossing.
- 8** 849 741 Go through the metal gate and cross the railway line to the other metal gate making sure that the gates are closed behind you. After going through the gate, cross the wooden bridge over the canal to the information board.
- 9** 850 741 This is the start of the now disused Stover Canal. Turn right by the waymarker and follow the path with the canal on your right and open fields on your left. After about 100 meters you will come to a Templar Way signpost. This is where you meet the path that leads in the other direction on the Heritage Trail to Ventiford.
- 10** 851 741 Head straight on through the gate keeping the canal on your right. After 400 meters you will come to a disused lock gate where you can see the remains of the granite lock. Continue past this along the path. You will eventually come to some duckboards crossing the water from the canal that has spilled into the field. Carry along the path through the trees until you come to Teign Bridge. This is a very old bridge and worth a second look for its architecture.
- 11** 856 733 When you come out onto the road turn right over the bridge and canal. Although this is not a busy road look out for traffic. After crossing the bridge, go across the level crossing and look for the waymarker on the left.
- 12** 856 732 Follow the path and take the right hand track through the trees. A railway line is on your left that blocks your view of the canal. Eventually you will come to a wooden fence that has been put up so that you can look at the wildlife. Follow the path that is very straight until you get to Jetty Marsh. As you arrive at Jetty Marsh you will come to a one bar wooden gate.
- 13** 860 722 Continue to travel straight on until you see the embankment bearing to the left. Follow the embankment to the entrance to Jetty Marsh Nature Reserve.
- 14** 860 722 Follow the path past the sign and into the reserve. The path is still waymarked through the reserve. You will eventually come to the old canal basin that is still very visible. There is also an interesting information board here. Follow the path until it comes to the main road.
- 15** 863 718 When you reach the road you must cross to the other side. This road is very busy and it is best to cross near the roundabout. After crossing the road head for the Torquay road and just on your left on the opposite side of the road to the fire station there is a metal gate with a waymarker.
- 16** 864 717 Go through the gate and follow the path with the river on your left. Follow the path of the river to the first black railway bridge. Do not follow the path under the bridge but bear right to the footbridge. Go over the footbridge and follow the path along the river under two railway bridges to new Quay.
- 17** 869 716 Follow the road past the fountain and bear right towards the Industrial Estate. Turn first left at the Industrial Estate and follow the markers on the street lampposts along Collett Way with the builder's merchants on your left. When the road starts to bear right, look for the wooden gate and track on your left.

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- 18** 872 716 Go through the wooden gate and follow the path to the River Teign in front of you. Bear right and keep the river on your left hand side. You will eventually come to a long metal bridge that crosses a tributary. There is a signpost at the end marking the way to the estuary. In the other direction is The Penn Inn. If you have missed the tide you may like to take this route for refreshment as this is only a short walk from Newton Abbot Station.
- 19** 874 717 After crossing the bridge, follow the path to the left and head through the trees to the foreshore passing under the flyover. Make sure you are aware of the tide times and of the current time. It is better to continue the route knowing that the tide is falling rather than rising as you can then always wait for the tide to fall before continuing. Continue along the foreshore to the Sewage Works. The rocks can be very slippery when wet so take care.
Latest suggested time to proceed from here is 2pm
On Sun. 29th June
Tide & Weather dependant.
- 20** 884 721 The Sewage Works is your first escape route should you need it. Follow the track past the Sewage Works until you come to the lane. On reaching the lane continue straight on past the first road on your right until you come to a T-junction. At the T-junction turn left and follow the road to Shaldon. If the tide is OK continue along the foreshore to the next escape route at Coombe Cellars.
Latest suggested time to proceed from here is 2:20pm
On Sun. 29th June
Tide & Weather dependant.
- 21** 902 724 On reaching Coombe Cellars look for the information board at the far end of the car park. There is one further escape route after this but if you need to continue along the road you can do so from here by following the lane out of the car park until you reach the T-junction. At the T-junction turn left and continue on to Shaldon. If you are waiting for the tide to fall you can stop at the Inn for a drink and a bite to eat. There are normally many windsurfers and water skiers here during the summer. If continuing along the foreshore your next escape route is at Arch Brook.
Latest suggested time to proceed from here is 2:50pm
On Sun. 29th June
Tide & Weather dependant.
- 22** 909 720 Arch Brook is your last escape route before the Strand at Ringmore. The lower estuary is not passable from 3 hours before to 4 hours after high tide. There is another information board here. You will need to look for the steps in the wall on your right to get onto the road even if the tide is out. Cross the road and head back onto the foreshore or continue along the road to Shaldon if necessary. If using the foreshore carry on to the Strand and leave the foreshore by the white flagpole shortly after passing two private flights of steps and a metal flight supported by davits then a short flight of wooden steps.
Latest suggested time to proceed from here is 3pm
On Sun. 29th June
Tide & Weather dependant.
- 23** 925 724 On reaching The Strand head along the pavement and into Shaldon. Cross the Zebra Crossing into the village. This is a very picturesque village with many Georgian houses. On Wednesdays during the summer the villagers dress up in 18th Century costume. The village is full of narrow roads so keep to the main street and head towards the beach and the foot ferry to Teignmouth.
- 24** 936 723 On reaching the beach look for the notice board where the ferry departs. The ferry is a distinctive black and white open top boat that travels the short distance across to Teignmouth. On reaching the beach at Teignmouth, New Quay is on your left hand side, The end of the Templar Way ! You can catch a train or bus at Teignmouth in either direction towards Exeter or Newton Abbot.

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