
Useful Information

Parking: Two free car parks in Minions; use the eastern one at 26265/71318.

Intermediate Parking: None.

Getting There: From A38 Bodmin to Plymouth at Doublebois, go L on minor road signed Minions.

Transport: Western Greyhound bus 574 links Liskeard, Crow’s Nest, Callington. One a day goes via Minions.

Refreshments: Minions: Cheesewring Inn, Hurler’s Halt and Shop tearooms.

Toilets: Minions, near Hurlers Halt tearooms.

Route Directions

Minions to Newlands Farm – 1.11 miles

Start from entrance to Minions eastern CP at 26265/71318.

Follow the grassy tramway N, passing through massive boulders after 320 yards. Continue for 20 yards and then bear R downhill on an indistinct path to the lane to Henwood at 500 yards, just before South Phoenix Farm on the L. Cross the road and follow the well made stony track downhill heading for Prince of Wales engine house at South Phoenix Mine. *Sharp Tor and Natter Tor are now in view ahead.* At a fork at 700 yards, fork R. *Stowe’s Hill and the Cheesewring and Cheesewring Quarry now in view half L.* Continue for about 100 yards to a white WM and follow it L towards an engine house to another white WM at 875 yards. Continue to the engine house (**0.50 miles**). Go R (NE) following the WM, and passing another white WM. *WM L is a path to Higher Stanbear.* Pass a large ruined stamps building on your R. At the end of the building, at another WM, go L following the WM heading briefly N, on a clear path through furze, down to a WM post with engine house logo. Follow it R for 10 yards to a wooden gate (WM) to a field. Here there are 2 WMs; follow the yellow WM along the LH hedge, ESE (*view ahead to Dartmoor*) to a galvanised gate (WM) to a second field. Follow the WM downhill slightly diagonally R to a galvanised gate to a third field. Follow the LH hedge, Newlands Farm now in view, bearing R near the bottom to an awkward high metal stile to a fourth field. Follow the LH hedge, with Newlands on your L, down to a galvanised gate to a concrete track. (**1.11 miles**)

Newlands Farm to Henwood – 1.06 miles

Go L on the track uphill, passing the entrance to Dunsley Barton on the L and, at a fork where Newlands drive goes L, follow a WM R signed Knowle Farm and Cornish Cheese Co. The track bears R at a silo, passes large barns on your L, then bears L (overall NNW) heading mostly between Sharp Tor and Natter Tor, winding downhill. At 1.53 miles, go L on a track through Knowle Farm, leaving Cornish Cheese on your R and passing houses on your L and R. At the end go R for 20 yards to a galvanised gate to a field. (**1.63 miles**) After 10 yards follow a WM NNW down the uneven field, heading to the R of a large clump of oaks (*Henwood in view ahead*) to pick up a clear path to a gap and a wooden stile (WM). Bear slightly L downhill into woods on a stony, maybe muddy track, to a FB over a stream (**1.76 miles**) *There are remains of a small industrial building on your L.* Continue on a clear path down then up to a wooden stile (WM) to a field. Follow the WM diagonally R towards 2 tallish trees up to a massive granite stile and a wooden stile, with a barn on your R, to a second field. *Henwood is in clear view ahead.* Go straight across to a wooden stile by a galvanised gate to a third field. Straight across again to a wooden stile by a wooden gate and on 15 yards to the road from Darleyford. Go L on the road, which winds uphill fairly steeply, passing on your L Henwood Shetland Stud, and on your R a former horse drinking trough fed by a cascade, to the triangular green in the centre of Henwood. *Here there is a granite bench and a phone box.* (**2.17 miles**)

Henwood to Bearah Tor - 1.07 miles

Go R uphill steeply on the road, passing on your R at 2.24 miles a FP to North Darley, part of the original Land’s End Trail. Then pass on your R Bove Town with its own real former Post Box. After that, pass on your L attractive Higher Henwood Farm, with a restored works caravan outside. The hill eases off a bit and you pass on your R Sunrise Riding Club, then on L Old Timberland Farm at top of hill. (**2.47 miles**) The road now goes downhill, fairly steeply, between high wooded banks, eases off at the track to Notter Park on your R, and continues down to where a lane on your R goes to Notter at 2.60 miles. Here go L on a wooded well made stony track, uphill to a galvanised gate to the scrubby Open Access land of Bearah Tor at 2.69 miles. The track winds fairly steeply up to Bearah Tor Quarry, which comes into view after about 200 yards. The hillside is littered with massive boulders, scrubby thorn and furze, and sheep. When you reach a quarry entrance at 3.18 miles, bear R uphill on a track up to the ridge of Bearah Tor at 25995/74532 at 1140 feet. (**3.24 miles**) *Terrific views from the top – Kilmar Tor, Sharp Tor, Caradon Hill, Kit Hill, Dartmoor.*

Bearah Tor to Minions – 2.64 miles

Go left WSW along the N side of the ridge. After about 100 yards, bear L SW uphill towards the L of the westernmost major outcrops and up to the ridge at 1175 feet. *Sharp Tor is clearly in sight, roughly SSE.* Head downhill with care towards the W side of Sharp Tor, crossing along the way the Bearah branch of the Kilmar quarry tramway, down and then uphill, becomes fairly steep, to the W side of Sharp Tor at 25934/73729 at 1210 feet. **(3.89 miles)** *View slightly L to Caradon Hill, slightly R to Stowe’s Hill, below it Sharptor village.* From here head downhill steepish, roughly S, to a small iron gate in a drystone wall to a field. *Looking half L, below Caradon Hill, you can see Prince of Wales engine house, visited at the beginning of the walk.* Follow the RH hedge downhill to a Duchy of Cornwall permissive path sign. Go R on the path, which becomes a wide grassy track between hedges to a galvanised gate. Continue for another 60 yards to the lane to Wardbrook Farm. **(4.38 miles)** *Here you could go L, cross the lane, then keep a fence on your L, for the direct Kilmar Tramway route back to Minions eastern CP (see below).*

Cross the lane. From here to the Cheesewring on Stowe’s Hill it is almost impossible, and indeed unnecessary, to give precise directions. You should simply loop around the RH side of Stowe’s Hill, keeping fairly low down on the slope, starting roughly W, gradually bearing SW then S. If you find a fork at about 4.50 miles, keep R and eventually you should encounter a clear grassy track, used by farm vehicles and horses. Follow this until you see a reasonably clear route up Stowe’s Hill to the Cheesewring; you should find one at 25529/72455 at 4.85 miles. The Cheesewring is at 25780/72411 at 1215 feet at **5.03 miles.** *It is well worth continuing to the top to explore the rocky outcrops and the Pound Wall and enjoy the views but this distance is not included.*

Descend again, with Cheesewring Quarry on your L and then a barbed wire fence on your L. Once on the fairly level, the fence turns L. Halfway to its next L turn, at 25802/72314 at 5.12 miles, go R down a grassy slope to find Daniel Gumb’s Cave at 25802/72300 at 5.13 miles. From here head SSE to cross a massive sunken track at 5.20 miles. From here continue SSE uphill to the fence corner on your L, then continue uphill, bearing roughly SE, more or less straight for the RH of three masts on Caradon Hill. *Views across valley L, to POW shaft, Kit Hill and Dartmoor.* Look out for a grassy mound ahead and aim for the LH side of it. This is a massive degraded cairn, at 5.36 miles. Continue to the LH side of the next grassy mound. This is Rillaton Barrow, the cist where the famous gold cup was found, at 26038/71922 at 5.42 miles. Now you can see Houseman’s engine house straight ahead. Head for this, which is at 26142/71476 at 5.75 miles, if you have time to see the excellent exhibition. *A short detour WSW, distance not included, would take you to the Hurlers stone circles.* Pass the engine house on your L, cross a track and continue along a clear grassy path to Minions eastern car park. **(5.88 miles)**

Tramway back to Minions – easier and more direct – saves 0.10 miles

Go L on the lane for 25 yards and, where a wire fence starts on R, keep R of the fence to find soon the first signs of the Kilmar Tramway, granite setts that continue much of the way to Minions. After a little over a mile, at a gap between boulders, take the R fork gently uphill heading to the LH side of a small wood. After about 250 yards turn L on grassy Cheesewring Quarry tramway track (no setts) to Minions eastern car park. **(5.78 miles)**