

NOTES

Plymouth Leat

The Plymouth Leat or Drake's Leat was completed in 1591 under the direction of Sir Francis Drake to provide Plymouth with a supply of fresh water along its 16 mile length from a point now under Burrator Reservoir.

Devonport Leat

Built 200 years later than the Plymouth Leat, and nearly twice as long, the Devonport Leat starts in the centre of Dartmoor and includes aqueducts, spectacular cascades and a tunnel more than a third of a mile long. Its upper half is still in use flowing into Burrator Reservoir.

Plymouth and Dartmoor Railway

The granite sleepers are the remains of the horse-drawn tramway constructed in the 1820's to transport granite from Princetown to Plymouth.

Plymouth to Tavistock Railway

This branch of Great Western closed in 1962 after operating for just over 100 years.

RAF Station Harrowbeer

From 1941 to 1945 many different aircraft and nationalities of aircrew including Polish, Czech, Free French, Canadians and Australians operated from this air station. They were mainly fighter squadrons but the station was also home to an air sea rescue unit.

In August 1945 Harry Truman landed there having been diverted from St. Mawgan. Glen Miller was another celebrated visitor.

At Leg o' Mutton you can see a granite memorial to all those who served there.

Another permanent reminder of the air station is the missing two top storeys of the shops in the centre of Yelverton, removed as a precaution as they were in a direct line of one of the runways.

WILDLIFE

Brown Trout

Adult Brown Trout swim up from the larger rivers to the shallower, faster flowing rivers such as the Meavy and the heart of the Moor to spawn. Look for them in the pool by the bridge at Hoo Meavy.

Roe Deer

The Roe Deer is becoming more numerous in the wooded areas around the edge of the Moor. If you are lucky when walking through the wooded area you may see their white hind-quarters as they run away.



Birds

Buzzards –these beautiful birds of prey soar and wheel high above the ground, often in pairs. You will probably hear their distinctive mewing cry before sighting them.



On the open moor by the golf course you may see **Skylark**, **Meadow Pipit**, **Linnet** and perhaps **Yellow Hammer**.

By the river watch for **Heron**, **Dipper** and **Grey Wagtail**.

Walking back through the wood by the railway there are **Tawny Owl**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Nuthatch**, **Treecreeper** and **Goldcrest**.



Walk No.3 YELVERTON – CLEARBROOK CIRCULAR



Start point

The car park in front of St Paul's Church

Distance

4 miles (6km)

Time

2 ½ hours

Description

A straightforward, level walk along tracks and footpaths around Roborough Down by Yelverton golf course to Clearbrook alongside the River Meavy and ½ mile on a quiet road.

Both Devonport and Plymouth Leats are featured.

You will also see the remains of two abandoned railways.

Difficulties?

No real problems; only 2 stiles to cross.

Toilets, refreshments

Everything you could possibly want in Yelverton and the Skylark pub in Clearbrook.



Walk directions

Leave the car park and walk towards Plymouth. Preferably use the path which runs through the trees across the drives to several houses next to the dried-up **Plymouth Leat**.

On the other side of the main road is the site of the wartime **RAF Station Harrowbeer**.

After 150 yards or so it passes through a gate which leads into an open area and then onto a metalled road and the junction of three tracks. (If, however, the path alongside the leat is too muddy for comfort, as is frequently the case, walk along the footpath next to the road for 200 yards until the footpath ends. Turn left onto a metalled road, over a cattle grid and then over the dry leat.)

At the junction of three tracks, take the right hand one.

Continue straight along this track for ½ mile, At this point you are walking between two leats. That on the right is the **Devonport Leat** and the **Plymouth Leat** on your left.

As the track surface becomes rougher you emerge into a clearer area and a smoother surfaced track – go straight across.

After passing a post box you will be faced with a wooden gate and stile with a notice “Footpath only. No cycling”.

Cross the stile and continue along an enclosed lane. This was originally part of the tramway from the moor to Plymouth.

At the end of the enclosed footpath cross over the stone stile and the leat and keeping the field wall to your left continue into Clearbrook and the road that passes The Skylark.

The road goes downhill before going underneath a railway bridge and reaching the river at Hoo Meavy Bridge.

Turn left up the track before the bridge.

The track runs alongside the river before leaving it near some cottages. Take the footpath that climbs behind Yeoland House and goes through the trees alongside the track of the former **Plymouth to Tavistock railway**.

When the path reaches a gate leading onto a metalled road, turn left under the railway bridge (see [across](#)) and then right along the road. At the junction 100 yards further on, bear left, away from the railway, then keep right and go through a gate next to Elford Town Cottage and across the Plymouth Leat. Bear right at the track junction and retrace your steps back to Yelverton.

