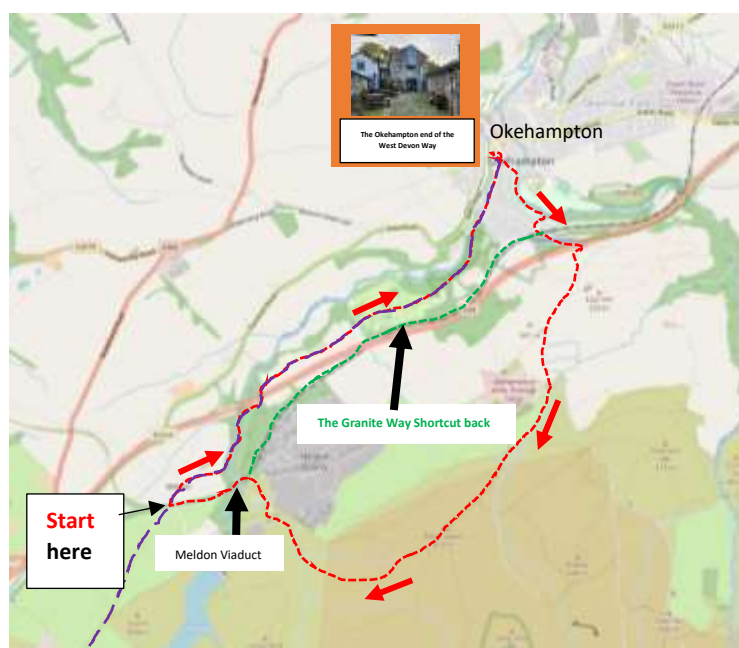


Walking the West Devon Way

Walk 15 Meldon to Okehampton



This 7.5 (or 5.8) mile walk will take you to the Museum of Dartmoor Life in Okehampton the end of the **West Devon Way** and returns by walking over the Meldon viaduct. This final walk will take you just inside the live firing range of Okehampton (7.5 miles) but if you have chosen a day when there is live firing and the moor is closed you can come back via the Granite Way (5.8 miles). Check the firing times before you set off. This last walk starts at the bridge you didn't get to walk under in Walk 14. SX 558 992. The start is only a very short drive from the A30 just follow the signs to Meldon as you leave the A30 signposted to Okehampton. Just past Meldon and before you reach the bridge the road is wide enough to allow at least 4 cars to park.





With the bridge behind you set off back towards the little hamlet of Meldon. For nearly all the way you will be following the Two Castles Trail and the Dartmoor Way waymarkers as well as the occasional West Devon Way waymarker.



In a bit less than 200m fork right onto a track that takes you past the village hall.



Go past all the farm buildings to a gate



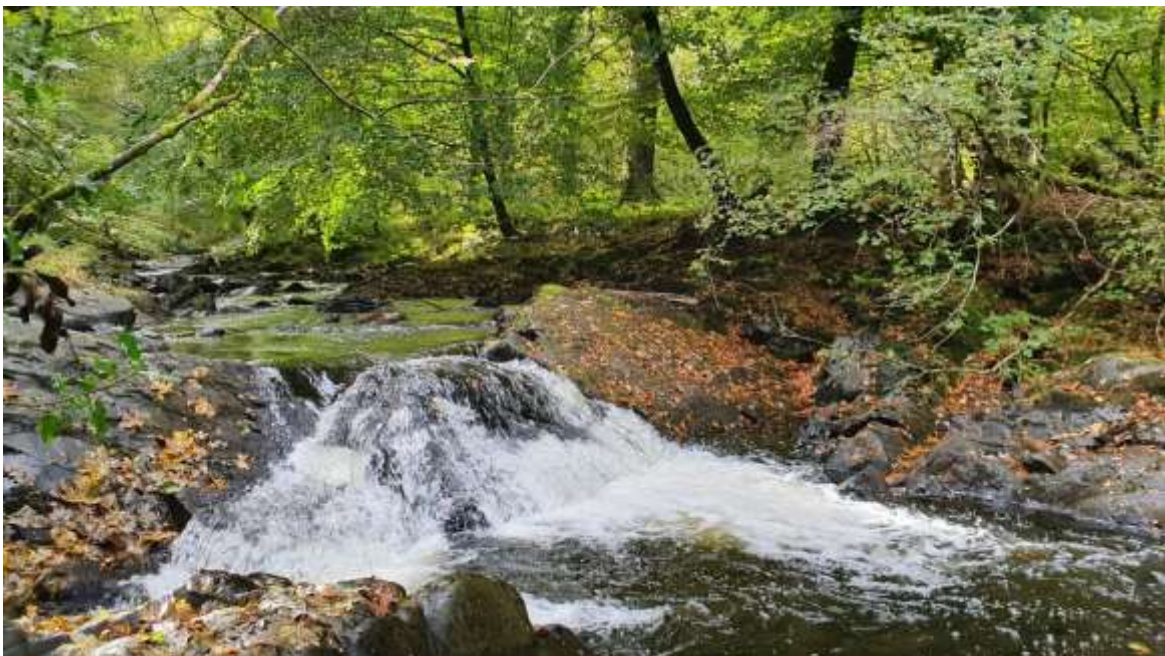
About 50yds the other side of the gate go sharply left



then go through another gate to walk through a wood.



Walk on down to a wooden bridge over the West Okement river. Immediately the other side of the bridge turn left to walk along the river bank.



The water tumbling over the rocks is an impressive sight and this was after a long dry spell. **Stay by the river and when the path and river go under the dual carriageway**



keep right to walk along a path with the A30 on your left. The path ends at a small car park here turn left and



go over the bridge.



Then almost immediately fork right



and walk up farm road to Mine House Farm. As you reach the farm fork right and follow the signs to go through a gate along the edge of a field and through another gate.



On the otherside of this second gate is the Golf Course.



Just follow the thin blue line through the fairway



When the club house is close fork left. The path then opens into a road leading only to the golf club.



After about a quarter of a mile along the road look out for a left fork that will take you back down to the river



where there is a convenient bench to have rest and a cup of coffee.



We still need to be this side of the river so don't cross over the little bridge but keep going following the Dartmoor Way and West Devon Way waymarkers.



Keep left as you go past Castle Ham Lodge sheltered housing flats and out onto



Castle road which leads into the town



When you reach the end of Castle road turn left and then take the next left following the brown tourist signs pointing to The Museum of Dartmoor Life and the Tourist information centre.



Go through the gate



**where you will find the end of our walk along the
West Devon way.**



**To return to Meldon retrace your steps to Castle Road
Go past the end of Castle Road and staying on Mill road**



**fork right into Simmonds park. With the East Okement
river on your left walk all the way through the park**



until you reach a bridge over the river. Don't cross the bridge but instead keep right and follow the sign to the station and youth hostel which is where we are going.



Keep going uphill at all junctions



Keep left (there are no more sign post.) It is quite a steep up hill climb to the station.



Having negotiated the numerous steps this path will now take you up to the road where you then turn left



When you reach the entrance to the newly reopened railway station (November 2021) you have the choice of returning via the moor or using the Granite Way shared walking/cycle track. For the Granite way turn right and follow the signs all the way back to Meldon Viaduct. For the moorland route keep going under the bridge.



Follow the road up the hill



Keep left of the house. Its all well signposted.



Go over the A30 and on the otherside turn right.



Walk along by the hedge bordering the A30 and when the path stops at a gorse bush fork left and go up the hill all the way to the top and out through a gate



It doesn't matter which gate you use they both end up at the road on either side of the hedge.



Go straight on up the road



ignoring the right fork to the army Training Camp.



Turn immediately right on passing the sentry box



and walk on up the military road with Rowtor West Mill Tor and Yes Tor in front of you.



When you reach this bend and gate go straight ahead and on to the gravel track.



When the track bends sharply right keep straight on.



A lovely moorland view before it started to rain



Keep straight on again this time passing a marker post



Keep straight on and don't go to the look out post where the wider track is going. In the distance you will see the track you are on bending right.



Here it is bending right. It's a bit bleak up here.



The path goes past a range marker post and then drops steeply down into the valley.



It's a well defined track along the valley floor. Soon you will see the Meldon Viaduct which is where we are heading.



As the viaduct gets closer the track gets wider and then drops down to some building that were part of Meldon Quarry.



When you reach a building turn right and walk past another building and through a gate and up the road passing a car park on your right.



If you go into the car park you will find this information board telling you all about the quarrying at Meldon.



Just past the car park fork left onto a road and then



almost immediately right onto a footpath



When the path forks left and right go right onto a permissive path. (If in the unlikely event the gate at the end of this path is shut retrace your steps and go left.)



Cross over the disused railway tracks through a gate and on to the Granite way. (If you do find the permissive path has been closed having retraced your steps to the fork the path will go very steeply down hill to the base of the viaduct where you will find a flight of steps that take you back up to the top.)





Stay on the Granite Way to go over the viaduct.



About 500 yds further on go over this bridge and turn immediately left to leave the Granite Way and



walk back under the bridge back to your car.

If you have done all 15 circular walks up the West Devon Way instead of walking just 37 miles you will have covered nearer to 75 miles. You will have walked over 5 viaducts through 2 tunnels and around 2 reservoirs. You will have walked next to The East and West Okement the Tavy the Walkham and Plym rivers and stepped over a lot more brooks and streams.

I hope you enjoyed the walk I certainly enjoyed photographing it for you.

If you are not members of the Tavistock Ramblers do join and we will take you on many more lovely walks.

David Simkins Footpath Officer The Ramblers (Tavistock group)

