

Mary Tavy to North Brentor and back via the top of Gibbet Hill

This 7.3 mile walk starts on the very edge of Mary Tavy where the West Devon Way meets the road to North Brentor. To reach the start from Tavistock take the A386 towards Okehampton. When you reach the middle of Mary Tavy fork left into Brentor Road next to Downs Coaches. After half a mile, having gone over a cattle grid, park as soon as you can at approx. SX 496 800. Having parked up set off along the road towards the church on top of the hill.





Through out much of the walk we will have a view of the Church on top of Brent Tor. Set off towards it

As the road bends around to the right fork left down the lane with the no through road sign. Walk all the way down hill passing a house on your left.



The green lane takes you past Wortha Mill and then over this bridge that once had a railway line underneath.



Having crossed the bridge its now a long slow climb back out of the valley.



When you reach the top of the hill turn right and having gone around a couple of bends the track stops at a pair of gates. *(If you want to do an excursion to Brentor and climb up to the church on top turn left but come back here. Scroll to the end for instructions)*



Go through the right hand side gate and then through or around the wooded area that protrudes into the field ahead of you.



Go through the gate in the field boundary ahead of you. On entering this field fork right to go diagonally across the field to the far right hand corner.



and through the gateway



**Having gone through the gate into the next field fork left a bit
and pass well left of the telegraph pole.**



and through another opening in a corner of this field where you will find a now disused kissing gate. Keep straight on to the top left hand corner of the next field to reach the next field gate .



and then keep straight on with the hedge on your left.



Using the pedestrian half of the gate step out on to a track and keeping straight on you will soon find yourself in the village of North Brentor.





At the junction turn right



and when you reach the War Memorial keep left



We are heading towards Lydford on route 27



Passing the playing field on your left (I love the dog poo sign on the gate)

I am sure they wouldn't mind if you used one of the picnic tables to pause for a rest and a drink .



On reaching a sort of T junction keep left as the road bends sharply left.



At the end of the road there is a T junction with a much busier wider road. Here turn right still following the route 27 signs.



There is a nice wide verge you can walk on.



300m from the T junction you reach the entrance to Burnville Farm. Here turn right and walk up their long drive . Go past the house and farm buildings then out into a field via the gate on your right ahead of you



Its quite a long field and we are heading for a gate in the far right hand corner



and here it is

Go through the gate and fork right towards a small gate in the right hand field hedge. Don't go through the gate instead walk along the hedge line. You will find yourself in a slightly sunken track.....



.....which ends at this gate. Here turn right and go down the steps

and long the path with some deer fencing on your right



Soon you will arrive at Wastor Farm. Turn right and then

.....turn left .



Go past
the house
and farm
buildings
on your
left and
right and
walk on
down the
access
drive
ahead of
you



At the end of the drive turn right.....



...then almost immediately turn left .



When you reach the road turn right to go over the bridge



**On the other side of the bridge turn right and staying on the
bridleway walk on up to the moor gate**



**Go through the gate and turn right . Looking up to the left you
can see the top of Gibbet Hill which is where we are heading.**

Less than 100m from the moor gate fork left to pass next to the telegraph pole. (*However if you now decide not to take in the views from the top of Gibbet Hill just stay on this track following the Dartmoor Way signs all the way back to your car.*)



You should now be aiming to walk in a straight line to the summit of the ridge ahead of you where we will then turn right to reach the top of Gibbet Hill



Not much further to go



**When you reach the top of the ridge there is a wide track crossing the path that leads up to the top of the hill.
Turn right and walk up to the summit of Gibbet Hill**





Having taken in the views from the summit head towards Brentor Church in the distance by taking the path down the hill a little to the left of the direct line to the church.



Keep going down hill until you reach the second wide path which crosses the downhill path you are. Finally having had a rejuvenating downhill walk turn left and walk back to your car along the West Devon Way.

Brentor Church is over a mile from the village and not really able to be incorporated into this circular walk without a lot of walking along well used roads but from South Brentor you could do a there and back detour but it would add nearly 2 miles to the walk. To do the excursion turn left at the top of the long hill up from Wortha Mill bridge. Go past South Brentor farm keep left and at the next sharp left hand bend (half a mile) turn right through a gate and go up the hill. Then retrace your steps.

If you want to follow the walk on a map it's the Launceston and Holsworthy OS Map 112 . There is a tiny bit on the Dartmoor map where we walk up Gibbet Hill.

Words and Pictures by David Simkins

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