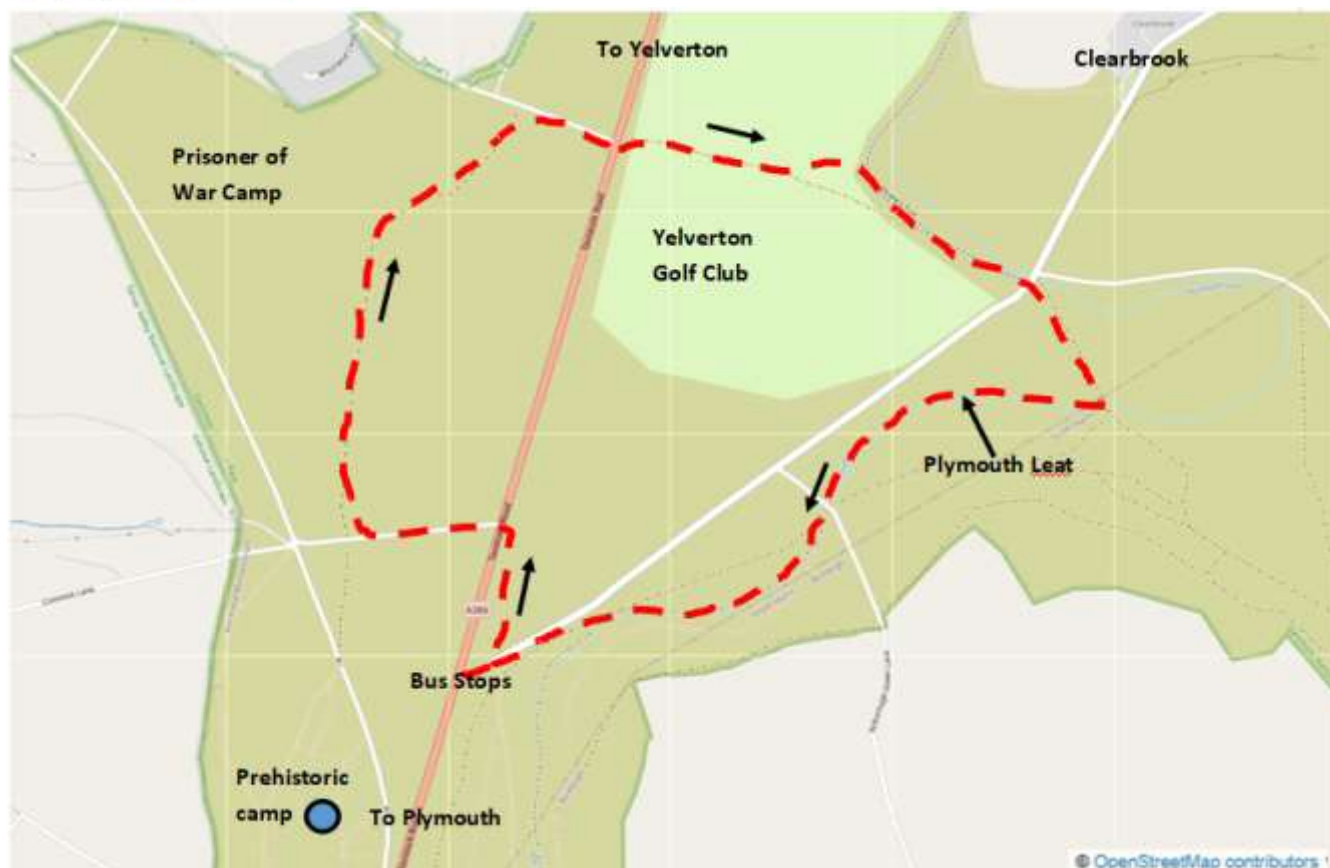




Roborough Down A Prisoner of War Camp and other historical features

A short walk



This is a 2.5 mile walk that should only take you about an hour that packs in a lot of history. On this walk you will cross over the Devonport leat (built 1785) and walk next to Plymouth Leat (built 1590), which are water courses that supplied the towns of Dock later known as Devonport and Plymouth. Devonport leat was built because Plymouth the neighbouring town refused Dock permission to use the water from Plymouth leat. The two leats run almost side by side for quite a few miles.

You will walk through the war-time decoy airfield and pass by the prisoner of war camp not that there is now anything to see. You will walk along the Plymouth and Dartmoor Tramway opened in 1823 which is now a tarmac cycle track and through Yelverton Golf course. While you are on the bus scroll to the end of the walk and check out the links.

Start by taking the Stagecoach number 1 bus that runs between Plymouth and Tavistock getting off at the Clearbrook junction on the A386. You will have to ring the bell to stop the bus.



Coming from Plymouth ring the bell as soon as you see the road sign to Clearbrook. Get off at the bus stop and go through the metal gate that leads out on to the moor

Coming from Tavistock look out for the road sign pointing right to Milton Combe and the Nature Reserve and then ring the bell. Get off the bus and cross over to the other side of the road using the central reservation and go through the gate that leads out on to the open moor.



Having gone through the gate turn right and with the A386 on the other side of the fence on your right walk on up to meet a minor road.



Turn left and walk down the road for about 200m until you reach a small car park on your LEFT.



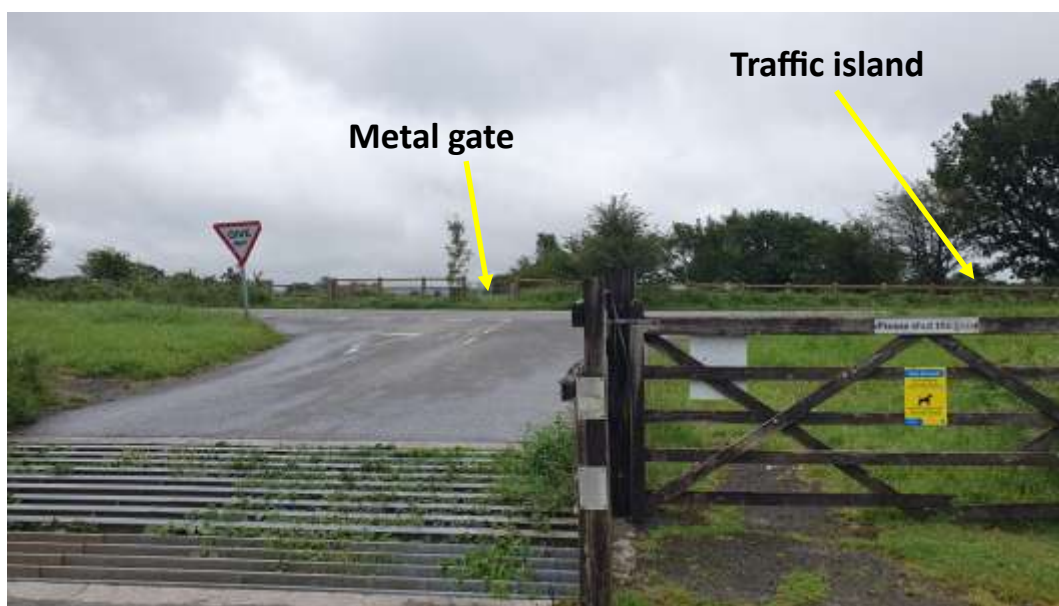
Turn right opposite the car park and keep on this long nearly straight grassy track for 500m passing two drinking troughs on your way. The prisoner of war camp would have been on your left.



At this fork the track bends right. Stay on it until you reach a minor road.



Go through the rocks and walk up the minor road to the A386.



Cross over using the traffic island and walk back along the verge and go through the metal gate.



Keep to the left of the decaying bench and walk up to and through the narrow belt of trees ahead of you.



Keep going for another 10m then.....



....fork left to meet a gravel golfers track and walk to the end of it ignoring the left turn.



When you reach the end fork right



You will soon arrive at the next fairway. Check both ways for golfers and quickly walk across the fairway to reach the dried up leat. This is Devonport leat. With the dried up leat on your right walk along it for 30m to reach a track crossing the leat.



Turn right to cross the leat and walk straight ahead and around the teeing off platform. With the platform on your right follow the track you can see in front of you.



Turn right when you reach the tarmac track



You are now walking on the Plymouth and Dartmoor Railway that transported mostly granite from the Dartmoor quarries to the port of Plymouth. It opened in 1823 but was never profitable. The trams were pulled by horses and the building you walk past is a stable for the horses. It's known as Tyrwhitt's Wharf and was a staging post for the horses.



When you reach the end of the cycle track go straight across and through the car park opposite.



Keep going until you reach Plymouth Leat. Here turn right and follow the leat.



Plymouth leat was built by Sir Francis Drake although he probably never got his hands dirty. It is said that he instigated the construction so ensure a good supply of water to his corn mills and providing water for the folk of Plymouth was just a happy coincidence.



When you reach this clearing fork right to join another path for only about 10m.



Then as the path on the left is often wet and muddy fork right through the trees and on to the road.



Walk back up to your bus stop on the A386.

Walking up to the A386 you will be walking through what was a decoy airfield constructed 2.5 miles south of Harrowbeer Airfield. It is believed to have been established in the spring of 1941 and was one of ten night time naval decoy sites, set up around Plymouth to attract enemy action away from the city and dockyard. I wonder if the location of the prisoner of war camp was just a coincidence.

An excursion to see a prehistoric feature

When you reach the A386 cross over and go through the metal gate you walked through an hour or so ago.

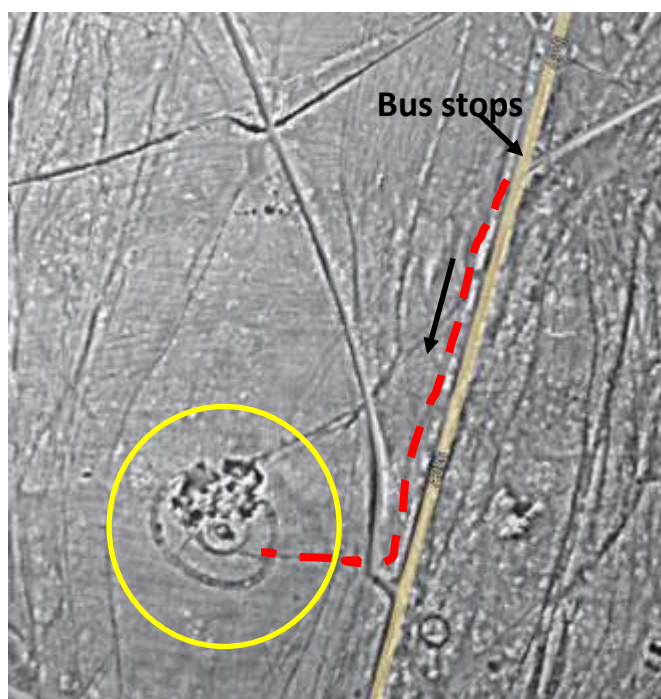


With the A386 on your left walk along the fence line.



When you get a bit closer to the high spot fork right to reach a minor road. Go straight across and up to the enclosure.

The HER describes it as “Roborough Down Camp 180 metres north-east of Higher Lodge; an irregular circular earthwork of possible pre-historic date” It is believed by some that this was never a camp, Iron Age or earlier, but a purpose built stock pound.



HER link

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MDV2366&resourceID=104

It's only a 5 minute walk up to it so go and have a look and see what you think. Then come back to the bus stops.

Here are links for you to read about the prisoner of war camp and other historical features

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MDV56228&resourceID=104

If you go to the Historic Environment Record <https://www.devon.gov.uk/historicenvironment/the-devon-historic-environment-record/>

zoom in to this area of the moor and press on the 4 square dots on the top right hand corner then on the 1946 aerial photography map there is a very fine picture of the war time camp.

Decoy Airfield

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=1455726&resourceID=19191

Dartmoor and Plymouth Railway

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plymouth_and_Dartmoor_Railway

Devonport leat

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devonport_Leat

**Plymouth Leat also known
as Drake's leat**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake%27s_Leat