

Walk 4 – Bridleway No 8, Milber Lane, Coffinswell (with option to walk Footpath No 4 to Milber Down Fort).

Distance: Approx. 2.7 miles (4.4km) for Bridleway 8 only, or 3.6 miles (5.7 km) including Footpath No 4

Time: About 1 hour for Bridleway 8 only, or 1.5 hours including Footpath No 4 (not a circular route – out and back along the same route)

Terrain: Narrow roads without pavements – bridle path (firm but can get muddy in places) – grassy meadow on Footpath No 4 - gentle ascent/descent

1 Start your walk from the Linny Inn and walk back through the village with Princess Cottages on your right. Keep going straight past several pretty cottages which are located directly on the road.

2 At the telephone box (Grade II listed!) there is a seat, put there by the villagers for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Pass the post box and telephone on your right and follow the road down a steep hill (known as School Hill or Post Office Hill).

3 The thatched cottage at the bottom of the hill is the old school house. Follow the road round to the right and keep walking.

4 After about 250 yards, you will see the old well after which Coffinswell is named ('Coffyn's Well') in a triangle of grass and shrubs on the right. After some years of neglect the area around the well has been cleared of weeds and nettles and village volunteers have created a pleasant garden, with some tree-trunk logs to sit on and rest.

5 Continue walking past a few more houses until you find a right-hand turn up Blackenway Lane at the thatched Rose Cottage. Notice the exposed Oddicombe breccia stone (approx. 2.5 metres high) on your left, which is native to the area and from which some of the old buildings are made.

6 Follow this road until the fork in the lane where the metalled road goes to the right, and the unmetalled Bridleway No 8 is signed to the left. Follow the bridle path, which has magnificent, elevated views to the left including terraced hills grazed by sheep and the village of Kingskerswell beyond. The lane continues for a further 1.4 kilometres.

7 On the way you will pass by the edge of the Zig Zag Quarry, and see dormouse boxes in the hedgerows from time to time.

8 **OPTION:** Footpath No. 4 off Bridleway No. 8. About 1/3 mile on from the quarry you have an option to visit Milber Down Fort using Footpath No. 4. (If you don't want to walk this path then just carry on to 9). A stile on your right is marked as Footpath No. 4. This is the Milber Down Fort footpath (not a bridleway and not a circular route). The footpath takes you up a gently sloping enclosed grassy path. Looking back, there are views of the town of Newton Abbot and Dartmoor beyond.

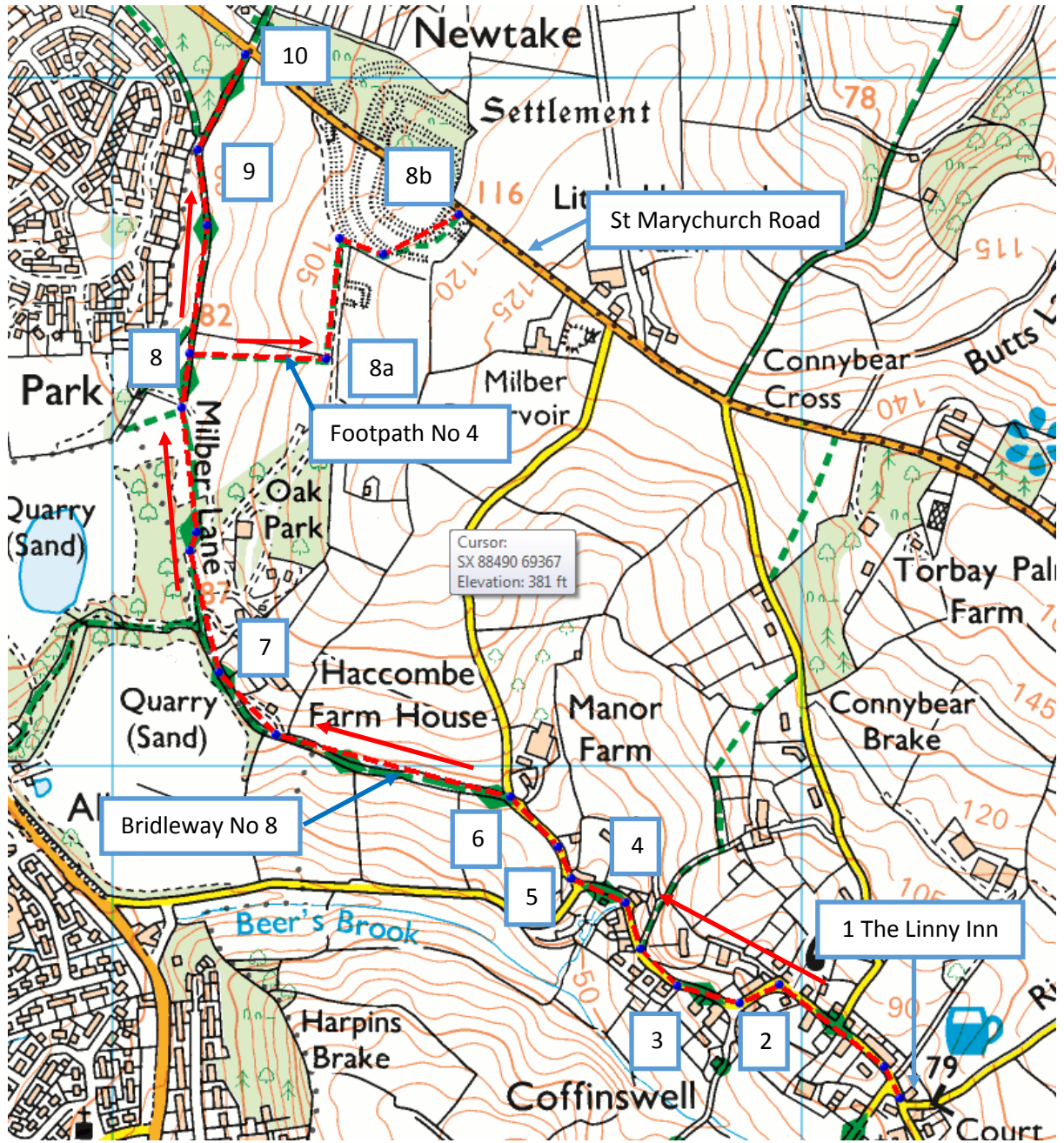
8a At the top of the footpath are 2 stiles which lead into a private open field where sheep often graze. Signs indicate the route to the Milber Down fort.

8b The hillfort is in grassland and consists of banks and ditches to make concentric enclosures. It is a scheduled Ancient Monument and dates from the third to the late first century BC. It is perhaps unfortunate that the St Marychurch road was driven right through the middle of the fort earthworks, so only one half of the fort is visible. Please do not picnic or leave litter on the earthworks. Whilst the footpath does ultimately lead to a stile onto the busy St Marychurch Road (60mph speed limit), you are advised not to use the stile and it is not included as a feature of this walk. So, retrace your steps to the grassy path back down to the Bridleway. Returning back to Bridleway No.8, turn right and continue to follow the lane as before.

9 Close to the entrance to Ben Steadman woods, there is a stone which marks the boundary between Newton Abbot town and Coffinswell parish (letters NA on one side, C on the other). There is also a bench just inside the woods if you need a rest.

10 Bridleway No 8 ends about 40 metres further on at St Marychurch Road. So, after exploring the woods, you are advised to turn back and return the way you came, back to the Linny Inn.

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1 The Linny Inn



2 Grade II listed phone box



3 The School House



4 The Well



5 Turn right to Blackenway Lane



6 Turn left onto Bridleway No 8





7 Zigzag Quarry



Dormouse box



8 Turn right to Footpath 4 (optional extra walk) – skip to photo 9 if you're not doing it



8a Stile leads to grass meadow



Fork right at the tape



Up the slope to the top



Left at the top towards St Marychurch Road



8b The Iron Age Settlement fortifications



Stile onto St Marychurch Road (not recommended)



9 Parish boundary stone





10 Far end of the walk at St Marychurch Road