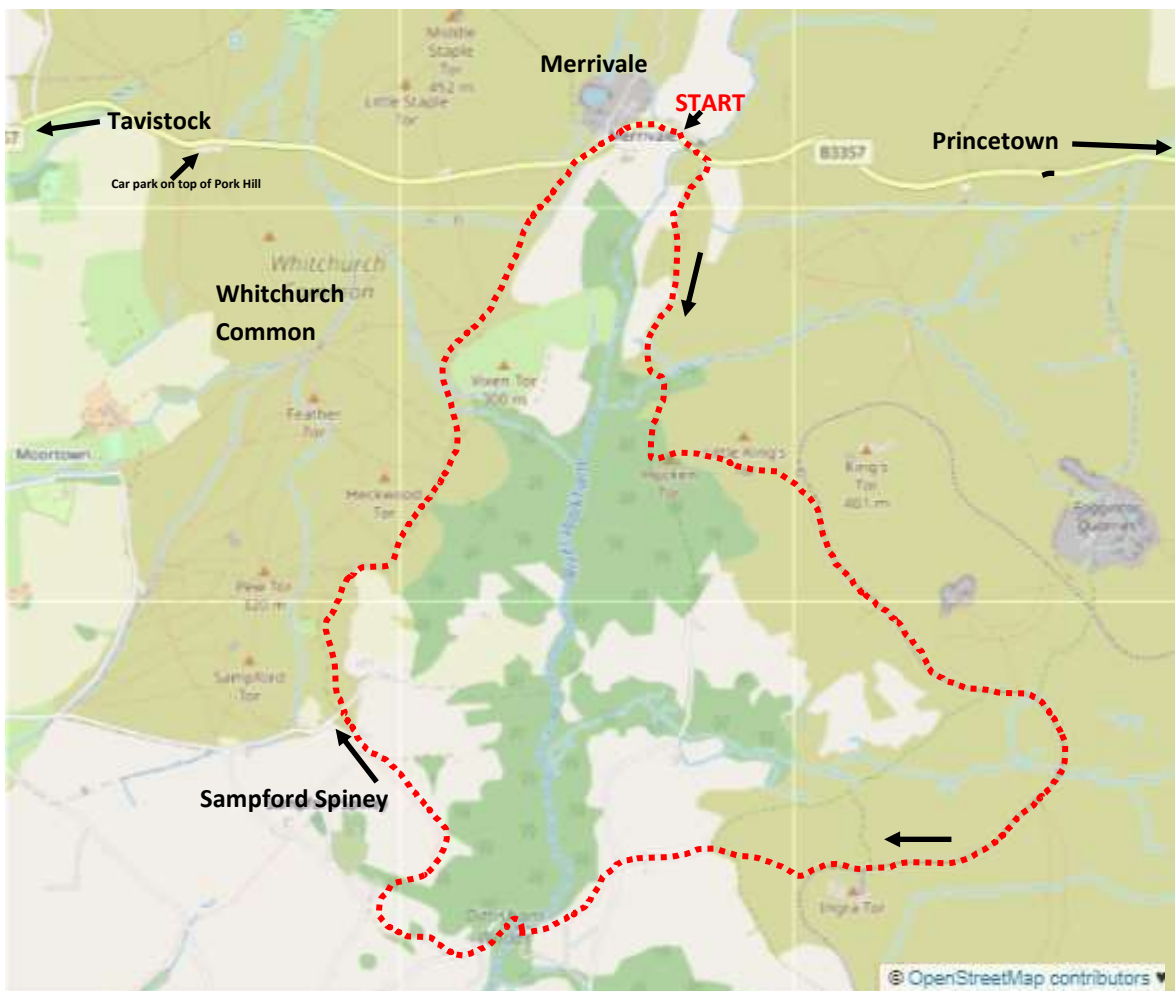


Merrivale and the Upper Walkham Valley



This 7 mile walk starts and ends at the Dartmoor Inn at Merrivale. Except for one short steep walk up a road this is generally a fairly level easy walk which will take you on either side of the Walkham Valley crossing the river at Ward Bridge.

Park in the old road which passes in front of the pub SX 549 752.



Set off by walking to the end of the cul-de-sac passing over the Walkham river on your way



When you reach the end of the road walk up the embankment duck under the railings and take care stepping out on to the main road.



Turn left then cross the road when you reach the driveway on the other side....



.... and walk on down between the buildings in front of you.



Go through the gate and do please shut it otherwise all the Dartmoor livestock will get out. Set off along the track.



Ignore the left turn and keep straight on.



(If you have a dog best avoid the farmyard and instead fork left here and skirt around the back of the farmhouse and pick up the track on the other side)



Go through the gate into Longash Farm through the farmyard

...and out through the gate on the other side.





Through another gate.

**Over a little
bridge.....**



**...and along an ancient
lane but only as far the
big rocks on your left.**



When you reach the base of Hucken Tor turn left and



...walk on up through the wood with the rocks of Huckentor on your right

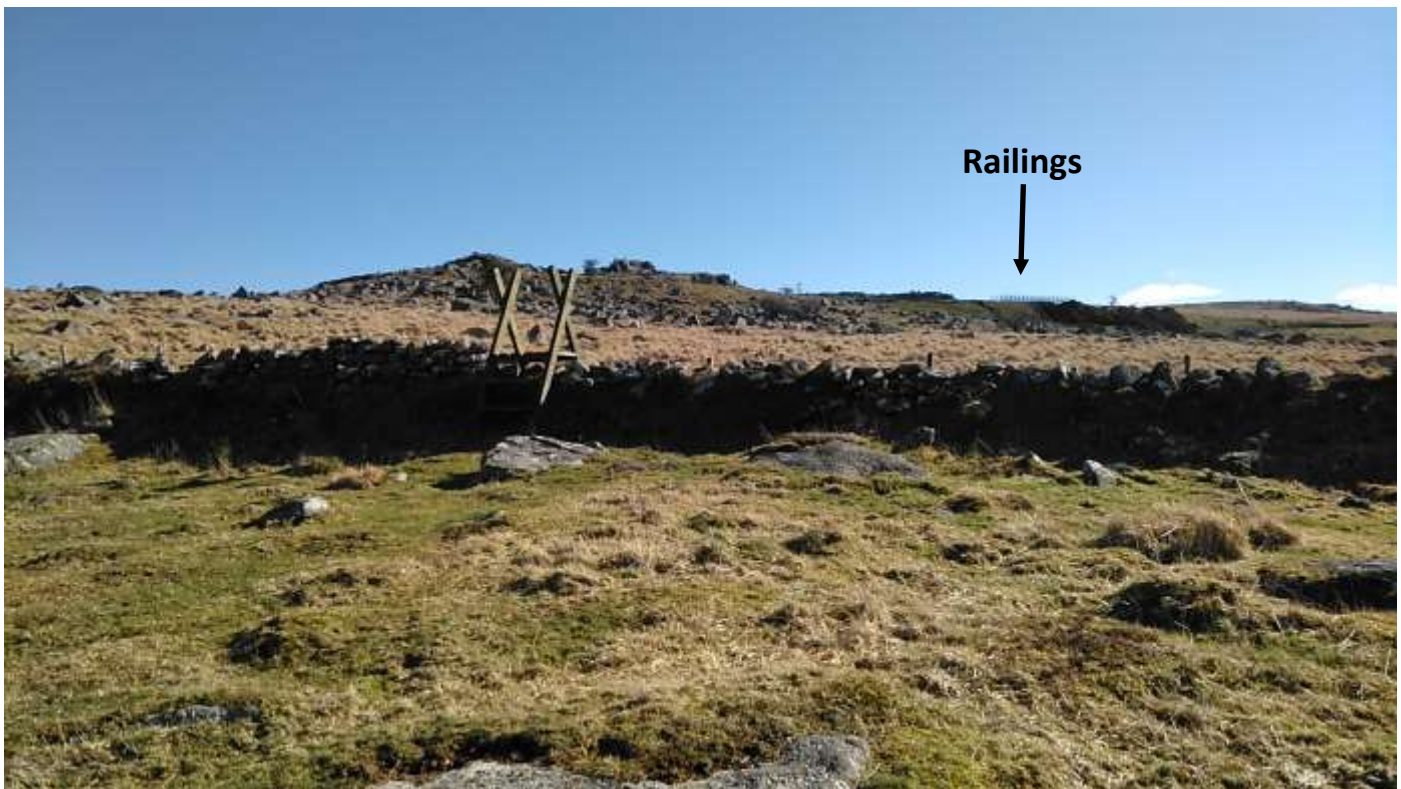
Step through the wall where it has fallen down and out on to the open moor



Dead ahead you should be able to see the top of the television mast on North Hessary tor.

Head for the mast or King tor if its shrouded in low cloud.





As the mast disappears behind King tor go over the ladder stile and head for the railings on the bridge a bit to your right



Climb up the embankment and on to the old railway track. Turn right and walk across the little bridge flanked by the railings. Stay on the track for about 2 miles admiring the view on your right



Go under a bridge then quite soon you will see another narrow bridge with railings

Go over this bridge and then in 50m just as you go around a bend look out for a large rock and fallen over hawthorn tree.



Between the rock and the tree turn right...

...and follow a path all the way down the hill





When you reach a track keep on down hill

Turn left at the bottom of the hill



Go through the gate by the cattle grid and set off down the road

Go straight across at the junction and down the steep hill.





Go over Ward Bridge and stay on the road as it goes back up hill



When you reach the next gate and cattle grid turn right and go up the moderately steep disused road all the way to the top of the hill.

When you reach the top turn right through a gate next to Stoneycroft which takes you on a well used path through 5 fields.



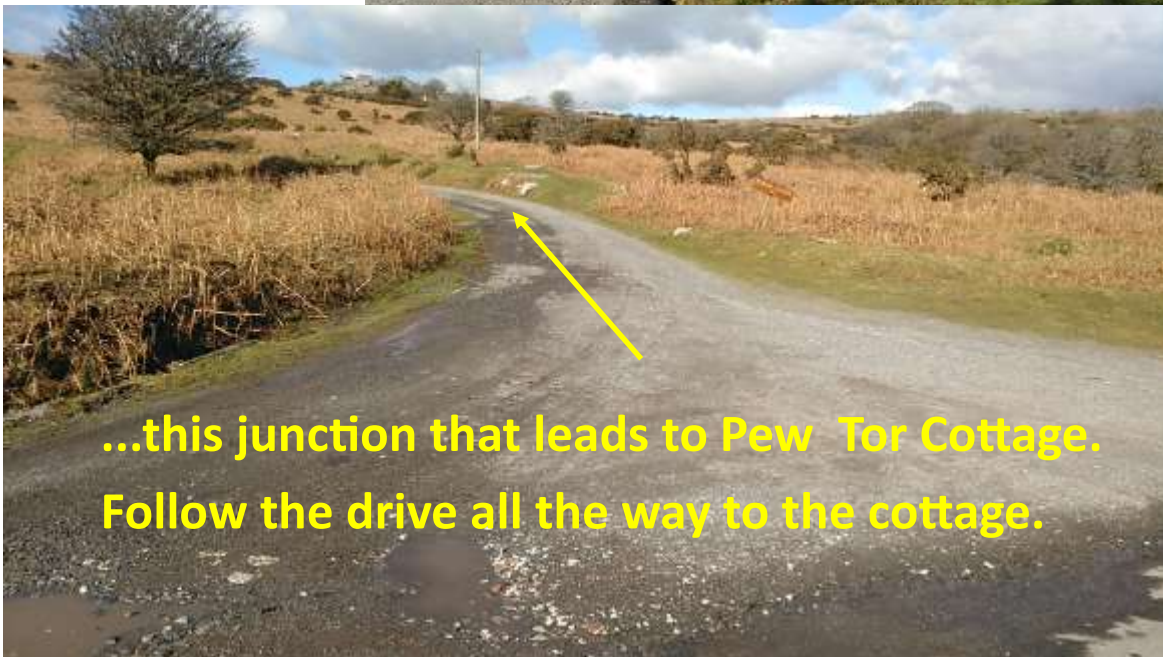
Passing the farm buildings on your left go through the farm gate and turn right.



In less than 100m fork right at the post which brings you out to



...this junction that leads to Pew Tor Cottage. Follow the drive all the way to the cottage.



But as its quite winding keep taking short cuts





When the drive passes a high hedge and bends sharply left keep straight on

As the cart track is a bit rocky you might want to cut the corner



We now follow this wall on your right all the way back to Merrivale



Wall

Wall

There is a small stream in the valley but it is easy to cross





**Keep following
the wall around
Vixen tor**

**Go over Grimstone
and Sortridge leat
and head for the
house with the
white gable end**



Wall
↓



**Turn right and using the wide
verge walk on down the road and
back to your car or a pint in the
pub if its open.**



Wall



Words and pictures by David Simkins