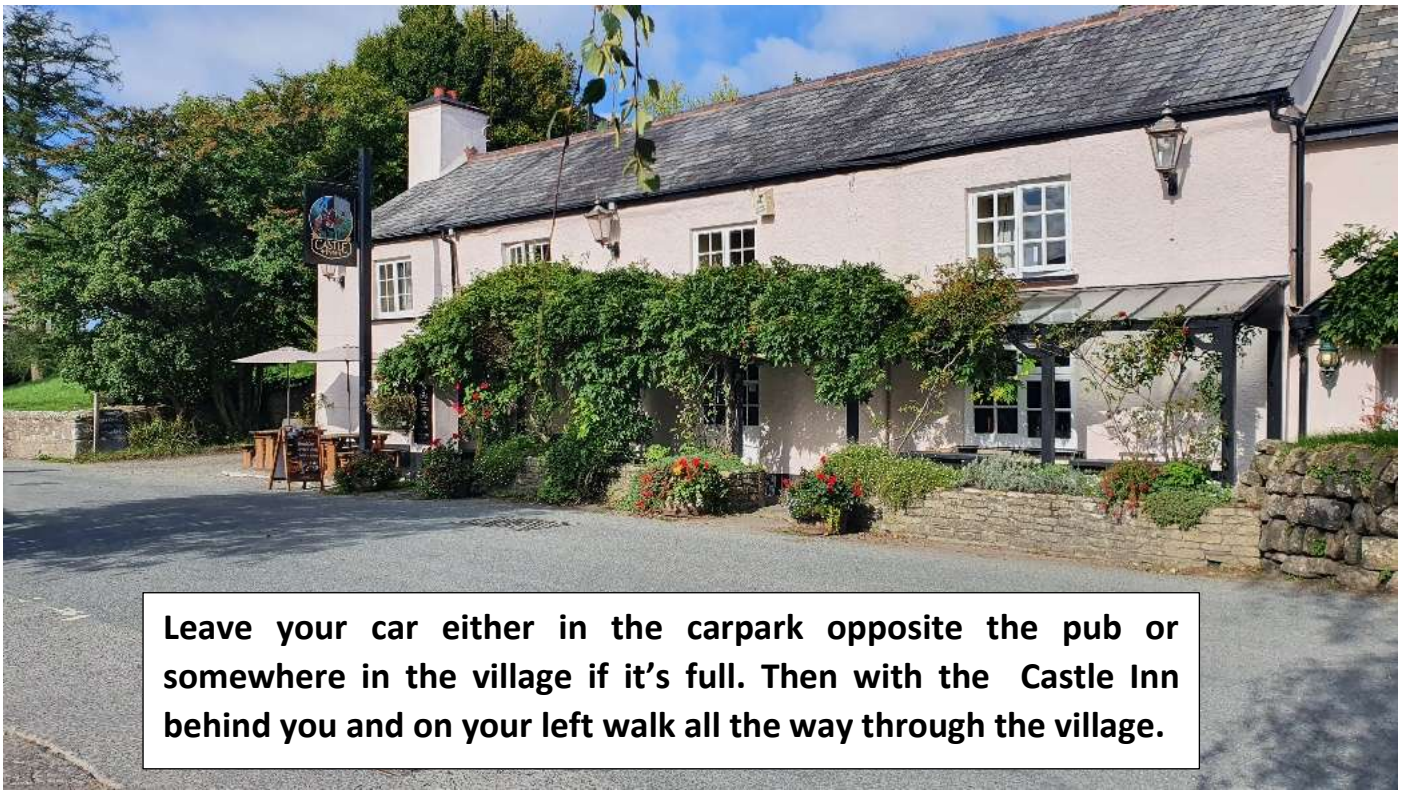
Walking the West Devon Way

Walk 12

Lydford to Lake

We left the West Devon Way on the last walk on the edge of Blackdown where the West Devon Way leaves the moor and returns to road walking. The nearly 1.5miles of road walking between Blackdown and Lydford has been discarded for its not the most inspiring of road walks. It would have been great to have walked through the Gorge but the path is now closed. This next walk then starts opposite Lydford castle. Well its called a castle it is actually a late medieval gaol.

This **7.6mile** walk will take you through Lydford and out to Lake. The return is via the Granite Way cycle track and then onto the moor and back into Lydford via a green lane**.**



Leave your car either in the carpark opposite the pub or somewhere in the village if it's full. Then with the Castle Inn behind you and on your left walk all the way through the village.

If you use the car park it is a pay and display one and you will need to allow for at least 4 hours for the walk.

When you reach the War memorial turn left.

Then at the next junction fork right.

Go past a caravan and camping site and some cottages and when you reach the last cottage Bolts House turn right and walk down hill all the way to a ford.

You don't have to get your feet wet there is a small bridge on your left. On the otherside walk up the wide track bordering Fernworthy Down.

On a hot summers day the scent of gorse on Fernworthy Down is delightful. The track you are on is called a BOAT (A Byway Open to All Traffic) and it will take you all the way to Lake.

Through a gate

across a road and

over a stream.

When you reach this point the BOAT goes on through another ford but so as not to get your feet wet fork left to go over the little bridge and then go right.

At this junction the West Devon Way goes left but we return to Lydford by turning right.

Just around the next bend you will reach the A386 and the Bearslake Inn at Lake. Here go straight across. There is good visibility both ways.

Go under the viaduct and then turn right to walk on up to the Granite Way.

On reaching the cycle track turn left.

In a bit over half a mile you will reach this bridge. You want to be on this bridge not under it.

To get on the bridge go on a bit further and turn right to go behind the fence. Walk up the path through a gate and turn right.

Go over the bridge signposted to Southerly Down..

and not very far along the track you come across a convenient pile of rocks on which to sit to have a rest and a snack.

Setting off again you will very quickly come across a pair of gates in front of you. Go through the gate on the left. In the distance you should see a pale vegetation line heading up the hill. This is what you are heading for.

To get there go through the next moorland gate and fork left to go up the hill keeping the gorse patch quite close on your right.

About 150m from the gate when the large open area you are in meets a wall of gorse bear right still going up hill on a well used sheep track.

In another 150m when you reach this wide grassy motorway on your left going straight up the hill you have a choice of going straight up or…

..just past the wide grassy uphill motorway fork left and go diagonally up hill for a less steep walk.

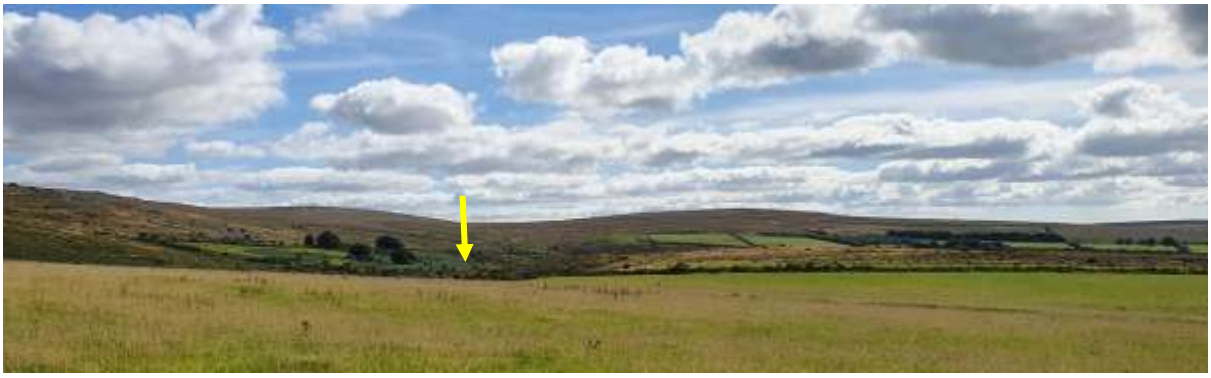
Keeping in a straight line on both routes you will eventually reach the King Wall (now a low bank.) Turn right to walk next to the wall/bank.

Then staying next to the wall or at least keeping it close by walk all the way to Nodden Gate..

..which is in a corner behind a covered reservoir.

Go out of one gate and back through another.

Then with the wall still on your right walk on up to the way marker post and fork left to walkstraight across the field.



Reaching the middle of the field look for the ladder stile in the boundary wall ahead of you and possibly a bit to your right.

Go over the ladder stile and turn right. When the car park comes into sight veer left to reach the car park's southern gate.

Then staying next to the wall on your right…

…go through the next gate after about 800m.

The track will take you out to the A386 which you now must cross. Visibility isn't brilliant to the right so make quite sure there is nothing coming up the hill on your left before quickly crossing.

You are now on a green lane that after a while turns sharply left then a bit further on…

goes under a disused railway bridge.

At the cross roads with the Lych way go straight across up a rocky path to meet Silver Street

and back into Lydford.