St. Breward Walk 03 – Open Moor to the east of Churchtown - 6.07 miles

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Route - Irish, Bolatherick, Leaze, Emblance & King Arthur's Downs, King Arthur's Hall, Lower Candra
Interest - Three Stone Circles, a Cist, Cairns, Standing Stones and Alignments, Moorland and Farmland

Useful Information

Parking: Roadside parking by the church in St. Breward Churchtown. Or roadside on the Open Access land on the same road just north of Churchtown. Or ask at the Old Inn if returning to eat there.

Intermediate Parking: De Lank Waterworks.

Getting There: Simplest to follow the St. Breward sign from B3266 Washaway to Camelford road. You will come first to suggested parking places.

Transport: Western Greyhound bus 561 links Boscastle, Camelford, St. Breward, Wadebridge, Bodmin.

Refreshments: St. Breward, Old Inn (food all day).

Toilets: Only at the Old Inn, St. Breward.

Route Directions

St. Breward to Bolatherick - 1.80 miles

Start at the lane to the church at 09704/77332.

Follow the FP sign along the lane, past the church. This becomes a track. At the last cottage on the R, go through a wooden gate (WM) and a second wooden gate (WM) to a field. Cross to a narrow wooden kissing gate (WM) to a second field. Cross to the far R corner to a high cattle stile to a small cultivated patch. Follow the RH hedge to a wooden gate to a field. Follow the RH hedge round to a low cattle stile to a broad path through a scrubby, marshy area, muddy in places. Follow the path to the far R corner. Bear L into a field and follow the LH hedge to a massive high cattle stile. Follow a path, hedge on your L, scrub on your R, uphill. After about 135 yards, the path leaves the LH hedge and bears R through scrub to a lane from St. Breward. Cross the lane and follow the FP sign, over a cattle grid, along a drive downhill towards Palmers. Go through a galvanised gate, and follow the drive bearing slightly R between barns. Pass Palmers house on your R, a holiday cottage on your L, to a wooden gate to a field (0.67 miles)

Follow the LH hedge downhill to a wooden stile by a wooden gate to a path with woodland on the R. After 20 yards the path bears R for 15 yards to a wooden stile (WM) and a wooden FB (WM) to scrubby marshy ground. You will have to wind your way through this marshy ground to find solid footing so, from the FB, note a gate in the far hedge which you are aiming for, Irish Farm up the hill beyond. Cross to the galvanised gate (WM disc) to a field. Cross slightly diagonally L (you may find a vehicle track) uphill to a galvanised gate (WM) to a second field. Cross this diagonally uphill to a wooded area around Irish Farm to a galvanised gate (WM disc). Follow an overgrown path, house on your R, round to a wooden gate (WM) to the track to Irish. Go L on the track, uphill to a wooden gate to the Open Access land of Treswallock Downs. (1.20 miles)

Do not continue on the track but head roughly SSE (*Roughtor and Brown Willy in view L*) to the R of white painted Penwood House to a lane from St. Breward. Follow the line of the lane, downhill easy towards Bolatherick. At a corner, where the RH hedge turns R, bear R downhill, cutting off a corner, back to the lane to Bolatherick. Continue on the lane, crossing a culvert, uphill to Bolatherick Farmhouse at 1.75 miles. Continue on the lane, down then up, and bear R onto the Open Access land of Emblance Downs (1.80 miles)

Bolatherick to King Arthur's Hall – 1.77 miles

Follow the RH hedge uphill to a track into Whiteheads Farm. Bear slightly L, just S of E, towards a Boundary Stone at 12284/76580 on the near horizon. There is another 50 yards off to the R. Roughly follow the line of the telegraph poles, passing a possible stone alignment on your L at 12401/76592, and a 5 foot standing stone at 12418/76605, and note other stones littered all over the place. Now head roughly E to a high cattle stile (no WM), partly blocked by barbed wire. This path is quite clearly shown on OS109 but there is difficult marshy ground at the bottom. Use this route if you fancy the challenge. You may prefer, when you leave the last standing stone, to head NE to the lane that leads to De Lank Waterworks, staying on the Open Access land. You could then either head SE to *Ivey to pick up the route below or follow the lane to pick up the route near **De Lank Waterworks. If you do follow the path on the map, head downhill to the bottom, struggle across the marshy land and continue on Open Access land again.

Now follow the RH hedge uphill for a while. Here Emblance Downs is again covered with interesting stones. Near Ivey a possible hut circle is at 12892/76534. At *Ivey note a massive 10 foot granite gate pillar. Here bear L on the track from Ivey towards Leaze. Along this track, at 12972/76597, you are at the junction of what appear to be two stone rows. One heads roughly WNW, one NE towards Leaze. These include some boundary stones, marked with what could be either VX or W. Continue on the track to cross the lane from Bolatherick, with **De Lank Water Works to your R, to pick up the RH hedge.

Overall direction from here is roughly NNE. Roughly follow the RH hedge uphill, keeping a little away from it. At 13136/76908 you pass great number of lying rocks to your L, seeming almost to form alignments. Where the hedge bears R, continue straight on to a cist, within a small circular kerbed cairn, at 13115/77001. Continue uphill, past a small cairn and a related fallen stone at 13274/77107. Continue and roughly follow the RH hedge, passing more cairns or hut circles until you come to a pair of gates on your R at 13351/77280. These lead on to the private ground on which Leaze Stone Circle stands (3.07 miles)

Leaze Stone Circle Detour – adds approximately ½ mile.

If you go through the gates and head downhill you will see Leaze Stone Circle, bisected by a field boundary bank, its western side at 13660/77288. It should be emphasised that the circle is on the private land of Leaze Farm and you should really ask permission to visit. Contact Michelle Hand on 01208 850702, or at michellehand30@hotmail.com

From the gate to Leaze Stone Circle continue following the RH hedge to find a small Stone Circle at about the point where Emblance Downs becomes King Arthur's Downs. Its two standing stones are at 13468/77529. Another circle is nearby. From here head WNW for about 550 yards to find King Arthur's Hall. Along the way you will encounter a faint track which leads to it, passing a boundary stone at 13090/77579, part of a line, on the way. You arrive at the wooden stile to the now fenced King Arthur's Hall at 12963/77623 (3.57 miles) It is well worth making a circuit of the site, distance not included.

King Arthur's Hall to St. Breward – 2.50 miles

I suggest and describe a return route by Lower Candra and Lady Down. You will see from OS109 that there are more northerly alternatives. You may prefer one of these but they are less straightforward than the route described.

Now head slightly N of W uphill, passing another boundary stone 100 yards off to your L, to a clear hedge corner. *Note, in the first field on your L, at least 5 standing or leaning stones*. Continue in same direction, following the LH hedge downhill towards Candra to the end of the third field on your L. Here go L over a wooden ladder/lift stile to a field. Follow the RH hedge SW downhill to where it becomes a wire fence and go over a wooden stile (WM) to a second field. Follow the RH hedge, heading towards Lower Candra, to an abandoned farmstead at 12220/77631. Go through a gap to a third field and follow the RH hedge, still downhill, to a clapper bridge and a wooden stile (WM). Cross a slightly marshy area for 25 yards and go over a damaged hedge to a fourth field. Follow the RH hedge uphill and go through a gap to Lower Candra. (4.30 miles)

Continue uphill through Lower Candra, through a wrought iron gate and follow a track uphill to a wooden gate to the Open Access land of Treswallock Downs. Continue to follow the track uphill to a WM. Follow the WM, roughly SW, crossing the track to Irish (*and therefore crossing your outward route*), to pick up the RH hedge of what is now Lady Down. Follow the RH hedge downhill, roughly SW, until it bends R, then continue roughly WSW across Lady Down, gently downhill then uphill, crossing the drive to Blackthorn Cottage and on to the lane to St. Breward by the Millennium Stone. (5.57 miles)

Go R on the lane to a cattle grid, with a small pond on your R, and continue on the lane, passing Hallegenna Farm on your L and Hallegenna Stables on your R, *St. Breward church tower in view ahead*, to a X-roads, opposite another Millennium Stone. Cross and continue for 80 yards to a FP sign on your L. Here go R over a high filled-in cattle stile and follow a fenced path round the R side of a field to a clapper bridge and high filled-in cattle. Follow a wide path between wooded hedges uphill to a cattle stile by FP signs. Go L on a track, which becomes a lane passing St. Breward church, to its end where you started the walk, the Old Inn on your L. (6.07 miles)