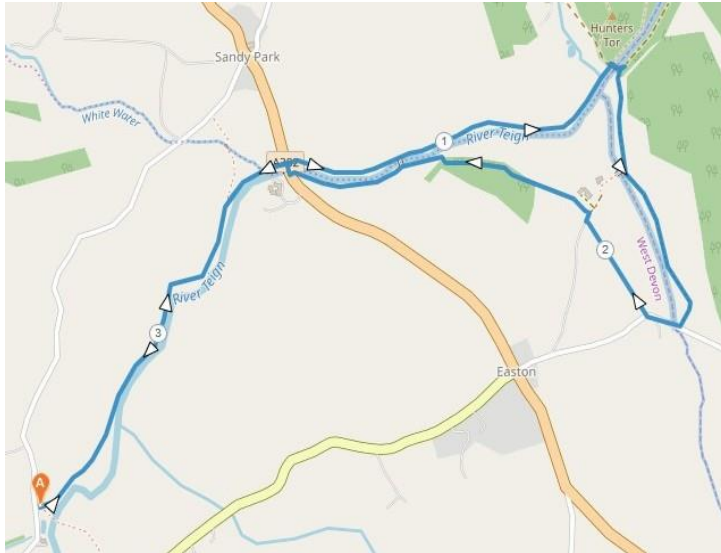


River Teign Circular Walk

Distance: 3 mi./5 km. Time: about 1½ hours.



This walk starts from Chagford Pool car park, which can be busy during the opening period (May – September). Donations for parking can be made here. There are some great places for both you and your dog to swim along the route, or come back to swim at the pool, Devon's largest outdoor freshwater heated pool.

Turn right out of the car park, following the first signpost on your right through Rushford Mill Farm; go straight across the yard to the field

entrance. Keeping the river close to your right, head for the next gate, nearest to the river, across the field in front of you. These two fields are great for Nordic walking! In the distance you will see the woods – pass through the gate and take a few steps to your right towards the river. On the small island in front of you, you will see a carved stone that looks like it has been split in two. This is the *Granite Song*, a sculpture by Peter Randall-Page.

Continue through the woods, over a small bridge, which brings you onto the main A382 Whiddon Down – Moretonhampstead Road, at Dog Marsh Bridge. You will see the Mill End Hotel on your righthand side. Cross over the road and go through the gate, continuing to walk beside the river.

The field you are now entering is the location for the famous Chagford Show – a great show with lots to see and do for all of the family, dogs are most welcome too, especially to take part in the terrier racing! As you walk over a small stream, past another bridge on your right (we will be coming back this way), go through the next gate, take a look up to your left and you will see Castle Drogo.

At the next gate there are three signposts giving you directions for other walks. At this point you could take a left to walk up to Castle Drogo, but that is for another time – today we will take a right over the suspension bridge. This is a great spot to swim, and you can even do lengths! While standing on the bridge and looking downriver you will see the newly refurbished pump that helps to generate power for Castle Drogo, the pump house is further down the river on the right.

Climb through the gap in the wall, turn right and follow the path, keeping Whiddon Park House on your right. The area on your left is Chagford Deer Park, another very scenic walk with sculptures by Peter Randall-Page at its entrance in the woods.

Follow the path until you meet a lane, turn right and follow the lane, looking out for a pedestrian gate at the top of some stone steps. Follow this footpath back towards Whiddon Park House and continue along it to the end, turning right, down the steps, through the gate and left into the field. The bridge in front of you takes you back across the river – turn left and then make your way back to the main road, crossing it once again and walking back on the same route we came.