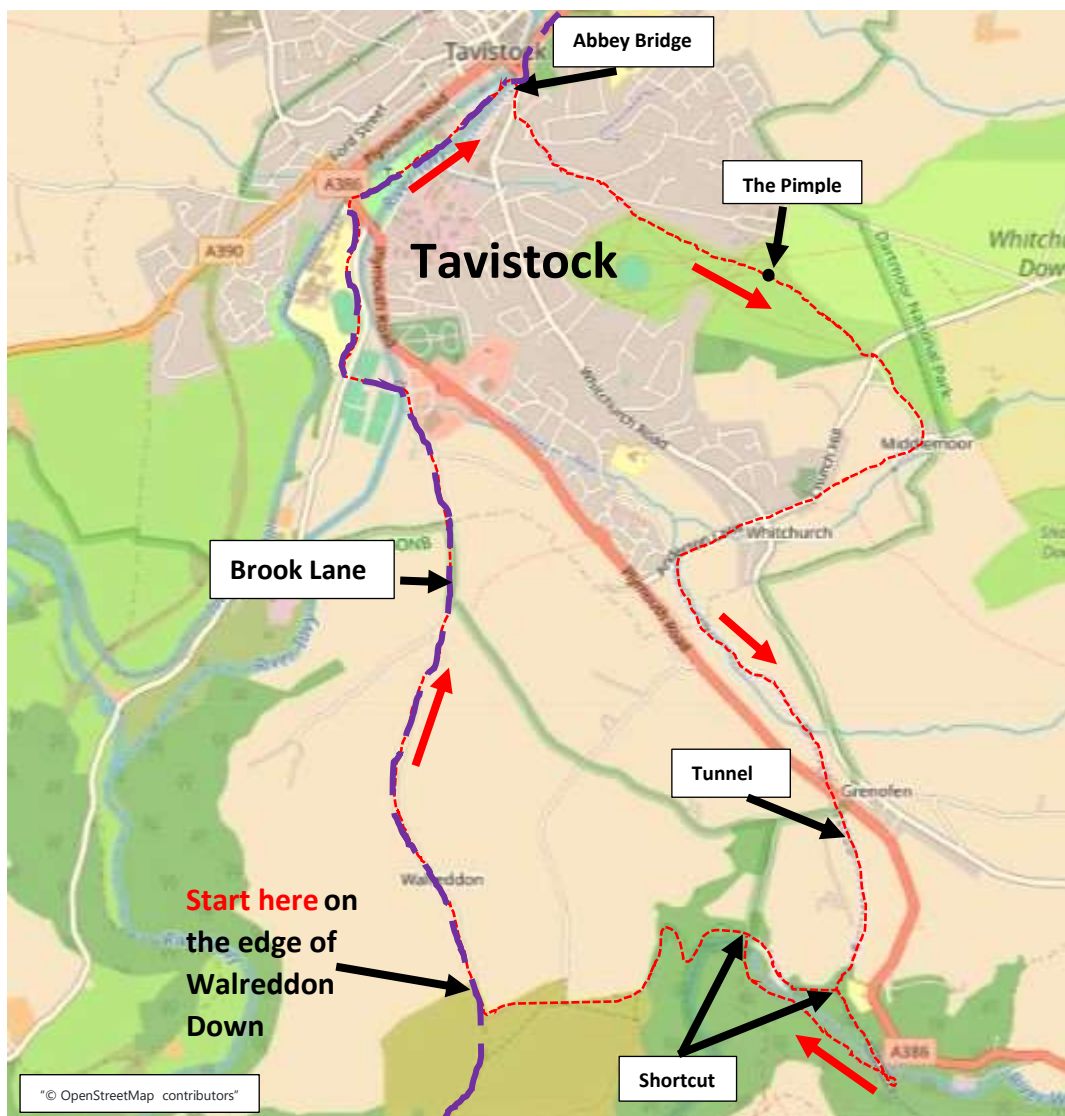


Walking the West Devon Way

Walk 8 Walreddon Down to Abbey Bridge Tavistock

On the last walk we left the **West Devon Way** at a junction of tracks leading to two houses just up from Double Waters. The West Devon Way then continued up the hill and it's at the top of the hill where we will meet it again for the next leg of our journey which takes us this time into Tavistock.

Park your car in the small moorland edge car park at the end of Brook Lane SX479 708 the nearest post code is PL19 9EQ. The walk is about 7.25 miles and takes you all the way into the town through Tavistock Meadows to Abbey Bridge before returning via Whitchurch Down the Pimple and a railway tunnel built by Isambard K Brunel.





From the car park set off back down the road you have just driven up. Its down hill all the way and you see so much more when you walk.



Just beyond the Mole Valley Farmers store which is on your right there is another anomaly for the OS map shows the West Devon Way continuing on to the A386 but the web site takes a left turn which is what we will do. Go left to follow the [Route 27](#) and the Dartmoor Way which is a much nicer route to walk along than a long stretch of the busy A386.



Go over the bridge and past the playing fields. When you reach the next lane go straight across and then turn right to stay on the footpath that passes the school playing fields on your left. Turn left when you reach the A386.



Tavistock Meadows is where we want to be but its on the other side of the busy road. The best way to get to it is via the signposted subway just the other side of the bus stop.



Go under the A386 admiring the sadly defaced artwork and into the Meadows. Keep dead ahead and then follow the path next to the river which should be on you right all the way to Abbey Bridge.



Abbey Bridge is where we leave **The West Devon Way** and return to Walreddon Down.



Go over West bridge and on reaching the roundabout go right to follow the sign post to Whitchurch. As soon as you can cross over the road but continue going up the hill.



Take the first left turn into Deer Park Lane. As the road bends left go through the bollards to reach Deer Park Road.



Turn left into Deer Park Road and walk up the road but not for very far. As the road bends left go straight ahead up the footpath which leads out onto Whitchurch Down.



Keep the hedge line close by on your left. Soon you will see in front of you The Pimple which is actually a covered seat on the top of a disused reservoir. Walk on up and admire the view. A good place for a rest and snack.



Walking down the other side in the same direction but bearing slightly right walk over the down heading for Whitchurch lane.



You should reach the road at a junction overlooked by some benches. Go straight ahead by taking the little lane signposted to Middlemore.



On reaching the middle of Middlemore turn right and walk on down the road.



When the road makes a near right angle left turn keep straight on along a tarmac footpath that crosses a field.



On reaching the road turn left go past the church and pub and stay walking down hill to a cross roads.



On reaching the cross roads go straight across. Soon after going under the old railway bridge keep right to walk on a path behind the hedge instead of walking on the road.



When the path meets the road again go straight across onto the cycle track [Route 27 Drakes Trail](#).



After about half a mile you go through a tunnel which drips water even when it's a dry sunny day.



A further 400m on the other side of the tunnel you will reach a small gate which you will recognise if you have been on Walk 7. You could now turn right go through the gate and down to the road which is a short cut but as Gem bridge is such a splendid bridge our route is once again going to go across it so keep going and ignore the gate. (*However, if you have picked a day when the river level is very high perhaps after a week of heavy rain it may be safer to go through the gate.*)



Immediately on the other side of Gem bridge go left through a small gate and zig zag down the hillside path and at the bottom go through another pedestrian gate....



..... and under Gem bridge



Now with the river Walkham on your right walk along the river bank which is a public footpath but which can be a bit challenging due to roots and fallen trees. On the positive side look out for Kingfishers and Dippers.



**You will reach a small car park and Grenofen Bridge
Go over the bridge and up the road for about 50m.**



Take the first turn left into a private drive leading to a house called Lower Grenofen. (If you took the short cut and not the river route go straight across the road into the driveway) Following the footpath signs go around the house through a pedestrian gate and back to the river Walkham which is now on your left.



A little further on, the path splits here take the right fork and go quite steeply back up hill. The path zig zags and at the top when you reach the edge of the woodland keep the stone hedge bank on your right and follow it or at least keep it in sight without going through any gates all the way back to your car.