

Stage 5/5A



Stages 5 and 5A from Throwleigh follow the same route until Gidleigh, where **Stage 5** carries on directly to Chagford, while **Stage 5A** detours via Scorhill and Kes Tor.

Stage 5



Low route



Throwleigh - Chagford



5 miles / 8 km



2½ - 3 hours

We leave Throwleigh by Deave Lane, a wooded old trackway that joins the lane outside Wonson to take us to Providence. Footpaths then lead up to Gidleigh from where lanes are taken to Murchington, with a wooded section and delightful riverside path circling around Chagford to bring us in from the north-east side. A walk through the village leads to our finish at St Michael The Archangel church.

Stage 5A



Low route with Moorland detour



Throwleigh - Chagford



8½ miles / 14 km



3½ - 4½ hours

Following the route from Stage 5 to Gidleigh, we then take the lanes out to the eastern edge of the moor and the wonderful setting of Scorhill stone circle. This is followed by the clapper bridge crossings of the Walla Brook and North Teign rivers and the path up to Kestor from where magnificent 360 degree views should be enjoyed. A steady descent along paths, wooded tracks and lanes takes us down to the River Teign where the historic stone bridge is crossed to meet back up with the riverside path around Chagford and our finish at St. Michael The Archangel church.



**St Mary
the Virgin,
Throwleigh**

EX20 2HT



**Providence
Chapel,
near Throwleigh**

EX20 2HZ



**Holy Trinity,
Gidleigh**

TQ13 8HR



**St Michael the
Archangel,
Chagford**

TQ13 8BN

Throwleigh to Chagford

Reflection and prayer

As you embark on the final stage of The Archangel's Way, thoughts might turn to the life you are returning to.

You may have travelled alone or in the company of others.

You have followed the route, but what journeys have your meditations, prayers and conversations taken you on?

Perhaps there have been unexpected moments of clarity or comfort?

Perhaps you are simply grateful to be refreshed after some time out.

Take time to ponder these questions as you walk. Perhaps thank God for the remarkable natural environments you have walked through.

Lord of every pilgrim heart,
bless our journeys
on these roads
we never planned to take,
but
through your
surprising wisdom
discovered
we
were
on.

Peter Millar,
A Book of Blessings (2014)

Directions



Stage 5 / Stage 5A (Stage 5A follows the same route as Stage 5 until indicated otherwise)



With Throwleigh Church porch at your back, take the steps up onto the grass path. This leads away from the church into the upper south east corner of the churchyard, where you exit via a metal gate.

An enclosed path takes you to some steps down to the road, where, opposite, you will see another wide track. Cross the road and take the track that will lead you to Forder along Deave Lane. This is an ancient byway (probably Death Lane) formerly used between churches and burial grounds, a “Way of the Dead”. Continue until you reach the road where you turn left. Stay on this lane until it takes you through Providence and alongside the Chapel on your left. A pleasant place to stop for a break with WC facilities to the rear.

Leaving the Chapel, shortly turn right down the footpath to Coombe. After passing some cottages, the path joins a tarmac lane where you turn left. Cross a bridge and then turn right up a signposted track at Gidleigh Mill.

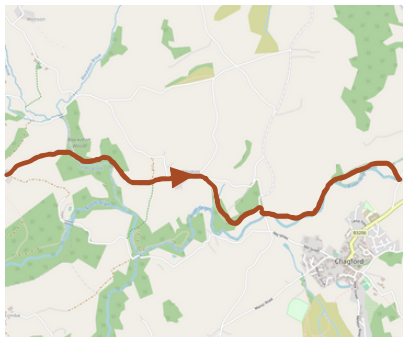
A long uphill stretch will bring you into Gidleigh where you turn right to reach the **Church of Holy Trinity**. This unassuming little church boasts a churchyard which is one of only a handful in the country with a watercourse flowing through it. A wonderful place to sit and reflect in almost perfect peace, save for the babbling water, the birdsong and the occasional tractor in the distance.

The church itself is beautiful in its simplicity, its glory being found in the many faithful worshippers who have gathered here over many hundreds of years. When you can tear yourself away from this delightful spot, turn around and head back on the road you came on, continue past the telephone box and village hall to reach a T-junction.

The route splits here into **Stage 5 (Low route)** which follows the road and wooded riverbanks to Chagford, while **Stage 5A (Moorland route)** takes a 3½ mile detour via Scorhill and Kes Tor, before descending into the final destination of Chagford.

Throwleigh to Chagford

Stage 5 (Low route)



To take the direct route to Chagford, turn left here and continue on the lane to Murchington, a small hamlet with some wonderful buildings.

Keeping straight on after the village, take the footpath on the right just as the lane forks right. This footpath is part of the new Dartmoor Way.

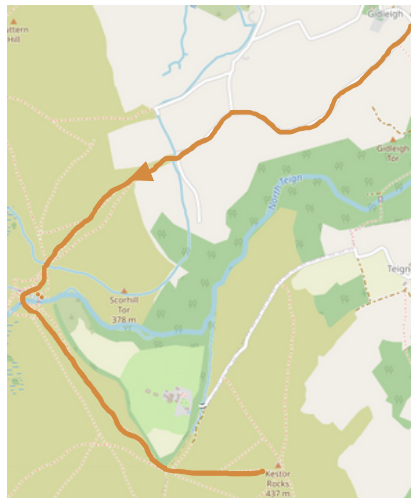
This path takes you down towards the River Teign, before swooping around to the left through the trees to emerge on the road to Chagford alongside Chagford Bridge.

Turn right and before crossing the bridge take the footpath through the gate on the left.

Follow the left-hand bank of the river along the well-trodden paths. Keep going, though some gates, passing the weir.

You will cross a footbridge, taking you across the fields to the right before joining the road at Rushford Bridge.

Stage 5A (Moorland route)



For the detour via Scorhill and Kes Tor, turn right here and continue on the lane past Berrydown. Carry on, signposted Scorhill, past Scorhill farm where the end of the lane is reached.

Follow the clear track out onto the Moor, but ensure you head right approaching the top of the hill in order to come down the path above Scorhill Stone circle. After admiring the circle turn left to take the path towards the river. This is well defined and crosses the leat shortly before curving around to the right to the clapper bridge over the Wallabrook.

Before crossing this, you may wish to take the narrow path down to the left that will take you to the mysterious Tolmen Stone in the river, used by Druids for purification. Then follow the track back along the riverbank and to rejoin the track back to the clapper bridge over the Wallabrook.

Cross this clapper bridge and follow the clear track to the next, larger Teign-e-Ver clapper bridge over the North Teign River.

From here the tracks and paths lead up the hill with the wall and woods to your left, eventually reaching Batworthy Corner. You will see the clear track leading up to Kes Tor.

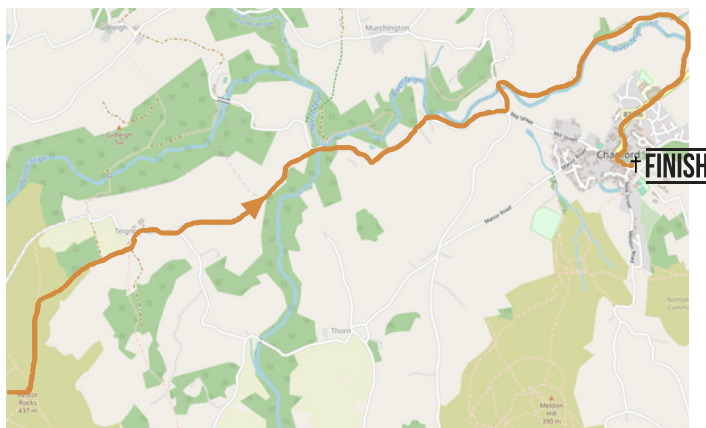
Directions

Stage 5 (Low route)



Turn right and then right again at the main road into Chagford. This will bring you into the centre where you turn left to reach St Michael the Archangel Church, Chagford - the end of The Archangel's Way.

Stage 5A (Moorland route)



From the top of Kes Tor, head down on the track towards a small rock outcrop due north. Do not follow the line of stones. From the rock outcrop head down to the stone wall, through and past several old settlement circles and huts. Keeping the wall on your left, follow it downhill to go through a gate into a lane in the trees.

Follow the track downhill, go past the buildings to reach the road where you shortly turn right at Teigncombe. The road curves right, left and right again -where you should go straight on down the track to eventually reach the road again at Leigh Bridge. Carry straight on crossing Leigh Bridge and then follow the road past Holystreet Manor, where you will then come to a crossroads past the kennels and old mill.

Turn left and cross the bridge before taking the footpath through the gate on the right. Follow the left-hand bank of the river along the well-trodden paths. Keep going, though some gates, passing the weir. You will cross a footbridge, taking you across the fields to the right before joining the road at Rushford Bridge.

Turn right and then right again at the main road into Chagford. This will bring you into the centre where you turn left to find St Michael the Archangel Church, the end of The Archangel's Way.

St Michael the Archangel, Chagford



Reflection and prayer

Take time at this journey's end to reflect on the pilgrimage you have undertaken.

What have you seen?

Who have you met along the way?

What have you heard?

What have you learnt?

How will this pilgrimage change your onward journey?

May our God of the high moor, of tor
and of the singing rivers

guide you, protect you and inspire you

with truth, goodness and beauty until
your journey's end.

Amen

