

Route Z - Zeal Tor tramway SW Quarter, about 4 miles, 1.5 hours, into centre of south Moor, easy to follow, mostly good ground. The only reasonable way through a lot of poor ground & a useful link to other routes

Shipleigh Bridge (above South Brent) – west of Avon dam – Redlake tramway – optional to Redlake clay works.

Start: Map B 5 SX 681 629

We will start at Shipley Bridge, though it is quite likely you may have joined this off route C or from another way onto the moor. Though there is a car park at Shipley Bridge useful toilets and ice cream van. It is very busy in season and the roads up to it are tortuous and not recommended for horse transport.

This was originally a tramway or inclined plain railway up to the mines and clay pits near Redlake. There were stables half way up and the ponies pulled wagons on rails fixed to granite sleepers. Until recently, there were still bolts left from the railway attached to some of the granite. These were a major hazard to horses. The DNP in 2003 cut these off but let us know if you find any more appearing

It is like a track to begin with and then becomes a sunken path with raised sides and is less easy to ride on, at the far end it is more like a ditch on the left, west side and you ride along side it. However it is a most useful way into or off the moor. The first part is quite attractive with views south to the coast; the second half gets quite barren and grim on a dull day.

At Shipley Bridge you follow the tarmac road along the very pretty river bank for about 400m and then take a sharp left SW and follow up the lane to entrance to the water treatment works. Here you turn right NW and follow a somewhat rough, narrow, overgrown track along with the field wall to your left for about 400m and then you come on the open moor. The track improves and makes its way approx NW for the rest of the way. Initially it goes up N through mostly gorse on Brent Moor with the Bala brook down on your left, west crossing the general line circular **route C** on the way. Half a mile further on as you rise a bit more steeply and bend more NW the ground and track deteriorate but are easy to follow as you head more E into the bleaker higher moor and:

Map B 4 after a while the track bends NW again and is less steep gradually becoming almost level. At SX 651 658 you will see two small stone huts, on the left, a roof- less one which you can tie up to and on the right 200m a tiny roofed one. Here you could go right, east and make for the river Avon and Buckland Ford. At Nov 2005 we and others had not found a good way along this and more research is needed or works on the ground to make it a safe route

A further 200m takes you to the end of the route where it joins the Redlake Tramway known locally as the puffing Billy Track.

You could a join **Route E** here and go North to \Princetown or south an easy ride along the track towards Ivybridge and join **Route C** back to Shipley Bridge

If you like you can also just turn Right, west and go about 2/3 mile along to the interesting Redlake clay works which have a huge conical spoil heap. That the brave can ride up and there you can feel you are really in the centre of the moor. Retrace your steps along the track as the ground all around is err, well quite awful.