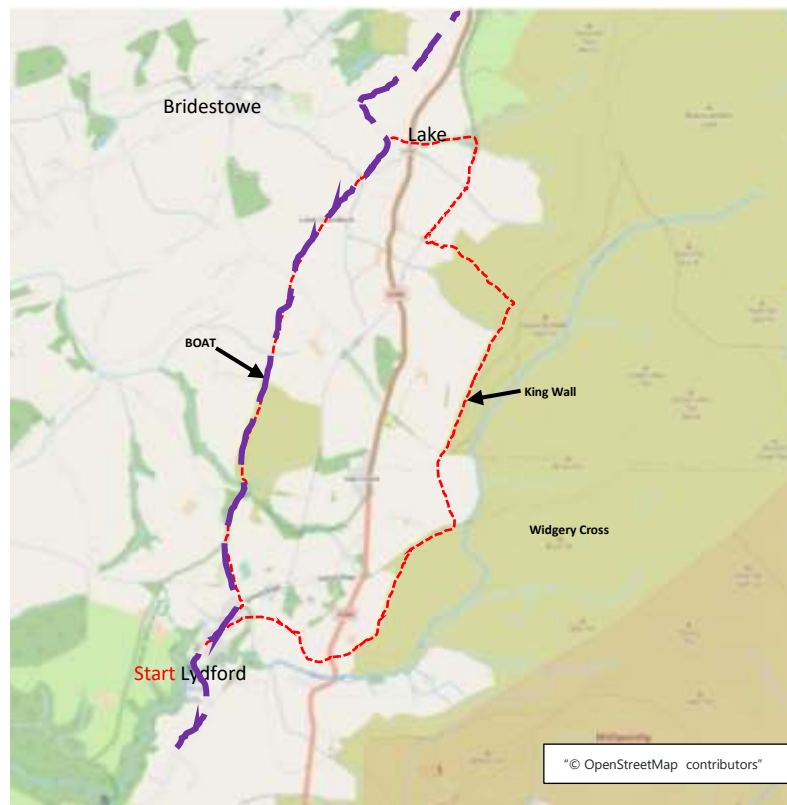


Walking the West Devon Way

Walk 12 Lydford to Lake



We left the West Devon Way on the last walk on the edge of Blackdown. The nearly 1.5 miles of road walking has been discarded for its not the most inspiring of road walks. It would have been great to have walked through the Gorge but it is all owned by The National Trust. This next walk then starts opposite Lydford castle. Well its called a castle it was actually a late medieval gaol. This 7.6 mile walk will take you through Lydford and out to Lake. The return is via the Granite Way cycle track and then onto the moor to walk next to King Wall and through Nodden Gate and back into Lydford via a green lane.





Park in the free car park opposite The Castle Inn. Come out of the car park and turn right to walk nearly all the way through the village.



When you reach the War memorial turn left



When you reach the first 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.



Now we 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 and up a path to the bridge.



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 where you are going.



To get there go through the next moorland gate and fork left to follow the horse rider up the hill.



Take the track through the gorse still going up hill.



When you reach this tussocky motorway set off up hill aiming for the horizon.



Keeping in a straight line you will eventually reach the King Wall. Turn right to walk next to the wall.



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.



Admiring the view as you go.



Go out of one gate and back through another.



Then with the wall still on your right walk on up to the finger post and fork left.



Reaching the middle of the meadow look for the stile in the boundary wall ahead.



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 crossing.



You will now enter 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.

