



CORNWOOD INN

A Dartmoor freehouse with a warm welcome for all

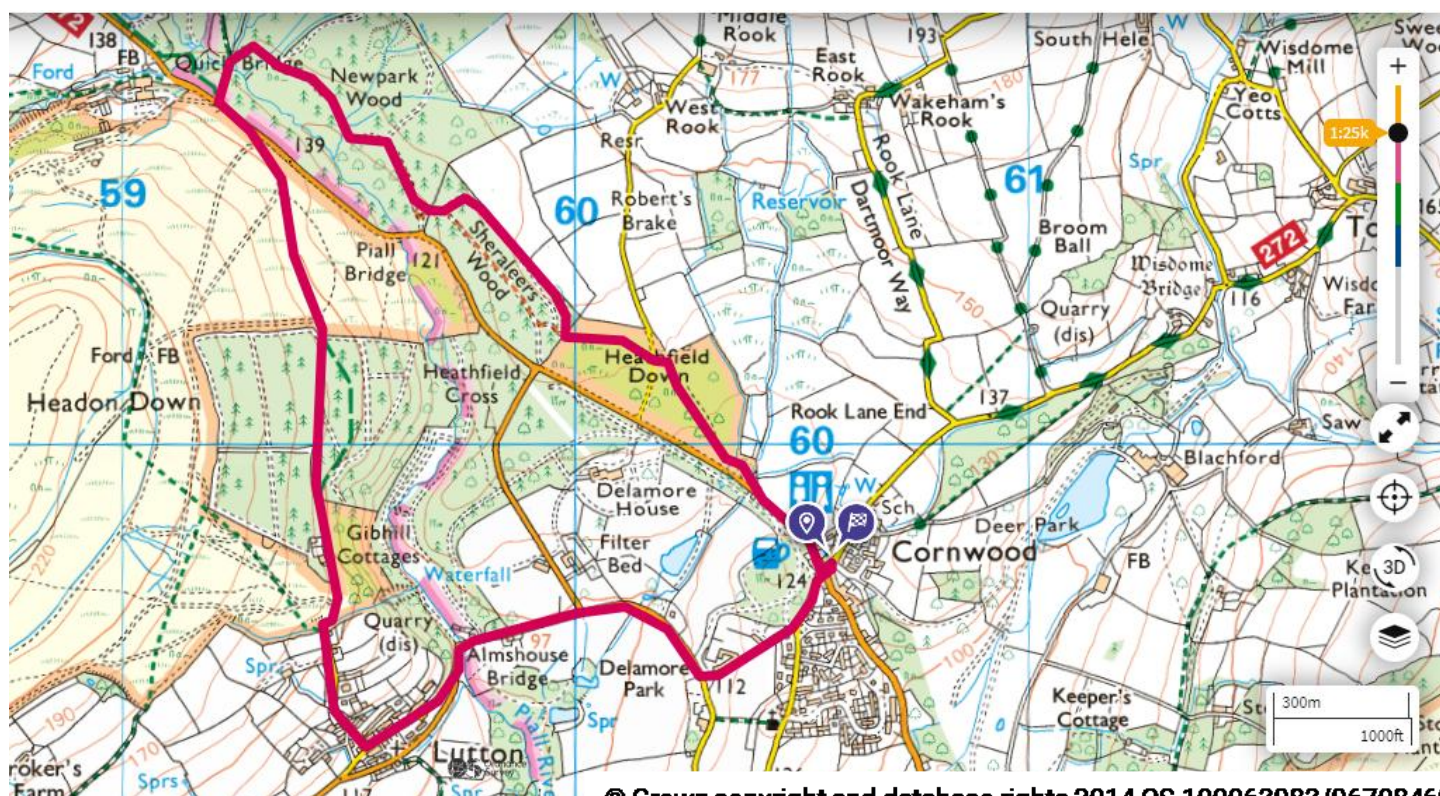
Walk 3 – 3 1/4 miles: Cornwood Square to Heathfield, through Sheraleers Wood and skirting Headon Down, returning past Cornwood Cricket Club and pink tree.

A circuit of variety with gentle start through the woods then a climb onto edge of moorland, with spectacular panoramic views of the southern moor, returning to village via road passing Cornwood Cricket club, with options to extend (the end of this walk is the same as Walk 4).

Walks are undertaken at your own risk. **Please follow the countryside code and leave no trace. It is the responsibility of the walker not to trespass, cause damage or upset livestock.** Remember, that livestock are kept in the open fields and dogs should be kept on leads. Some pathways can be muddy and therefore, suitable footwear should be worn. But don't worry if you do get muddy shoes/boots, muddy boots are still welcome in the Cornwood Inn.... and it will clean off! We recommend you carry OS Explorer map 28 (Dartmoor) or have the OS app on your phone if venturing off the roads and onto the moor.

Summary

This walk starts at the Cornwood Inn or Square, in the centre of the village, and takes the walker across Heathfield Down, through Sheraleers Wood and Newpark Wood before climbing onto Headon Down. The return route is then down Gibb Hill, into Lutton with the option to pass The Mountain Inn and continue on the road past Cornwood Cricket Club and the infamous 'Pink Tree' (art belonging to Delamore Estate) or slightly extending the walk spend more time on the open moor and/or to avoid the road and temptation of multiple stops. Total distance is approximately 3 1/4 miles or 4 3/4 miles for the extended route. Care is required on the first short section of road, then crossing the road near Quick Bridge and if returning on the road past the Cricket Club. Walkers are advised that the first field crossed and Headon Down (moor) are used for grazing; all dogs must be kept on leads when livestock are on the land. All gates used should be secured. QR code to the map on explore.OSmaps.com



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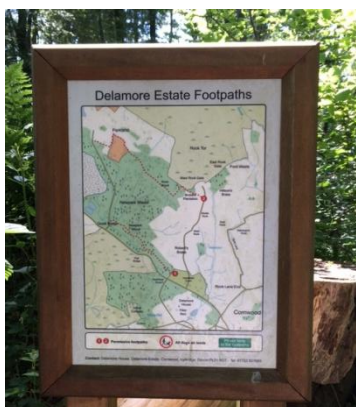
Walk description

From the front of the Cornwood Inn, cross the road and turn left (or from the Square, facing the pub, turn right) and walk approximately 50 meters on the road towards Lee Moor, passing North and South Cottages on right and just after the cottages, entering the permissive footpath into the field. The path runs close to the left hand field edge, parallel to the road (and safer than walking through 'the narrows' on road). This field is often used for grazing and can be boggy at the far corner, although recent improvements have been made with a new footbridge and ramp, which is crossed to lead into Sheraleers Wood. Do not re-join the road but cross the small (dry in summer) stream and continue on the path through the wooded area. The path meanders a little but is generally straight ahead until the lane (West Rook Lane, which links Delamore with Middle Rook). Cross over this lane and head across Heathfield Down towards a large oak tree beyond which is a metal kissing gate into the next woodland.



Local information

Heathfield Down has been used to host many football and other sports matches over the years. The land is part of the Delamore Estate with Delamore House lying to the south, on the opposite side of the main road. Cornwood Millennium Orchard is on the edge of the Heathfield, where some 27 varieties of Apple tree were planted to commemorate the year 2000; each young tree requiring protective fencing to prevent the numerous wild deer (mainly Fallow and Roe deer) from devouring them.



There is a clear sign at the metal kissing gate into Sheraleers Wood showing the Delamore Estate permissive footpaths. Follow the defined track down through these attractive and impressive Beech and Pine trees to a second metal kissing gate (near Piall Bridge) where the path kinks slightly to the right but is quite clearly marked with wooden finger-posts, and continues on a wider track through Newpark Wood (subject of substantial felling in 2021). Although well-defined, the path/track through these woods can be wet and muddy. After about 600 meters, another metal kissing gate is reached, which opens onto a wide gravel track. This footpath leads right to Cholwich Town Waste through Nelder Wood (subject of another walk). However, turn left here, up the short rise to the main Lee Moor Road.

At the main road, look to your left and you will see a track on the opposite side about 100 metres away, which rises onto Headon Down. Take care walking along the main road to reach the track. This track, a well-defined bridle path onto a discrete parcel of open-access moorland, offers the walker the opportunity to enjoy panoramic views over south Penn moor to the north, and to the east and south across the South Hams (South Devon) on a clear day. After an incline of approximately 500 meters, at a fork in the track, the main bridleway track forks left, continuing on the level through Gibb Park Wood.



Walk extension – around the west side of Gibb Park Wood

Should you want to extend the walk to continue enjoying the views and more open moorland, take the right fork to continue uphill, until reaching a small footbridge alongside a shallow ditch. Cross the bridge/ditch and follow the wire fence on your right until the path/vehicle track re-crosses the ditch and onto a wider gravel track. Turn left on the track. Then take the first right, which leads to the cattle-grid and gate, leading into Gibb Hill Lane, in the village of Lutton. **Note:** There are numerous tracks on this part of Headon Down, which can easily be walked to extend the walk further, but are not recommended in the fog or for anyone without a good sense of direction! The rooftops of houses at the top of Gibb Hill are usually visible through the trees, and may help to guide you to the lane.



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For the unextended walk

Walk through the wood along the wide track and after approximately 300 meters, situated on the left hand side of the path a small granite memorial to the 7 American Airmen who lost their lives in 1942, following a plane crash can be found. Continue on past Gibb Hill Cottages on the right. Carry on to the cattle-grid and gate, leading into Gibb Hill Lane, village of Lutton. Walk down the steep hill into the village of Lutton and turn left along Old Chapel Lane. Continue past the Mountain Inn (unless curiosity and thirst persuade you in). **Note:** From this point on, this Walk is the same as Walk 4

Carry on down Mountain Hill, to the main Cornwood Road. Care required at this rather blind 'Y'-junction. Follow this road back to Cornwood: after around 30 metres you reach a sharp right bend over the Piall stream at Almshouse Bridge. On the left is Goodabrook Wood. After Almshouse cottage to your right, you open out onto a straight piece of road, where to your left, you find Oak Park Cricket Ground, the home of Cornwood Cricket Club, and on your right the Pink Tree.



The Pink Tree – history/art

This tree attracted attention in the national press in May 2012 when it was painted bright pink to raise awareness of the fungal disease Phytophthora which has damaged trees across the country, and resulted in many larch trees being felled in the southwest, to help prevent the spread of the disease.

The tree itself is reportedly around 300 years old and 21 meters high. It took two weeks to paint. This, now faded Oak tree, was a former feature of a local art and sculpture exhibition held at Delamore House every May within the ground of the beautiful house and gardens.



As you continue on about 100 metres, where the road starts to bend to the right you can get glimpses of Delamore House up to the left, across the field and in amongst the trees. This is a private house, but the annual art and sculpture exhibition in May is well worth a visit. Continue on up past West Lodge and up to the bend, passing the Delamore Park entrance to the left – a sympathetic development of eight stone barns for commercial use, originally part of Delamore farm. Continue following the road up the slight incline with high stone walls either side until you reach Cornwood village with the bus shelter and Crossways Green on your right and directly ahead, the Cornwood Inn and large car park. Time for lunch or a drink?

