

Route - Showery Tor, Lanlavery Rock, Oldpark, Davidstow Moor and Woods, Lower Moor

Interest – Showery Tor, cairn and views; Lanlavery Rock; Oldpark; Davidstow Airfield

Useful Information

Parking: Roughtor Car Park (free).

Intermediate Parking: Davidstow Airfield.

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 goes to Camelford, served by Western Greyhound buses 510, 561, 584, 594.

Refreshments: None.

Toilets: None.

Route Directions

Roughtor Car Park to Roughtor Plantation – 1.48 miles

Start from the Information Board in the Roughtor Car Park at 13824/81888 at 850 feet.

Go through two wooden gates, down to the stream and cross the clapper bridge onto open Roughtor Moor. Showery Tor is the outcrop at the northern end of the Roughtor ridge. Head roughly ESE directly for it; a moderate ascent with good footing until the last steep 200 yards. *On the way up, you will encounter relics of bronze age prehistory – cairns, hut circles, enclosures and boundary banks. As you climb, off to your left is the strange 500 metre long massive 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 rocky outcrop of Showery Tor, looking much like the Cheesewring and surrounded by a massive cairn, is at 14931/81320 at 1250 feet. **(0.80 miles)**

Views from here are extensive but should you wish to take a look at Roughtor itself, and even better views, whilst up here, the detour, there and back, will add a little under a mile and will offer superb views all over the Moor. From Showery Tor, you will see to your NNE the eastern end of Roughtor Plantation. Head directly for it, going mostly tussocky, quite squelchy in places. Go through a wooden gate at 1000 feet at 1.34 miles. You are now entering the northern extremity of Roughtor Marsh, so stay towards the LH fence as far as possible to the end of the plantation and to a gap to the open moorland of Davidstow Moor at 975 feet. **(1.48 miles)**

Roughtor Plantation to Davidstow Airfield – 1.91 miles

The route from here to Davidstow Airfield will depend on how the weather has been. If it has been fairly wet, you may prefer not go through Oldpark where the track can be deep in mud and slurry. In that case, you should head roughly NE from Lanlavery Rock to pick up the high hedge that surrounds Oldpark and follow it NNE to where the track leaves Oldpark. This will reduce the distance by about 600 yards. Whatever you do, don't try to cut off a corner by heading directly to Davidstow Woods; you would probably get mired in Crowdy Marsh.

A Possible Antiquities Detour

Those who enjoy their antiquities may prefer to omit Oldpark and instead explore Davidstow Moor and then head for the road across the airfield. They should be able to find the following: From the gap onto Davidstow Moor, turn L (NW) to follow the line of the Roughtor Plantation fence. Along here are boundary stones, marked with 'O', at 15406/82306 and 15333/82426. From the latter head roughly NNE to find a 4 foot boundary stone, with a nicely carved 'FL' with serifs, and once used as a gatepost, at 15277/82783. Head NE from here for a tall 8 foot boundary stone, marked 'W' with serifs, at 15407/82912. Now head SSE to Lanlavery Rocks at 15607/82606. Then head NNE to find the remains of Lanlavery lost medieval village (see Interest) at 15983/83396. From here you will need to be careful to avoid Crowdy Marsh, which extends further than you might think. Best to head roughly E to reach the Oldpark bridleway at roughly the point where it leaves Oldpark.

If continuing from Roughtor Plantation by way of Oldpark, first head a little E of N, following the line of a probable boundary bank and ditch on your R to find Lanlavery Rocks at 1035 feet at 1.72 miles. Head a little N of E uphill, heading for the W end of the W-E hedge bordering the south of Oldpark. On the way you may encounter a line of lode-back pits, perhaps the earliest exploration for Roughtor Mine, at 15768/82598 at 1.82 miles, a larger pit to the E; there are more pits before and after a possible longhouse at 15924/82617 at 1.92 miles. *At this point the Napp's Moor windfarm appears ahead.* After a whole series of more pits you reach a hedge corner at 16163/82670 at 2.10 miles. Follow the hedge east downhill, passing many other excavations and pits, to a gate (*very wet here*) to Oldpark at 2.27 miles. In a field marked Roughtor Mine on the map, follow the RH hedge round a corner to a wooden stile by a galvanised gate. **(2.44 miles)**

A possible bad weather detour

In bad weather the track past the cow sheds at Oldpark can be almost impassable due to mud and slurry. If you feel that may be the case, here go L into a field and head roughly N (a standing stone off to your R) across two fields to pick up the bridleway from Oldpark back to Davidstow Moor a couple of hundred yards NW of the cow sheds. If you are satisfied that the SE end of the bridleway is passable, continue from the stile on the following route.

Continue NE on a wide grassy swathe between hedges (*in field on L note a standing stone*) to its end at 2.54 miles. (*note on your L a small ancient tree-lined hedged enclosure*) Go L through a gap onto a track heading NNW past Oldpark cowsheds on your L. *From here the track can be inches deep in mud and slurry for over 200 yards, and is almost impossible to avoid, except by the above detour to the L of the farm buildings through fields.* Continue on the track to a galvanised gate at 2.89 miles. The gate leads to Davidstow Moor and to a well made track which takes you to the Camelford to Altarnun road at the eastern end of Davidstow Airfield. **(3.39 miles)**

Davidstow Airfield to Roughtor car park – 3.95 miles

Go L, following the line of the road roughly NW, passing after a while wartime earthworks on your L at 3.54 miles. When you come to wartime bunkers on the other side of the road at 3.84 miles, you will see a fence and a gate into Davidstow Woods half L. Head WSW to the gate (*note the dog flap*) and cross a wooden stile to the woods at 4.09 miles. Ahead of you a former runway heads roughly WSW. Follow it, on a wide swathe, to a wooden stile by the exit gate to a lane at 4.61 miles. *Oddly, were you to go R you would be on another former runway or taxiway.* Go L on the lane, overall roughly SW, first crossing a cattle grid, later passing on your L the entrance to Crowdy Reservoir at 5.37 miles, on your R a massive earthwork at 5.67 miles, and on your R Lower Moor Waterworks at 5.97 miles, to a cross roads with a lane from Camelford to the Roughtor car park at 6.27 miles; *views along this lane are, to the L Crowdy Reservoir and Roughtor, to the R massive Delabole wind turbines.* Go L on the switchback lane back to the start point at the Roughtor car park. **(7.34 miles)**