

Luxulyan Valley & Mining Heritage



Enjoy a beautiful circular walk across the Treffry Viaduct and through the Luxulyan Valley - rich with fascinating mining heritage.

Difficulty	Moderate (see note below)
Distance	3.7 miles
Walk time	Approx. 2 hours
Line	Atlantic Coast Line
Start/End	Luxulyan station
Facilities	Public toilets in Luxulyan village. Village shop and King Arms pub.

Opening days/times: Call 01752 850202

Please note: The walk includes a number of stiles and can be muddy in places.

On arrival at Luxulyan station, cross the car park and bear right to walk slightly uphill until you reach the road.

Turn left, and after a few paces cross the road and go up the steps to the right with a Public Footpath sign.

Take this path, which almost immediately opens out on to a residential street. Turn left uphill and follow the road as it snakes around with Luxulyan School soon appearing on your right.

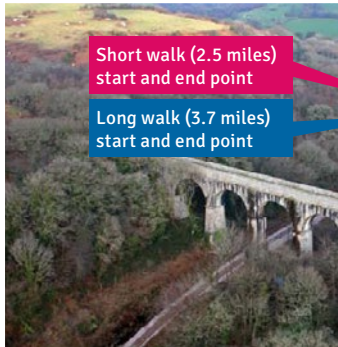
When you come to a T-junction turn right which leads you past the church and down to the Post Office and village store.

Immediately before the village store, take the road off to the right between the houses. This narrows to a path, with a stone stile to cross. Go over the bridge crossing the railway, and through the gate.

Walk straight across the field, and through the gap between the hedgerows. Then go diagonally right down towards the gate. Cross the stone stile into a field strewn with boulders.

Follow the path down to the right and into the woods. Immediate as you pass the waymarker with the yellow arrow, turn left following the narrow path. Where the path forks, follow the yellow arrow slightly up hill.

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Short walk (2.5 miles)
start and end point

Long walk (3.7 miles)
start and end point

1 Branch Line Overbridge

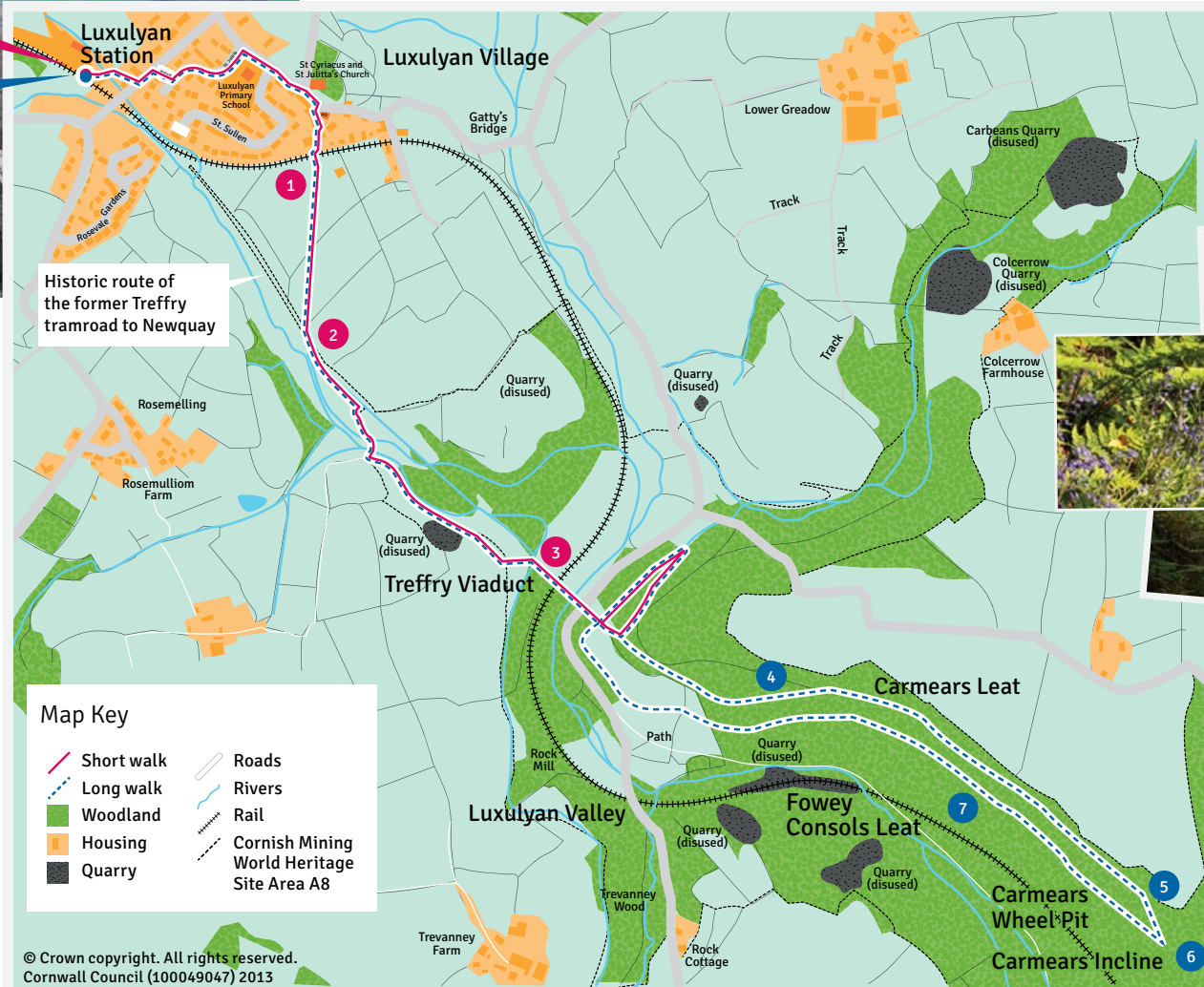
This granite overbridge was constructed circa 1872 at the establishment of the Cornwall Minerals Railway. The existing tramroad inclined plane, further down the valley, was too steep for locomotive traffic, which demanded that an easier route be created through the valley from Pons Mill to Luxulyan - today's Atlantic Coast Line.

2 The Tramroads

The remains of horse drawn mineral tramroads can be seen throughout the valley and were an efficient way of conveying granite, china clay, copper ore, lime, coal, and other supplies and materials. The two parallel lines of granite blocks set into the trackway at this location once held the iron rails which formed the tramroad link between the respective harbours of Newquay and Par.

3 The Treffry Viaduct - a work of art in granite

Built between 1839-42, the viaduct conveyed leat waters to power an inclined plane and to feed the nearby Fowey Consols copper mine; standing at 30m above the valley floor this entirely granite built structure has ten majestic arches and was the first of its type constructed in the south west.



4 The Leats

Water was an essential commodity in the nineteenth century as a vital power source for industry and you will see many signs of its management throughout the walk. It powered many water wheels and enabled ore processing at the nearby Fowey Consols copper mine while keeping Charlestown Harbour, also part of the World Heritage Site, silt free for shipping. Of the two principal leat systems within the valley the upper, known as the Carmears Leat, powered the inclined plane (feature 6), while the lower, the Fowey Consols Leat (feature 7) fed the mine.



5 The Carmears Wheel Pit

This impressive granite water wheel pit initially powered the adjoining inclined plane (feature 6) and was later reused to drive a china stone grinding mill, the remains of which can be seen on either side of the pit.



6 The Carmears Incline

This was constructed at the same time as the viaduct and wheel pit, and completed the link between the mineral harbours at Newquay and Par, on the north and south coasts respectively. It also connected with the major granite quarries to the northeast of the valley, at Colcerrow and Carbeans, and hauled trucks laden with cut granite, china clay, coal, lime and sundry supplies.

7 The Fowey Consols Leat

Fowey Consols was a major copper mine in the middle years of the nineteenth century with a workforce approaching 1,700 at its height. In order to reduce the mine's operating costs many water wheels were employed to pump, haul and process ore, which required a 2.5 mile (4 km) leat to be constructed from a tributary of the Par River near Gatty's bridge, just outside Luxulyan village, to the mine.



Cross the wooden stile, go down the steps and turn immediately right. Almost straight away you come to a fork - bear left.

Go over another wooden stile and across two small bridges. Where the path splits take the left yellow arrow and continue straight on for some time.

You emerge from the woods by crossing a wooden stile which leads into an open field. At the Public Footpath sign, turn left and continue until you reach a wooden gate.

Go through the gate and down some steep steps. After a few yards you will be on top of the Treffry Viaduct with scenic views down to the railway below.

After walking across the viaduct, continue straight, following the woodland path.

After a while, you'll come to a small clearing where you'll see a bench and some stones to rest on.

Take a small detour on your right to see the impressive Carmears Wheel Pit.

When you've finished exploring this area, go back to the previous path and continue down it, passing an old stone structure. Continue down the hill.

You'll come to a pillar signposting the way to 'Fowey Consols Leat'. Take this path. Soon you'll get a different view of Carmears Wheel Pit from below.

Further along the path you will come to a stile on your left and a small stone bridge on your right.

At this point you need to deviate from the map on the previous page due to a temporary diversion currently in place (autumn 2023) further along the map route. Instead of following the map:

Go over the stone bridge, through the gate and take the path diagonally up through the field. At the top is a bench for a well-earned breather.

Just after the bench turn left and you'll be back on top of the viaduct.

Walk back along the viaduct and retrace your steps back to the village.

Feeling hungry? Stop off at the King Arms, just across the bridge from Luxulyan station, for a refreshing drink or a bite to eat before catching the train home.

Opening days/times: Call 01752 850202



Train times

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Public rights of way cross private land, so please keep to paths and keep dogs on leads. Occasionally work may mean diversions are put in place. If so, please follow local signs. Directions intended as a guide only. It is always advisable to carry the relevant OS Map whilst out walking.

Devon & Cornwall
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