

Route - Glynn Valley Clay Works, Hardhead Downs, Carburrow Tor, Temple church and village

Interest - Wild moorland, former China Clay works, ancient mine remains, massive cairns, intriguing church

Useful Information

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

Intermediate Parking: None .

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

Transport: None known.

Refreshments: Sheila's Snax (seasonal) in start point CP.

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

Route Directions

Temple A30 Car Park to Warleggan River clapper bridge – 1.49 miles

Start at the cattle grid at 13256/72574

Go through the hunting gate by the cattle grid and onto the open moor. Head roughly E downhill, initially following the line of the red and white posts, heading for the valley bottom. After about 450 yards note on your L remains of small china clay workings and follow a track of sorts down. At the bottom, about 150 yards on, you have to cross a stream. Keep L and use a thorn tree to cross the first bit of water, then use underwater stepping stones (*can be slippery*) to cross the main stream.

Continue on a narrow path uphill through furze roughly SSE and, after 100 yards, where the track divides by a small quarry, keep L through furze. When you come out into the open on the slope of Little Care Hill, you will see a bank and ditch below you to the L. Keep within sight of this, heading roughly ESE towards Carburrow Tor and the LH pair of Glynn Valley spoil heaps. At 0.62 miles cross the bank and continue towards the spoil heaps with the bank on your R. At 0.80 miles you come to a red and white post, close on your L. Now follow the line of posts, heading towards the tallest and furthest west of the several spoil heaps, this one with a flagpole on top. Shortly before the flooded pit on the L, at 0.94 miles, cross the bank and roughly follow the line of posts, heading uphill towards the flagpole spoil heap.

At 1.05 miles you come to a small spoil heap, with a post off to its R. *Don't be tempted to go L to skirt the flooded pit, there is dangerous ground there.* Instead, keep the small spoil heap to your L and continue up to a rough track heading downhill towards the RH of three whitish spoil heaps. The track continues between two spoil heaps at 1.18 miles, and heads towards the old office building. At 1.22 miles the track forks. *R heads to old office building.* Bear L downhill on a track, becomes a path, heading roughly E to some ruined buildings on your L. At the end of these buildings, at 1.27 miles, go L downhill on a grassy track which bends R. At 1.34 miles, shortly before the track becomes very muddy as it enters furze, go L downhill to find a rocky track winding downhill first towards Carburrow Tor then towards Hardhead Downs. At 1.45 miles, about 30 yards before a ford over the Warleggan River, bear L over boggy ground to a clapper bridge. **(1.49miles)**

Warleggan River to Carburrow Tor – 1.50 miles

Once across the clapper bridge over the river, *now on the Open Access land of Hardhead Downs*, climb a muddy bank and go R to the rocky track on the E side of the ford. *This track heads NE up the hill to extensive early mining remains; there are many more elsewhere.* Cross the track and head uphill roughly SE on a stony and grassy track (*this becomes mostly grassy later*). *After about 100 yards, note to your R, across a bank and ditch that may have been a leat, remains of a mine building; this was an arsenic calciner with, to its N side, a line of four buddles, used for washing the crushed ore.* Continue uphill, passing through a line of lode-back workings, until you see a high hedge corner on the R at 1.72 miles. The track, now grassy and faint, follows the RH hedge. At 1.92 miles the track continues on a wide swathe between hedges to a galvanised gate. *Halfway along this section of track, note on your R what looks suspiciously like an old milestone (see Lost Road under Interest).* **(2.01 miles)**

The track continues downhill, now shown on the map as ‘*other route with public access*’. After a short while, at a fork, keep R to a wooden gate (*muddy*) at 2.18 miles. Shortly, you pass on the R a small barn with tallet steps, then on the L Condurrow (*converted barn and unconverted farmhouse*). You come to a granite cattle grid at 2.29 miles. Continue S on the tarmac lane towards Warleggan through open scrubby moorland to the bottom at 2.57 miles. Go L (*no FP sign*), over a cattle grid on a tarmac drive to Whitewalls and through a white painted iron gate to the garden. Leave the house on your left and continue to a wooden gate to Carburrow Downs at 2.75 miles. Bear R on a clear grassy track, heading roughly NE with an ancient high hedge on your R. When the track ends, at 2.83 miles, bear L uphill over fairly rough ground, heading roughly NNE towards a lone windswept thorn bush on the horizon. At the thorn you will see the two cairns ahead of you. You reach the second larger one at 15524/70803 at 925 feet. **(2.99 miles)**

Carburrow Tor to Hardhead Downs – 0.88 miles

Views from here, though at well below 1000 feet, are panoramic: S to the sea, NW to Glynn Valley China Clay Works, N to Roughtor and Brown Willy, NW to Colliford Lake, W to Stowe’s Hill and the peaks of the eastern moor. From the eastern cairn, set off downhill, roughly NE, heading for the lane that goes S of Colliford Lake. *Going here is rough.* At 3.30 miles you should find a gap in a massive ancient boundary bank. Keep heading towards the lane and, towards the bottom, a muddy path through furze leads you down to the lane. **(3.36 miles)**

Go L and note on your L the figure of a siesta-taking Mexican. Keep L (*no FP but this is a bridleway*) to cross a cattle grid to a track that heads N to pass Higher Dewey. Where the track goes L uphill to Higher Dewey, at 3.55 miles with a clapper bridge off to your R, continue forward into a field. There is boggy ground off to your R at the bottom of the valley, so stay on firm ground as you continue N. Go through a galvanised gate to a second field. Go through a gap at 3.75 miles to a third field. Shortly before the end of the field, bear a little L to a galvanised gate to the Open Access land of Hardhead Downs. **(3.87 miles)**

Hardhead Downs back to the car park at the start point – 2.44 miles

Note immediately to your L a boundary stone (A and GC). You will see a line of telegraph poles heading uphill WNW. Follow them (*Roughtor and Brown Willy come into view on the way up*), easy walking on shortish well-grazed grass, passing lode-back pits and other mine remains at 4.11 miles. At the top, at 835 feet at 4.14 miles, the line of telegraph poles continues to Tiptreehall. Continue, passing more mining remains, towards Tiptreehall, passing remains of some kind of rectangular structure. *Glynn Valley China Clay Works now appears to your L.* Pass more lode-back pits and go through a galvanised gate to a track to Tiptreehall. **(4.31 miles)**

Continue for 30 yards to another galvanised gate. *Here you could continue through the farm to a track on the north side. However this may not be a right of way and, anyway, you may prefer not to risk the slightly aggressive dogs.* So, at the second gate, go L through a gap to a field and follow the RH hedge to a wooden gate on your R to a well-made track. Go L on the undulating track which heads overall NNW, going through a galvanised gate at 4.54 miles. *Brown Gelly is now in view to the R, Kilmar Tor beyond that.* Cross a cattle grid at 4.92 miles. As you head down, the tower of Temple Church comes into view slightly R. Just before the bottom, pass Merrifield on your L at 5.02 miles. *Note the ruined former house on your R on the corner.* Continue down to an open galvanised gate and on to a bridge over the Warleggan River at 5.16 miles. A tarmac lane begins uphill, passing Temple Church on your R. Continue up to a T in Temple village at 5.29 miles. Go L on the somewhat switchback lane, passing Temple Tor Farm and a turning to the A30 and Manor Common then passing Temple Fishery, back to the car park. **(6.31 miles)**