

Where is the Drake link?

As you near Burrator Dam you will walk alongside part of Drake's Leat. The leat - also known as Plymouth Leat - was built in 1591, some years after the passing of the Water Bill for Plymouth was presented to the Houses of Parliament by the mayor of Plymouth, who happened at the time to be Sir Francis Drake.

The original source for Drake's Leat sits deep underneath the brooding surface of Burrator reservoir. Flowing for 18 miles, fresh water flowed from Burrator to Plymouth in a trench some 6 feet wide. The route was skilfully surveyed so that water did not flow too quickly and erode the soil banks. The leat was not granite lined until the 19th century.

Other local information...

The Royal Oak in Meavy has the distinction of being owned by the local parish council, with a proportion of the rent paid on the pub being invested back into the local community.

The pub also exhibits an expenses receipt from one of the first surveyors to work on Drake's Leat, covering the costs of milk and wine - though presumably not in the same glass!

Still want to know more?

Reservoir and parish information:

www.swlakestrust.org.uk

www.burrator.gov.uk

Drakes Trail website for more recreation routes:

www.drakestrail.co.uk

For local events including the Oak Fair:

www.royaloakinn.org.uk



find out more through the **Drake's Trail podcasts** available at:
www.drakestrail.co.uk or
www.drakestrailpodcasts.info

Accommodation & local services

There are numerous places to stay in and around Yelverton, from campsites to hotels catering to your every whim. Check the following websites for details and booking information:

www.drakesdartmoor.co.uk

www.dartmoor.co.uk

Or contact the
Tavistock Tourist Information Centre
01822 612938

email: tavistocktic@westdevon.gov.uk



How to get here

A regular, daily bus service runs between Plymouth and Tavistock, stopping at Yelverton. Most frequent are the 83 and 84 services.

Parking is very limited in Meavy. It is suggested that you park up in Yelverton, and catch bus number 56 to Meavy. Ask to be dropped off at the village green for the start of the walk.

To catch the bus back to Yelverton, wait at the bus stop opposite Meavy School.

Timetables and more information are available from Traveline:
0871 200 22 33

www.traveline.org.uk

Additional travel advice can be found at:

www.travelwise.org.uk

This document can be made available in large print, Braille, tape format, other languages or alternative format upon request. Please contact West Devon Borough Council on 01822 813600
Or email: services@westdevon.gov.uk



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Drake's Trail Walking Spur 2

Meavy to Burrator



Start: Meavy Village Green

Duration: 2 - 2½ hours

Distance: 4.7 miles / 7.5 kilometres

Grade: MODERATE

Surface: Mainly firm off-road route.
Some muddy field sections.

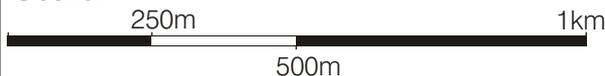
Also see OS Explorer map OL28

Route directions and other advice / instructions are shown on the map inside.

Walking Spur 2 - Meavy to Burrator



Scale:



Key

- on-road walking route
- off-road walking route
- toilets
- refreshments
- bus stop
- narrow road section
- junction
- podcast location

On a clear day you will see Plymouth Sound in the distance which is the scene of one of Drake's finest naval achievements .

Keep walking downhill until you have telegraph poles on your right. Continue until the last pole and then on past a water trough

Turn left onto the former railway line

Meavy Village Green and old oak tree

Go past Meavy School on your right

Turn left into the car park and exit on the path to your right, between two granite stones, gradually away from the trees on your left

Enjoy the view over Burrator Reservoir

Look out for some steps on your right, and climb them to the old railway line, turning right at the top

Continue to walk along old railway line until reaching steps. Retrace your path back to Meavy.

Go through the gate and follow yellow discs to Burrator Dam

At the end of the path, turn left onto the small road

Take a sharp left onto the cycle path

Walk past Burrator Dam and continue straight ahead

Walk along the leat and at the end of the path take the left fork that emerges onto the road

Walk along Drake's Leat. Look for more information on the stone wall.

Go through a series of gates - remember to close each gate - and look for the left-hand fork as the path splits