

Route: Buttern Hill, High Moor, Leskernick Hill, The Beacon, Black Rock, Bray Down

Interest: Tin Streams, Cairns, Burial Cists, Standing Stones, Stone Rows, Elephant Rock

Useful Information

Parking: At Bowthick, roadside just SE of the ford.

Intermediate Parking: It should be possible to park a car at the end of the lane from Bolventor at Blackhill, also at Westmoorgate, at the end of a lane from Trewint at 20378/80365.

Getting There: From A39, 1¾ miles NE of centre of Camelford, go R past Davidstow Airfield and bear R at New Park Farm to Bowthick. Cross ford to roadside parking area.

Transport: None known.

Refreshments: None.

Toilets: None.

Route Directions

Bowthick to Buttern Hill Cairns – 0.93 miles

Start from Bowthick Ford at 18347/82670 at 755 feet

Set off on a well made track, heading roughly SW, uphill gently, Bray Down to your L. Cross a bridge over Penpont Water and pass on the R remains of a stamps building. After 400 yards go downhill gently, crossing a potentially flooded area on rickety stepping stones. After 700 yards go through a gap in a wire fence on to the open moor at the foot of Buttern Hill. Ahead you will see a scar in the hillside, where tin was extracted. Head uphill roughly SW, steepish but easy going, leaving the scar to your R, and crossing several banks and ditches. At the summit at 1125 feet, you will find two interesting cairns. At 17470/81717 is a small doughnut shaped cairn with a leaning standing stone in its centre. *View ahead of Roughtor and Brown Willy, seen over High Moor.* A major cairn, massive but degraded and with a perfect **cist** with capstone is close by at 17471/81677. **(0.93 miles)**

Buttern Hill Cairns to High Moor Cairns – 0.89 miles

From here head roughly WSW, just to the L of the peak of Roughtor itself, down the west slope of Buttern Hill, going easy but tussocky. As you descend, you will see a small marshy ravine running roughly north-south. Head to the RH side of it. At the bottom, at 16910/81505 at 1.35 miles, you are close to the source of the River Fowey to your L, not easy to identify. Now continue roughly SW up onto High Moor, still fairly steep but less so than Buttern Hill. You will see two High Moor summits; head roughly WSW for the northern one. *Towards the top Brown Willy comes into view slightly L, then the Roughtor ridge appears straight ahead.* You come to a first degraded cairn at 16384/81319 at 1.71 miles, with another off to its L. Pass more degraded cairns and come to another, with a second water-filled one to its L, at the summit at 16297/81174 at 1175 feet. **(1.82 miles)**

High Moor Cairns to Leskernick Hill Summit Cairn – 1.58 miles

Looking ESE from the summit cairn on High Moor, you will see the S end of Buttern Hill, behind it the N end of Leskernick Hill. Head ESE downhill towards the northern end of the Leskernick Hill ridge. As you descend High Moor obliquely you will soon see below a largish pool on the little Fowey River. This looks a bit like the crossing point but isn't; neither is what is shown on OS109 as a ford. Eventually you will see a smaller pool with grassy mounds to its R, looking a bit like glacial drumlins. Head for the pool, crossing a large boundary bank, finally over some marshy ground. If you go to the LH side of the pool, you will find the infant Fowey River easily fordable at 17387/80817. **(2.68 miles)**

Cross the Fowey and bear L until peat cutting on your R ends after 30 yards. Bear R uphill, roughly NE, pass more peat cutting on the R and at 70 yards bear R on better ground, heading roughly SE. Soon you will encounter a faint grassy track used occasionally by farm vehicles. Follow this, heading for the RH side of Leskernick Summit and for a large area of clutter on low ground above the river. After a while you will see a low bank and ditch (it's probably a former leat) on your R. You are now heading for the false quoit on Leskernick Hill and for a muddy track that soon begins to climb the hill. Continue in that direction, with the bank and ditch below you to your R. You will come to a tin streams ravine at 17805/80573. **(3.02 miles)**

Cross the ravine and follow the muddy rutted track up Leskernick Hill. Where it ends bear L heading roughly ESE for the N end of the summit of Leskernick Hill, passing many standing stones and ancient boundary banks. *View R of Brown Willy, the tip of Roughtor, Codda Tor, Tolborough Tor.* Continue up, leaving rocky outcrops before the top to your R, up to the summit cairn at 18326/80347 at 1090 feet. *View NNE of Bray Down and Napp's Moor Wind Farm.* (3.40 miles)

Leskernick Hill Summit Cairn to The Beacon - 1.17 miles

Head slightly W of S along the ridge of Leskernick Hill, passing several degraded cairns, to reach the False Quoit at 18280/80198 at 3.51 miles. Looking SE you will see your next summit, The Beacon. Head downhill directly for it, with the main part of the massive bronze age settlement off to your R. Pass through the last settlement boundary at 18530/80024 at 3.71 miles. A stone row (possible pair of right angled stone rows NNW-ENE) is at 18588/79924 at 3.79 miles. At the bottom at 3.83 miles, cross a large bank and ditch at 18610/79893. Pass a doughnut shaped cairn at 18685/79825. The southern of two stone circles is off to your R at 18814/79642 at 4.04 miles. Continue gently up Hendra Downs towards The Beacon, following after a while the fence line on your R. At the top, just before the fence turns L, to get the best views, go through a galvanised gate on your R on to rough Open Access land. Continue a few yards to the summit of The Beacon (degraded cairns) at 1220 feet. (4.68 miles)

The Beacon to Leskernick Hill eastern tin streams ravine – 1.19 miles

*If you continue SE, crossing a massive ancient hedge, you will find **Elephant Rock** at 19733/79192 (distance not included).* Return through the gate and head downhill roughly NNE, following the line of the fence on the R. After 100 yards or so Black Rock comes into view. You reach **Black Rock** at 19747/79826 at 1115 feet. (5.06 miles)

From here, your final hill is Bray Down to your NNW. You may be tempted to head directly for it but, if you do, you will encounter a very difficult stream crossing at the bottom and will miss the massive tin streams ravine and an abandoned farmstead at the south- eastern foot of Leskernick Hill.

So head downhill roughly WNW towards where the eastern slope of Leskernick Hill meets the southern slope of Bray Down. The spot is identified by the scar of the tin streams ravine and a thorn tree in an abandoned farmstead. Going from here to there is mostly tussocky, wet in places, marshy in some. At 5.34 miles you cross a track from Leskernick to Westmoorgate. It is quite marshy at the bottom but you can certainly cross at 19114/80219 at 5.54 miles. Continue uphill to the top of the next small ridge where you cross a bank and ditch at 5.63 miles. You can again see the thorn tree in the abandoned farmstead. Head for this downhill. Towards the bottom, at 5.79 miles, you come to a small stream, coming in from your L. Bear R to follow this down to a tiny waterfall and an easily forded point on a second stream at 18791/80471. Bear L, crossing another small stream, up to the farmstead field and on to the farmstead at 18706/80474. (5.87 miles)

Leskernick Hill eastern tin streams ravine to Bowthick – 1.31 miles

Circle the farmstead to the left onto the southern slope of Bray Down and bear L to head just W of N, following the line of the southern tin streams ravine on your L, up to where the northern stream ravine begins at 6.00 miles. From here, looking straight ahead you can see a long low barn at Bowthick; this is your general direction. Now continue downhill, following the line of the ravine. At 6.25 miles, as the ravine peters out, a low bank begins on your L; the best ground is a little above this. Continue, noting more former surface mining works at the eastern foot of Buttern Hill, to the SW corner of the hedge that separates the two parts of Bray Down at 6.54 miles. *Bit wet here but easily passable.* Continue, with the hedge on your R, for 60 yards to a rusty galvanised gate on your R. (6.57 miles)

At this point, should you be short of time, or not wish to climb Bray Down, you could simply follow the RH hedge all the way back to the track to Bowthick ford. But, be warned, the last ¼ mile is a bit wet going.

Go through the gate onto the enclosed part of Bray Down and head roughly NNE uphill fairly steeply towards the summit. At first the ground is a bit tussocky, with a fair bit of furze, but the going improves at around 1080 feet. When you see what looks a bit like a logan stone, the summit cairn is a little off to the right at 18833/82187 at 1155 feet at 7.13 miles. The trig point, on a much degraded cairn is at 18903/82169. **(7.18 miles)**

From here you can see Bowthick hamlet in woodland below you. Head downhill roughly NW, a little to the W of Bowthick. Soon you are in rough rocky ground which improves after a while. Eventually you will come to an area where the furze has been burned. Continue through it until you see a massive boulder topped by a dead thorn tree. 15 yards to the L of the boulder, at 18314/82520 at 7.69 miles, you will find a narrow, muddy, eventually rocky track downhill through the tall furze. This leads you down to a galvanised gate to a track at 18323/82627 at 7.76 miles. Go R on the track back to Bowthick ford at **7.80 miles**.

Alternative return route from Bray Down Summit – adds 0.64 miles

From the trig point head downhill easy ESE, towards the summit of Carne Down. After about 350 yards you will encounter a large boundary bank and ditch running roughly north to south. At 19194/82086 another bank and ditch heads east from it. Follow the eastbound bank and ditch, still downhill, probably easier on its north side. At the bottom, just before the hedge ahead of you, go L on a track, heading initially towards Napp's Moor wind farm. The track winds easily down to the lane to Bowthick. Go L on the lane back to Bowthick ford. **(8.44 miles)**