

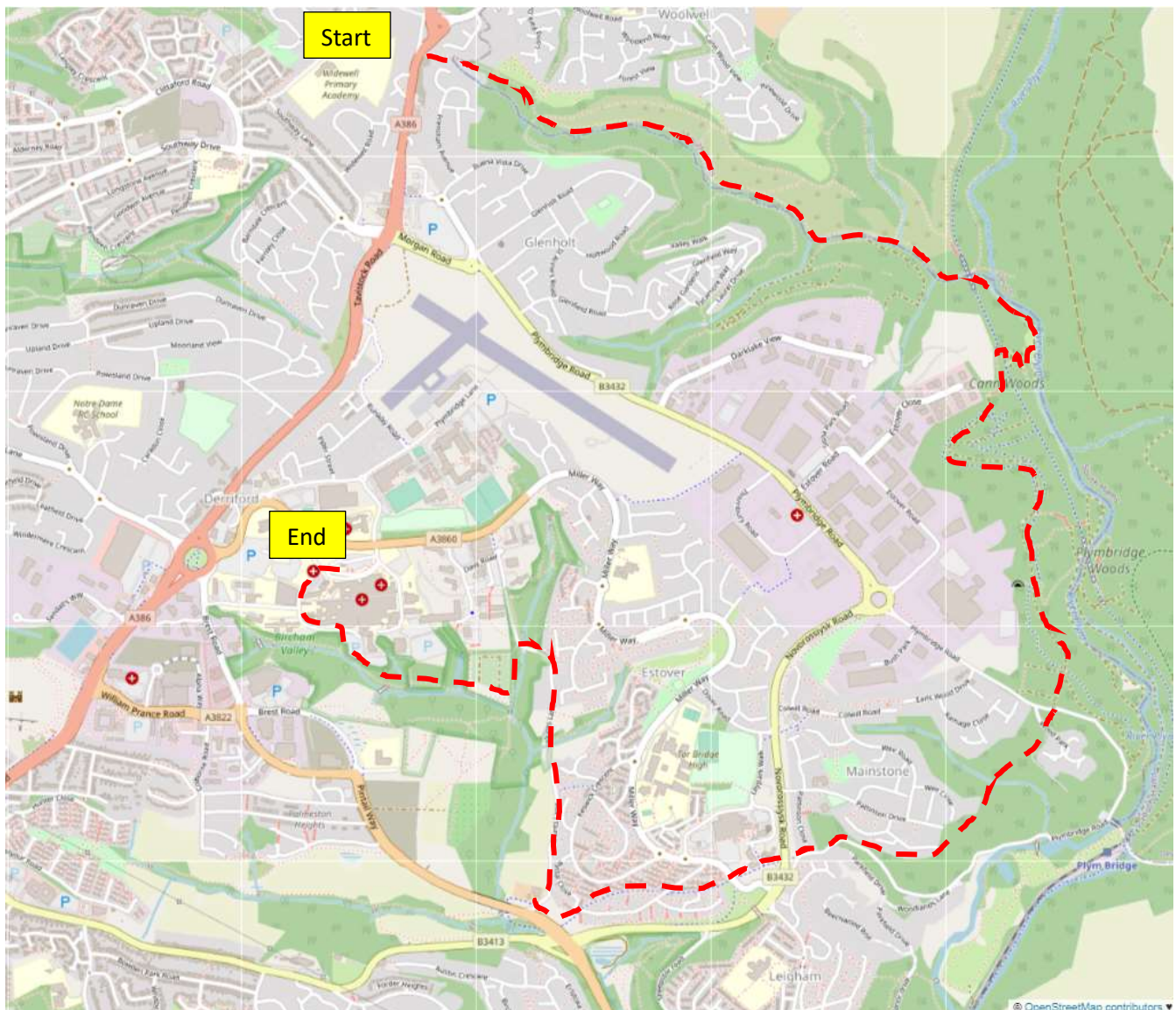
BuS Stop WALKS

PLYMOUTH to TAVISTOCK
Stage coach No. 1



Woolwell Roundabout to Derriford Hospital

A walk of about 5.7 miles that should take no more than 3 hours Stage coach No.1 Plymouth to Tavistock and City Bus 42C serve both the Derriford Hospital and Woolwell stops. If you are walking on a Sunday you may have to wait for half an hour at Derriford if you see your bus disappearing up the road as you arrive.



The walk starts at the Woolwell roundabout and ends at Derriford Hospital where there are buses that will return you to Woolwell. The walk is almost entirely on footpaths and through woodland. It's a particularly spectacular walk passing some steep drops down through the woodland and some huge ancient stone quarries. More than 1.5 miles is entirely level using an old tramway track. You will walk mostly on wide tracks but there is a very small section of path that is narrow and steep so it is important that proper footwear is worn.

The Start of the Walk



The walk starts at the bus stop on the south bound carriageway of the Woolwell roundabout. (Often referred to as the Tesco roundabout.) So if you are travelling out from Plymouth get off the bus at the “Tavistock Road Woolwell north bound ” bus stop (See Photo above) then using the pedestrian crossing and then the island in the road cross over to the Plymouth bound carriageway and walk back towards Plymouth to reach the “Woolwell (south bound) Roundabout” bus stop. If you are coming from Tavistock just get off at the “Woolwell Roundabout” bus stop. In both directions you will need to ring the bell as you approach the roundabout.



From the bus stop start walking towards Plymouth but only for about 30m and turn left to go through the gate and down the wide track that was once a road and now a permissive path.



The wide track leads down to the river Plym via West Wood and Darlake wood. On your way down ignore any paths leading off to the right or left and stay on the wide track that goes downhill all the way to a Viaduct. A lovely walk with woodland on both sides and a steep drop down to a small stream on your right. It's about 1.3 miles down to the viaduct.



On reaching the viaduct behind the first pillar turn right to go over a small bridge then fork left and walk on towards the river Plym. On reaching the river Plym turn right.

Now this next bit is a bit challenging because the river has washed away the original board walk and path and a tree has fallen across the track but you can get through, just take your time. It's still a well used path especially by dog walkers.



First go along the river bank and up the wooden steps. (The bottom step is missing)



Go under or around the fallen trees and when you reach river level



take a very short section of steep, and if a wet day possibly slippery, narrow path that will take you around this bit of river that once had a board walk. Having successfully negotiated this slightly challenging bit of path the rest of the way is dead easy. Keep going with the river on your left.



You will quickly arrive at a meadow with a huge pile of tree trunks between you and the river on your left. This is where you leave the river and fork right towards the woods. In the woods you will find a wide zig-zag path leading up to the Plymouth to Clearbrook cycle track route 27 once the Tavistock Branch of the South Devon railway. Before you get to the top take a moment to look at the huge stone quarry that is now draped with vegetation at the first hairpin bend.



At the top stay on the gravel track to go up to and over the bridge that goes over the cycle track.

On the otherside of the bridge go through the pedestrian gate



and follow the woodland track up the gentle hill slope.



to another pedestrian gate. Go through the gate and fork right up the steps and through the woodland



soon arriving at the tramway track. Turn left and stay on the tramway track for 1.5 miles which will take you at least 45 mins. There is the occasional bench on the way to pause for a cup of coffee.



On the way you will pass an area used by mountain biker and walk along the granite sleepers of the old tramway. If you are interested in industrial archaeology this was the Plymouth and Dartmoor Tramway that ran from Sutton Harbour to Princetown and mainly carried granite. It opened in 1823 and closed in the early years of 1900 the rails being removed in 1913. To read more follow this link:



https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MDV2221&resourceID=104



Part way along you will cross over Plymbridge road via a wooden bridge and then go across the estate road leading into Wood Park.



Nearly at the end of the tramway you will reach this gate. Go through and follow the track for another 50m out to Plymbridge road. Turn right to go along the road that goes up hill for a short way.



At the top of the hill go around the railings and through the first of 3 under passes



After going through the second under pass, at this cross roads of paths, keep straight on. Further on ignore any other paths that go right or left and keep straight on. A lovely leafy lane that passes the backs of houses on the Estover estate



At this fork of similar size paths keep left



Then suddenly having walked along footpaths river banks and leafy lanes you will reach a brand new super highway that has recently been completed (2023). Here turn right and walk up to the first junction and turn right again to go past what was once the entrance to Poole farm.



A few meters further on, and at the time of writing this there was a lot of building work going on, you will reach the bottom of Blunts lane now a no through road. Walk up the leafy lane for just a bit more than half a mile..



Soon after passing a massive tree house on your left at the top of the hill turn left next to these railings and follow the path that goes into Bircham Valley Nature Reserve. You will pass allotment gardens that are fenced in on your right.



As soon as you reach the far corner of the allotments turn right and walk diagonally downhill through the wild flower meadow with the allotments getting further away and higher up on your right.



Go through the gate in the corner of the meadow and simply follow the well used path over a stream to soon pass a post with a directional arrow to Derriford Hospital.



Go on up through the wood with the Derriford Hospital buildings getting closer. Soon you will reach a path leading straight towards the back of the hospital. You may even see some picnic tables in the wood being used by the hospital staff. Here turn right and head towards the hospital.

The end of the walk



Soon you will see the back of Derriford Hospital

To reach the bus stops walk up to the hospital via a fenced in tarmac path. Turn left at the road and follow it all the way around the hospital passing the Bircham multi storey car park on your left and soon you will see the bus stops in front of the hospital.

To get back to the Woolwell(Tesco) roundabout, Tavistock or Plymouth take the No1 bus. The 42C will also get you back to the Woolwell roundabout. It's all well indicated which bus stop you need to use.