

BERE FERRERS WALK



WALK ONE: Distance: Approximately 5 ½ miles

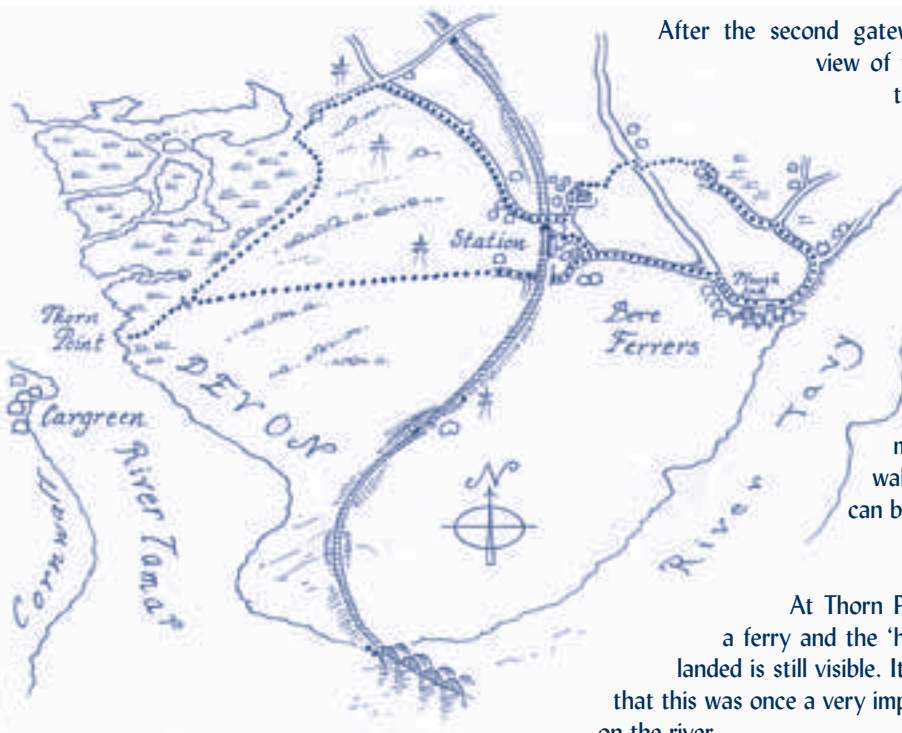
Starting point: Bere Ferrers

Railway Station

Time: Approx. 2 ½ hours

Terrain: Tracks and paths through fields and some road walking. Some steep hills. Can be muddy after heavy rain.

Leave the station and bear right towards the village. At the first corner turn right and follow the lane which passes a row of bungalows on the right and a farm on the left. Carry straight on under the railway bridge, continue ahead, then bear left, cross the stile and follow the track across the field.



After the second gateway you have a fine view of the Tamar Valley with the Cornish village of Cargreen directly ahead. Follow the fence down towards the estuary. At the bottom of the slope the path turns right, but before taking it, cross the stile onto the marshes, bear left and walk to Thorn Point which can be very muddy.

At Thorn Point there used to be a ferry and the 'hard' where the ferries landed is still visible. It is difficult to imagine that this was once a very important crossing point on the river.

Fresh Cornish produce, including strawberries and flowers, were brought to Cargreen, ferried to Thorn Point and then carried along the path you have just followed, up to Bere Ferrers station where it was rushed by train to markets in London.

Retrace your steps around the edge of the marsh, back over the stile and turn left. Follow the line of riverside trees until you reach another stile. This section of the route gives good views out over the mudflats and saltmarshes. They provide a very rich habitat for waders and wildfowl including curlew, kingfisher, heron, mute swan, redshank and avocets in winter.

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Cross the stile then cross the stream and follow the footpath to the left, with the ruined buildings to your right. Head towards the gate at the bottom left hand corner of the field. There were once extensive orchards here but today just a few isolated trees remain. This stretch can be muddy at any time of year.

The path then follows the riverside again giving views of the saltmarsh and muddy inlets of Liphill Creek. The route passes just above the houses which overlook the creek. There was once a quay here and possibly saltworkings dating back to Norman times. Liphill is also said to have been the haunt of smugglers.



Follow the signs and leave Liphill via the access drive to the house, heading towards a pylon. Follow this drive up the hill then turn right onto a minor road, after a while you will cross the railway bridge. Here you can head back to the station or continue on the walk to see the village of Bere Ferrers and the Tavy Estuary.

Instead of turning right into the station approach, turn left down a drive to the 'Coach House' and the 'Old Rectory'. Turn left (signed 'Coach House') and

walk towards, and then to the left side of the house to reach a stile. (Although this section is a public right of way, you are asked to respect the fact that it is also part of the garden of the house). After crossing the stile, turn immediately right and follow the field boundary for approximately 20 yards before turning left to cross the field towards Parsonage Farm. Cross the stile by the gate and turn right onto the road. This is the main road to Bere Ferrers so beware of traffic.

A few yards up the road, take the stepped stile to the left. Head towards the big beech tree, around the edge of a planted wood. At the top, turn right and head for a stile. Crossing the stile, bear left, then right to follow the upper side of a hedge. The path drops down to join a lane which runs alongside a former arm of the estuary, now an attractive marshland rich in wildlife.

The lane joins a minor road. Turn right, then bear right again in front of Bere Ferrers Methodist Chapel, which has been converted into a private house, and then follow the causeway alongside the river's edge. There are lovely views of the Tavy Estuary here. You are looking across towards Blaxton Woods, where once there was a village beside Blaxton Quay.

Continue up the hill, with the Olde Plough Inn to your left. Notice the well 'made by Frances Lady Shelley for the benefit of the poor in her son's parish, 1852'. A detour to visit the beautiful St Andrew's Church is well worthwhile. In the churchyard there are graves dating from a cholera epidemic in 1849. The church has some remarkable medieval stained glass.



At the top of the hill turn left at the junction, passing the old village school on your right. Continue uphill and turn to the right at the bend in the road and you will soon be back at the station.