

Route Description:

This walk starts by the beautiful reservoir called Roadford Lake, a haven for fishermen and sailors. On leaving the lake shores the walk gently gains height with good views all around. The walk then drops down into the River Wolf valley, one of the main feeds to the lake before reaching Germansweek village with its ancient church and a perfect seat for a picnic. One continues down an ancient lane before returning over the viaduct to the start.

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 left into the road.

1.1 miles turn left towards Germansweek

2.4 miles, Boldventure Cross, continue ahead

2.8 miles, Witherdon Cross, continue ahead

3.3 miles, Parsonage Cross, continue ahead towards Lewdown. Soon cross the viaduct

4.3 miles, park in the lay-by on the right on the other side of the viaduct. The walk starts here.

Walk directions:

1, SX 435 931, 0 miles: From the lay-by walk away from the viaduct and take the Public Bridleway bearing off to the right through a bridle gate. Follow this footpath as it follows the lake, passing through various gates along the way.

2, SX 429 922, 1.0 mile: Eventually you come to a signpost by a gate on the left signed Public Bridleway. Turn left through this gate. Follow this old track gently uphill to pass through the gate at the top. Now follow the level track ahead passing through the next gate.

3, SX 437 923, 1.5 miles: At the road cross straight

over along the track opposite gently climbing to pass under the telegraph wires and through the next gate. Pass through the next gate as the track levels off. You may now need to go up on to the banking on your right to avoid the thick mud ahead.



Southweek viaduct

4, SX 442 925, 1.9

miles: Having past that, continue ahead to a gate on a corner ahead and then follow the wire fence ahead on your left towards trees and a gate in the far left-hand corner.

5, SX 446 926, 2.2 miles: Pass through this gate and keep to the left-hand bank to the gate ahead. Pass through this and again keep to the left-hand fence. After a while pass through the next gate in a wire fence, continuing ahead to the next gate in a wire fence, keeping along by the left-hand bank and soon you reach a bridle gate going through to a gate to a farm track.

6, SX 451 937, 3.0 miles: Ignore the track to the right to the farmhouse, instead continuing ahead to reach a road. At the road turn left along it and as the road bears left, go through a gate on the right and then bear slightly left away from it towards the centre of the block of trees ahead where you will find a stile.

7, SX 447 939, 3.4 miles: Follow the path ahead soon bearing right. At the bottom you meet a cross-roads of tracks. Continue ahead to cross a footbridge over the River Wolf to then follow a track away from the river. Shortly ignore the Public Footpath to the right, continuing ahead up the track. Pass through the gate near the top and as the track levels out, pass various houses to reach the road by The Old Chapel.

8, SX 440 943, 4.0 miles: Turn left along the road to Germansweek. Pass the Parish Hall and

then turn left signed to the Parish Church and Public Footpath.

9, SX 438 941, 4.2 miles: Visit the church on the left and then continue down the old banked track. A little way down cross the small stream bridge now bearing left to continue along this old track to a stile.



Roadford Lake

10, SX 435 937, 4.6 miles: From this stile now aim at the far bottom corner of this field ahead. As you get nearer you will see a gate in the wire fence, not quite in the far corner. Pass through this gate and follow the path round to the right beside the previous fields edge to then bear left through a small gate. With the lake ahead, turn right along the path parallel with the lake to reach a kissing gate and stile at the road.

11, SX 433 933, 4.9 miles: Turn left to cross the viaduct back to the car park.



Germansweek church

Walks at Ruby Lodge

*Roadford Lake via Germansweek
5.0 miles, circular*



Fact file:

Highlights: Roadford Lake, waterfowl, panoramic views, Germansweek church

Start Grid ref: SX 435 931

Distance: 5.0 miles, circular

Height gained/lost: 149 metres, moderate to easy walk. Possibly muddy in parts.

Highest Point: 209 metres

Lowest Point: 130 metres

Toilets: None

Eating Places: None

Time required: 2hr 45 min, plus stops

Mileages shown are cumulative

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

*Walk written by: Bryan Cath of West Country Walks. For more walk leaflets go to www.westcountrywalks.co.uk
Photographs by: Bryan Cath
Information on Ruby Lodge at www.rubylodge.co.uk
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