St. Breward 05 - St. Breward, The Lanks, Coombe Mill, Chapel Farm, Fellover – 3.72 miles Page 1 Farmland, Camel Valley, woods, heathland– clapper bridges, industrial remains and a holy well

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## **Useful Information**

**Parking:** Roadside parking N of St. Breward, on W side of road at 09676/77705, and on same road further south, just above the church. Or ask at Old Inn if returning to eat there.

**Intermediate Parking:** Not really anywhere suitable though there is some roadside space here and there.

Getting There: From B3266, Camelford to Washaway, follow signs E to St. Breward Churchtown.

Transport: Western Greyhound buses 561 links St. Breward with Camelford, Bodmin and Wadebridge.

Refreshments: Old Inn, St. Breward.

Toilets: Old Inn, St. Breward.

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## **Route Directions**

# St. Breward Churchtown to Lower Lank – 1.70 miles Overall just W of S but SW from Penvorder to Lower Lank Start from the track to the church at 09704/77331 at around 700 feet.

Follow the FP sign E along the track, passing the church on your L, for about 90 yards. Follow a FP sign R over a cattle stile to a narrow FP SE gently downhill between hedges. At the bottom, cross a cattle stile to a small clapper over a stream and follow a grassy path round the fenced off LH side of a field, gently uphill to a high cattle stile to a road (335 yards). Cross the road and cross a grassy triangle to the RH end of the houses opposite. At a cross-roads bear slightly L, on a lane with the houses of Rylands on your L, very gently downhill. You pass open grassy land on the R, then a children's play area. Pass a dead-end road sign and continue, following FP sign, on a tarmac lane; this bears L, then turns L opposite *The Cottage*. At *Riverside Cottage*, the lane narrows and turns R through an open wooden gate, gently uphill. At the end of the lane, Cross Cottage to your R, go straight ahead over a high cattle stile into a field at 09796/76722. (**0.49 miles**)

Cross the field, roughly south, gently uphill (there may be a faint path) to the LH corner to a cattle stile. *Looking back, enjoy the view to St. Breward church*. Go straight across a small field (*long views R over Camel Valley, half R to Clay Country*) to a filled-in cattle stile. Bear half L across the next field to a high cattle stile by a galvanised gate and onto a narrow path, hedge on R, small fields on L. Follow the path, crossing a damaged wooden stile, to the end and go through a yard to a galvanised gate to a lane at Higher Penquite at 09809/76320. (**0.74 miles**)

Go R on the lane for about 100 yards to a well-made track on your L. FP sign points R, the wrong way. Go L on the track between houses, sign Innellen, still roughly S. After Higherview Farm on the L, the track becomes grassy to a wooden gate (FP). On 10 yards to another wooden gate and on through another wooden gate (probably open) to a field. (0.88 miles) Cross the field heading gently downhill SSW, passing on R possible cairn remains, to another wooden gate. Views R across Camel Valley and half R to Clay Country. Continue downhill more steeply, following the RH fence. Pass immediately a gate on the R with WMs, continue down to a cattle stile and a wooden lift stile to the next field. Straight ahead, downhill to the RH end of a corrugated roof barn. Ignore stile on R and go through a wooden gate to a tarmac track. Go R for 35 yards to go through a wooden gate, passing Bolt's Quarry Farm on L to a lane at Penvorder at 09608/75942. (1.04 miles)

Go R on the lane, downhill gently and, after about 140 yards, at a battered looking small red post box, go L on lane past Penvorder Cottages on your L to a small galvanised gate to a children's play area. Cross this diagonally R to the further (second) of two wooden gates (the first is to a path leading to De Lank Quarry). Through the gate, down a high cattle stile and on for 10 yards to another wooden gate to a field. Follow the RH fence roughly SW downhill towards Lower Lank, may be marshy at one point, to the end of a spinney on your R, just past a pond. Go R over a wooden stile to another field. Continue roughly SW, still downhill, towards Lower Lank to a high, rather awkward wooden stile (barbed wire) by a wooden gate. Cross grass and follow a driveway track between barn on L and house on R. Over a high wooden stile or through gate (if open), to a well-made track (FP sign). Go R on the track (L leads to De Lank Quarry) downhill to a road at 09126/75120 at 420 feet. (1.70 miles) Look to your L to see an abutment of the former tramway from De Lank Quarry; much of this tramway is now part of the Camel Trail.

# Lower Lank to Chapel Farm – 1.21 miles Overall N, mostly following the line of the River Camel

Go R on the road, still downhill gently. Although there is no sign to tell you, you are now on the Camelford Way, the Camel Trail continuation to Camelford. Our route follows this, with waymarks, for much of the way back to St. Breward. Leave Lower Lank hamlet after a stream on the R then gently uphill to a crossroads with Higher Lank Farm opposite. (1.99 miles) Go R on the road and take the L fork signed St. Breward, leaving a grassy triangle to your R, and following a blue NCN3 sign. Soon after a white cottage on your L, go L (FP) over a cattle stile into a field. (2.06 miles) Follow the LH hedge downhill easy, overall roughly NNW, down to bottom of the field to a crude cattle stile to a second field. Continue downhill and as the hill becomes steeper keep to the lowest ground, heading for a v-shaped gap in light woodland leading down to the River Camel. Enter the woodland at 08901/75910. It is now very steep, can be wet, sticky and a bit treacherous heading down here. At 2.20 miles the River Camel is visible below. Continue down to wooden duckboards, leading to a cattle stile and a galvanised stile on to a massive clapper bridge over the river. Cross to a partly fallen cattle stile to a field at 250 feet. (2.29 miles)

Once across the clapper, to the L is a WM post; follow its WM uphill fairly steeply. At top, go through a wooden gate to a lane at 2.39 miles. Go R on the narrow lane between high banks, fairly steeply downhill, passing on the L Coombe Mill (family farm holidays) (note old cart shed). Continue over a tarmac-surfaced clapper bridge over the River Camel. Continue on the lane gently uphill to just before a RH bend and, at 09008/76367 at 2.57 miles, by a galvanised gate go L (FP) over a cattle stile and a small concrete FB and up a tall filled-in cattle stile. Go forward, following a WM, on a track alongside a barn on your R. Pass animal pens on your R. After the track goes R, at 2.65 miles, bear R across grass and L between wire fences to a wood and wire gate with a white background notice on it at 08986/76559. (2.69 miles) Cross a large grass enclosure to a similar gate and sign. (Sign says Coombe Mill ends here, footpath continues through Chapel Farm). Through another gate and over a sheep stile into woodland. The path continues in the same general direction, overall roughly N. Note signs of former tin mining in the woods to your L. Go through a gap (WM) at 2.78 miles and through another gap (WM and PROW) at 2.82 miles on to a grassy path between fences. Through a gap at 2.87 miles and into Chapel Farm, barn on L, then lane, then house on R at 08963/76919. (2.91 miles) The lane heading uphill R leads to Holy Well - 85 yards to a FP sign, L then on your R after another 35 yards, at 09076/76926. (\*\*See directions for this as an alternative route back to start)

# Chapel Farm back to St. Breward Churchtown – 0.81 miles A long climb, overall roughly N to Fellover then ESE back to Churchtown

At Chapel Farm continue forward on a track between houses, passing a yellow sign to North Cornwall Aviaries on L then the Aviaries entrance on R. The wide track (FP and WM) between hedges undulates a little through woodland. Go through a wooden gate at 3.01 miles (sign refers to Exmoor ponies grazing). Shortly the track becomes uphill moderate, then narrows to a path, becoming steepish, rocky in places, muddy in others, still in woodland. Sounds and glimpses of River Camel below left. Go through a wooden gate at 3.13 miles. (sign pearl bordered fritillary butterflies, land managed by Dartmoor ponies). At 09168/77401 at 3.18 miles the path forks, R goes uphill; keep L gently downhill on a generally easy grassy path, scrub above R, land falls away to river to L. At 3.21 miles, with views down into Camel Valley, Gam Bridge comes into view forward L, attractive Lamphill half L. The grassy path deteriorates a bit as it heads into woodland shortly before Fellover, reaching the gate to Fellover at 09195/77668 at 440 feet. (3.35 miles) A path continues through a gate into Fellover and down to Tuckingmill and Gam Bridge. It is worth just going through the gate into the garden, on a legitimate public footpath, for the statuary there.

At the gate to Fellover follow a WM R uphill steeply, following LH hedge. *Note, on hedge immediately on L, nice old fashioned footpath sign to Coombe, Tuckingmill, Church and Tor Down.* Soon the path does a right-angled R and is now heading approximately ESE towards Churchtown, still following the LH hedge, now in scrub and light woodland. At 3.41 miles enter woodland to R with hedged field to L. *Note platform to R, probably relic of former mine (this is Mine Hill). At this point the path becomes quite muddy and potentially slippery.* At 09390/77614 at 3.42 miles a Camelford Way WM points L. Ignore this and go R and immediately L, continuing uphill fairly steeply, path partly grassy, partly rocky, now in the open in furzey, brambly ground. At 09473/77547 at 3.49 miles the path divides. A track used by horses goes R to a gate and a track used as a bridleway. Keep L to a high filled-in cattle stile to a small field at 3.51 miles. Cross the field now gently uphill (*note to L randomly constructed dry-stone wall*) to 2 wooden gates. The path continues through scrub and at 3.55 miles rejoins the unofficial bridleway. Bear L here and continue gently uphill. Continue on a good path up to the road by the war memorial at 740 feet at 3.65 miles. Go R on the road back to the church (*on the way note an old cottage on your R with an old AA plaque with London mileage 235; the next cottage has a Victorian post box*). (3.72 miles)

<sup>\*\*</sup> From Chapel Farm a shorter alternative route back to St. Breward Churchtown takes you past a Holy Well and a fascinating sculpture behind St. Breward Primary School. Total distance 3.62 miles. See page 3 for this route.

### Chapel Farm to St. Breward Church, via St. Breward's (or St. James's) Holy Well – 0.71 miles

At Chapel Farm, go R uphill on a lane for about 85 yards and follow a FP sign L through a wooden gate then uphill between wooded hedges for 35 yards to the Holy Well on R at 09076/76926. Continue uphill fairly steeply and, at 0.15 miles, go through a narrow awkward kissing gate. The path continues uphill fairly steeply through scrubby woodland to a wooden gate at 0.22 miles to a track (house on L, smallholding on R) between high hedges to a gate (WMs) on your L at 0.26 miles. Go through the gate and follow RH hedge to a high cattle stile on your R at 0.28 miles. Go over the stile and go L uphill on a wide path, tall leylandii on R, high hedge on L, to a cattle stile at 0.44 miles. Just after the stile, note on right at 09468/77033 a sculpture 'Arachnathrone' (spider, butterfly, fox etc; Gary & Thomas Thrussell and St. Breward Primary School, part of North Cornwall Giants Trail by Creative Partnerships Cornwall, the National Trust and North Cornwall Schools). Follow a grassy path, school playing field on R, to a cattle stile at 0.50 miles and go L on a path uphill between hedges, through Churchtown Farm to the road opposite the Old Inn and L uphill to the church on your R. (0.71 miles)

#### And the same route in reverse

## St. Breward Church to Chapel Farm, via St. Breward's (or St. James's) Holy Well – 0.71 miles

Go S on road to end of the Old Inn. Go R into Churchtown Farm, cross the yard to a wooden gate (WM) at 130 yards to well made path between hedges, gently downhill. Where the path becomes a track, at 0.21 miles, go R over a high cattle stile and follow a grassy path with the Primary School playing field on your L to a cattle stile to woods at 0.27 miles. Just before the stile, note on left, at 09468/77033, a sculpture 'Arachnathrone' (spider, butterfly, fox etc; by Gary & Thomas Thrussell and St. Breward Primary School, part of a North Cornwall Giants Trail credited to Creative Partnerships Cornwall, involving the National Trust and North Cornwall Schools). Follow a wide path, Leylandii on L, hedge on R, gently downhill to a massive cattle stile to a field on the R. (0.43 miles). Go L in the field to a gate (WM) (0.45 miles) and follow a WM R on a track between high hedgerows. At the end, with house on R, go through a wooden gate (WM) (0.49 miles) and follow a path downhill steeply through scrubby woodland. Go through an awkward narrow kissing gate at 0.57 miles and continue downhill on a path between wooded hedges (bluebells) to St. Breward's Holy Well on L at 09076/76926 at 0.65 miles. Continue down to a gate to a lane (FP) at 0.67 miles. Go R on the wooded lane downhill to Chapel Farm. (0.71 miles)