

Route - The Roughtor Ridge, Fernacre, Stannon, Louden Hill, Roughtor Moors

Interest - Cornwall's second highest hill, 3 of Cornwall's largest stone circles, two Logan rocks, bronze age settlements, cairns, hut circles and a well-preserved cist.

Useful Information

Parking: Roughtor Car Park (free).

Intermediate Parking: Stannon Circle.

Getting There: From A39, at N end of Camelford, take 1st or 2nd turn on R and continue for just under 2 miles.

Transport: Nearest is at Camelford, served by Western Greyhound buses 510, 561, 584, 594.

Refreshments: None, except in Camelford.

Toilets: None, except in Camelford.

Route Directions

Roughtor Car Park to Roughtor – 1.25 miles

Start from the Roughtor Car Park at 13829/81879 at 870 feet.

Follow a track through two gates down to a clapper bridge over a stream and onto the open moor. Immediately you will see ahead a National Trust sign pointing to the 43rd Wessex Division memorial plaque; ignore it, as you will encounter the memorial later. Head uphill roughly SE for the rocky outcrop on Showery Tor, at the northern end of the Roughtor ridge. *You will encounter many relics of prehistory – cairns, hut circles, enclosures and boundary banks - on the way up, as you will during the course of the whole walk. As you climb, off to your left is the strange 500 metre long stone bank investigated by Time Team in 2007. Crowdy reservoir and Davidstow Creamery come into view to your left and Louden Hill, Stannon china clay pit and Alex Tor to your right.* The climb becomes fairly steep for the last part up to the rocky outcrop, looking very much like the famous Cheeswring and surrounded by a massive cairn, at 14931/81320 at 1285 feet at 0.81 miles. Now head roughly SSW, over the peak of Little Roughtor and on to Roughtor itself and to the 43rd Wessex Division memorial plaque at 14564/80805 at 1325 feet. **(1.25 miles)**

Roughtor to Stannon Stone Circle – 2.10 miles

Panoramic views from here take in the north coast and most of the moor. To the west you can see the Logan Stone on ridge of Louden Hill; you will visit this towards the end of the walk.

Just after the memorial, go down a couple of steps on the L, and continue a short way to the final rocky outcrop at 1.36 miles. You are now heading roughly S for Fernacre Stone Circle and have a fairly steep, rather rocky, descent from Roughtor. On a sunny day you should be able to spot the circle. If not, take note of a track that heads just E of S from the track from Fernacre towards Garrow Tor. The circle is more or less in line with the northern end of this track. For the easiest route, go down to the LH side of the final outcrop to find a faint path which winds steeply down through rocks and bracken. At 1.52 miles, you are down to 1080 feet and the slope eases off. From here you begin passing through major bronze age settlement remains. Continue, bearing first R to find the clear ground, then bearing back L again, using well-grazed grass to reach Fernacre Circle at 14491/80005 at 935 feet. **(1.83 miles)**

Now head SW down to the track from Fernacre Farm and follow it down to cross a culvert at the bottom of the hill at 2.06 miles. The track bears R uphill but continue on the grass of Steping Hill, heading roughly W uphill to find a fairly well preserved cist, about 200 yards S of the track, at 13885/79773 at 3.32 miles. Next you are looking for Louden Hill Stone Circle, situated at the very southern end of the Louden Hill ridge. So continue roughly WSW, undulating up and down to reach the 6 foot leaning stone of Louden Hill Stone Circle at 13214/79475. **(2.83 miles)**

Now head to the track, to your north, and take a bearing, roughly NW. You will be looking at a couple of farms just to the left of the western extremity of the spoil heaps of the former Stannon china clay pit. Going is more-or-less level and quite easy across the moor here and, after crossing a low boundary bank and passing a probable long cairn, you reach Stannon Stone Circle at 12588/80009. **(3.35 miles)**

Stannon Stone Circle to the Roughtor Car Park – 2.10 miles

Leaving Stannon stone circle, head roughly ESE and follow the line of the hedge and fence around the Stannon Pit spoil heaps, staying initially on the higher and clearer ground, passing probable boundary stones at 3.52 miles and crossing a boundary bank at 3.54 miles. When the hedge bends left to take a north-easterly line, stay on the lower ground near the hedge, where there are fairly clear paths, climbing gently through a bronze age settlement site, to see a succession of impressive hut circles. At 13128/79916 at 870 feet at 3.77 miles you pass a pair of standing stones, probably remains of a cairn. The first striking hut circle, part of a larger settlement, is at 13239/79985 at 3.87 miles. The most impressive hut circle is at 13318/80079. **(3.95 miles)**

Now head more steeply uphill roughly NE towards Roughtor, which is has now come into view. *Looking back over the main china clay spoil heap, you will see on the horizon what at first glance look like rocky outcrops or perhaps even quoits. These are actually rocks put in place by Imerys or by their predecessors English China Clays. Near the top of Louden Hill, Roughtor and Brown Willy are now in full view.* You reach the top of Louden Hill at a rocky outcrop at 1040 feet at 4.31 miles. Continue forward a short way to the Logan Rock at 13756/80409. **(4.37 miles)**

From the Logan Rock you can clearly see the car park from which you started your walk. I suggest staying on the higher ground, seeking out the better going. You will continue to pass through a series of settlements, with many hut circles, enclosures, low standing stones and boundary banks. Continue to the clapper bridge and back up through the gate to the car park. **(5.45 miles)**

You may like, before returning to the car park, to take a closer look at the monument to Charlotte Dymond. When you first see it, do not try to take the most direct route to it as a fence and awkward ground intervene. Continue to the clapper bridge and then head left to a wooden stile to the memorial enclosure. Monument at 13669/81770.