

Walking the West Devon Way

Walk 10 Harford Bridge to Mary Tavy



There is not a lot of parking opportunity at Harford Bridge so we are going to start this circular walk from Peter Tavy and walk on down to the bridge and the **West Devon Way** using the road and a footpath across a field. If you only want a short walk there is a short cut back to Peter Tavy that will take you past the Peter Tavy Inn. However, the longer walk will take you up to White Tor to see the amazing neolithic settlements cairns and hill fort. The short cut walk will only take just over an hour with the longer walk about another two hours and in all is about 6 miles excluding exploring the tor. Park where you can in the village at the church end. This is not a dog friendly walk as there are ladder stiles.





With the church behind you walk down through the village.



Perhaps stopping at the Pit Stop shack to buy a snack.



After leaving the village look out for a ladder stile on your left. It is sometimes covered in vegetation and hard to see. Go over the stile and turn right but vering up hill slightly away from the road.



You are aiming for this point on the other side of the field When you reach it walk along the hedgline to the corner of the field where you will find a rather ricketty stile on top of a stone wall stile. Take care as you go over it.



On the otherside of the stile is this field. Walk across the field in a straight line aiming for the road you can see in the distance and turn left when you reach the road.



Walk along the road all the way down to Harford Bridge, passing Langsford cottages on your right.



Go over the bridge and in just a few yards turn right onto a driveway next to a post box. You are now back on the **West Devon Way**



At the end of the driveway go through the gate and fork right. In the skyline hedgerow there is a ladder stile which is shown by

the arrow in the photo. Go over the stile and follow the path behind.



You are now on a well used path with a view of Cox tor.



When you go through this gate keep the hedge on your left and at the end of the field go over the next ladder stile.



Keeping the field boundaries on your left and don't go through any gates follow the footpath to a small stile about 1km away.

Just before you reach the stile look to the right and you will see Mary Tavy Hydro-electric power station that apparently can serve up to 5000 houses.



Go over the stile and then over the little bridge a little further down the bank. Walk on up to the road and turn right. This is where we leave the **West Devon Way** and return to Peter Tavy.



You will come out next to the power station entrance. Keep left and walk on down to the river Tavy



Go over the bridge but before you do there is a bench on your right overlooking the river which is a good place to stop for a snack. This is where you can decide either to do the full walk to see White Tor or return to the village.



As you come off the bridge immediately on your left is this path and is the one you take if you are doing the full walk.

If you are wanting to go straight back to the village stay on the wide well used path in front of you and in 15 mins you will be walking past the Peter Tavy Inn.

White Tor Loop



The path will take you through this gate behind which is the remains of the Devon United mine. The first thing you will see is a pair of addits or may be mine entrances driven into the hillside on your right.



And a little further on this hefty bit of abandoned machinery. Stay on the well used path passing overgrown building on both your right and left and going through a gate.



On reaching this fork in the path keep right and having gone through another gate keep the hedge on your right and walk on up to the road and turn left.



Walk on up to this junction and turn right to start a long but gentle ascent up to the edge of the moor



150m past a sharp bend turn left on to this track and stay on it all the way to the edge of the open moor.



Go through the gate and keep the stone wall on your right.



Soon you will walk through this narrow section at the end of which is the open moor leading up to White Tor.

The first feature you might want to look at is the huge oval enclosure which is 150m in front of you and up the hill a bit. This is Broadmoor Pound Hut Circle settlement with 7 hut circles located inside its walls. Go up the hill a bit more heading towards the top of White tor and you will pass on your right another settlement of at least 10 hut circles. When you reach the top of White Tor go and stand in the middle of the fort and imagine what it would have been like 4000 years ago when people were living here.

If you have given the climb up White Tor a miss then keep following the wall on your right.



When it turns sharply right you will see a small stone in the distance with the path leading straight towards it. This is Stephens Grave and is where we are going. If you are coming down from the top of White tor this is where you want to head for as well. The stone is the grave of a suicide George Stephens believed to have been buried here in 1802 just outside the parish.



When you reach the grave turn right and walk down hill.



When you reach the road turn left but go only as far as the cattle grid sign.



At the cattle grid sign turn right and go down to this somewhat dilapidated gate. Go through the gate.



On the other side there is no clear path so just head for the large tree at the end of a field boundary on your left.



When you reach it fork left slightly to go through a small wooden pedestrian gate in the hedge line in front of you.



Then follow the path behind the gate which may not be quite so clear of bracken. Stay on the path all the way through the wood to the sound of rushing water from the waterfall in the Colley brook hidden in the trees at least 50m below you.



When you reach this footpath junction go right to follow the finger post pointing to Peter Tavy. (However if you would like a very short excursion to the Colley Brook go left to see the picturesque bridge over the brook.)



Having gone through the gate you will soon be walking past some stone cottages on your right. A little bit further on the road bends left and goes over a small bridge.



Having gone over the bridge turn immediately right and follow the Dartmoor Way signs and path all the way back into the village...



.....to meet the main street next to the Pit Stop shelter.

