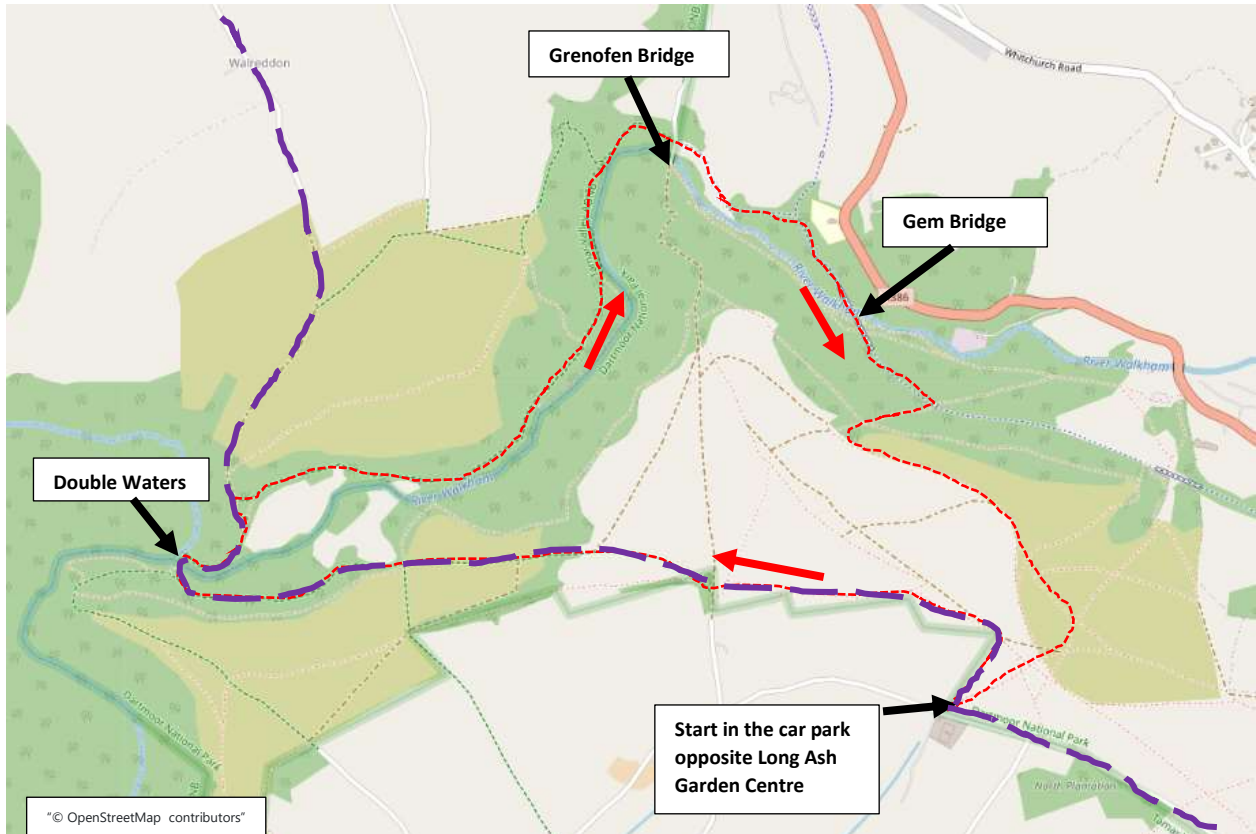


Walking the West Devon Way

Walk 7 Long Ash to Double Waters



This section will take you through the northern part of Roborough Down to where the river Walkham meets the river Tavy at a place called Double Waters. From there you will walk up the Walkham on its northern bank through some delightful oak woodland to Grenofen Bridge passing moss encrusted mine workings. The best time to do this walk is first thing in the morning on a sunny day when the light is trickling through the tree canopy. You will go over Gem bridge built in 2012 just for leisure use and which spans the Walkham valley. There is a cafe at Long Ash garden centre which is where we start the 5 mile walk and from where we pick up the **West Devon Way** as it goes past the car park.



With Long Ash garden centre behind you set off from the car park with the moorland boundary wall on your left. Soon the

wall makes a sharp left hand turn but stay following it or at least keep it in sight until the next moorland edge car park.



When you reach the next car park turn right and follow the road all the way down hill from



where you have a splendid view of Walreddon Down across the valley. The tarmac track eventually gives way to a unsurfaced woodland track but keep going.



After about 500 yds look out for a bridge on your right that crosses the river Walkham.



This is the Double Waters Bridge a good place to stop for a rest and admire your surroundings.



Having crossed over the Walkham river walk up the river Tavy but for only about 20 yds then turn right to walk through a narrow opening in the rock wall.



Having gone through the narrow opening follow the path out through the glade with the river Walkham on your right. The path now goes quite steeply up hill away from the river to a junction in order to go around two houses.



Its at this three way junction that we leave the **West Devon Way** which carries on uphill. **Turn right and walk back down to the river passing a house called Buckator**



Keeping the river on your right follow the well-worn path which is a bit rooty and rocky in places and goes past West Down copper mine.



You will pass by an old chimney which was never used



and a little further on a stone masons platform on a high wall on your left.



When the path divides keep right to stay by the river. Go through a small gate around Lower Grenofen House and along their driveway to the road.



Go straight across through the gate and stay on the path following the Dartmoor Way signs. (However before you do if you haven't visited Grenofen Bridge now would be a good time. Turn right for a short excursion.) The path goes up through woodland where at the top it meets the cycle track once the Tavistock Branch of the South Devon Railway.



Go through the gate and turn right.



In 50yds you will go over a raised board walk



A little further on is a place to pause and this time read all about the railway and building of the first bridge and Gem Bridge which you are about to walk over.



And here it is. Completed in 2012 at a cost of about 2.5m it once again allows the traveller to cross the Walkham valley without having to ford the river.



Cross over the bridge and carry on up the cycle track but not for very far. In fact if you reach a bridge over the cycle track you have gone too far for you need to be on the bridge not under it.

About 100m from where the bridge lands on the other side of the valley fork left up a narrow path and staying parallel with the cycle track walk on up to the bridge.



Go over the bridge believed to be called Skew bridge,



and up the wide slightly muddy track beyond.



When the track comes out of the wood and meets the open moor at a path crossroads turn left and walk up to the top of the hill on a gently rising grassy path.



Go past the bench and then keep right where the moorland paths fork.



Soon you will go across an old field boundary and you will see another bench in front of you by a tree. However before you reach the bench turn right to go up another wide grassy track.



Very soon you will arrive at yet another bench behind which is the hedge line you walked next to at the start of the walk. Go past the bench and back to your car or perhaps for a cup of tea at the garden centre café.