



CORNWOOD INN

A Dartmoor freehouse with a warm welcome for all

Walk 2 – 3¼ miles: Cornwood Inn to Slade Viaduct and return

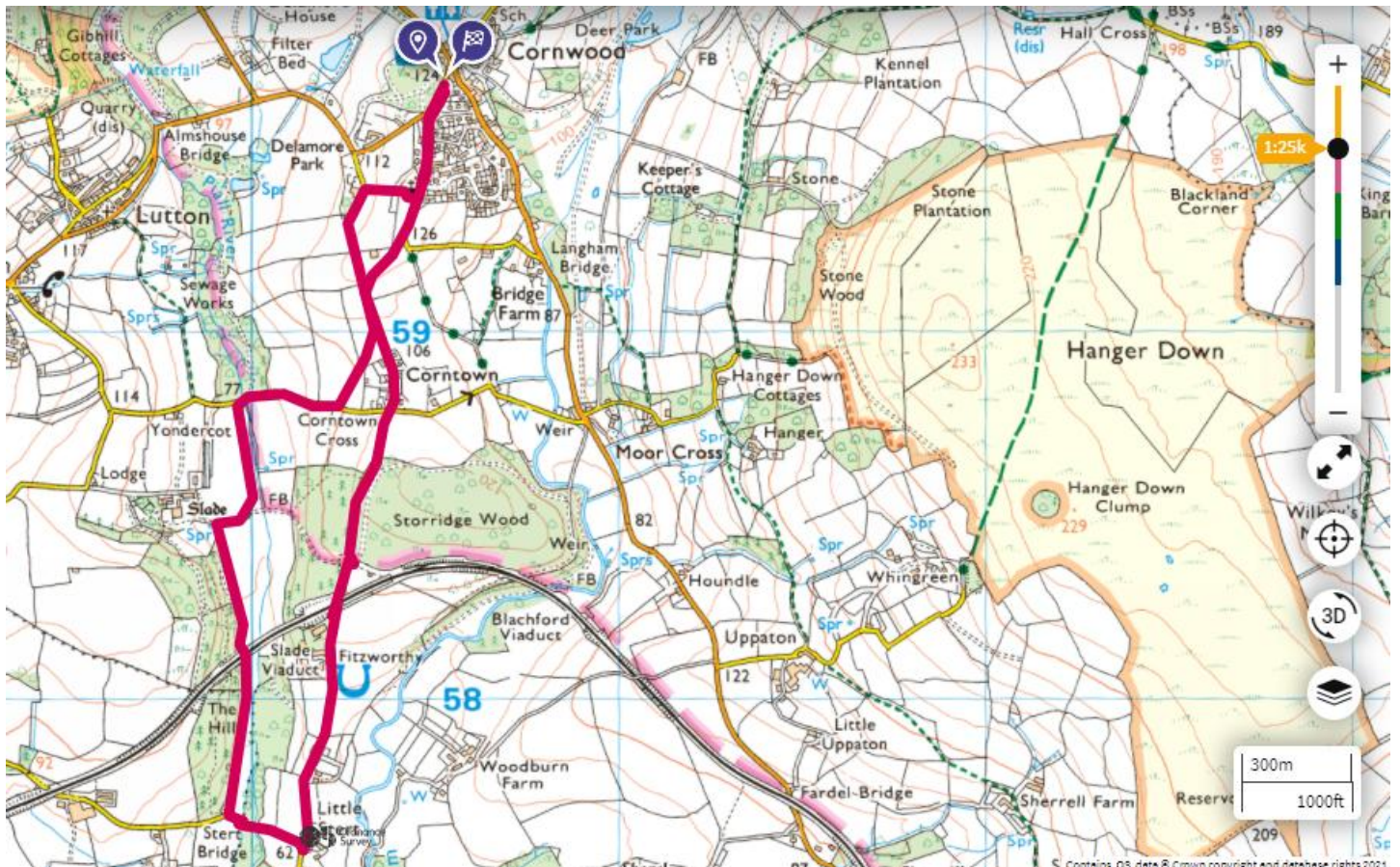
Circular walk with moderate gradients on footpaths and country lanes starting at the pub or church and looping around the Slade Estate, taking in the impressive Slade viaduct up close.

Walks are undertaken at your own risk. **Please follow the countryside code and leave no trace. It is the responsibility of the walker not to trespass, cause damage or upset livestock.** Remember that livestock are kept in the open fields and dogs should be kept on leads. Some pathways can be muddy and therefore suitable footwear should be worn. But don't worry if you do get muddy shoes/boots, muddy boots are still welcome in the Cornwood Inn.... and it will clean off! We recommend you carry OS Explorer map 28 (Dartmoor) or have the OS app on your phone if venturing off the roads and onto the moor.

Summary

This walk can be started from the Cornwood Inn pub or Cornwood Church (St Michael and All Angels) and showcases the impressive Slade viaduct up close. It includes 3 public footpaths and country lanes and takes the walker from Cornwood to the Slade estate, exiting on the Venton road and returning via Corntown, passing the old railway station. The walk involves moderate gradients and a level valley section; gates, stiles and 6 granite steps. Total distance is approximately 3¼ miles.

QR code links to description and map on explore.OSmaps.com





Walk Description

To get to the church from the pub, take the road towards Lutton for approximately 100 meters, then turn left between the small green and bus stop at Crossways. The church is on your right after approximately



200 metres. Follow the path from the lych-gate at the front of the church around to the rear of the bell tower; pass through a small swing gate which leads into the new graveyard and directly to another gate, 8 metres downhill. This leads to a public footpath across a field and descending some 80 metres to Pitman's Lane. The views from this pathway take in: the village of Lutton to the West; Delamore Park and estate, nestling under the impressive moorland summit/cairn of Penn Beacon to the North and then around to Stall Moor to the North West. Interestingly, at night the constellation of the Plough (seven stars in that shape) is clearly visible in the Northern sky.

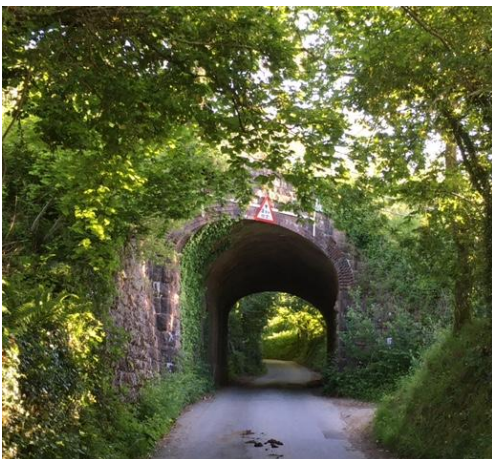
Turn left into Pitman's Lane to the rear of The Old Vicarage (green garage door and gate) and continue on to Tucker's Head in the direction of Corntown but don't go as far as the houses of this hamlet. Some 100 metres after Tucker's Head on the right-hand side is a stile* leading to our second footpath which crosses 2 agricultural fields and leads to a stile at Kennel Lane. ***Note: This stile is easy to miss in the small gap in the hedge. If you reach a field gate on your left or right, you have missed the stile footpath access!** Care is required descending 6 narrow granite steps that lead down into Kennel Lane. Turn right on the lane (downhill) passing Mill Wood on the right and over the narrow road bridge (Slade Bridge) over the river Piall.

The main entrance to Slade estate is on the left where the footpath proceeds along a private drive towards Slade house. Follow the driveway as it runs parallel to the river and swings right, offering a view of Slade House, then turn left through a 5 barred gate, along a pathway skirting a copse to the right. Continue towards and pass under the Slade viaduct, an impressive structure of granite stone supporting the main railway line to Ivybridge.



Historical note

The viaduct, designed by Sir Isambard Kingdom Brunel back in the middle of the 1800's, has the original stone piers of the single line South Devon railway standing alongside the new viaduct, which carries the double line



Continue on the level track, through another gate and woodland alongside the river until meeting a road. Turn left on this lane and cross Stert Bridge over the river Piall. Continue for 200 metres along the lane towards Little Stert T-junction and turn left, where it is signposted towards Cornwood. The lane gently climbs, passing Storridge Wood Lodge on the right and approximately 200 metres further on, Fitzworthy Riding Stables on the left. Shortly after, enter the tunnel under the railway line. Notice the interesting formation of the curved brick on the curved ceiling of the tunnel (good acoustics for echoes!). Continue another 100 metres and you may glimpse sight of the Old Station House on the right, alongside the site of the old railway station and Storridge Wood.



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Historical note: (Taken from the Book of Cornwood & Lutton p 85 1st paragraph)

According to E.T. MacDermott in his *History of the Great Western Railway*, the South Devon Railway, later to become part of the Great Western Railway, opened the line from Totnes to Laira on 5 May 1848. It was a single track line of 7ft broad gauge. In 1852 Cornwood station opened and the railway converted to the present narrow gauge in 1892.

The road widens and has a footpath on the right when the clay lorries used the sidings at the station. Continue to Corntown Cross and the hamlet of Corntown. Views from Corntown show: Lutton to the West, Penn Beacon and Stall Moor to the North and Hanger Down to the east. From Corntown, continue back towards Tucker's Head and bear right this time, passing to the front of the old Cornwood Vicarage (can you see the topiary chickens through the entrance way?) and on to Cornwood Church and Cornwood Inn where the walk began, and hopefully you will have timed it right with pub opening hours for a drink or food.

