

THE PERAMBULATION DARTMOOR'S GREATEST LONG DISTANCE WALK

DESCRIBING THE MEDIEVAL ROUTE FOR THE MODERN-DAY WALKER

Roland Ebdon

The forty-three mile boundary of the 'Ancient Forest of Dartmoor', at the heart of the National Park, is an established long distance walk. Twelve knights first undertook the walk in 1240 on the orders of King Henry III. Their aim was to define the boundary so that fees for those using the royal land could be exacted.

This sumptuously illustrated book provides the reader with the comprehensive story of how Dartmoor's Greatest Long Distance Walk came into being. It also gives details of sixteen excursions that modern-day walkers may undertake to retrace the route of the twelve medieval knights who first undertook this historic 'perambulation'.

Their work has been re-interpreted many times since 1240 but for the first time, in this book, using modern navigational tools and after extensive research in archives and in the field, the author details a contemporary interpretation of the boundary.

This book offers a summary of previous studies, a guide to the locations of the historical artefacts examined, and includes suggestions for walks on the moor. It will hopefully act as a spur for others to retrace this part of our Royal history.

Here are maps covering sixteen walks, some short, some long, with a description of each in order that the present-day walker might retrace part of our Royal heritage while exploring historic Dartmoor for themselves.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Roland Ebdon grew up in Exeter, Devon and has been walking on Dartmoor on-and-off for over fifty years. He was introduced to the moor by an uncle who grew up at Meldon where his father had been a quarryman.

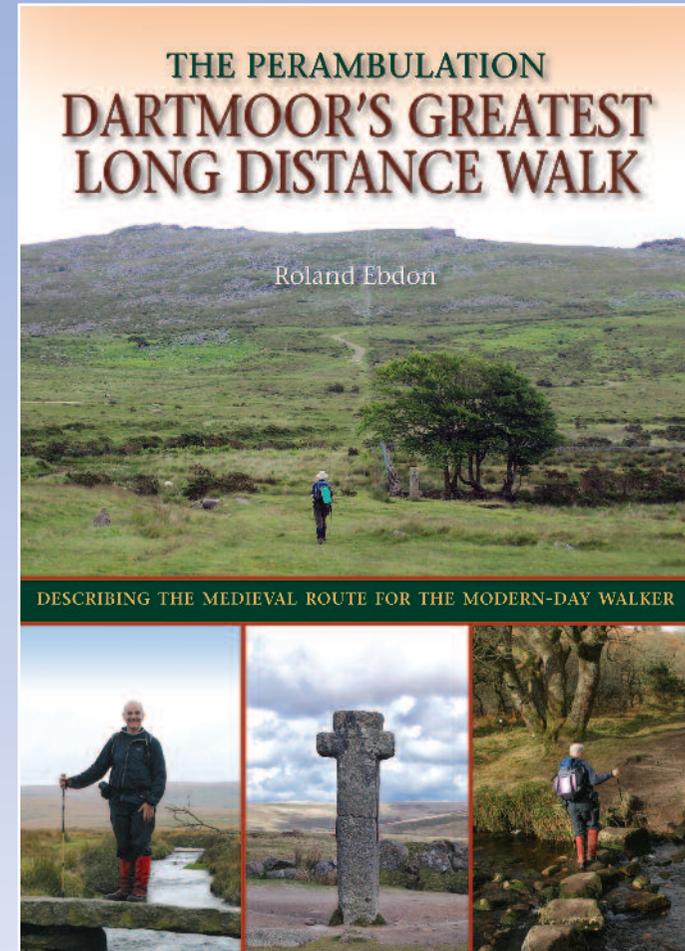
Thirty-four years of service in the Army then took him away from Devon and around the world. In 1983 and 1984, he considered himself lucky to command the Royal Signallers providing communications for the checkpoints for the Ten Tors events. Although based at Okehampton Camp, he spent many happy hours, day and night, trekking from one site to another before and during these events. After retiring from the Army, he joined Kodak just as digital photography was taking off. Following a hip replacement and needing to get fit again, he started geocaching, a hobby that soon brought him back to the moor. He placed some of the earliest caches in the remotest of places to encourage others into the deepest parts of the moor.

In 2007 he read about the Forest of Dartmoor and its first perambulation. Since then, it has occupied his thoughts and much of his time. Now he aims to introduce others, including his grandchildren, to this piece of history and to the moor.

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HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: *Hardback with full colour cover, 160pp, 297x210mm, including over 350 full colour photographs and maps*

Price: *£19.99*

ISBN: *978 0 85704 281 1*

Imprint: *Halsgrove*

Published: *April 2016*



Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road,
Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

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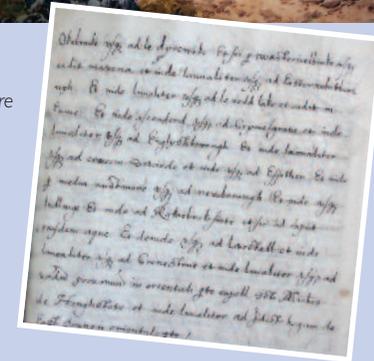
Footbridge and stepping stones with Arms Tor beyond.



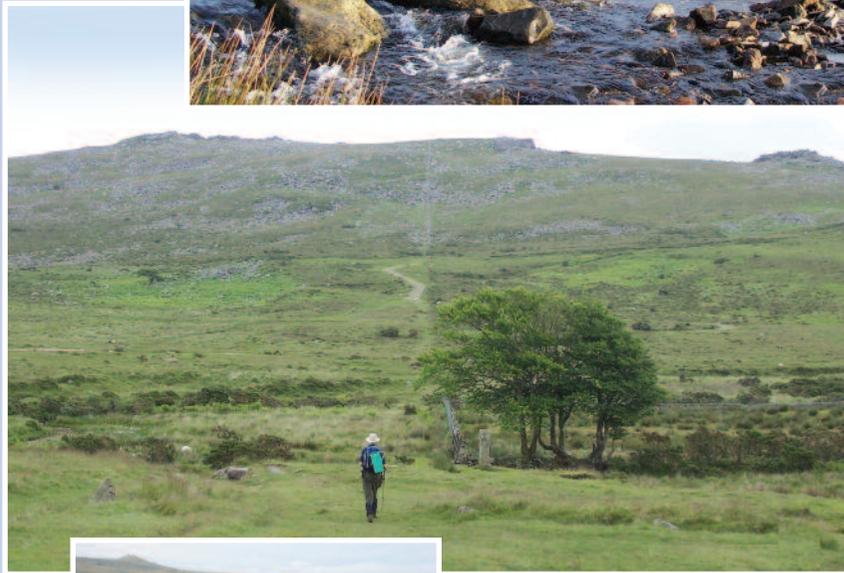
Above: Steeperton Tor with Widgery's painting (right) of the same scene.

Right: Copy of John Hooker's perambulation return held at the Devon Heritage Centre

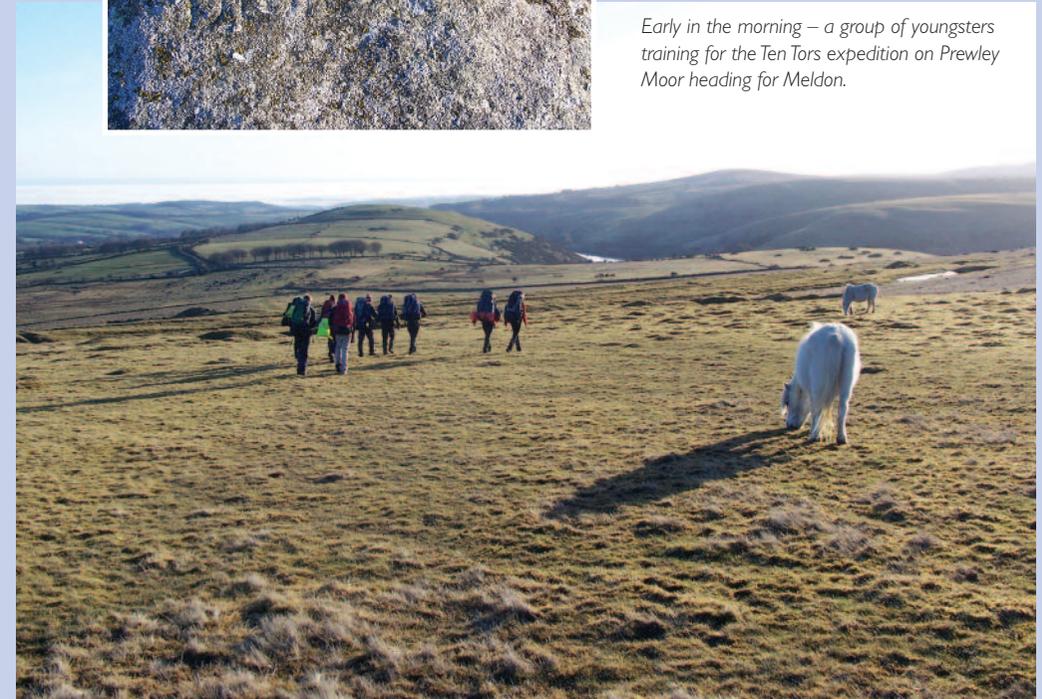
Below: Broad Rock.



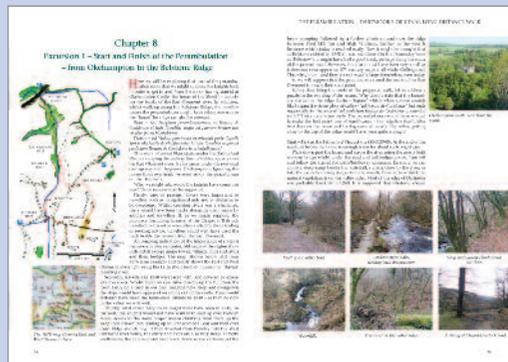
Early in the morning – a group of youngsters training for the Ten Tors expedition on Prewley Moor heading for Meldon.



Left: Cullever Steps and Irishman's Wall beyond.



The author crossing Horseshoe Ford.



Example of a double-page spread.