

A BOOT UP DARTMOOR'S SITES OF MAGIC & MYSTERY

John Earle

The Pixz Boot Up Series is fast becoming a phenomenon in local walks books that attract families and others to exploring the countryside in a leisurely way. It includes short walks for those living in or visiting popular areas of the country, written by those who know the area well. They provide a healthy hour or two of exercise, exploring parts of Britain's countryside that the casual visitor might otherwise miss, pointing out interesting features along the way. These are perfect walks for families.

Few places in the country are so atmospheric as the moorland that comprises the Dartmoor National Park. Little wonder that Conan Doyle, author of one of the world's greatest mysteries, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, should have chosen Dartmoor for his setting. A land of mists and giant tors, ancient woodland and bottomless mires, creates a natural world in which legends and folklore abound. This book of 10 walks of varying length takes the reader along pathways to some of Dartmoor's most intriguing places. With his intimate knowledge of the moor, John Earle has combined exhilarating walks and superb views with numerous sites associated with ghosts, apparitions, evil spirits, phantoms and fairies. The walks include:

- The Body in the Chest – The Warren House Inn area
- A Night Trapped Down a Mine Shaft – Birch Tor area
- The Wish Hounds and the Hunter – The Hound Tor area
- The Ghost of Judge Jeffreys – Lydford
- The Work of the Devil at Brent Tor
- Great Grimpen Mire – near Princetown
- The Ghost of Jan Coo – From Poundsgate to Dartmeet
- The Evil Spirit of Squire Cabell – Buckfast
- The Hairy Hands – Believer Forest and Powdermills
- The Phantom Roman Soldiers – Lustleigh Cleave

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Earle has lived on Dartmoor since 1948. Formerly a headmaster, mountaineer and explorer; he became a familiar face on television in a long career as a presenter, broadcaster and scriptwriter. A Fellow of The Royal Geographical Society Alpine Club, an expedition leader and cameraman, he is also author of various mountaineering books, film scripts and walking guides for Dartmoor, Exmoor and Cornwall. He is currently Head of The Dartmoor Expedition Centre at Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

ALSO BY JOHN EARLE:

Dartmoor Walks into History

A Boot Up Ten Dartmoor Tors

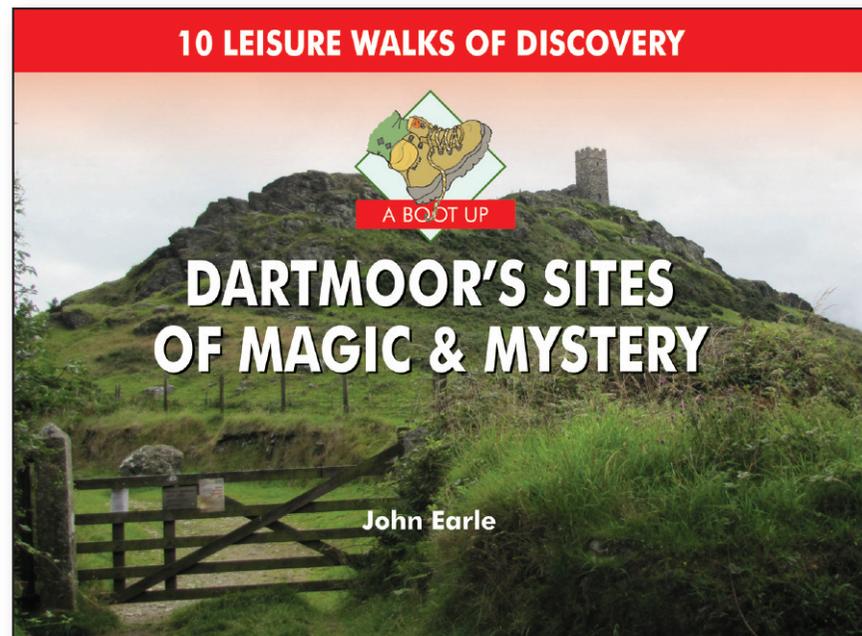
A Boot Up Dartmoor Rivers

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**Great Books from
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A BOOT UP DARTMOOR'S SITES OF MAGIC & MYSTERY



Buckfast Abbey.



Hound Tor.



Bennett's Cross.



The Hairy Hands corner near Cherrybrook.



Brent Tor seen for miles around.

1 The body in the chest

13 A gentle climb now and if you look down right you might make out the remains of a wheel on which powered the pumping rods of East Birch Tor Mine. Keep an eye out too for the remains of a leat and the gullies that held the pumping rods that worked the pumps for water in the shafts of the nearby mines.

14 On past Headland Warren Farm on the right of way (see Walk 2 for details about this remote farm).

15 Turn left and start the climb up west on the eroded path.

The mine gullies or gents above Headland Warren.

On the other side of the col you pass near a series of deep gullies (again see the Walk 2 for details of these.)

16 You will soon reach the bottom of the valley and Viller Mine again so follow the track that you came down back to the car park and make another visit to the Warren House Inn.

2 A Night Trapped Down a Mine Shaft
A pack of cards, evil creatures below ground, a miner's pub and a near disaster.

After the Car Park you will see Bennett's Cross marking an old track across the moor from Moorhobnastead as well as the boundaries of Chagford and North Bawby. It has WB cut into it to mark the landmark for Warren Grounds or possibly for William Bennett (Benner) who was a juror in the Tenants' Parliament at Cocksmere Tor in the reign of Henry VIII (see Walk 9) and was connected to the stannary of Chagford.

Across the valley you will see two stone outcrops. One is shaped like a heart and the other like a diamond on a pack of cards. These are said to be the playing cards of the wicked farmer Jan Reynolds that were dropped by him when he was carried off by the Devil for playing cards during the sermon in Widecombe Church one Sunday. There was a flash of lightning that broke one of the spires followed by a thunder clap and furious winds and Jan was never seen again.

Levels: 2.5 miles or 4 miles.
Terrain: Tracks across moorland.
Park and Shop Ref: SAG01517
Refreshments: The Warren House Inn.

Example of a double-page spread.