

**When the Rifle Range is closed the alternative route avoiding it is 6.67 miles**

**Route – Colvannick and St. Bellarmin's Tors, Fore Downs, Bury Castle, Glynn Valley China Clay Works**

**Interest – Standing Stones, Stone Rows, ancient ruined Chapel, Iron Age Hill Fort, three China Clay Works**

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### **Useful Information**

**Parking:** On the A30, CP on the westbound side (not dual carriageway) at beginning of a lane east to Temple

**Intermediate Parking:** Roadside at lane at Fore Downs, close to Millpool Rifle Range.

**Getting There:** 6 miles E of Bodmin, go R, signed Temple, into CP.

**Transport:** None known.

**Refreshments:** Sheila's Snacks in start point CP.

**Toilets:** In start point CP, but only for Sheila's Snacks customers.

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### **Route Directions**

#### **Temple A30 Car Park to St. Bellarmin's Tor – 1.94 miles**

**Start at the cattle grid at 13256/72574 at 860 feet at 0.00 miles.**

Go through the hunting gate by the cattle grid onto Cardinham Moor. Go R, roughly SSW, uphill with St. Bellarmin's Tor in view to the S. When you spot a small lake, head to it, arriving at the former Burnt Heath China Clay Works pit at 12892/72209 after about 600 yards. Skirt the flooded pit to the S and continue SSW up Colvanick Tor, crossing a substantial boundary bank at 12707/72004. *View back R to Brown Willy and Roughtor, back L Caradon Hill.*

The route from Colvannick Tor to St. Bellarmin's Tor is obvious as you can mostly see the trig point on St. Bellarmin's Tor to your SSE. *As you proceed there are lovely pastoral views W and SW over valley, small fields, small farms, and to Clay Country in the distance. If you enjoy spotting antiquities, look out for the following as you go:*

Several massive enclosure banks. An isolated standing stone at 12652/71927. A standing stone at the NW end of a possible Stone Row at 12827/71879 with a recumbent stone to its SE. A triangular standing stone at 12602/72010, with another to its E. **A stone row:** From NW to SE, a pair of standing stones, (one 5 ft, one leaning) at 12953/71647, then two more recumbents, then a tall triangular leaning stone, then to its SE a leaning stone, 8 feet high, at 12994/71563. Further on a standing stone at 13049/71295, 2 more to its SE could be aligned with it. A possible cist at 13035/71272. At the W foot of St. Bellarmin's Tor, amongst clutter, several pits, possible cairns, and a leaning stone at 13042/70954. The trig point is at 13021/70913 at 890 feet at **1.94 miles**.

#### **St. Bellarmin's Tor to Bury Castle – 1.28 miles**

Leave St. Bellarmin's Tor trig point heading S for about 200 yards to find the putative Chapel, identified by an upright stone marker, at 13022/70801. Nearby is a triangular standing stone at 13012/70809. Now head just E of S to the very bottom where it can be wet at times. From there head uphill, picking your way through furze, tending to your L where reasonably possible. After the crest of the hill you should pick up the LH hedge. This becomes a fence along the open ground of Fore Downs. Follow the fence, crossing a rough track, with a lane off to your R, to the entrance to Millpool Rifle Range (Landmarc) at **2.85 miles**.

Bear R, crossing the lane, to an indistinct wide grassy track (*confusingly, the FP sign is badly placed 40 yards ahead*) with Cardinham Church directly ahead in the valley below you. Bear L, following the LH hedge to a galvanised gate (*WM post after gate but no WM in your direction*), leaving the Open Access land. Follow a broad overgrown grassy track between hedges for a short distance to a misleading WM. Go L over a wooden stile to a field then go R to follow the RH hedge uphill to a (probably open) galvanised gate. Now follow the RH hedge round to Bury Castle ramparts at 13452/69656 at **3.22 miles**.

*It is well worth doing the full circuit of the ramparts for interest and views SW to Clay Country, E to Caradon Hill, Stowe's Hill, N to Roughtor and Brown Willy. The extra ¼ mile distance is included in next stage.*

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### **Bury Castle to Glynn Valley China Clay Works – 2.30 miles**

Now head roughly ENE along the outer rampart and down to a wooden stile (WM to a sunken path between hedges, rocky in places, down to a track (*no WM*) coming up from Treslea Downs. Go L on a leafy bridleway track, heading roughly N, passing WM post at attractive Higher Bury (*second home barn conversions*). Continue on the track, which becomes grassy, up to a hunting gate. Go forward on a potentially very muddy track (*you may have to use the hedge*) forward for few yards, between substantial hedges, to the Open Access land of Great Care Hill at 4.01 miles.

*Here you are just a hundred yards or so from where a grassy swathe comes down from Fore Downs. You could simply head N uphill, following the red and white warning posts to Glynn Valley China Clay Works but I describe here a route which allows you easily to see more of the site.*

Go R, following the RH hedge roughly NE uphill. Continue down easy, *view R of two massive cairns on Carburrow Tor*, still along the RH hedge. Soon two white spoil heaps at Glynn Valley China Clay Works come into your view; continue down to a well-made track up from Maidenwell at 4.73 miles. Go L on the track, due N, towards the china clay works to level with a fallen chimney on your R at **4.97 miles**. *Here, if not interested in the clay works, you could simply continue on the track to the works office building and on between the two old dark spoil heaps.*

Go R for 40 yards to the fallen chimney and bear R downhill to skirt to the R low walls around a rough area. Continue down, past more walls, to a level area and go L towards the L side of the two white spoil heaps. Pass an open building with loading bays at 5.12 miles. Continue past it for about 40 yards and bear L over rough ground, through a bank then bearing R again, *noting a tall cedar, works offices and high spoil heap up to your L*, to a high buttressed wall at 5.28 miles. After 40 yards go L up 17 steps to a series of circular settling tanks and across, over narrow concrete channels and up 3 steps, to the works office building at 5.38 miles. Skirt it to the L and continue N on a track, passing at 5.40 miles a ruined building on your R that consists of little more than a staircase. Continue N, heading for a clear track that passes between the two dark old spoil heaps at **5.52 miles**.

### **Glynn Valley China Clay Works to Temple Car Park – 1.26 miles**

Immediately after the larger spoil heap on the L, at 5.50 miles, go L very steeply uphill on grass, with the spoil heap on your L, heading roughly W, to pass through the line of red and white posts. *At the top, looking NW, you can see where you are parked. You may be tempted to head straight for it. Don't, you would have to cross a marsh.* Instead, continue approximately W. After a while the only small stony area at the bottom comes into view. Head for it, where there may be a small stream to cross at wet times. Continue uphill, roughly WNW, keeping to the better ground and, once the ground to your R is clear, bear R and head uphill roughly N, following the line of posts, crossing a major line of bank and ditch (not on the map) at 6.41 miles, and on back to the cattle grid at the car park at **6.76 miles**.

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### **The Rifle Range Detour – Glynn Valley China Clay Works to Temple Car Park – 1.17 miles**

*At most weekends, and on some weekdays, for much of the day, red flags may be flying and you may be unable to cross the Rifle Range. In that case there is an alternative slightly shorter route from Glynn Valley China Clay Works back to the Temple car park.*

Immediately after the larger spoil heap on the L, continue forward on a rough track, passing another small spoil heap on your R. *Don't be tempted to try to pass the small spoil heap to its right, closer to the pit lake. You get very close to a very crumbly cliff edge.* You will now see a line of red and white posts ahead of you. Follow these roughly N and, before the third post, head downhill to cross a low curving bank. Bear L to follow the bank until the sixth post is off to your R at 5.86 miles. From here, if you try to follow the line of posts, you will find yourself in marshy ground so you should simply continue with the bank on your L. At 6.11 miles you will see a post forward L through gap in furze, head for it and follow the line of posts uphill, passing a fallen standing stone at 6.15 miles. At a post at 6.25 miles you will see the next post across a low valley. Do not head for it but bear R downhill, heading for a distant small spoil heap, to pick up a path winding through furze and along the top of a bank and down to a ford at 13745/72667 at 6.34 miles. The ford should be passable, as (October 2013) there are stepping stones. From here head uphill on a path, passing building remains, a small spoil heap and a small pit on your R, passing a double bank at 6.42 miles, and bear L to follow the line of posts, roughly W, back to the Temple Car Park at **6.67 miles**.