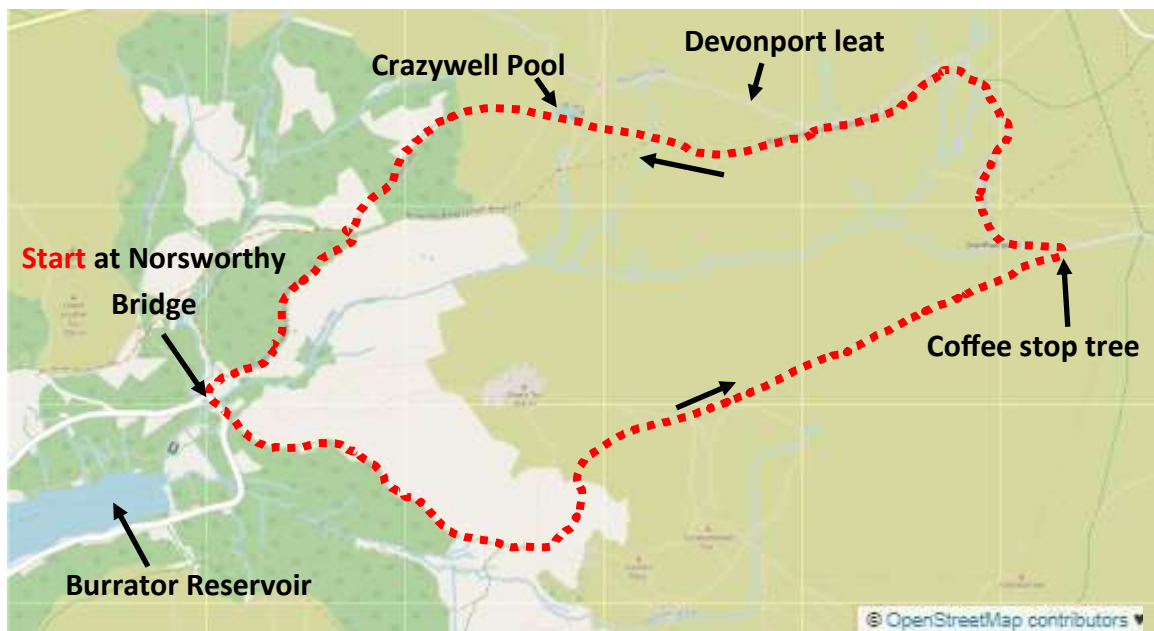


# A Moorland Walk to Drivage Bottom and Crazywell Pool



This fairly easy 6.2 mile moorland walk packs in bronze age, medieval and 19th century places of interest on the way using easy to see tracks and reasonably dry terrain.

The walk starts at the larger car park at the Norsworthy bridge end of the reservoir about 80m from the bridge opposite the information board. SX568695.

**Before you set off have a look in the car park and spot the remains of a medieval tin smelting site. Where there is an embankment, leaf wheel pit and mill race.**



**Now set off along this wide track leading out of the car park and stay on it for about a mile ignoring the footpath sign pointing to the left .**

**Just a few hundred meters along the track we pass by Middleworth farmstead first documented in 1281 and occupied until the 1920s.**





**Before we leave the wide track we pass through Deancombe another ancient farmstead again used right up to the 1920's**



**Walk on through the "farmyard" and up to the gate way on the other side of the adjoining field.**

**Go through the gateway and fork left up the hill to gradually walk towards the stone wall on your right.**





**We are aiming to walk up between these two trees on the other side of the wall**

**The track passes quite close to the tree on the left. Then keep on going straight up hill ....**



**....and turn right when you meet this wide grassy track which isn't very far up hill.**

**When the track meets a gap in a tumble down wall bear left still going up hill.**





**Keep going up hill to reach a gate in a fence line**

**Go through the gate and keep going up hill and a bit to your left to go over the wall ahead of you.**



**You have now entered a prehistoric settlement of hut circles one of which has been partially rebuilt. Keep going up hill.**



**Go over the outer wall and keep going up hill aiming for a point about mid-way between the two high points on the horizon which is the highest point on the walk**



**Having past the highest point bear left very slightly and head off down towards the stone row you can see.**



**Starting at the tall standing stone walk along the slightly bent stone row and when you reach the end keep on going in the same direction along a well defined moorland path**



**Passing the cairn on your right look ahead and you will see we are aiming for a large tree half a mile away. The coffee stop tree.**

**As you get closer you will pass through an area of possibly late medieval tin prospecting**



**As you approach the coffee stop tree you will pass Devonport leat as it emerges from it's hill side tunnel**



**The coffee stop tree sits on top of what was originally a tinnerns hut or possibly a building used during the construction of the leat.**







**Facing back the way we have just come we are now going to follow the leat now on our left but first we take a short cut over the hill to rejoin the leat .**

**The leat having gone around the bend comes back into view as does also a granite cross**



**The cross was set up as a memorial by Lieutenant Commander B. Hutchinson to his mother, Mrs S. L. Hutchinson in 1967**





**You now follow the leat it doesn't matter which side but I prefer the left as it's drier. The right is much wider but soggy in places**

**When you reach Older Bridge turn left and walk on down the stony track passing Drivage bottom on your left a large area of medieval to post medieval tin streaming**





**This medieval wayside cross which marks the route between Buckfast and Tavistock Abbey is easy to see on your left as you walk along the track. Keep looking on the near horizon for the next one which we will soon walk past.**



**After a while the cross on the horizon disappears from view, to reach it we must now leave the stony track and fork right.**





**Without deviating up or down hill walk on past the cross and very soon Crazywell Pool comes into view. Said to be bottomless but is actually only 15ft deep. Go around the pool staying on the same contour to find a path that leads to Raddick Lane**



**Many stories have been written about the pool here are some of them with thanks to [https://www.legendarydartmoor.co.uk/crazy\\_well.htm](https://www.legendarydartmoor.co.uk/crazy_well.htm)**



**It's a reasonably well used path from Crazywell pool to reach Raddick lane ...**

**...which begins at a plantation of fir trees.**



**When you reach the junction with the signpost turn right**



**Keep  
going  
down  
hill**



**Soon you arrive at Leather Tor Bridge a modern clapper bridge built about 1850/1870 but don't walk over it instead stay on the wide track with the river Meavy on your right**

As you walk down the track look out for this stile on your right that leads into a stamping mill a scheduled ancient monument

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1019583>



With axel bearing stones and Mortar stones



Turn right at the T junction and walk on down to Norsworthy Bridge.





**On reaching the bridge turn left and walk back to the car park**



**Staying in the area have a look at the Pixies walk and  
Burrator View walk**

Words and pictures by David Simkins