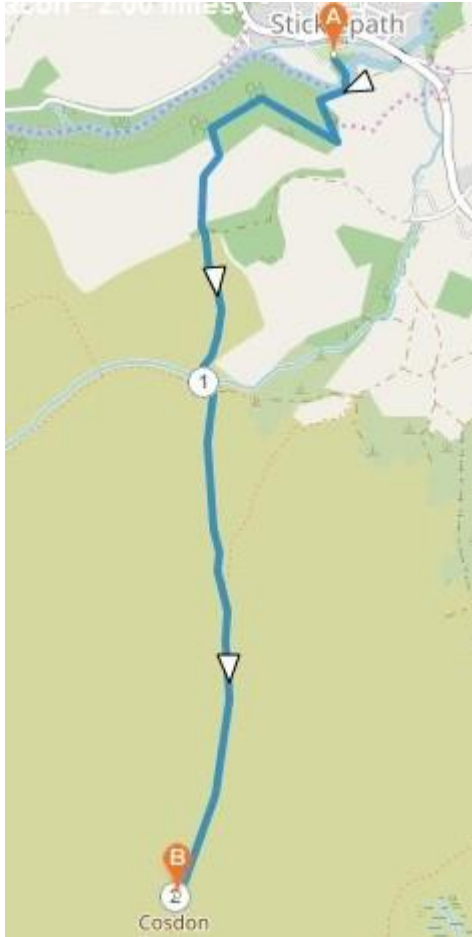


## Finch Foundry Walk

Distance: 4 mi./6.5 km. Time: about 2 hours



Finch Foundry car park is behind the Devonshire Inn in the village of Sticklepath. From the car park, there is already quite a bit to see before you start your walk. Finch Foundry, founded in 1814, is named after the local Finch family of tool makers. It is the last working water powered forge in England and is now a National Trust property. There's also the Quaker Burial Ground which was purchased around 1700. The first recorded internment in 1713 was a Benjamin Bellamy.

With the foundry behind you, take the five-bar gate on the left and head through the small woods, along the edge of the river, cross over the small bridge over the River Taw, turning right, then through another five-bar gate, taking the path to the left on the corner, starting your ascent up the hill. This is quite a steep start so take it easy!

The path winds uphill, through Skaigh Woods leading you to another five-bar gate. Here you will see a sign pointing left after the gate, taking you alongside a stone wall and along the edge of the field. Follow this wall all the way up until you reach a gate at the top of the field.

Head out through the gate – you are now on the open moors. Straight in front of you is a track, follow this, again a short, sharp uphill stretch. The path at this point is quite

clear, follow it until you reach the corner of the field system on your left. At this point you can look up towards Cosdon Hill, where you will see a small tree - this is where we will be heading.

From this point at the wall, continue with the wall on your left, where you will then meet a wider track, turning slightly right. Look for a track which will then be on your left. It will start to head out into the moor where you can see trackways leading up to the tree. As you get nearer to the tree, which will be on your right, stay on the track which now takes you further up the hill – it is one of those climbs where the top never seems to appear! The path here is easy to follow. You will pass a cairn to your left – sorry, this is not the summit yet, but keep heading up where you will now be able to see the Beacon and the trig point at 550 m. It will have been worth the walk as the views from the top are quite amazing. On a clear day, you can see Hay Tor and beyond, Exmoor, High Willhays, Yes Tor and much more. The route back will be the way you have come and perhaps a little easier!