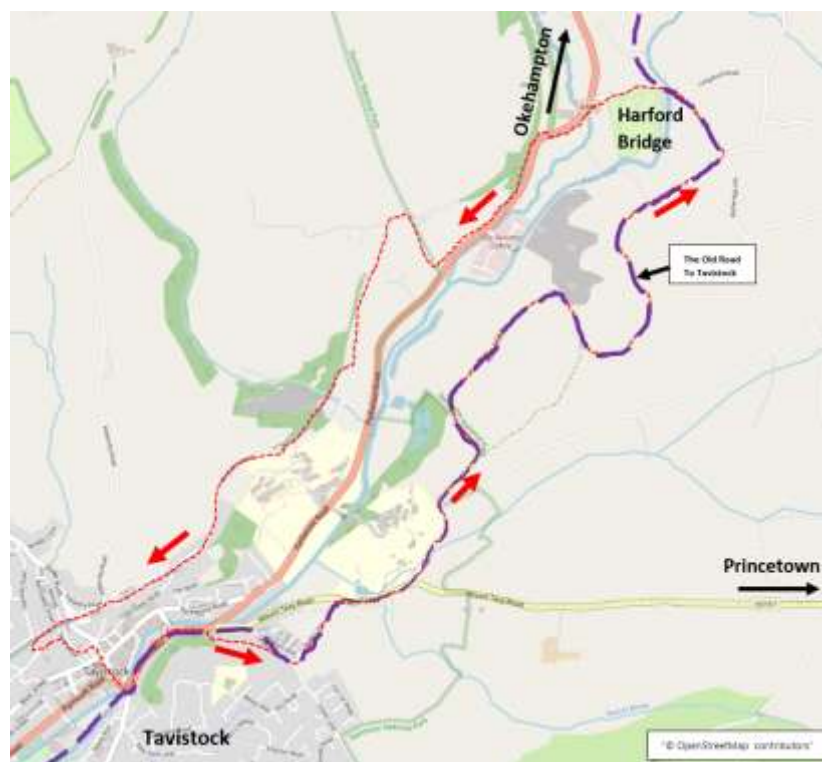


Walking the West Devon Way

Walk 9 Tavistock to Harford Bridge



This 6 mile walk will take you out of Tavistock via the Abbots Way eventually joining the “Old Road To Tavistock” now a very narrow track that winds its way towards the River Tavy and Harford Bridge. Returning to Tavistock you will make use of the disused railway line that ran between Tavistock and Lydford and walk over some magnificent viaducts. You will walk in the footsteps of the Abbots of Tavistock and Buckfast as you walk along the Abbots Way for a short distance.

We join the West Devon Way at Abbey Bridge where we left it in Walk 8.

Park where you like in the town but be aware the walk could take 3 hours.



With the Guildhall and Bedford Square on your left walk up to the roundabout joining the West Devon Way as you go over Abbey Bridge.



Turn left signposted to Okehampton and go along Dolvin Road which was apparently the route of the Abbots Way the ancient trackway from Buckfast Abbey to Tavistock.



Passing St Rumons School keep going until you reach the next mini roundabout and cross over heading towards Okehampton.



Not very far along the road there is a right turn to Princetown which is the route the West Devon Way takes probably because it follows the Abbots Way. However its not a very nice road to walk along and they really should have made use of the shortcut footpath which we are now going to use. Using the traffic island cross over the road and come back to footpath finger post.

(If you want follow the exact route fork right towards Princetown and then take the next right and walk up the steep hill)



Go up the steps. At the top turn left and then follow the well worn footpath through a meadow.



On the otherside of the meadow rejoin the West Devon Way and Abbots Way by going through the gate and turning right. Walk up the road for about 120m to the next road junction.



Staying on the West Devon Way but now leaving the Abbots way turn left to walk down Violet Lane a one way street with traffic coming towards you.



On reaching the B3347 road to Princetown called Mount Tavy road turn right.



When the footpath reaches The Old Lodge it runs out of steam. This is where you do need to take care. Its best to walk on the otherside of the road for the next 70m so cross over well before the sharp bend.



Fork left and stay on this lane for half a mile ignoring the right turn opposite the school gates.



On reaching the end of the tarmac road keep right ignoring the left fork to the Fishery and holiday cottages.



When you reach Batterbridge hill turn left. Head on down the hill. You will see from the old cast iron signpost that you have just walked The Old Road to Tavistock.



Go over Harford Bridge which is where we leave the West Devon Way as it forks right up a driveway. To make your way back to Tavistock stay on this road passing a caravan park on your left.



Just before you reach the A386 keep left and follow the cycle route signpost.



Stay on the pavement that takes you under the A386 marvelling at the skill of the bricklayer. The path then crosses over a farm track to run parallel with the A386 by going through the.....



**.....edge of a wood that
borders the main road.**



When you once again meet the A386 turn right



**and then in 300m take the next right and
walk up the hill away from the A386.**



Go under the railway bridge of the London and South Western Railway Dartmoor Branch and turn left.



Bear left at the next fork



Stay on the lane for 500m until you once more reach the cycle track. Here turn right and stay on the cycle track/disused railway line until you meet the next road.....



.....passing over a viaduct on your way



When you reach the road turn left. A good place to stop for a coffee on the conveniently located bench.



After about 700m turn left onto a path that takes you past the West Devon Borough Council offices.



Go past the WDBC office and car park and turn left to walk between the old railway station and a terrace of houses



Having gone around the old station keep right.



Walk out on to the impressive Tavistock Viaduct built in 1889



Looking down you can see the route you will take back into town.



To get there at the other end of the viaduct fork left. Go up to the road and then turn left.



Walk on down the road and turn left into Madge lane which has steps and is quite steep.



At the bottom of Madge lane turn right and walk back into town.