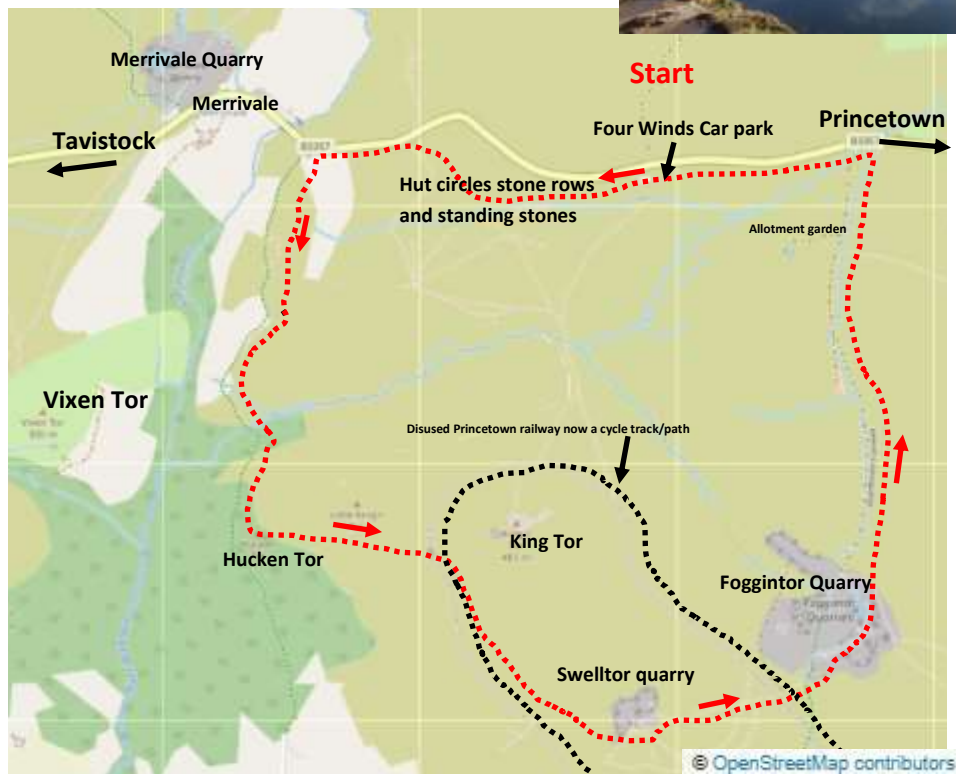


Merrivale

Antiquities and Quarries



This 4.6 mile walk starts at the popular tree lined Four Winds car park on the B3357 between Tavistock and Princetown/Two Bridges. SX5606 7487 nearest Post-code PL20 6ST. The walk will take you first to see a bronze age settlement, a pair of double stone rows, a stone circle and a standing stone. You will then go on to the massive disused granite quarries of Swelltor and Foggintor where you can see abandoned corbels made for London Bridge. On the way back you will pass by an ancient allotment garden.



Having parked in Four Winds car park walk back out towards the road then turn left next to the car park boundary wall into a wide grassy area and walk diagonally away to the left. You soon reach a narrow water course. This is Merrivale leat. Don't cross the leat keep it on your left and walk next to it all the way to a small granite bridge which is a good 6 to 7 mins walk away.



Having reached the bridge this is your opportunity to go and explore the stone rows ahead of you and the stone circle which is next to a tall standing stone. Then come back here and set off to walk away from the leat towards the road.



As you head towards the road you will quickly stumble across lots of stones and grassy mounds. You will see they are circular in shape. What you are looking at are the tumble down walls of a bronze age settlement comprising numerous hut circles.



Having explored the hut circles head off in the direction of Merrivale quarry in the middle distance. Passing more hut circles you will soon come across a wide grassy track that will take you down to the road.



On reaching the road walk on down the hill and then fork left to go behind the safety railings.



Go past the house and then turn left to join a wide moorland track that leads to Longash Farm. Please shut the gate.



On reaching the gate to Longash farm walk quickly through the farm yard and out through two more gates.



Having gone through Longash the track narrows and goes over a bridge and through a stunted oak wood.



About 250m past the bridge Hucken Tor will come into view. Go nearly up to the rock face and turn left. Walk on up to a wide gap in the stone wall ahead of you.



Vixen Tor

However Hucken Tor is a most interesting tor of huge slabs and well worth exploring.

In fact a good place to pause for a snack and drink and perhaps from the top check out the view of Vixen Tor.



Come back down off the tor and walk on up to the wide gap in the stone wall you were originally heading for and go through the gap.



Stepping through the gap take the mid way line between Hucken tor on your right and gorse scrub on your left. King Tor soon comes into view.



You are aiming for a point just to the right of King Tor. If you spot some railings that is where you are going.



Using the sheep tracks keep walking towards King Tor. Soon the rocks and scrub disappear and you see the old railway line going around King Tor and the railings which are on a bridge. To get there fork left to go over a ladder stile.



From the ladder stile follow the sheep tracks and climb up the railway embankment and walk on over the bridge between the railings.



**100m past the bridge the railway line splits left and right .
Take the left fork to Swelltor quarry.**



Quite soon you will come across abandoned granite corbels. These were destined for the widening of London bridge but for some reason they were rejected .



A bit further on you will reach this loading platform on your left. Here it is important to keep right and head towards the tumbledown building ahead of you as the railway track now becomes very wet.



As you pass the building you will see on your left the entrance into Swelltor quarry (its very marshy). Turn left and walk up the hill with the quarry entrance on your left.



It's a narrow path with a steepening drop so take care.



At the top go past the pointy rock....



...and out onto a level area. You have reached yet another railway line that leads into the top of the quarry. Here turn right and start walking gently down hill.



Stay on the track until you reach a crossroads of tracks.



When you reach the cross roads turn right



After 50m go straight across the next disused railway track



Then in less than 50m do the same again



Go over a narrow watercourse or ditch and turn left. You are now on a tramway in Foggintor quarry. You will come across a wet bit that you have skirt around but basically stay on this track all the way back to the road.



For a short excursion, when you reach this bit of industrial archaeology you will find the entrance to the quarry on your right .



And here it is. Having viewed the quarry go back and continue your walk along the tramway track.



Follow the wide track/tramway past Yellowmead farm until you reach the farm access road where you turn right.



In the distance on your left you will see Four Winds car park, but unless it's the height of summer and very dry best stay on the road as the terrain is quite soggy and not easy to walk. The pine trees mark the edge of the quarrymen's allotment garden.



When you reach the road turn left and walk along the verge for about 70m then drop on down onto the moor to walk back to your car.

