

NOTES

Marchant's Cross

One of the many crosses on Dartmoor defining pack horse routes across the Moor. This one was probably to guide travellers from Plympton to Tavistock.

Sheepstor Cross

The shaft of the cross, without arms, was found in a field half a mile away used as a rubbing post for cattle. Its broken base was also found elsewhere. The two parts were reunited in its present position in 1910 on the coronation of George V.

Sheepstor Church

It is well worthwhile spending half an hour or so looking around this beautiful little church. The first two white Rajahs of Sarawak are buried here. Their story is to be found in the church.

Burrator Dam

First built in 1898 it was raised 10 feet in 1928 to increase its capacity by 40%.

Sheepstor Dam

Built at the same time as the Burrator Dam its construction was complicated by the deep excavation required to find a solid granite bed.

Plymouth Leat

Constructed in 1591 under the control of Sir Francis Drake and 17 miles in length it supplied Plymouth with drinking water until 1898 when the reservoir was completed.

Boundary Marker

In order to preserve the purity of the water flowing into the reservoir Plymouth Corporation Water Works bought all the catchment area in 1917. The boundary is marked by these granite pillars. The farms in the area were abandoned and forestation replaced sheep farming.

WILDLIFE

Birds

In the open areas look for Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Linnet and Green Woodpecker. You are more likely to hear the woodpecker's "laughing" call than catch sight of him.

In the trees and woods look for Jay, Tree-creeper, Nuthatch and Goldcrest flitting among the branches. Many members of the Tit family are in evidence including parties of Long-tailed Tits.

You can often see and hear Buzzard mewing and circling high overhead on thermals.

Trees and Plants

Under the old oaks of Burrator Wood you will find a dense carpet of Bluebells in May. It is worth making a special trip to see them. Meavy Wood has been planted with a mixture of conifers and broadleaf trees (including Sweet Chestnut).



Walk No.6 MEAVY – SHEEPSTOR (AND BACK)



Distance 4 miles (6 km)

Time 2 hours

Description A varied walk that includes woodland, fields and skirts the valley of the River Meavy between two of the area's attractive villages.

Difficulties? No real climbs. The section from Yeo Farm to Sheepstor has six stiles which will make life difficult for small children, dogs and the less nimble. In addition, the track leading onto the road at Sheepstor tends to be very muddy after rain (and cattle). The first 200 yds of road leaving Sheepstor village is very narrow – watch out for traffic.

Toilets, refreshments Royal Oak at Meavy. Toilets and ice cream van (usually) at Burrator Dam.

Start point The bus stop by Meavy School



Walk Directions

Walk down the road by the side of the school (signposted "Cadover") to the ford. Cross the river by the stepping stones or the road bridge and go uphill. At the cattle grid, turn left at **Marchant's Cross** along the surfaced road to Yeo Farm.

At a bend in the road before the farm buildings, cross the stile on your right and follow the path uphill over a wooden footbridge. Follow the waymarked footpath (yellow splodges) across two stiles and proceed through the gate opposite along an enclosed lane. Turn left along a narrow path between walls by a gate leading into a field. Cross over a ladder stile on

your left into the wood (**Burrator Wood**) and follow the path as it meanders alongside the wall just inside the wood.

After 440 yards or so the path leaves the wood through a gap in the wall and immediately crosses a stile into a field. Follow the path along the field boundary and cross over an awkward stone stile into a large field. Continue in the same direction to the end of this field and go through a gate on your left. Head, in roughly the same direction, diagonally across this field to an enclosed (muddy!) lane that leads to a gate and a metalled road. Turn left, downhill, across a stream, to a road junction at **Sheepstor Cross and Church**.

Turn left along the road. Go straight on at the next junction and follow the road as it bends first left and then right before climbing alongside **Sheepstor Dam** and on to cross **Burrator Dam**.

Cross the dam and follow the road to the left as far as the toilets on the left hand side. Turn left downhill along the track by the toilets. Leave the main track when it crosses the dried up **Plymouth Leat** and turn right along the path by the side of the leat.

After 200 yards or so at a stone **boundary marker** inscribed "PCWW 1917", leave the leat by a path that heads diagonally downhill. Follow this path downhill through the wood (**Meavy Wood**) as it crosses a wider track and joins a track that leads through two gates and a shelter of oaks. As the farm track bends left carry straight on across the field heading for the gate ahead that opens onto the road by the school and your starting point.