

RUBY



COUNTRY

Ruby Trails

The Germansweek Trail

Ancient Land

This area is ecologically rich, with several county wildlife sites, areas of Culm grassland and ancient woodlands. The trail includes green lanes

and a number of linear sections of woodland that provide valuable wildlife corridors, as well as taking you through attractive broadleaved woodland which is listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Front cover photos: Holly Blunt, A. Preston, Violets, English Nature.

FACT FILE

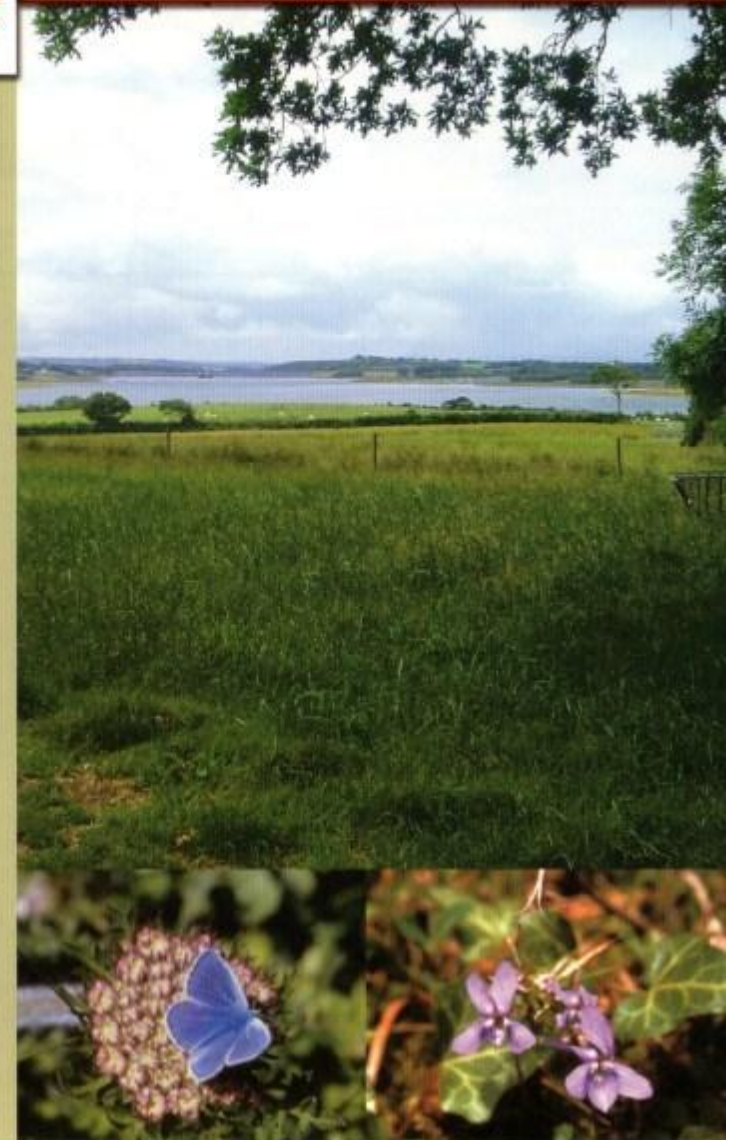
There is one bus per week between Germansweek and Northlew and Okehampton. Traveline have timetable details 0870 6082608.

Grid Reference
SS 435 932

Walk Length
8 km/5 miles. There are two stiles and the walk contains two gentle climbs.

Facilities
Nearest WC and refreshments are at Roadford Tea Rooms on the south side of the reservoir. There is a telephone box at Germansweek. Park at the Southweek Viaduct at the northern end of Roadford Lake. This circular route offers a varied and interesting trail with views over Roadford Reservoir and Dartmoor.

www.therubycountry.com



The Walk



The pastoral landscape around Germansweek dates from the 11th century as the parish has two manors, mentioned in the Domesday Book. In contrast, the reservoir was created in the late 1980's by flooding part of the valley of the River Wolf, a tributary of the Tamar.

The ground may be muddy in places, so walking boots or stout shoes are recommended.

1 Starting at Southweek Viaduct, turn away from the viaduct and take the bridlepath to the right through the South West Lakes Trust Nature Reserve.

Use the bridlepath to skirt the reservoir, but at the first left-hand turn (Feather Bed Lane), head away from the reservoir.

Through the reserve there are some marshy areas with Culm grassland indicator species including cuckooflower, purple moor-grass and sharp flowered rush. This type of environment is also important for butterflies.

2 After the first gateway, turn left up the next track, looking back to your right for a view of Roadford Reservoir. Continue up the track and cross the road.

To the left are views of Southweek Viaduct.

3 As the stone track comes to an end, the path follows the field boundary and then takes a diagonal left turn across the field to the fence. Follow the fence.

To the right there are views of Dartmoor and behind you are the rolling hills and reservoir.

4 Meeting the corner gate, head through and along the left-hand side of the field to the gate ahead.

The bridle path was once the main road to Redstone Farm, but now the only signs are the old oaks lining each side of the track. Be warned, these fields can be very wet in places!

As the track takes you up the hill, stop every once in a while to take in the view of the valley outlined by the ridge of the Dartmoor Tors.

5 Walk through the double gates at the top of the fields and continue up the track to the road. Once you reach the road, turn left and take the second metal gate on your right across the field. Head in a ten o'clock direction across the field to the centre of the wood's edge.

OS maps for this walk:

Landranger: No. 190 Bude & Clovelly [1:50,000 scale]

Explorer: No. 112 Launceston and Holsworthy [1:25,000 scale]

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Cross the stile into the woods, taking the trail down through the right of the wood, and following the fence line through to the ford.

This area is broadleaved woodland and its conifer plantation is listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory. In the spring the area has attractive ground flora including bluebell, primrose and wood anemone.

6 Take the bridge over the ford and up the track. It's a steady climb up to the village of Germansweek, but don't forget to take time to peek over the gates along the track at the picturesque view of Roadford.

Interestingly, Germansweek and nearby Petrockstowe are named after Celtic saints: not uncommon in West Devon.

7 Walk through the village past the telephone box and village hall. Take the lane leading down to the left (this can be slippery on a wet day) past the church of St German, which was drastically restored in the 1870's.

8 Follow the lane down to the fields, meeting the stile. Continue diagonally left across the field to the gate leading through a wooded path to the road. Turn left across the viaduct and back to the car park.

As you reach the viaduct, the farm to the right is Seccombe Farm, which has been owned for over 700 years by the Seccombe family.

Fishing and water sports are available at Roadford Water Sports Centre at the south end of the reservoir.

