

Opposite and slightly to the left, join a farm lane signposted as a bridleway to Two Gates. Pass a farm over to your left, then continue straight ahead at the next three gates, keeping the field boundary on your left. At the fourth you come onto the open moor (1hr10mins, [3]), sometimes grazed by Highland cattle. This is access land; it is possible to explore around Radworthy, to Swincombe Rocks and down to Bray (or Challacombe) Reservoir (the track from here back to Challacombe is private). To continue the walk, as you enter the moor bear very slightly left (the bearing is 353°) to stay on the high ground, joining a track that comes to a gate; this is 'Two Gates'. Don't go through the gate, but turn right and follow the line of the bank. In three minutes or so cross another bank on a ladder stile, then pass a series of barrows (earth mounds). On the last of these, about ten minutes from the stile, is a trig point at 480 metres (1hr35mins, [4]). Climb it for views along the north Devon coastal hills and across to south Wales. Looking to the right of the direction you have been walking (compass bearing 128°) you should be able to make out the Long Stone, an isolated, thin slate standing stone less than half a mile away, about half as tall again as a person. Make a note of which clump of trees to aim for on the horizon, as you will lose sight of it when you descend.

You should arrive at the Long Stone after ten minutes or so of picking your way across boggy, tussocky ground. Now alter your course fractionally to the right (145°), coming in about five minutes to the Longstone Barrow. A couple of minutes beyond on the same bearing there is a field gate with a ladder stile. Go through, then keeping parallel with the right-hand bank pass two more mounds. A little over ten minutes later come to a larger one (Wood Barrow). Walk to its far side then turn right through a gate signposted to the B3358 (2hr10mins, [5]; heading left here brings you in a few minutes to Pinkery Pond). At first a well-defined path heads close to the bank, then after going through an ungated gap in a line of trees it becomes more broken. The best route is about 50 metres left of the boundary, where there is a vague track that avoids any areas of bog. In less than 15 minutes you will come to a gap in the hedge in front of you, where there are sheep pens and a gate on to the main road.

Carefully cross the road and go through a gate, following a wide track towards Moles Chamber (see walk 18). Head uphill; take the second gate on the right, at a line of trees (2hr40mins, [6]). Walk as signposted towards Challacombe, keeping close to the bank. When it runs out drop down slightly on a stony path to a gate. Continuing in the same direction keep to the left of the ditch-and-bank. Go through a gate at its end and walk along a row of beech trees. Continue ahead across two more fields, then join a more defined track and follow it to a farmyard. Turn right here through a gate on to a hedged-in bridleway, down and to the left of the farm track (3hr10mins, [7]). Cross a narrow stone bridge and turn right on a road to rejoin your outward route. Go over another bridge at a ford, then turn left at the main road to return to the post office and layby.

Stroll around Challacombe (● 2.6 miles, ascents and descents of 90 metres). Follow the main walk as far as the church ([2]). Leave the churchyard through the main gate and turn left on the road. Pass the former Challacombe Mill and go over a bridge. Shortly after, turn left on a signposted footpath, keeping the field edge to your left. Cross a stile and turn left on to a lane. This now returns to Challacombe via the old school house, chapel, and ford: go over the bridge next to the ford to come to the Black Venus inn, turning right for the post office and layby.

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