

Route - Brown Gelly, Whitebarrow Moor, Northwood, Berry Down, Penkestele Moor

Interest – Brown Gelly Cairns, China Clay Country, a water garden, a little known menhir, a hill fort

Useful Information

Parking: W side of Colliford Lake dam at 17547/70960.

Intermediate Parking: None.

Getting There: From A30, 8 miles E of Bodmin, go R signed Colliford Lake Park for 2½ miles, then L for ½ mile.

Transport: None known.

Refreshments: None.

Toilets: None.

Route Directions

Colliford Lake to Brown Gelly – 2.05 miles

Start from the E end of the car park at 17609/70952 at 850 feet.

Cross Colliford Lake dam (*view ahead of cairns on Brown Gelly, first walk objective*) to it's far end then follow a track R to the road. Go L on the road, up then down, passing on your R the road to St. Neot and the entrance to Park Lake, to where the lane turns N towards Dozmary Pool. (0.78 miles) *Here, in theory it is possible to go L on the lane for a short distance to a gate on your R and up through Bunnings Park Open Access land to Brown Gelly Downs but it is very furzey and going is difficult so not recommended.* Bear R uphill on the track to Lord's Park Farm, passing through an open gate. *Park Lake soon comes into view to R with the massive Parson's Park Pit spoil heaps R and forward.* Pass the entrance to Lord's Park Farm on your R at 1.28 miles, and continue down to reach a wooden gate to the Open Access land of Brown Gelly Downs. **(1.34 miles)**

It is usually very wet here and, although you shouldn't, you may need to climb over the gate. Now bear L uphill, keeping to the L of a ruined barn, and continue slightly E of N to an isolated power line pole. From here, continue uphill, roughly N, heading just to the L of a large clump of thorn and furze, following indistinct tracks much of the way. After passing the clump, you should be able to see ahead a gate, looking at this distance a little like a standing stone, in a massive hedge. *Views are now W over Colliford Lake and SW to Clay Country.* Continue uphill to the small rusty iron gate (WM disc), at 19475/72711. (1.92 miles) *It is rather rocky and muddy here. Be careful with the gate which is loose and hanging on only one hinge.* Go through the gate and go L uphill, following the hedge on your L, to the northern pair of five cairns at 19415/72847 at 1125 feet. **(2.05 miles)**

Brown Gelly to Northwood – 2.30 miles

Up on top of Brown Gelly it can be very wet and marshy at times but is always completely passable. Continue SW then SSW to the other four cairns and on to the rocky outcrop at the S end of the plateau. From here a track of sorts heads roughly SE over rocky ground to pick up the line of the RH hedge. As you near the bottom, now on clearer ground, head slightly L towards what looks like a telegraph pole, to a gate to the Driftway. (2.56 miles) From here follow an indistinct path downhill along the first half of the Driftway, between a hedge on the L and a spinney on the R, down to a hedge ahead of you at the end of the trees. Cross a ditch on your R, and go up the other side on to Parson's Park China Clay territory. You have come to a junction of tracks at 20273/71901. **(2.95 miles)**

From here to the lane to Northwood you may well be trespassing. Go forward on a wide well made track which winds gently downhill overall SSW. After a little less than half-a-mile, *opposite an abandoned building on the R*, the track goes L through a galvanised gate, heading uphill overall roughly SE, and on to New Closes. (3.45 miles) The track bears R and L *passing, just after New Closes, a large triangular standing stone on your L, on what could be cairn remains*, and continues with grazing land on your L, spoil heaps on your R, overall SE, then SSW, mostly gently downhill to a bridge over a stream. The track continues gently uphill to an open galvanised gate (*private sign*) to a tarmac lane. **(4.35 miles)**

Northwood to Loveny – 2.21 miles

Follow the lane uphill through woodland which ends near the top of the hill. Go through an open galvanised gate, with barns to your R, and continue downhill on the lane, *looking half R at Mutton's Downs*, and through another open galvanised gate. *Note the inappropriately converted engine house to your L*. Continue downhill fairly steeply, passing on your L the entrance to Northwood Farm. The lane becomes wooded again, down to a turning on your L to Northwood Water Garden. (4.91 miles) *To see the 9 foot pear shaped Menhir on Mutton's Downs, here go R through a gate onto Open Access land to find it in a hedge on your R*. Continue up fairly steeply up to a galvanised gate on your R on to Berry Down. (5.14 miles)

Go R through the gate on to Berry Down (*here a FP goes SSW then SW towards St. Neot*) and follow the Bridleway sign on the clear Two Valleys Walk track through bracken (*can be muddy in places*), heading initially WNW, with Berry Castle above to your L, passing several WMs and gradually bearing W to a galvanised gate, leaving the Open Access land. *Along the way, note views R to a massive hedge climbing Mutton's Downs and to Brown Gelly cairns beyond*. Follow a wide path between high hedges downhill to a lane from Colliford Lake. (5.55 miles)

Cross to a lane opposite, heading roughly SW between high hedges, becomes fairly steep downhill, *views ahead to Clay Country*, passing on your R a track to Little Hammet, and passing on your L Tremaddock Farm (*handsome barns, attractive holiday cottages*) down to a fork. (6.35 miles) Take the R fork, leaving Halfpenny Cottage and Hobbit Cottage on your L, downhill to another fork. Ignore the Two Valleys Walk WM pointing L and take the R fork down to pass Loveny on your L and on down to the bottom and a bridge over the River Loveny. (6.56 miles)

Loveny to Colliford Lake – 1.97 miles

Now follow the lane uphill overall roughly N, sometimes fairly steeply, through attractive broadleaf woodland, with streams running down through it. At a fork after $\frac{1}{3}$ mile, take the R fork, on a dead end lane. *Soon, when you pass Trewindle on your R, note 2 tall standing stones by a stone barn*. The lane leaves the woods but continues fairly wooded. Pass on your L High Hobbs Park Farm. (7.04 miles) The lane soon eases off and begins to degenerate to a track. You pass a large barn on your L, and continue up to a galvanised gate to the Open Access land of Penkestle Moor. (7.45 miles)

A grassy track, sometimes with deep muddy ruts, roughly follows the RH hedge, first NNW then roughly N. Follow it, or the general line of it, gently up to 860 feet. *Views of Brown Willy and Brown Gelly*. Then continue downhill, *Colliford Lake Dam and Water Tower in view ahead*, bearing R eventually, *very stony and muddy here*, down to a wooden gate and on to a ford and clapper bridge. (8.11 miles) Cross the clapper bridge and continue for about 100 yards up to the road opposite the entrance to a waterworks. Go L on the road down to a bridge then up to reach the car park at the western end of the dam on your R. (8.53 miles)