

CORNWALL

Lanhydrock Respryn Ramble

This circular walk from Respryn car park, near Bodmin, crosses a historic bridge, taking in the wildlife along the River Fowey and on through semi-natural ancient woodland. Look out for otters, kingfishers and lichen-covered ancient trees – plus traces of Cornwall's tin mining past.

! Road

This walk begins with a short, narrow road section over Respryn Bridge. Please look out for bicycles and cars when joining the road.



Information

Address: Respryn Bridge car park, Lanhydrock, near Bodmin, Cornwall

OS map: Explorer 107

Activity: Walking

Easy: Level river path, then some short slopes leading to a stony lane. For further details, see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs are welcome but please keep them on a lead near livestock, which graze next to the river. Dog waste bins at the car park and by Respryn Bridge.

Full trail: Miles: 1 (km: 1.6)

Access: Easy

Duration: 30 mins - 40 mins

Terrain

The river path (steps 1–3 on the map) is well-surfaced and level for prams and wheelchair users. However, Newton Lane (steps 6–7) is quite uneven and stony. There are also a couple of short slopes between the river path and Newton Lane (steps 3–6).

Total steps: 8

Start point: Respryn National Trust car park, grid ref: SX099636

1. Take the track and footbridge next to the car park entrance, then turn left over Respryn Bridge. Turn right and follow the footpath alongside the river.
2. Continue down the river and admire the magnificent veteran and ancient oak trees. Look out for dippers, wagtails and the more elusive kingfishers and otters enjoying the River Fowey. At dusk you can see Daubenton's bats hawking over the water, catching insects.
3. Cross the wooden Kathleen Bridge, which was rebuilt in 1992 by the Royal Engineers. Its predecessor was swept away by floods.
4. You're now in Higginsmoor Wood, a semi-natural ancient woodland. The area was previously used for tin streaming, one of the earliest forms of tin mining. You can still see where the water was channelled to allow workers to extract the tin. Turn right up the hill.
5. Walking up the hill, you'll see hornbeams either side of the path. These look very similar to beech trees but have a sinewy appearance to their trunks, and their leaves are smaller and more serrated.
6. Go through the first red gate and turn right along Newton Lane.
7. At the end of Newton Lane you'll find yourself at the bottom of the Beech Avenue, which leads to Lanhydrock House situated within the historic parkland. Turn right down the hill.

8. As you near the end of the road you will see horse chestnut trees on your left, a family favourite for conkers in September and October. Cross the road, through the red gates onto Station Drive. Walk past Station Lodge and take the track to the right. Go over the wooden footbridge back into Respryn car park.

End point: Respryn National Trust car park, grid ref: SX099636
