

## Route Description:

This walk takes you across Hatherleigh Moor with wonderful open views across to Dartmoor. These are best experienced from the Belvedere Tower giving panoramic views. The walk continues through countryside close to the Fishleigh Estate from where the Springwatch wildlife programmes with Bill Oddie were filmed. The walk finishes by passing Hatherleigh church.

## Directions to start from Ruby Park:

Drive out of Ruby Park to the end of the access road by the post box. Zero your milometer.

Turn right into the road.

0.2 miles, Metherell Cross, turn left on to A3079 towards Holsworthy.

2.0 miles, Halwill Junction mini roundabout, turn right towards Black Torrington.

3.1 miles at Chapel, bear right to keep on same road through Chilla.

5.3 miles, Beara Cross, turn right on to A3072 towards Hatherleigh.

10.3 miles, Hatherleigh, at roundabout go straight across

10.4 miles, turn left signed Market car park, by the Co-op. Park in the Pay and Display car park. The walk starts here.

## Walk directions:

1, SS 540 043, 0 miles: Leave Hatherleigh Pay and Display car park from its main entrance back to the main street by the Co-op. Turn right and pass South Street on the left. Do not go over the river bridge, instead continue ahead past the petrol station and fire station and bear left along the A386 towards Okehampton to cross a road bridge over a stream.

2, SS 542 038, 0.4 miles: Now go through the kissing gate opposite the playing fields on your left

to now bear 45° to the right over this field to reach a gate in the far corner. Pass through small metal gate beside it and continue ahead through the woodland. Cross the stream bridge and gate turning right to follow the wire fence on your right, shortly leaving it to cross this field to a gate ahead.



*Hatherleigh Monument*

3, SS 548 037, 0.8 miles: Pass through the kissing gate beside it. Now go up to your left to reach a gate by a road. Turn right on to the road to a gate almost opposite. From this gate bear hard right, not quite parallel with the road to reach a bridle gate. Beware of boggy areas. Cross a small bridge just before reaching this bridle gate.

4, SS 551 036 1.1 miles: From this gate go straight ahead away from it to soon reach a signpost marking a cross-roads of tracks. Now turn left to follow a grass track up the moor. Pass the next Bridle Path sign, keeping ahead to nearly reach the trees ahead.

5, SS 560 036, 1.7 miles: Before reaching a signpost ahead you need to bear off to the left towards a gate visible in a dip of the road ahead. You might find a tractor track taking you there.

6, SS 560 040, 2.0 miles: Go through this gate and turn left on to the road to follow it up hill. At the top at the T junction (called Deckport Cross) turn left to pass the monument.

7, SS 552 045, 2.6 miles: The road then levels out and shortly bear right along a track signed Public Byway. Soon temporarily ignore the track on the right, instead continuing ahead to visit the Belvedere Tower with its excellent views. Return to the track now on your left and follow it to its end.

## Note:

should this track be flooded, return to the Belvedere Tower and continue ahead to a road. Turn hard right following this road until you see the track coming in from the right as the road bears to the left. Continue through the gate now ahead, from instruction 8 below.



*Belvedere Tower*

8, SS 550 049, 3.2 miles: At the end you meet a road. Take the second gate on the right. From this gate bear slightly left/ahead to reach a pair of gates by two trees. Go straight ahead to the right-hand edge of a woodland ahead to then follow this woodland edge on your left.

9, SS 553 054, 3.6 miles: Go to the gate in the corner, pass through and take the path on the left, ignoring the Tarka Trail ahead. Shortly follow this path as it bears round to the left, ignoring the rickety stile in the fence ahead and then one on your left, so following this track as it gains height. At the top pass the cow shed to reach a road.

10, SS 549 055, 3.9 miles: Turn left along this road and pass the next farm on the right.



*Hatherleigh church*

11, SS 549 054, 4.0 miles: Shortly go through a gate on the right signed Public Footpath. Now bear about 45° to the left across this field where you will find a gate. Pass through and keep in the same direction

---

just taken across the previous field to the woods on the other side where there is a stile.

12, SS 547 051, 4.2 miles: Cross this stile and go ahead through this small wood to cross a footbridge to the next stile. Now follow the left-hand hedge passing a stables to reach a stile by a gate in the far corner.

13, SS 545 049, 4.4 miles: Now follow the track ahead to the road. Go straight ahead along this road, passing the Medical Centre.

14, SS 542 046, 4.7 miles: At the main street go straight across into Church Lane and down to the church. Pass through the church kissing gate to pass the church on your right down to the main church gate.

15, SS 541 045, 4.8 miles: Pass through here and bear right down the main street to reach the Co-op, turning right back to the car park.

*Walk written by: Bryan Cath of West Country Walks. For more walk leaflets go to [www.westcountrywalks.co.uk](http://www.westcountrywalks.co.uk)  
Photographs by: Bryan Cath  
Information on Ruby Lodge at [www.rubylodge.co.uk](http://www.rubylodge.co.uk)  
© West Country Walks 2008*

# Walks at Ruby Lodge

***Hatherleigh via Hatherleigh Moor and  
Springwatch country***

***4.9 miles, circular***



## **Fact file:**

Highlights: Hatherleigh Market, Hatherleigh Moor, Hatherleigh Monument, Belvedere Tower, Springwatch countryside

Start Grid ref: SS 540 043

Distance: 4.9 miles, circular

Height gained/lost: 122 metres, moderate to easy walk. Could be boggy in places.

Highest Point: 142 metres

Lowest Point: 67 metres

Toilets: At start

Eating Places: Hatherleigh

Time required: 2hr 40 min, plus stops

Mileages shown are cumulative

The route directions will take you around this walk without using the OS grid references, if preferred.