

- ✓ Woodland, streams & open moorland
- ✓ Vast choice of swim spots
- ✓ Climbing – Yes! Be cautious.
- ✓ Deer, sheep, ponies & kingfishers
- ✓ **What3Words:** **desire.chucked.vineyard**



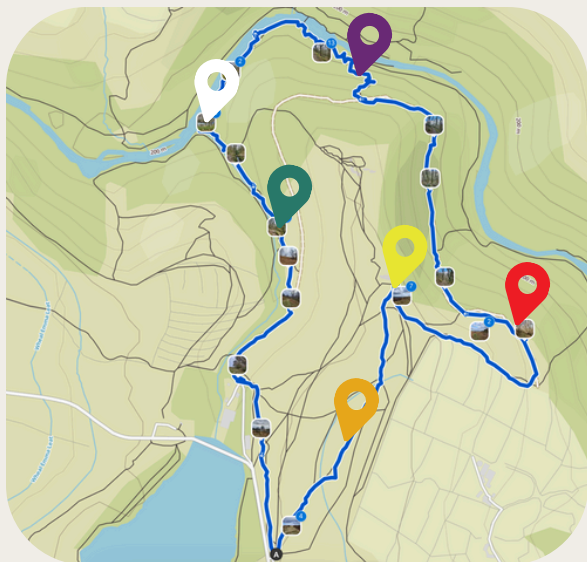
DIFFICULTY: 2/3

VENFORD BROOK & BENCH TOR

Quick Key:

- **Location:** Venford Brook & Bench Tor
- **Start Point:** Michelcombe Lane car park (What3Words: desire.chucked.vineyard)
- **Base Route:** 3.5km (~1.5 hours) | **Extended Route:** 6.5km (~2.5 hours)
- **Terrain:** Woodland paths, open moorland, stepped trails, uneven rocky sections
- **Difficulty:** Intermediate. The base route is accessible and family-friendly, while the extended route offers a longer adventure with a mix of woodland trails and waterside paths.
- **Dog-Friendly?** Yes, but be mindful of livestock on the moorland sections and deer in the woodland.
- **Parking:** Free parking at Michelcombe Lane, there is also a second carpark over the Venford bridge.
- **Lunch Spots:** Bench Tor (great views, ~1.2km from the start) or beside Venford Brook (secluded, shaded spots near the water, ~2km from the start).
- **Buggy/Carrier Friendly?** The base route is not suitable for buggies, but an alternative made-path variation allows a scenic, accessible walk without descending into the woodland.
- **Route Variations:** Extended option to loop around Venford Reservoir, adding an additional **3km**.





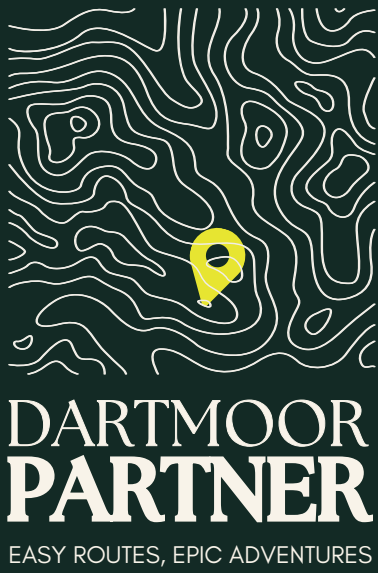
DIRECTIONS.

✓ **Base Route (Bench Tor & Venford Brook – 5km)**

- 📍 Start at Michelcombe Lane car park (What3Words: desire.chucked.vineyard) and head directly uphill-left towards Bench Tor.
- 📍 Follow the top clear moorland path uphill for about 15 minutes (~855m). The views open up over the Dart Valley as you climb. At Bench Tor, take a moment to soak in the panoramic views over the River Dart valley. You can see as far as Haytor on a clear day!
- 📍 Continue east (right from the tor) back along the track – keeping the valley on your left. You'll soon get to a large long farm stone wall on the right in the distance. Stay on this decline for about 10 mins as you gently wind down along the smooth open grass track.
- 📍 At the end, follow the doglegged path back into the trees on the left where you'll soon join an obvious track entering the tree canopy.
- 📍 Walk along the woodland path for 20–30 minutes, following the river on your right with Bench Tor up on your left. You'll start to break into the woodland depths now!
- 📍 Keep your eyes out! You'll reach a steep, winding track down to the valley floor (~1.9km into the walk). A great spot to stop and enjoy the riverside. This small entrance is a dugout stepped rocky slim track on the right. Wind down the single track all the way to the bottom to the river!
- 📍 Follow the river path for another 10 minutes until you reach the mouth of Venford Brook (~2.3km in).
- 📍 Climb up through Venford Brook, choosing between the streamside scramble or clearer woodland paths.
- 📍 Halfway up, take the left-hand path to rejoin the main gravel track (~3.1km in, 20 mins from the brook mouth).
- 📍 Follow the track back to the open moorland and return to the car park.

✓ **Extended Route (Bench Tor, Venford Brook & Venford Reservoir – 6.5km)**

- 📍 Upon reaching the main road after the climb, head towards Venford Reservoir.
- 📍 Cross the reservoir bridge, then take a left at the small gate. Follow the loop path around the reservoir for a peaceful waterside stretch.
- 📍 At the end of the loop, pass through another gate near the car park, where you started.



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