

Meldon Reservoir Walk

Distance: 4 mi./6 km. Time: about 1½ hours.



From Meldon car park, take the steps up to the road and the footpath will be seen directly opposite you, taking you through a gate and immediately uphill. As you head for the tree line, take a look to your left at the reservoir and the moors beyond: an amazing view on a clear day. The second footpath sign will be at the tree line, where the path runs parallel to the stone wall on your right. Stay with this path as it contours along the side of the hill - South Down – and brings you out into the open. Head towards the stone wall in front of you and bear left towards the gate.

You will see Sourton Tors in the distance as you walk along this grassy track towards the open moors. The views to your left are of Homerton Hill and Corn Ridge, the highest point here and a very steep drop down towards Black-a-tor Copse. This is the ridge into which a WWII American PB4Y-1

Liberator aircraft crashed in the misty winter conditions on 28th December, 1943, while heading home to Dunkeswell with 10 crew on board, all of whom sadly lost their lives. There is still some wreckage up there today.

As you come out onto the moors, keep the stone wall on your left and keep on following this with it in your sight at all times. In front of you, the track forks, so take the left fork slightly downhill to your left. Looking ahead, you will see the track on the opposite hill as it contours around. Continue to walk downhill to the stream with the wall on your left, ending at the stream. Cross the stream and continue following the track at the same level around the side of the hill. You can clearly see the track continuing in front of you and crossing a second stream. This part of the moors is quite open and you can see Meldon reservoir in front of you between the hills, with those to your right looking almost like the side of a crater – a great place to sledge in the snow!

At this point you will need to start heading down towards your left where you will see the West Okement river heading towards the reservoir and the flat plain of the nature reserve. The power house at the weir will come into sight, so head towards this and cross the river. This is a great spot for wild swimming, as it's nice and deep – being Dartmoor, the water will be cold, but it's a suitable place to cool off in the summer for both you and your dog!

Once you have crossed the river, head straight across to a track and turn left heading towards the reservoir. The path can be clearly seen and will now take you along the side of the reservoir and all the way back to the car park, crossing over the dam. As you walk along this path you will see a small island, which when the water level is low, you almost feel you could walk out to.