

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

This 7.5 mile walk starts on the road between the villages of Mary Tavy and North Brentor. You will pass over two dismantled railway lines one of which went to London the other to Launceston. You will also pass within easy reach of Lydford Gorge White Lady's waterfall entrance where there is a cafe. The highlight of the walk will of course be getting to the top of Gibbet Hill which has a gory history.

Read all about it here: https://www.brentorpc.org.uk/?page_id=9967



To reach the start from the A386 going through Mary Tavy take the road in the middle of the village signposted to Brentor. In about half a mile

go over the cattle grid then in another half a mile just past a left hand fork and as the road bends right park in the lay-by on your right.



Set off back towards Mary Tavy



**At the junction turn sharply right
and walk all the way down to the
bottom of the hill**



**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 gentle climb back out of the valley.



When you reach the top of the hill turn right and having gone around a few bends the track stops at a pair of gates.



Go through the right hand side gate and stay parallel with the hedge on your left. Go through the small wood passing two quarries. On the other side of the wood spot the gate in the field hedge opposite.



Go through the gate. On entering this field fork right to go diagonally across the field to the far right hand corner.



and through the gateway which is a bit tight



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

On reaching a sort of T junction keep left as the road bends sharply left. A little further on is a parish playing field entrance.



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



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



**There is a nice wide verge you can step onto if a car
comes towards you.**



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 though 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 a steepish slope which once had 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 and on the other
side turn right.**

**When you
the road tu
right to go
the bridge**

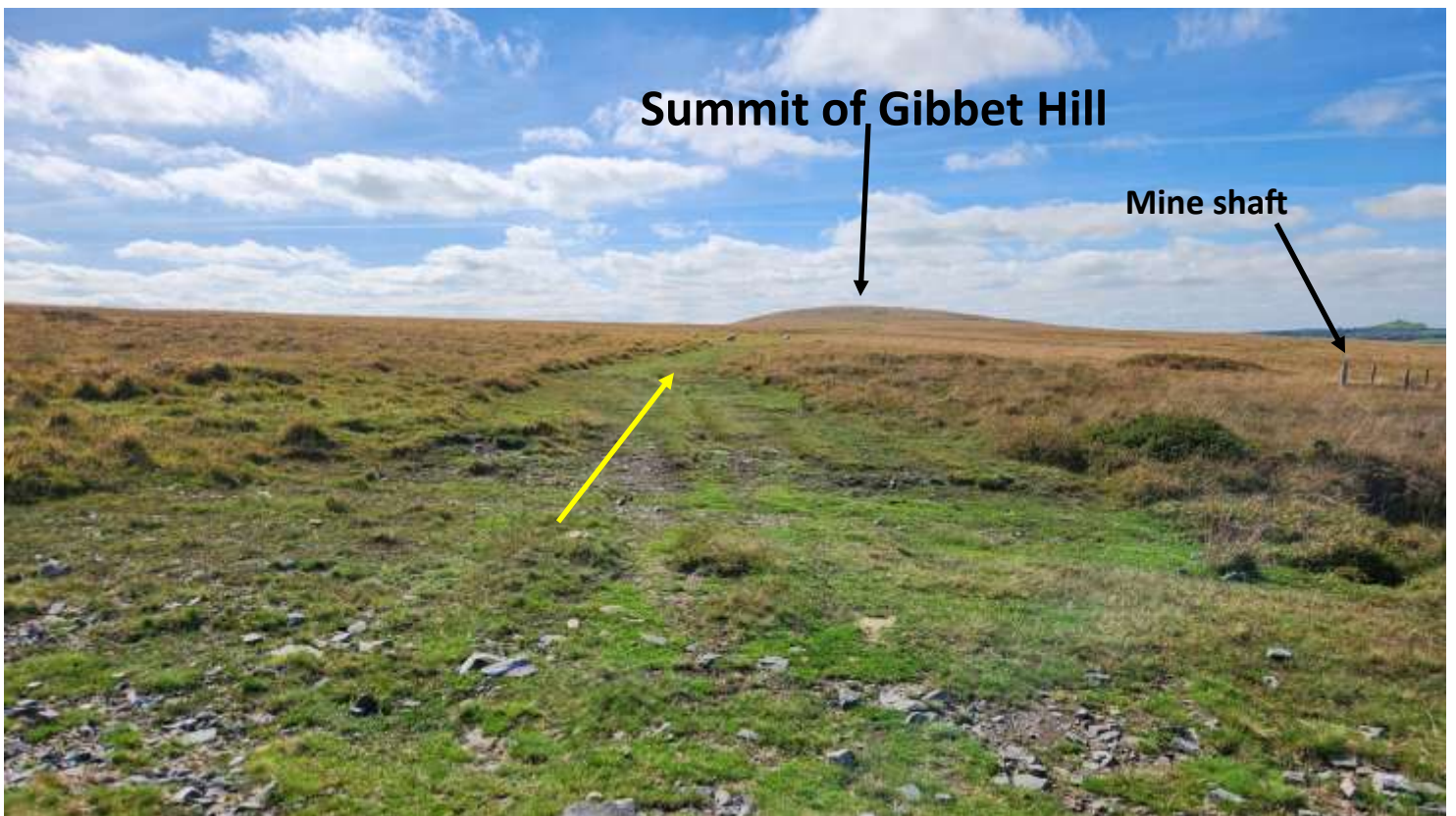
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and staying on the bridle-way walk on up to and through the moor gate
Go through the gate and keep left to reach a foot-path finger post



Turn right and walk on up through the pair of telegraph poles in almost a straight line right to the top of the hill without turning left or right.



About 100m before reaching the A386 you will pass a fenced in mine shaft here turn right. You should now be aiming to walk in a straight line to the summit of Gibbet Hill.





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



**You will see three wide tracks
take the middle one**



Without turning or forking left or right follow this wide track all the way down the hill with a fabulous view in front of you.

Towards the bottom of the hill go across a wide grassy track and keep on going down hill until you reach a second wide grassy track. Again go straight across and



follow the sheep tracks still in a straight line until you reach the road. Turn right and walk back to your car.

Brentor Excursion

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 or you could do the Brentor Church Walk which takes you to the church.

However if you want to visit the church turn left at the top of the 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 with the hedge on your right go up field edge. Go through a gate and turn right. Follow this path and make your way up hill to the church. It is quite a steep walk up. Then retrace your steps. Its about 1.8 miles there and back.

Words and Pictures by David Simkins

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