

Bodmin Moor Walks – Minions 05 – Goldiggings, Craddock Moor, Siblyback Lake – 5.00 miles Page 1

Options to extend to approximately 7 or 10 miles

Useful Information

Parking: Two free car parks in Minions; use the western one at 25973/71094.

Intermediate Parking: Siblyback Lake (moderate charge).

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. Siblyback Lake café.

Toilets: Minions, near Hurlers Halt tearooms. Siblyback Lake

Route Directions

Minions to Goldiggings Quarry – 1.18 miles

Start from the entrance to Minions western CP at 25973/71094.

A clear, well made, stony track heads gently uphill overall NW from the car park. *Within 100 yards, Stowe's Hill and Hurlers stone circles come into view half R, then Houseman's engine house R, Craddock Moor engine house half L with Tregarrick Tor behind it.* After about 400 yards, pass on your R the Pipers standing stones. After just over 700 yards ignore a track which forks L. *Clay Country is now in view to your W. After another 100 yards Brown Willy is now in view half L.* The track forks at 0.61 miles; L is the main Goldiggings Quarry track; R goes down to the western foot of Stowe's Hill. However, take the centre track, directly towards the quarry, downhill to the bottom at 0.76 miles. *Sharp Tor is now in view to L of and behind Stowe's Hill.* The track ends here, continue uphill on grass, heading to the L end of a massive spoil heap, up to Goldiggings Quarry at 1.01 miles. Circle the quarry counter clockwise, with some care, up to its western side at 1105 feet at **1.18 miles**..

**Here you could take the following Craddock Moor option which adds about 1½ to 2 miles.*

Craddock Moor Option – adds about 1½ to 2 miles

Those wishing to see the antiquities marked as 'Settlements and Field System' and 'Stone Row' should head W from the quarry for about 350 yards to find the beginning of the Settlement at 24557/72362. It was clearly a major settlement with many enclosures and hut circles. It can be very difficult to find the Stone Row, despite its reported 85 stones, because so many are hidden by vegetation. It is clearest at 24227/72380. You may also like to take a look at the abandoned farmstead of Lambadla, on private ground but easily accessed. Tregarrick Tor is just a little E of S from here, but not immediately visible. This route will probably add about 1½ miles to the distance, 2 miles if you then continue to the sites, another settlement and a stone circle, mentioned in the next paragraph.

Goldiggings Quarry to Tregarrick Tor – 0.97 miles

From the quarry extensive views include Stowe's Hill, Sharp Tor, Bearah Tor, Brown Willy, Brown Gelly, the northern end of Siblyback Lake and Caradon Hill.

From the quarry you can clearly see Tregarrick Tor to your SSW. Going is a mixture of tussocky grass and well grazed grass. To head there directly will reduce the distance by about 0.10 miles. But to make the best of the interest along the way, first head SSW for about 250 yards to pass Prehistoric Settlement remains at 24758/72178, shown on the map only as an un-named enclosure. Now head just E of S for about 350 yards to a clump of furze for a mostly recumbent Stone Circle, its northern edge at 24153/71200. From here head roughly SW to Tregarrick Tor. Along the way you will pass the eastern of twin cairns at 24465/71690, then another pair of cairns at 24352/71450. The summit of Tregarrick Tor is at 1065 feet (**2.15 miles**)

Tregarrick Tor to Siblyback Lake – 0.50 miles

From the summit of Tregarrick Tor you have extensive views over the whole of Siblyback Lake and to Brown Gelly, Brown Willy, Clay Country, and possibly Black Head on St. Austell Bay.

Leave the summit slightly S of W, past the next rounded outcrop and head approximately due W for the narrow part of the lake to pick up the LH hedge. Follow the hedge to a galvanised gate (WM) at 2.35 miles. *Oddly, despite the WM, no path appears on OS109 or Cornwall Council's Mapping Web Site.* Follow the WM R for 10 yards to a gate to a field. Follow the LH hedge downhill steeply to a gap on the L shortly before the bottom of the field at 2.45 miles. Go through the gap and follow the RH hedge for 40 yards to a latched wooden gate. Go L on a track for 30 yards and continue on a wooded track, through an open gate and R down to Siblyback Lake car park, toilets and café. **(2.65 miles)**

**Here you could take the following Siblyback Lake Detour which adds 2.89 miles.*

Siblyback Lake Option – adds 2.89 miles

There was once a footpath all round the lake, though it didn't appear on OS 109. Now, a complete circuit of the lake can be made on a well-made level cycle track which still doesn't appear on OS 109 as a right of way. At the southern end of the dam paths go off to North and South Trekeive.

Siblyback Lake to Minions – 2.35 miles

Leave S by the vehicle exit to a lane. Go R on the lane, passing another car park. At the end of this, at 2.84 miles, go L over a wooden stile (FP) to a field. Go uphill steeply to the top R corner to a wooden stile, at 2.92 miles, to the next field. Cross diagonally L towards a ruined building to a wooden stile (WM) at 2.97 miles. Go diagonally R, passing Crylla Farmhouse on L and follow a WM R across grass to a wooden stile (WM) at 3.00 miles, to a field. Follow the RH hedge to a gap to a second field at 3.07 miles. Follow a WM, bearing R, for 15 yards to a gap to a third field. Go diagonally R downhill to the far corner of the field to a high wooden stile (WM) and go down 7 steps to scrubby land and a track. **(3.20 miles)**

Go L on the track into a large scrubby field and follow the LH hedge on a grassy swathe, *boggy area off to R*, to a sheep stile up to a wooden lift stile (WM) at 3.39 miles, over a bridge and a wooden stile (WM) and down 3 steps to a field. Go R downhill and join a track downhill to shortly before a furze hedge. Bear L on a rough path to a gap and then go L along a hedge to a WM post (*no WM visible*) at 3.51 miles. Follow a clear path for 20 yards through scrub to a wooden stile (FP) at 3.52 miles to a field. Cross diagonally L to far L corner to a gate (WM) at 3.57 miles, to a second field. Follow a WM along the LH fence, *Gimble Mill to your L*, to a gate (WM). **(3.63 miles)**

After a short path between fences, follow a WM uphill, passing a corrugated barn on your R, up to a gate (WM), *mill pond on R*, at 3.69 miles. Continue uphill on a tarmac track, passing former mill pond on R, through a gate and pass on your L Great Gimble at 3.76 miles. Continue uphill fairly steeply. The hill eases off, you cross a cattle grid and pass a track on your L to Higher Gimble at 3.87 miles. At 3.91 miles pass on your R a grassy track to Little Barton. At 4.08 miles cross a cattle grid on to a well made track over scrubby open moorland to the Doublebois to Minions road at 4.21 miles. Go L, following the road uphill. *Soon Stowe's Hill and Craddock Moor engine house come into view half L, Tregarrack Tor back L, Caradon Hill masts half R.* At 4.56 miles the Longstone Cross is off to your R, *Houseman's engine house is in view half L.* Continue to Minions eastern CP. **(5.00 miles)**