

**Wednesday 29th June 2016, Devon's Coast to Coast, Stage VI with
Chris and Mike**

CHAGFORD BRIDGE TO HITTISLEIGH

The weather forecast was for heavy rain all day but still seven members turned up at Newton Poppleford recreation ground. After being one car short on the previous section calculations were made and rechecked for the number of cars required. Four was the answer. But I have a seven seater said Neil . Calculators were quickly discarded and the seven of us set off in three cars to Summerhill Farm just north of Hittisleigh. Our walk leaders had spent some time a few days earlier looking for suitable parking places and finding none, knocked on the door of Ben Moseley , the farm owner, to enable us to leave cars there for the day.

Light rain was already falling as we arrived at the farm so we all put on full waterproof gear before piling into Neil's car for the drive to Chagford for the start of the walk. The rain stopped as we set off to Chagford Bridge, the official start of this section of the walk. From here it was a pleasant stroll following the river Teign. After a very short coffee break we climbed through woodland past Castle Drogo to Sharp Tor to admire the valley below. We could also see Castle Drogo still surrounded by scaffolding as the roof repairs are ongoing. From here we continued northwards to Drewsteigton where we had our picnic lunch in the churchyard. After lunch heading towards the A30 we past a stone, cut in half, marking the end of Dartmoor. We should come across the other half of the stone on another section of the walk when we enter Exmoor. Crossing the A30 the walking was very pleasant through rolling farmland until we came to the road just south of Hittisleigh, which we then followed for about a mile and a half back to our cars at Summerhill Farm.

This was a very enjoyable walk and despite the weather forecast we did not get wet. Good job we put the waterproofs on.

***Graham Knapton,
29th June 2016***