

Short walks from Shire Hall – No. 2: Clerkenwater

Distance: 3 miles (with the option to extend it to 4.5 miles)

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 109

Exit Shire Hall via the front door and proceed diagonally L across the granite forecourt to the stone steps. Descend and cross to Crockwell St (between estate agents and bank). Continue to the end of Crockwell St, cross the busy Dennison Rd and walk up Rhind St (R of Westberry Hotel) to meet Cross Lane. Turn L and pass Berry Tower Cemetery on your R.

A detour here would be interesting as the graveyard houses an ancient monument by the name of Berry Tower. Legend and history combine to suggest that the area around the Tower was an early focus of settlement. It has been written that St Petroc, a 6th century Celtic Christian saint, built two habitations in the place that was to become Bodmin: one where the parish church of St. Petrocs now stands, and the other on the hill to the north – ‘at the Berry’. Standing in front of Berry tower is a medieval wheel-headed cross of 12th or 13th century origin. This was moved here in 1860 from its original site on Cross Lane at the junction of Berry Lane. Return to the gateway that you used to enter the graveyard.

At the next junction turn R to find yourself heading up Helland Rd, and out into pleasant countryside. You remain on this road for almost a mile (circa 20 mins) until you reach the hamlet of Clerkenwater, based around a tributary of the River Camel. Take a track on your L, beside the ‘Old Laundry Cottage’, shortly passing over a ford. Remain ahead, ascending on the obvious (main) track. Pass a ruined farmhouse on the R and continue around to the L, then to the R, to reach an open area. The main route continues ahead on a tarmac road (Copshorn Rd).

At this point, if you wish to do the extended version, skip the next paragraph.

[Stay on this road, heading due S, for almost a mile. At a junction (with the jail straight ahead) turn L and L again. For further directions go to *]

To extend the walk turn R along a track that leads around the edge of 3 fields. Where the track enters coniferous woodland, go R to follow a wide track downhill. Stay on this prominent track until, after 0.6 miles, it joins the Camel Trail. Turn L, in a SW direction. Stay on the Trail for half a mile and, just before it crosses a main road, take a L turn uphill. At the top veer L and continue E towards Bodmin. After 0.7 miles the jail is on your L.

*Continue walking SE until you see Pool St on your L. Walk along Pool St to join the main Dennison Rd in front of the Westberry Hotel. Return to Shire Hall via Crockwell St.

Legend

L: Left, R: Right, N: North, E: East, S: South, W: West, St: Street, Rd: Road

Keep Cornwall Tidy

Please remember to take your litter home with you, thus ensuring future enjoyment of Cornwall for others. Better still, take a carrier bag and pick up litter along the way! Thank-you.

This walk has been researched and compiled by Bodmin Visitor Information Centre. ‘Gold’ award winners at the 2009 Cornwall Tourism Awards- Best Tourist information Centre. For further information on this walk, refer to OS Map No 109. For details of other walks in the area, please speak to a member of staff. With compliments, Bodmin Visitor Information Centre ☎ 01208 76616. Written April 2010.