PUBS WORTH THE WALK

The Drewe Arms Walk

Fingle Bridge, Teign Gorge & Castle Drogo from Drewsteignton, 5.8 miles

OVERVIEW

From the village to the gorge, take the familiar waymarks of the Two Moors Way. The path descends into Rectory Wood, before the slope suddenly steepens on its way towards Piddledown Common & the Hunters Path. The path switches back to descend towards Fingle Bridge.

As you approach the bridge turn right keeping the river on your left as you head upstream. This stretch is pure Dartmoor theatre: moss-slick boulders, oak roots like knotted rope.

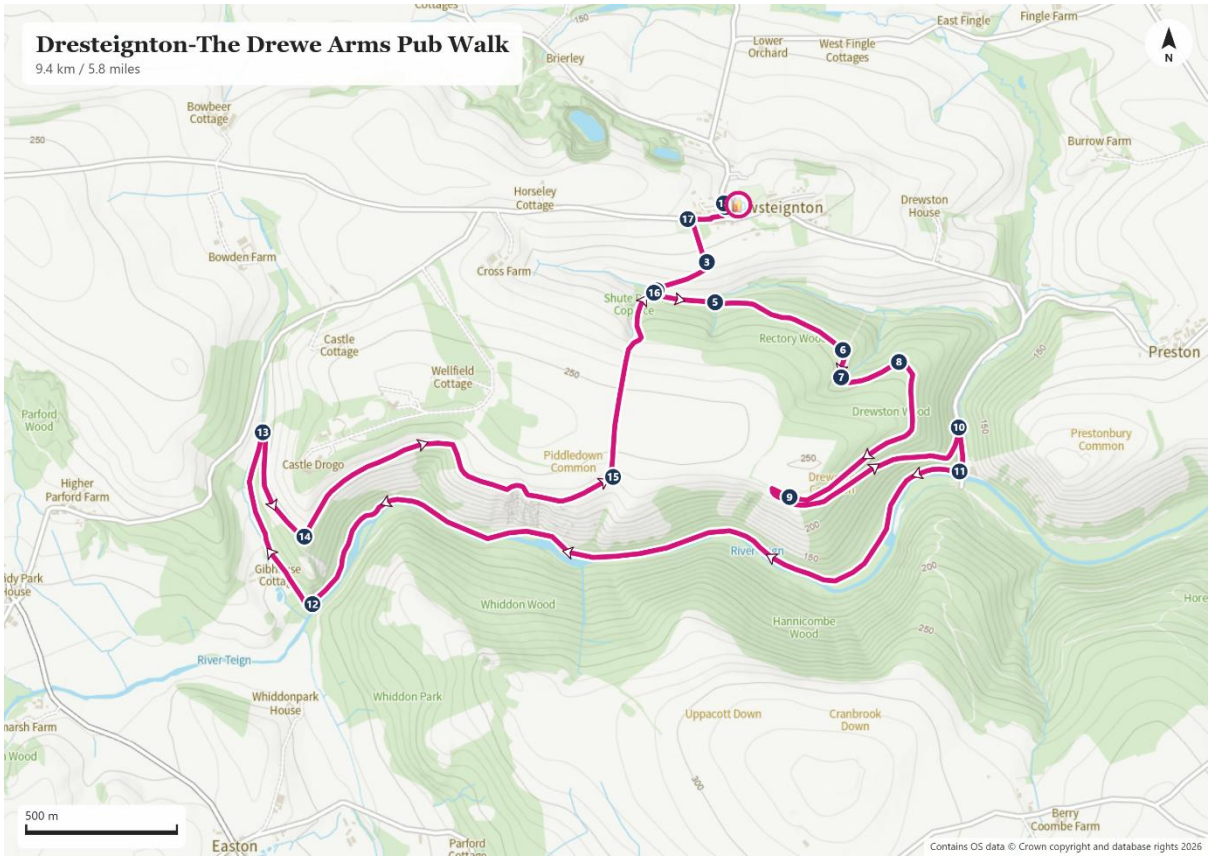
At the footbridge turn right up the narrow lane, signposted towards Castle Drago.

Now on the Hunters Path again the whole world opens out. The Teign Gorge drops away to your right, the river now a silver thread far below, and above you the dark bulk of Castle Drogo sits exactly where a castle should sit.

Beyond the perfect 'lookout' tors, the path contours back through Piddledown Common, before a return to Rectory Wood and steps retraced back to The Drewe.

Start/Finish	**The Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton, EX6 6QN. 01647 281377**
Parking	Small pub car park to the side of the pub. Larger (still small!) community car park behind the church is signposted when approaching from Cheriton Bishop direction.
Grid Reference	SX 736 908
What3Words	///grants.bulk.buckling
Distance	5.8 mil / 9.3 km **Time** 3 hours **Ascent** 1115 ft / 340 m
Paths/Terrain	Country lanes, woodland paths, stony underfoot along river paths where lots of roots exposed too. Steps, occasionally steep. Gates. All routes well signposted, plus NT Information Boards at Fingle Bridge.
Difficulty	Moderate.
Public Transport	Bus 359 runs several times a day between Exeter bus station and Moretonhampstead, calling at Drewsteignton and Chagford.
Toilets	The Drewe Arms; Fingle Bridge Inn; Castle Drogo.
Other Pubs Nearby	The walk passes **Fingle Bridge Inn**, a waterside inn. At Moretonhampstead, **the Union** is a traditional pub; **The Horse** something altogether more upmarket. In Chagford, **The Globe** and the **Three Crowns** are very much worth visiting.

DIRECTIONS



1. The centre of the tiny village of Drewsteignton is the church and the pub. As you walk away from The Drewe Arms, turn left along the road in the direction of Chagford, and follow it as it turns 90 degrees right on its way out of the village.
2. Opposite the last village house, a stone marker announces the Two Moors Way, with finger markers directing towards Castle Drogo and the Hunters Path. Take this path down into woodland of Rectory Wood.
3. At the footpath junction, turn left. (You'll arrive back at this point from the other path on the return journey).
4. Follow up through the conifers of Rectory Woods. At a stone marker, the path splits, offering a lower looping route to the left to Fingle Bridge. Our route continues uphill to the right, signposted Hunters Path.
5. The path drops down slightly to round a bend before continuing uphill. Then a wonky footpath marker at a junction guides you to the right towards and through a gate.
6. This is the Hunters Path which soon rises through oak woodland, the indication that we're now on the slopes above the River Teign. This path continues uphill, and eventually you can spy another path beneath you.

7. At the gate onto Piddledown Common, look for the ‘switch back’ path down on your left. This is the route to take you downhill now through the woods towards Fingle Bridge.
8. The path drops onto a lane, which is the approach to Fingle Bridge. Plenty of parking here for those following a loop of the river through the gorge, or visiting the Fingle Bridge Inn.
9. As you approach the bridge, we’re taking the path upriver on the right of the bridge, the Fisherman’s Path. (There’s a ‘You Are Here’ marker board on the other side of the bridge which gives you a sense of where you’ve been and where you’re heading!)
10. This is a gorgeous section, but a bit tricky underfoot and a little bit of uphill. Take your time and enjoy it.
11. At the suspension bridge, a marker guides you away from the river, towards Castle Drogo and the Hunters Path again. Take this to join a lane, gently uphill. This is the Two Moors Way route (and Dartmoor Way).
12. You’ll come to another finger marker guiding you to the right, again towards Hunters Path & Castle Drogo, continuing on the Two Moors Way.
13. This is an uphill that soon opens out to reveal awesome views as you rise above the gorge. The National Trust castle is above you to the left. You’ve walked a long way past the castle before a signpost to your left offering you the chance to visit.
14. As you ascend, lookout points on tors provide super views, Sharp Tor being the best (250m elevation).
15. Soon after, a path guides you left away from The Hunters Path, to start the return to Drewsteignton, the Two Moors Way taking you back towards Rectory Woods via Piddledown Common.
16. As you leave the common a steep downhill takes you to that junction that we arrived at in #3 above. (I didn’t follow it, but a winding loop downhill avoids steps I believe).
17. Emerge onto the lane back, turn right for the short back into the village.

NOTES

Although this route only passes beneath **Castle Drogo**, it’s worth knowing what you’re walking under. Perched high above the Teign Gorge, Drogo is **the last castle ever built in England**, designed by **Sir Edwin Lutyens** for tea magnate **Julius Drewe** and constructed between 1911 and 1930.

It looks medieval from a distance, all granite battlements and fortress-like presence, but step inside and you find a fascinating early-20th-century country house — part romantic fantasy, part modern family home. It was gifted to The National Trust in the 70’s.

Its position above the gorge is spectacular, with wide views across Dartmoor, and the National Trust has restored both the building and its gardens after years of weather-related challenges.

If you have time before or after the walk, it's an intriguing place to explore: a bold architectural experiment, beautifully set, and full of stories about ambition, landscape and the last gasp of English castle-building.