

# 1 The Granite Way

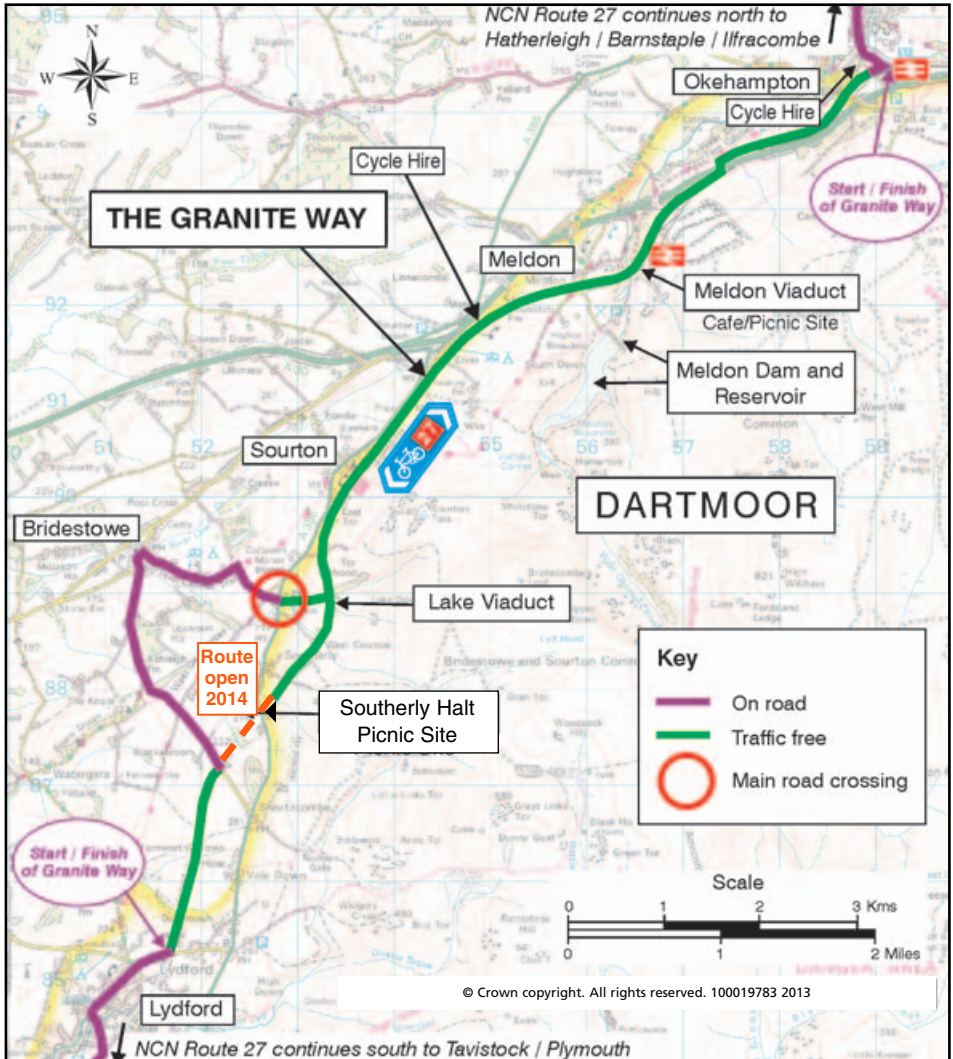


This is a truly spectacular and mostly traffic free cycle route through rural Devon with fantastic views of Dartmoor and the surrounding countryside. The route is part of the National Cycle Network 'Devon Coast to Coast' Route 27.

## Okehampton to Lydford

### Starting points:

- Okehampton Station. Car Park at the station under the rail bridge by the Youth Hostel.
- Lydford. Car Park opposite Castle Inn.



From Okehampton Station, the route leads you along level purpose built paths to Meldon Viaduct. On leaving Okehampton you will see Okehampton Castle and breathtaking views over Dartmoor and the local countryside. Okehampton Castle is one of the most extensive castle ruins in Devon, with a Norman motte, added to in the 11th and 14th century. Owned by the Earl of Devon, it was destroyed in 1539 by Henry VIII who executed the Earl for treason.

At Meldon there are wonderful views of Meldon Dam and Dartmoor beyond. Below the viaduct you will see remains of fascinating man-made workings that remind you how much Dartmoor has been shaped by man's activities over the centuries. (The Museum of Dartmoor Life in Okehampton has much information about this.)

A Visitor Centre and station at Meldon is served by steam trains in summer and certain other times. Further west heading towards Lydford you will cross the great stone viaduct of Lake with even more stunning views of Dartmoor. Here the route divides: either, follow quiet lanes via Bridestowe village to the former Bridestowe Station, and then continue off-road for another 1 mile/2.5km to Lydford; or continue straight on for a further mile west along the traffic free path to Southerly Halt picnic site.

At Lydford the Castle is well worth a visit. It has an imposing keep which was a former gaol and the scene of many hangings!



**Granite Way leaflet (see page 24)**

## Facts & Features

**Route Distance:** 11 miles/18km

**Information:** (Unless otherwise stated, see page 24 to order)

- The Granite Way leaflet (DP91)
- The Ultimate Devon Coast to Coast Guide £5.95 from [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)



### O.S. Maps:

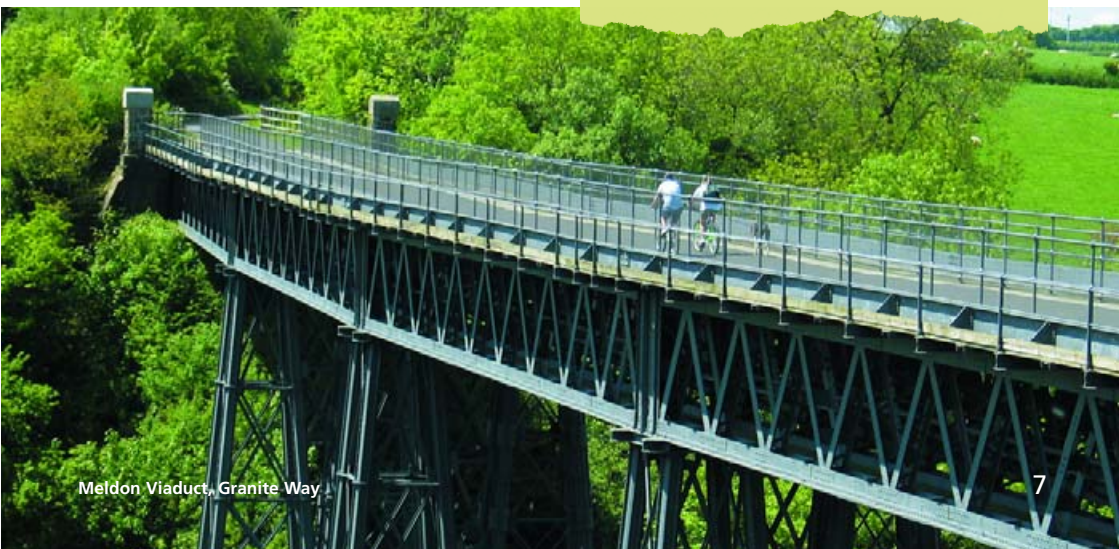
- Explorer (1:25,000) No. 113 Okehampton No. OL28 Dartmoor
- Landranger (1:50,000) No. 191 Okehampton and North Dartmoor

### Places to Visit:

- Museum of Dartmoor Life, Okehampton
- Okehampton Castle (English Heritage)
- Okehampton Station
- Meldon Visitor Centre
- Lydford Gorge (National Trust – reduced entry for those arriving by bicycle)
- Lydford Castle (English Heritage)

### Facilities:

- Refreshments available at Okehampton, Meldon and Lydford
- Cycle hire and shop at North Road, Okehampton
- Cycle hire at YHA Okehampton station
- Cycle hire at Okehampton station
- Cycle hire at Prewley, nr Sourton



Meldon Viaduct, Granite Way