

## Wednesday 8th April 2015, Ten Tors, the easy way, with David Buss

I had been very keen to go on this walk and we were blessed with glorious weather and magnificent views so a perfect combination for the 18 of us, including a 13 year old grand-son.



**pix by stella**

The first steep climb up to Haytor, the most popular, set the scene for what was to come on the rest of the walk. As it was the Easter holidays, there were probably more people around than normal and there were several rock climbers testing their skills on the steep outcrops. Next, I found the descent down to Saddle Tor a much easier proposition and the views back to Haytor were stunning. Then a more gentle climb up to Pil Tor with views of the village of Widecombe in the Moor. Tor number 4 was Top Tor, just a short distance away. The next landmark was Bonehill Rocks, not technically a tor, but good for rock climbing and popular as nearby a car park. We then climbed up to Bell Tor and were rewarded with a very welcome stop for a coffee break. The next landmark was Chinkwell Tor, the highest for us standing at 458 metres affording great views. This mainly comprises 2 groups of stones heaped up to make sizeable cairns.

Tor number 7 was Honeybag Tor, the most westerly for us and a good spot for bagging a suitable resting spot for our lunch while watching some youngsters trying their skills at climbing. After lunch, skirting back below Chinkwell Tor, we

headed to the most northerly tor, Hound Tor. To reach the next tor, Great Tor, we passed the remains of a medieval village, a flourishing farm community in 1300 AD. As we descended to Becka Brook, we reached which was for me one of the highlights of the day, a very pretty spot as we crossed over the stone bridge. There was yet another steep climb to Smallacombe rocks and on to Holwell Tor, our final tor of the day.

We then walked down to Haytor quarries, a beautiful sunny spot formed by the digging out of the granite quarries and now forming water filled ponds, home to aquatic plants and wildlife. It was then a gentle climb back to the car park where we visited the Dandelion Café for a well earned refreshment except that they weren't obviously expecting so many people at that hour and ran out of both cake and tea! The skylarks were singing all day, a wheatear was spotted amongst the rocks and shrubs, Dartmoor ponies were seen as were cows, a calf and a few sheep.

Thanks to David Buss for leading the walk and Ian for keeping me company on occasions as back stop.

***Heather Fereday***  
***10 April 2015***