

Trail Directions

1. See a wonderful view of the village from the hall, itself once a school; a trench was dug in the grounds during World War II for the children to shelter in.
2. Take the steps to the road (Chapple Lane), noting public toilets on your left as you turn left. After about 200m a barn conversion on the right features plastered pictures on its exterior wall (facing down the road). This is Carpenters Barn, originally part of Higher Town Farm, one of five main farms in the village. Next down is ...
3. Harvey's in Town (no. 1), one of a collection of cottages (through entrance), formerly workshops and dwellings of carpenters, wheelwrights and a cobbler. Further down the road, near the left corner of the square, is ...
4. Forge House, where tools were made, previously one of two forges in the village. A wheel is mounted on the wall; the artefact above it was used to bend iron around the rim of a cartwheel. Below, on the ground, is a round stone, originally one of a pair holding water in which the newly bent rim was cooled. At the village square, turn right and proceed, to see ...
5. Green Cottage on the left (beyond Greenbank). This was once a shop and has an original Fire Insurance plaque above the right window, evidence of an insurance payment to cover the cost of using the village fire engine if necessary. The village fire engine is now in Okehampton Museum. Just beyond, a grassy bank leads to a cobbled path and the village green. Next on the left is ...
6. Lower Middletown, converted barns, which may be even older than Middletown on the right, the largest of the 16th-century farms 'in town'. Further down on the right is ...
7. Rebecca's Cottage, once two cottages, which has an interesting gated door. It was renamed after a village character, whose employer bought it for her. As the road rises, you can look back for a lovely view of the village. Next on the right is ...
8. A stone building that was the Police Station until 1910, now divided into Virginia and Hammetts Hill cottages. Beyond, you will see ...
9. A cob building, displaying the local 'red' earth. It has been a woodshed and pigsty in more recent times. Continue until you reach the ...
10. New Inn, dating from the 16th century. The nearby spring once provided its drinking water and that of the lower village. Two more of the village's original five main farms lie across the main road (South Town Farm and North Town Farm). Next, retrace your steps to the village square passing, on your right ...
11. Glebe House, thought to have been home to a priest in the 16th century, 'glebe' referring to church-owned land used to support a parish priest.
12. Sampford Courtenay Millennium Stone is on the right, a piece of granite brought here from Blackingstone Quarry, near Moretonhampstead. To the left of the stone, note the gateway to the water path, which once led to the parish well and now leads to the village green, play area and picnic tables. Further along the square lies...
13. The Church Court House, built around 1500, where church meetings and Manor Courts were held. An oak table, chairman's table and benches still survive, possibly as old as the building itself, but these cannot be seen as the building must be kept locked. The building has also been a school and a poor-house. On its steps, William Hellyons was killed in 1549, at the start of the Prayer Book Rebellion. Next, the lych gate on the right, built in 1901 to mark Queen Victoria's reign, leads to ...

Village Trail

Begin at the car park beside the village hall. Parts of the trail (approx. 2.5 miles (4km)) may be muddy, needing stout footwear. You can stay on paved roads by avoiding the footpath and green lane across fields. Please respect the many points of interest that are on private property.



14. The Parish Church of St Andrew. Rebuilt of granite and Cornish stone in 1540, the ceiling features a number of beautifully carved bosses, the finest being the head above the altar. The font is 10th century, of Purbeck marble; the parish chest was hollowed from a solid block of oak. There is a display chronicling the local Prayer Book Rebellion, including a topographical model. Outside, the corner of the tower has an OS Bench Mark (136.62m). Return to the street, noticing Albury and attached cottages opposite, once an inn. Turn right and walk 30m to see, on the left ...
15. The Chapel, built by Bible Christians, which has closed recently. Just opposite the chapel you can still make out ...
16. The Pound, where stray cattle were impounded, now part of a private garden of one of the converted barns, all originally part of ...
17. The Barton, the Devon word for the Lord's farm. In the Middle Ages, Sampford Courtenay would have supplied food to the Courtenay Lords of Okehampton Castle. About 50m further on ...
18. A granite stone cross marks the village boundary. Proceed 150m to where ...
19. Sampford Courtenay Lido used to be (right). Built in 1934 (closed in 1943), the water also supplied this end of the village. The villagers must have been hardy! A field a further 100m on the right, including an old cob barn, is ...
20. Oxenpark, where oxen used for farm work were kept. Walk along the road, keeping Red Post Cross to your left, until you come to ...
21. Frankland Ford Bridge. The old road ran left of the bridge, crossing the river via a ford. The keystone on the left bears the bridge construction date, 1783. Head up the hill and, at the top, on the left, spot ...
22. A granite stone marking the boundary between Sampford Courtenay and Honeychurch parishes (now combined). Follow the road to a crossways, ...
23. Rowtry Cross, with an old boundary stone between Honeychurch and Bonleigh (OS Bench Mark, 138.08m). To the right, around the corner, is an old well in the hedge bank. Next, head towards Honeychurch to visit ...
24. St Mary's Church. 'Honeychurch' derives from the founder, a 10th-century landowner - Huna's Church. This remote, quiet Norman church is a wonderful place to pause and reflect. The wooden carved wagon roof is almost entirely original; the Norman font has a Jacobean cover; the west tower and bench ends are 15th century. The nearby ancient farmsteads of Middleton, Eastown and Slade existed before the Domesday survey of 1086 and their boundaries are essentially unchanged.
25. Opposite the church, a footpath will take you back to Frankland Ford Bridge, or you can retrace your steps along the road.
26. Continue back past the bridge and bear right at the junction onto West Barton Lane, which runs through land once belonging to the Barton. At Peacegate Cross, you can ...
27. Go left along the green lane; at the end, bear right to Bulland Cross, a stone cross marking the village boundary. Or, ...
28. Follow the road and turn left at Thornbury Cross. A 400m walk brings you to Bulland Cross.
29. From Bulland Cross, proceed to a stone wall on your left and the steps to the village hall.



St Andrew's Church from the village hall

Sampford Courtenay took its name from the sandy ford (now replaced by a clapper bridge) by the New Inn. 'Courtenay' was added by the Lords of the Manor, the Courtenay family, who also owned Okehampton Castle. Today, Kings College, Cambridge, is Lord of the Manor.

Many of the houses in the village are constructed of limewashed cob, under thatched roofs. Cob, a mixture of sieved mud and straw built up a little at a time, will last indefinitely if it has 'a good hat and boots' - that is, if the roof is well looked after and the cottage is built on a solid stone base. The local tradition was to whitewash the outside of the cottages at Whitsun time, thus preserving the cob - unlike a cement coating which can crack and allow rain to penetrate.

The 15th-century Grade I-listed parish church of St Andrews lies at the village centre. It was outside the church, on the steps of the Church Court House, that William Hellyons was murdered in 1549 at the start of the Prayer Book Rebellion.

Every road out of the village is marked by a stone cross indicating the village boundary.



Bridge by the New Inn



Middletown

Illustration by Lin Bourne

This leaflet provides a detailed guide to a trail covering the historic village of Sampford Courtenay and nearby Honeychurch, plus a map of the whole parish with five suggested walking routes of various lengths.

The parish of Sampford Courtenay is situated just off the northern slopes of Dartmoor and spans some five miles from north to south and two miles from east to west. Sampford Courtenay village is one of the prettiest in West Devon. Excellent walking can be enjoyed both around the village and in the surrounding rolling countryside, catering for a wide range of mobility levels.

There are two pubs: the New Inn, close to the village centre, and the Countryman, on the Bow to Okehampton road (B3215). Both serve food and have a good variety of beers and wines, offering the opportunity of refreshment on some of the walks. Accommodation is also available within close proximity to the village.

Further details are available on the village website at:

www.sampfordcourtenay.net

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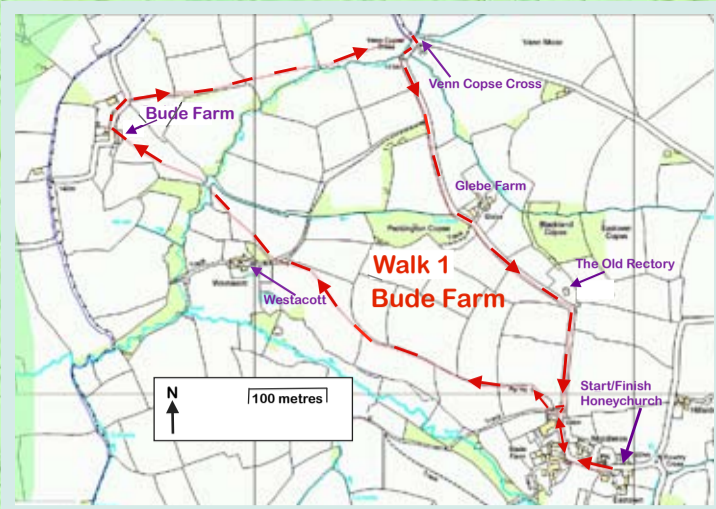
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Village trail, plus five circular walks

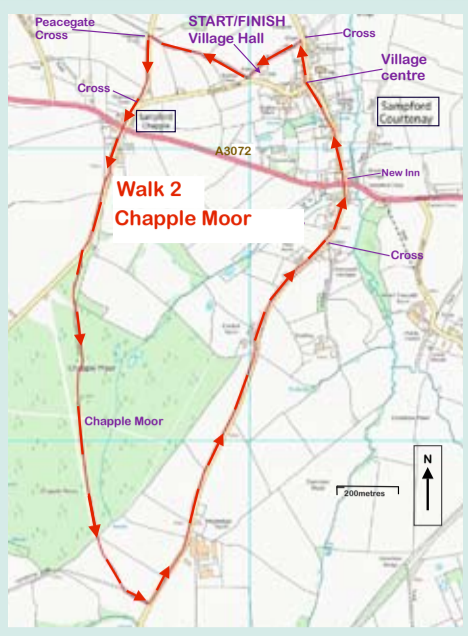
Sampford Courtenay



A guide to this historic parish and the pretty West Devon village at its heart.



Bude Farm



1. Bude Farm: Distance – 3.5 miles/6km Time – 1.5–2 hours
 Mainly across fields, some containing livestock. Lovely views of the moor. The walking is gently undulating and not strenuous, but does include stiles.
 Park in Honeychurch and follow the lane north west; take the waymarked track on the left. Keep right through the gate and follow the hedge across the fields. Cross the track at Westacott and continue across the fields to Bude Farm. Turn right along the lane and, very shortly, right again to follow the footpath across fields to the road. Keep turning right on road to return to Honeychurch.

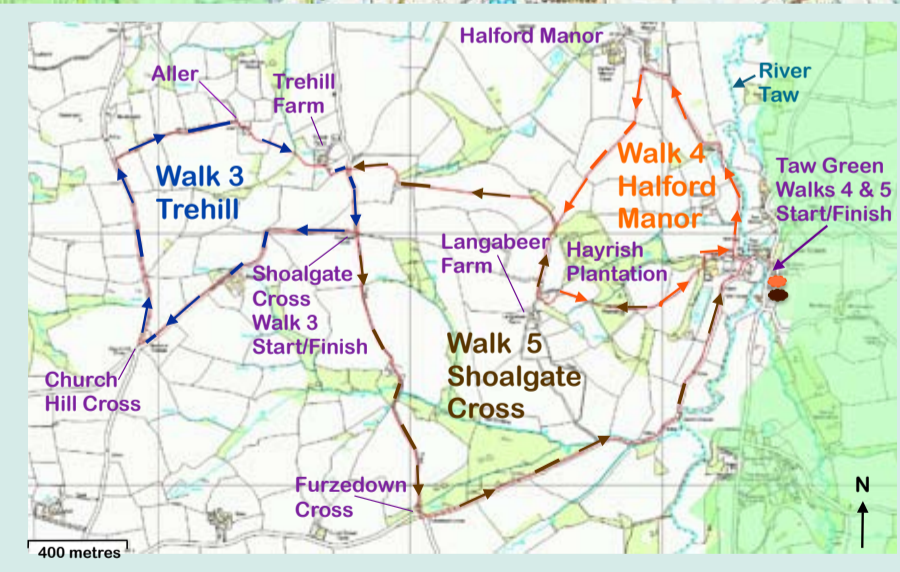
2. Chapple Moor: Distance – 3 miles/5km Time – 1–1.5 hours
 A pleasant walk through green lanes, quiet country roads, forest and farmland with two stiles and one gate to open; the walking is easy and gentle.
 Park at the village hall. Take the green lane from Bulland Cross to Peacogate Cross. At the lane junction, turn left. Cross the main road; after approx. 400m take the signed footpath across Chapple Moor, through the forest. At the farm lane, turn left onto the road, then left again to return to the village.



Halford Manor



St Mary's Church, Honeychurch



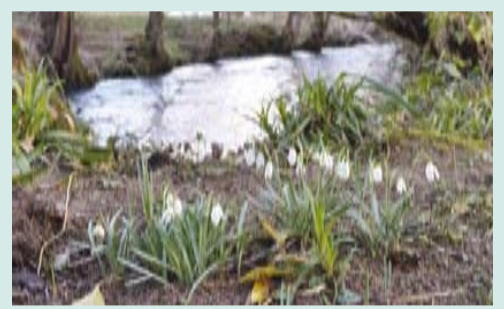
Please note: Scale of walks maps varies. It is suggested that this leaflet is used in conjunction with OS Explorer 113 and/or OS Landranger 191 maps.

3. Trehill: Distance – 2 miles/3km Time – 45 min
 Easy walk on quiet lanes, track and fields (includes stiles). Suggest start at Shoalgate Cross, it's then easiest to follow the footpath if you walk clockwise.
 Follow the lane towards Corscombe, down to the junction at Church Hill Cross. Turn right and keep going to the public footpath sign on the right (about 700m). Follow the waymarkers down the track and through the fields behind Aller Farm, down to the footbridge over the brook. Cross the marshy field by following the posts across the centre of the field, skirting the bog. Keep right of the hedge and cross the field to the lane. Turn right here to return to Shoalgate Cross.

4. Halford Manor: Distance – 2.5 miles/4km Time – 1 hour approx.
 Starting along a quiet lane, this walk then climbs (sometimes steeply) across farmland (with stiles), along part of the Devon Heartland Way, before returning. The terrain is usually firm underfoot.
 Park in Taw Green by the phone box. Proceed across the river bridge and along the lane towards Halford, ignoring the footpath sign at Hayrish Farm. After about 1km, take the footpath on the left and follow the path across three fields. At the next gate two footpaths meet; take care to bear slightly left, following the posts uphill across the centre of the field. Pass through the gully, along the top hedge to enter a small wood, then diagonally right across two more fields before following the fir plantation track to the last two fields and the return track to Taw Green.

5. Shoalgate Cross: Distance – 3.5 miles/6km Time – 2 hours
 A moderate walk with hills and rough terrain. Glorious views of the moor.
 Park in Taw Green by the phone box, cross the river bridge and immediately, at Hayrish Farm, follow the waymarked footpath through the farmyard and across the fields, climbing up to a track at the top. Continue straight on through Hayrish plantation and across two more fields to reach a small copse. Watch carefully for the waymarkers leading through the copse, across the field and through the gully, as it is easy to take the wrong path here. You are now at the top of the hill; two footpaths meet at the bottom of this field. Keep left to the stile by the trees; cross the next fields to the lane at Trehill. Turn left along and keep straight on at Shoalgate Cross to walk downhill to another lane. Keep left and left again to return to Taw Green.

Granite cross



Snowdrops by the River Taw