

‘Long Chains Bog Hopper’

Off-path walk over access land, some difficult navigation and rough terrain in misty/wet conditions.
Not for the feint hearted but worth it for the feel of remoteness. This route is handy to reach from the A39.

Grade	Hard	
Length	18 km	11.25 Miles
Ascent	460 metres	
Map	Exmoor explorer OL9	
Points of Interest	Longstone Hoar Oak Tree Bronze Age Stones	Industrial Architecture Pinkery Pond
Local Facilities	<p>Car Parking Only at the end of the track at GR SS 691422 - easier to park on the verge in summer.</p> <p>Pubs / Tea Shops Parracombe GR SS 667448 (4km away)</p> <p>Public Toilets Parracombe GR SS 667448 (4km away)</p>	
Getting there / Using Public Transport	<p>From the West (Barnstaple) A399 to Blackmoor Gate, then East on A39 to Parracombe, Take the first small right turn after 4.5km from Blackmoor gate, then follow to the end of the lane (a dead end).</p> <p>From East (Minehead / Lynton) A39 from Minehead and Lynton. 4km after Barbrook on A39, take the left opposite turn to Martinhoe, then immediately left for 1km. Finally turn right, follow to the end of the lane.</p> <p>Nearest Bus / train Your own transport is a must.</p>	
Route description	<p>Start GR SS691442 at the end of the lane, walk south down the lane to Two Gates, then turn East along the access land boundary, following the field boundary to Chapmans Barrows.</p> <p>Stage 1 Follow the path that exists on the ground past Longstone Barrow to Woodbarrow Gate. Here turn north for 1km to Saddle Gate. Continue on an easterly bearing following the fence into Ruckham Combe, Warcombe Water and finally turning South East into Hoar Oak Water valley, noting the isolated oak tree. This section can be rough going and exposed.</p>	

	<p>Stage 2 Follow the Tarka Trail / Two Moors way gravel track south until Exe Head. Turn West, using the boundary as a handrail for 2km until the small path heads north east to Chains Barrow – the highest point on the walk.</p> <p>Stage 3 Continue using the field boundary as a handrail, heading north west to Pinkery Pond. Continue up the other side to Woodbarrow Gate and the gate at GR 708425. You will find various tumuli, cairns and a stone setting.</p> <p>Stage 4 Take a north west bearing, 200 metres to Longstone Barrow, looking at the sea views to the west (if you're lucky with the weather). Continue north west to Longstone, then turn west for 1.5km along the slope edge to meet the original bridleway at Two Gates.</p> <p>Finish: GR SS 691442</p>
Disclaimer	<i>Please note: this route has not necessarily been walked recently, and is only to be used as a guide. Always take the correct map and equipment with you.</i>