

Roadwater & The Coleridge Way



Here the Coleridge Way passes through a quiet part of the Brendon Hills. From Treborough there are wonderful views over hills and combs to the Bristol Channel and beyond. Roadwater and Comberow were stations on the former West Somerset Mineral Railway.



POINTS OF INTEREST

The Coleridge Way

This walk follows the long distance route for two miles either side of Roadwater, which is about half way on the 36 mile walk from Nether Stowey to Porlock. It is named after the poet ST Coleridge, who lived at Nether Stowey in the 1790s and was fond of walking. The walk is not undertaken as a challenge but for leisurely taking in the landscape and culture of West Somerset.

The Incline **ST 028353**

The West Somerset Mineral Railway ran from iron mines along the top of the Brendon Hills to the harbour at Watchet, from where the iron ore was shipped to South Wales for smelting. The incline took the railway wagons down the escarpment where it was too steep for railway engines. The inclined plane ran for three quarters of a mile climbing a vertical height of 803ft at a gradient of 1:4. A steam engine installed below the track at the top operated 18ft diameter winding drums to raise and lower wagons on each of the two sets of rails. It was finished in 1861 and closed in 1910.

Treborough **ST 011364**

This tiny village was much larger in the late 19th century when the iron mines and slate quarries were operating. The slate quarries,

seen from Langridge, closed in 1938 but the slates can still be seen on local roofs. The tiny church contains a sculpture by Roadwater artist, Rachel Reckitt.

Langridge Wood Cist **ST 014374**

A cist is a stone-lined grave from the Bronze Age. This originally had a cairn over it and was discovered in 1820 when workmen robbed the cairn for road material. It is possibly from the Beaker period, when people buried beakers with the dead, but no grave goods were found here. The skeleton that it contained was re-interred in Treborough churchyard.

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

Exmoor became Britain's eighth National Park in 1954 and these walks were designed to celebrate its Golden Anniversary.

The National Park covers 267 square miles of Somerset and Devon. It is a landscape of great variety: from rugged, towering cliffs to gently rounded hills, wooded valleys, colourful heaths, wild grass moors and farming hamlets and it is home to nearly 11,000 people.

For further information contact Exmoor National Park Dulverton Visitor Centre: Tel 01398 323841
E-mail: NPCDulverton@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
Website: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

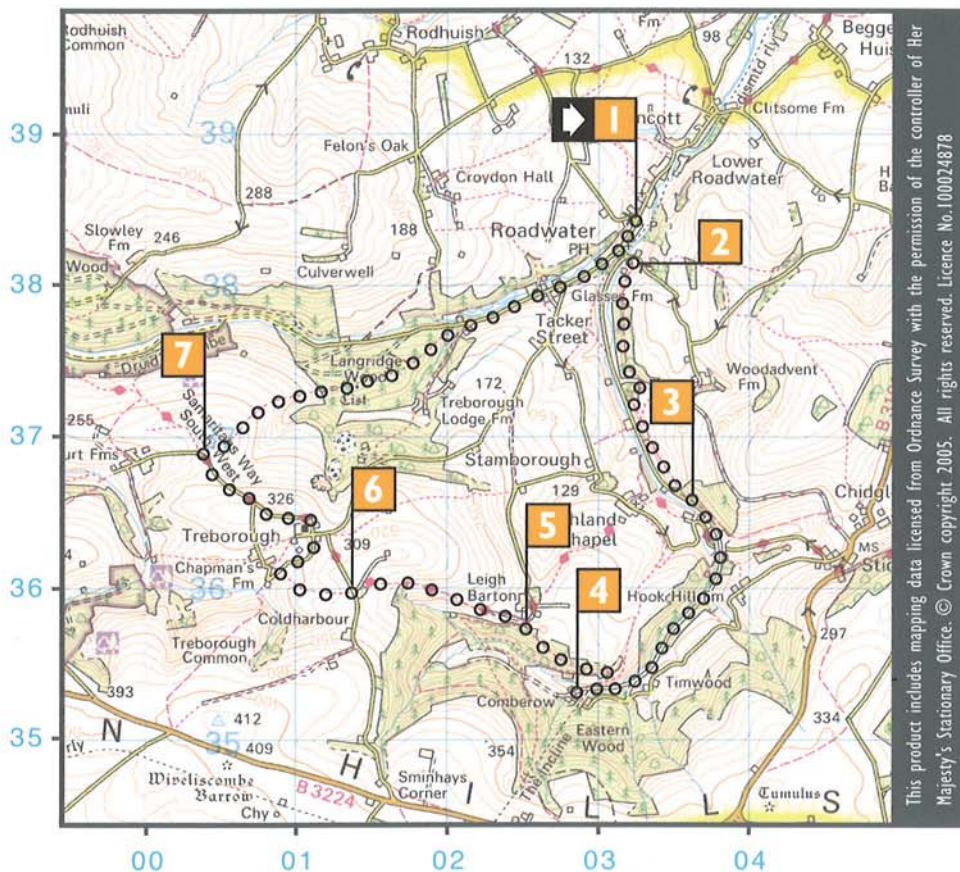
MAP

Scale 1: 50000 SHEET Nos SS/ST

The map section below is taken from the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL9
The area is also covered by the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 181.

1 Kilometre
1 Mile

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK



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7 miles (12 kilometres). 4 hours. Start Point: Roadwater Village Hall. Park along the road just below the Village Hall and shop. Moderate. The route is through woodland and across fields. Navigation is easy and there is only one uphill section. There are limited bus services to Roadwater from Minehead, Monksilver, Williton and Taunton. Pub and shop at Roadwater. **WC** None en route. On a lead.

WALK DIRECTIONS

All of the route is over private land. Some is on Public Rights of Way and a section on permissive path. The start of the walk is along the roadside in Roadwater village, wherever you can park without causing an obstruction. The best place is usually just below the Village Hall on the same side of the road.

1 Walk up the street past the Village Hall to where the street widens. Pass Watersmeet Close and take the next street on the left. Cross the bridge and keep ahead and upwards.

2 Opposite the cottage on the next bend, turn right along the bridleway towards Sticklepath. Keep along the track into the woods. The track eventually narrows and descends to cross a field and continue into the woods on the other side. Keep ahead along the valley side until, in a conifer plantation, the track forks.

3 Take the footpath dropping to the right. Zig zag down to the top of the drive to Pitt Mill. Take the left turn along the broad, level track through the woods towards Comberow. Keep ahead through woodland all the way to the cottages at Comberow.

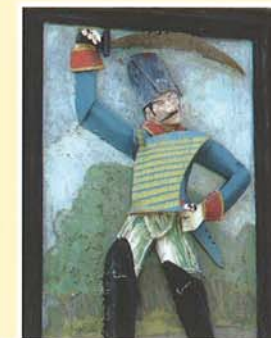
4 After the first cottage at Comberow you can detour left on the track between the buildings ahead to view the base of the **incline** on the former mineral railway. Otherwise fork right on the path towards Raleigh's Cross. Cross the bridge and bear right, zig-zagging up through the woods following yellow

waymarks. Keep upwards within the woods, forking left then right towards Leigh Barton.

5 At the farmyard bear left, then ahead through the metal gates and up the track (not the path back down into the woods). This runs up the valley side, then along a sunken lane. At the track at the top, bear left, past Windwhistle Farm, to the road. Cross the road and through the gate opposite signed to Treborough.

6 Keep ahead and down across the lowest part of the field. Go through the gate onto the road at the bottom. Turn right and walk up the road to **Treborough**. Keep ahead at the crossroads. Shortly you can detour left to look at the church. After half a mile, where the road bends left, take the footpath through the gate to your right, towards Roadwater.

7 Keep downhill, with the hedgebank to your left. In the woods keep ahead along the ridge, following the yellow waymarks. Pause to look at the **Cist**, signed on your right, and continue down the track to the road. Turn right and follow the road for a mile back down to Roadwater.



Valiant Soldier pub sign at Roadwater