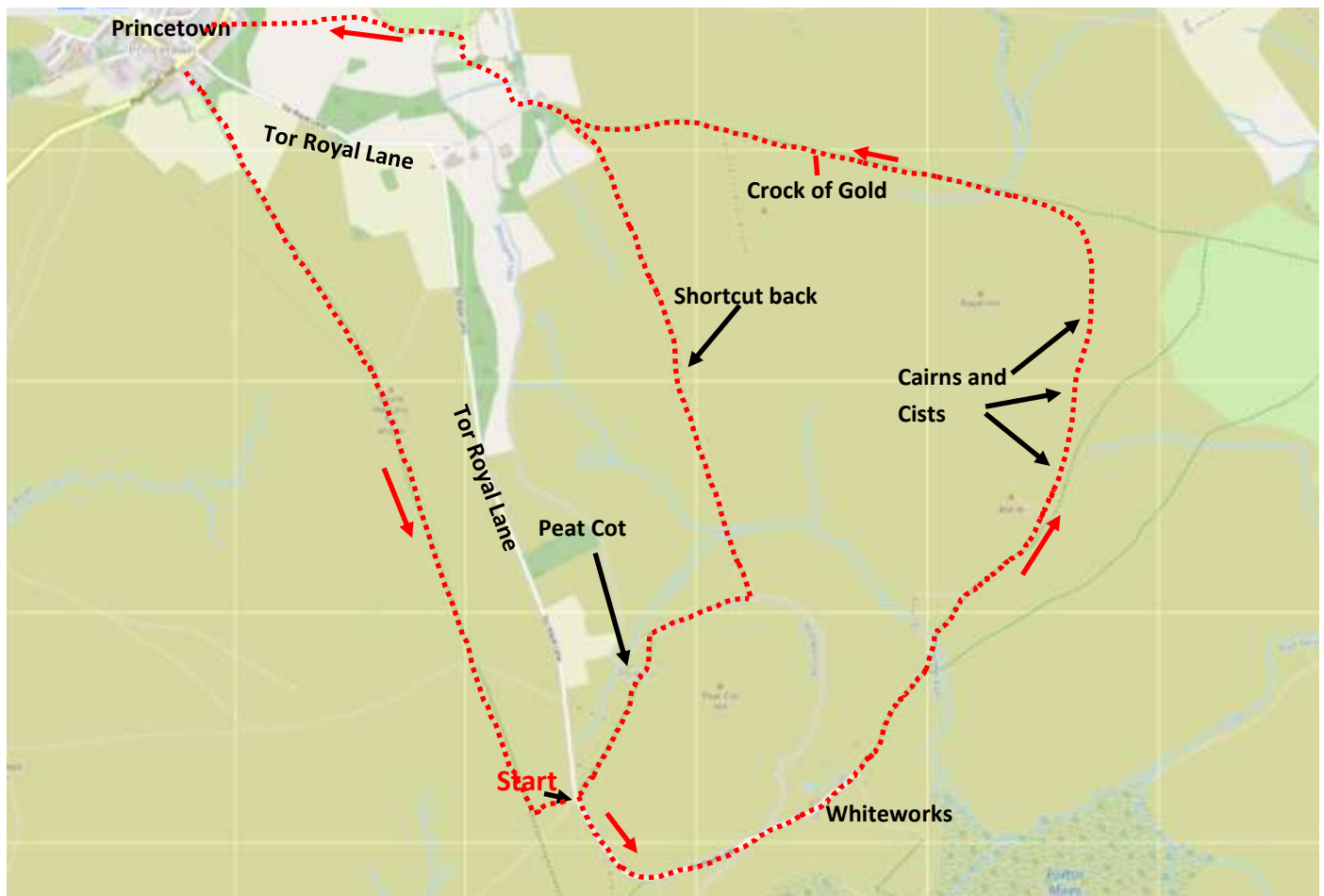


Crock of Gold

Cists Cairns and Cotton grass

A 6 mile (or 4.75) Dartmoor walk that uses footpaths and bridleways but also takes you across the moor to find ancient burial chambers. In this instance it would be useful if you did have an ordnance survey map with you as it shows the location of the cist and cairns which you will be visiting. You will walk the Conchies road and pass through ancient and extensive tin mining. You will need to have some decent waterproof walking boots for you will encounter some areas of quite boggy ground. This walk must be done in good weather conditions with good distant visibility and if possible following a week of dry weather. There is a shortcut back to your car if you don't want to walk into Princetown.



To find the starting point drive into Princetown and take Tor Royal Lane that is next to the Fox Tor café. Then drive for almost 2 miles into the moor to the second of three parking areas on the right the first being nearly opposite the vehicle driveway down to Peat Cot. The car park is only big enough for 4 cars so if full go on to the next one which is much larger.



From the car park continue along the road passing the houses at Whiteworks



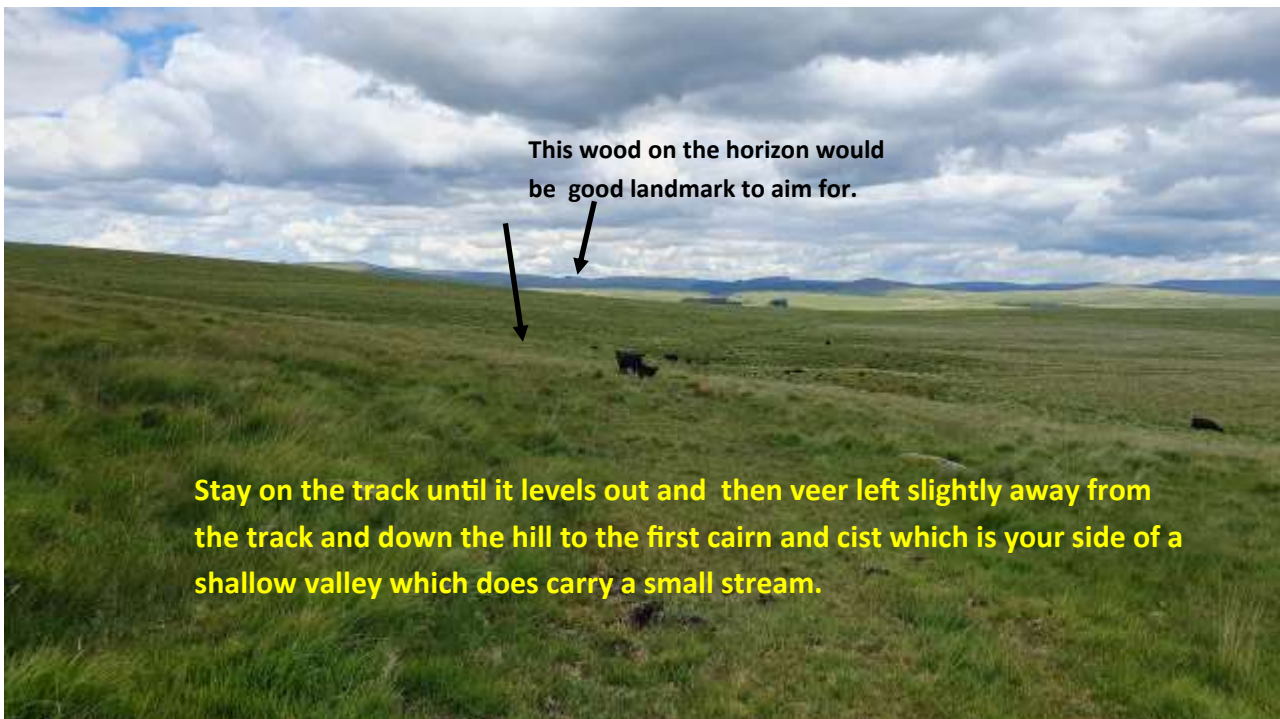
When the tarmac runs out just keep going until you reach a gate



As you approach the gate you will see on the far hillside two tracks going over the hill. You are aiming for the left hand one shown under the black arrow. (The right hand side track is the one shown on the OS map) Go through the gate, which is a challenge as it is likely to be flooded, and keep going on the track heading towards the hillside path.

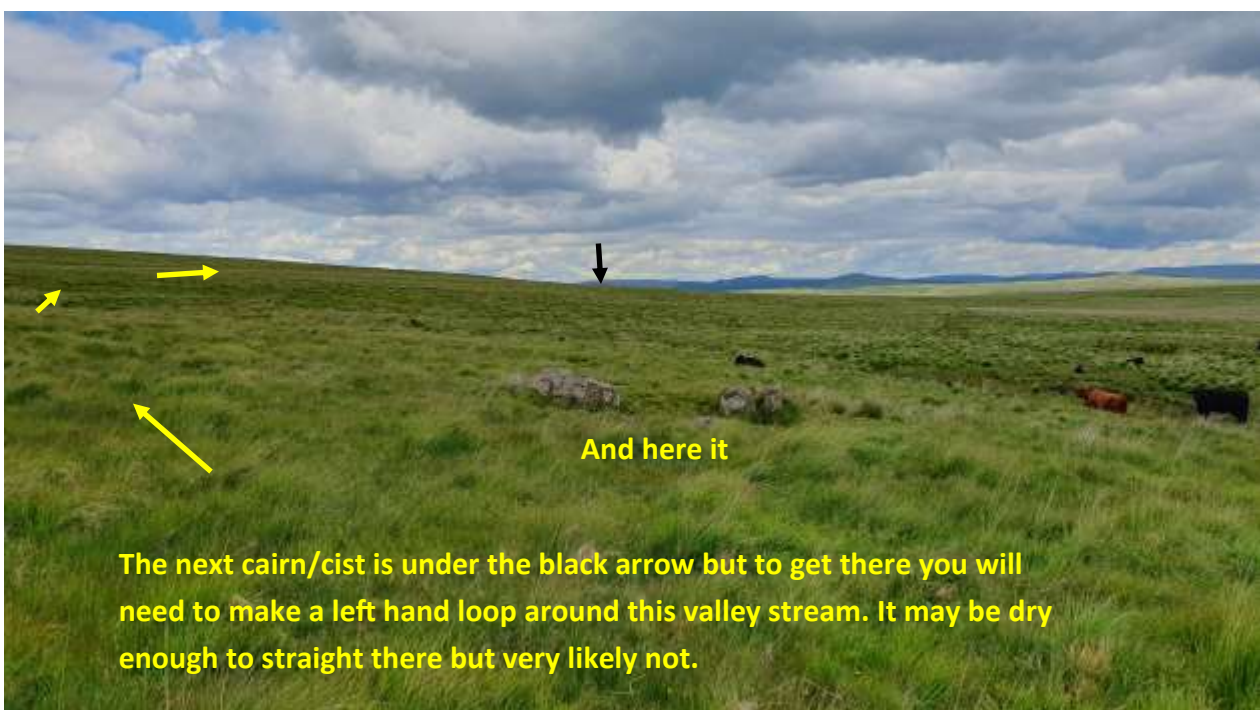


Using the rock or the bank just behind it get yourself across the Strane river and head off up hill firstly crossing a marshy area.



This wood on the horizon would be good landmark to aim for.

Stay on the track until it levels out and then veer left slightly away from the track and down the hill to the first cairn and cist which is your side of a shallow valley which does carry a small stream.



And here it

The next cairn/cist is under the black arrow but to get there you will need to make a left hand loop around this valley stream. It may be dry enough to straight there but very likely not.



Using the same horizon woodland land mark head off to the next one also under the black arrow, its not far.



And here it is



Now you are heading off to discover the Crock of Gold so head in the general direction of the prominent tor on the horizon



Then as the distant hills become more clear start to bend left a bit to stay on the same contour heading towards the black arrow but then keep bending slowly left.



And eventually you will reach this long straight track known as the Conchies Road as it was built by conscientious objectors imprisoned in Dartmoor prison during the First World War. (The Conchies Road does actually stop quite close to here and becomes a much narrower footpath which you may encounter. If you do just head towards the TV mast and you will soon arrive at the Conchies Road)



Go over the ford at Cholake head (If you have picked a dry day then the water level should be only an inch or so) and up the other side and continue on the track for about 500m. If you get to a pile of yellowish coloured stones on the right with some eroded ground then you have gone a little bit too far. The Crock of Gold which is a cairn and cist is on your left about 30m off the track.

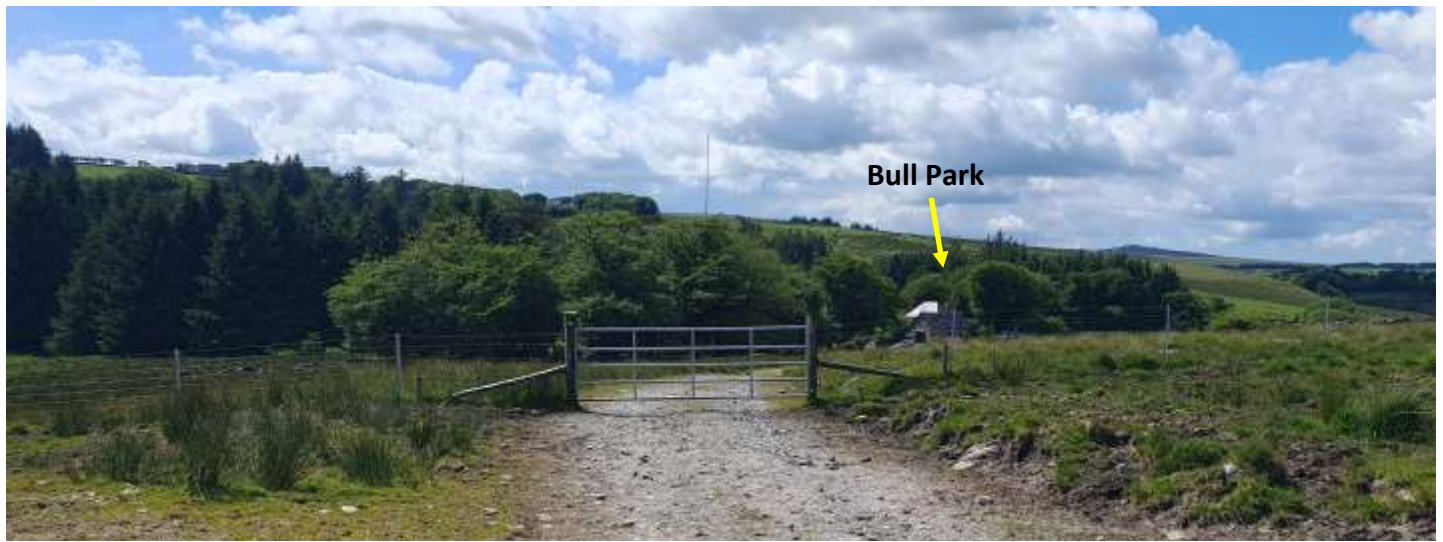
Here are two legends about the Crock of Gold.

<https://treksandtors.co/not-the-tors/historic/crock-of-gold/>

<https://www.legendarydartmoor.co.uk/2022/11/17/crock-of-gold-2/>



Having visited The Crock of Gold go back to the Conchies Road and continue walking towards Princetown and the TV mast.



It is at this point you have to decide if you want to do a 2 mile loop into Princetown to have a pint or lunch at the Plume or do the shortcut back.

If you are going to Princetown go through the gate and stay on the track .



SHORTCUT: To do the shortcut back follow the fence line down to the slope and turn left to go through the gate and follow the track. You are now going to follow the wall and fence on your right for just over a mile. It is quite soggy in places. Scroll down to the end to see where you go after this.



Stay on the track to go through the gate and walk on past the property called Bull Park. (As you go through the gate on the right hand side gate post there is a plaque commemorating the Conchie's Road)



A short distance past Bull Park turn right



Go through a couple of gates and when you reach this footpath junction turn left



After about half a mile you will go through a gate and out on to the road. Turn left to walk into the village. Watch out for cars behind you until you reach the pavement about 30m away.



Staying on the pavement walk up the mini roundabout and turn left to go towards the Plume of Feathers car park which is behind the pub. As the drive to the car park bends right keep straight on.



It's a mile and three-quarters of almost straight track via South Hessary Tor to reach your car.

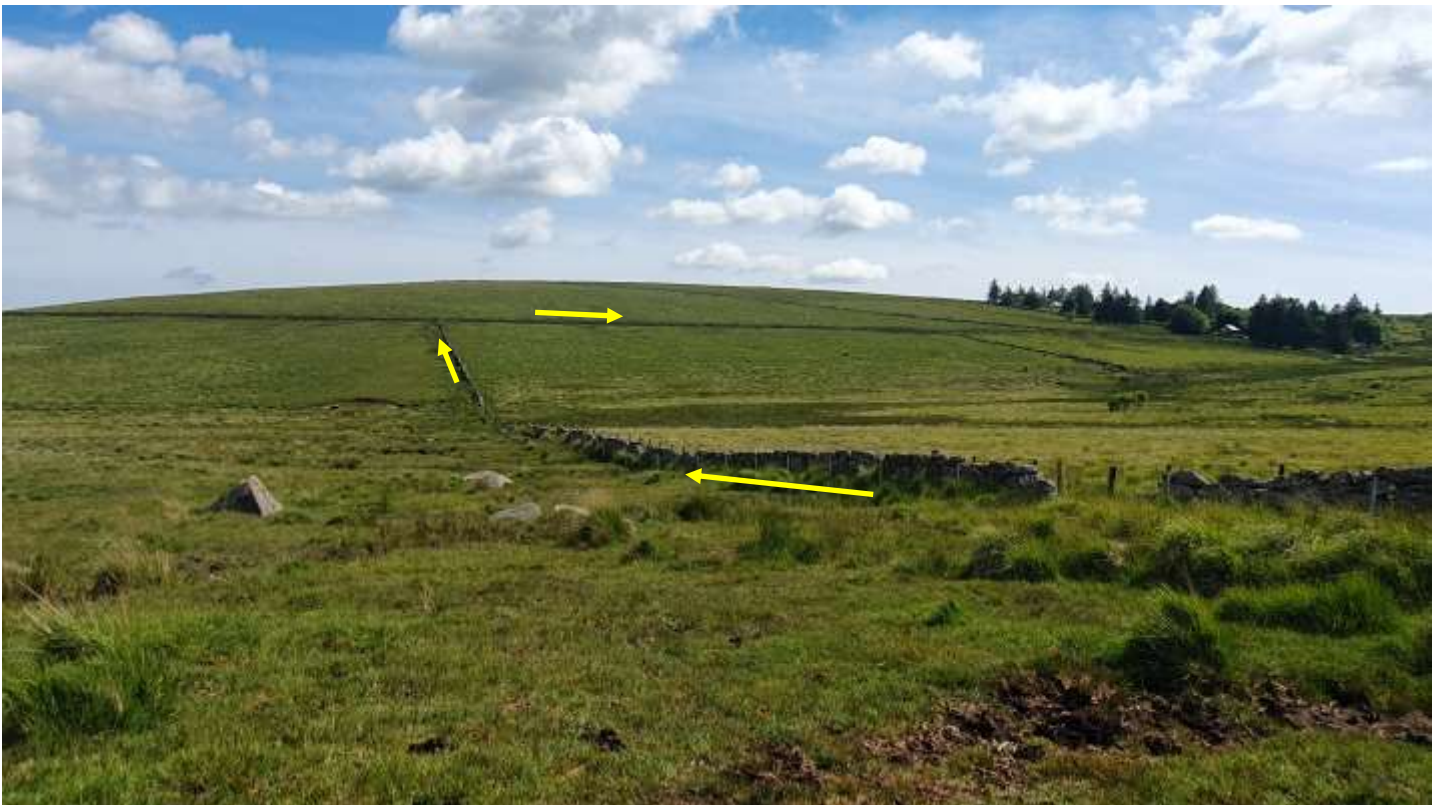


When you reach the bollard in the track turn left and you will very quickly see your car .

SHORTCUT CONTINUED



After a while the nice track swings left but you want to go straight on, still following the wall and fence on your right.



Having come off the track you are now on open moor and having to cross some quite soggy bits. Stay following the wall but you will need to make detours to the left to get around the very wet bits. At the bottom of the hill there is a small bridge that you go over.



When you reach the footpath finger post you have another choice you can either turn right here and go through the gate or you can carry on up to the wall ahead of you which is a the edge of Devonport leat. If you turn right then keeping the wall on your left walk to the other side of the field and go through the corner gate by the leat.



If you want to walk by the leat and it is a bit drier then walk on up to the wall and using the steps and stile set off with the leat on your left.



When you reach Peat Cott turn left go over the bridge and walk up the access track



You will quickly pass the Wesleyan Chapel on your right. Carry on up the track passing through another gate.



As the track bends right keep going straight ahead to your car in the car park.

