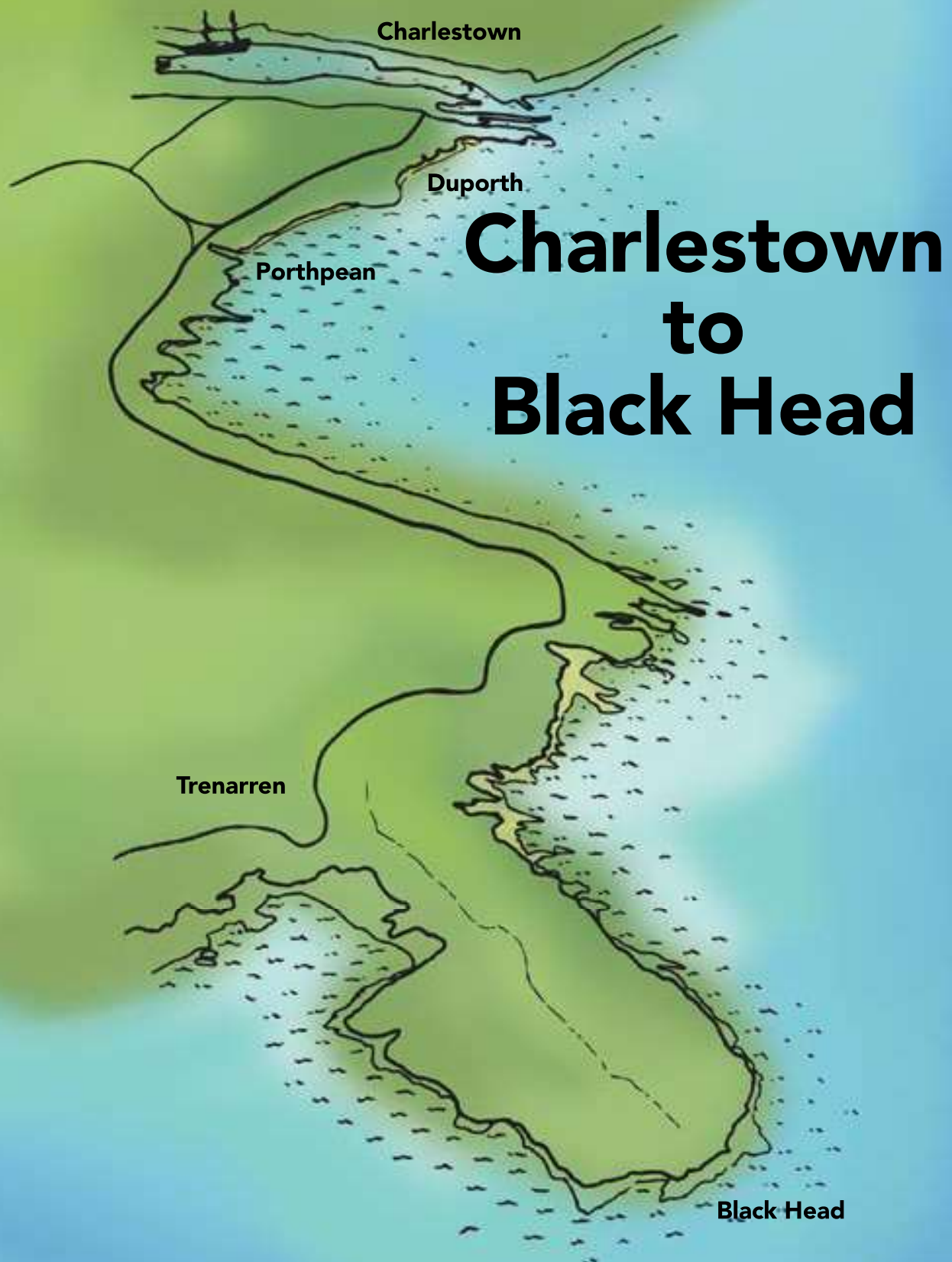




















SHORT WALKS IN ST AUSTELL BAY PARISH



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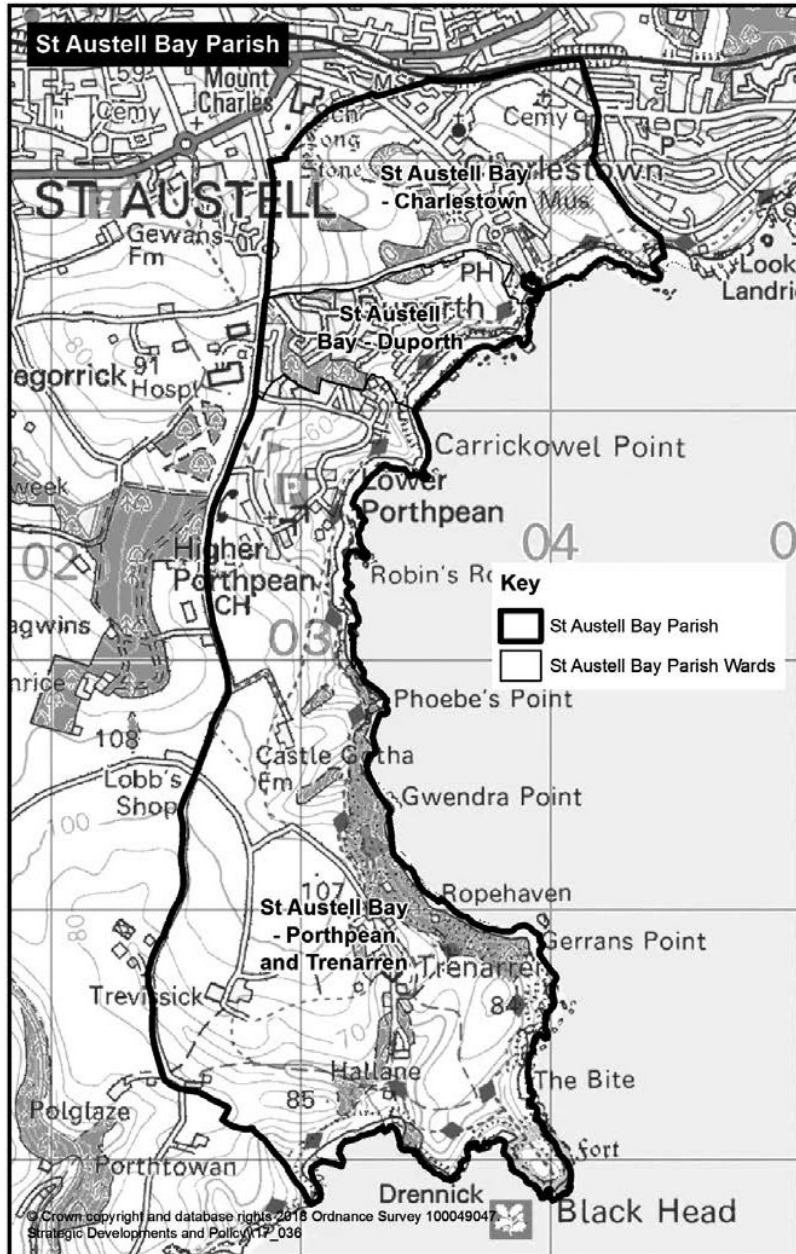
Key:

 Easy walk

 Moderate walk

 More difficult walk

PARISH MAP



INTRODUCTION

I don't know which came first, my love of walking or my love of border collies but many years, many miles and 4 loveable border collies later, my love is unabated.

It was during my walks around St Austell Bay Parish that my idea of a Walking Booklet was formed.

Whilst most residents and visitors know Charlestown and Porthpean beach, there is so much more to St Austell Bay Parish to discover and enjoy away from the crowds.

We are lucky to have the South West Coast Path (SWCP) running along the seaward boundary of the parish with its panoramic views of Cornwall's coastline, but there are also many other lesser known footpaths and bridleways which take you into the countryside revealing other historic features, hamlets and coves.

Walking is good for both physical and mental well-being and it costs nothing! The sight of waves on the beach, the reflections in puddles, the falling leaves, dew on spiders' webs, sunlight through the trees and birdsong can all be appreciated for free.

And now for the Health and Safety bit!

- * If you undertake any of these walks please wear sensible footwear and clothing appropriate for the time of year. Many footpaths can get muddy and slippery.
- * If walking alone let someone know where you are going and your expected time of arrival.
- * Take a mobile phone with you. You will not always be in a reception area but it is a link.
- * Check weather conditions and tide times before you set out.
- * Some walks include steep gradients, particularly on the SWCP; please take this into account depending on your ability and time factor.
- * Some walks are across farmland so please close gates and keep dogs under control.

Please respect the privacy of residents when walking through the villages and hamlets.

The book is designed primarily for walkers. Footpaths are for walkers only. Cyclists and horseriders are restricted to bridleways and are not allowed on footpaths including much of the SWCP.

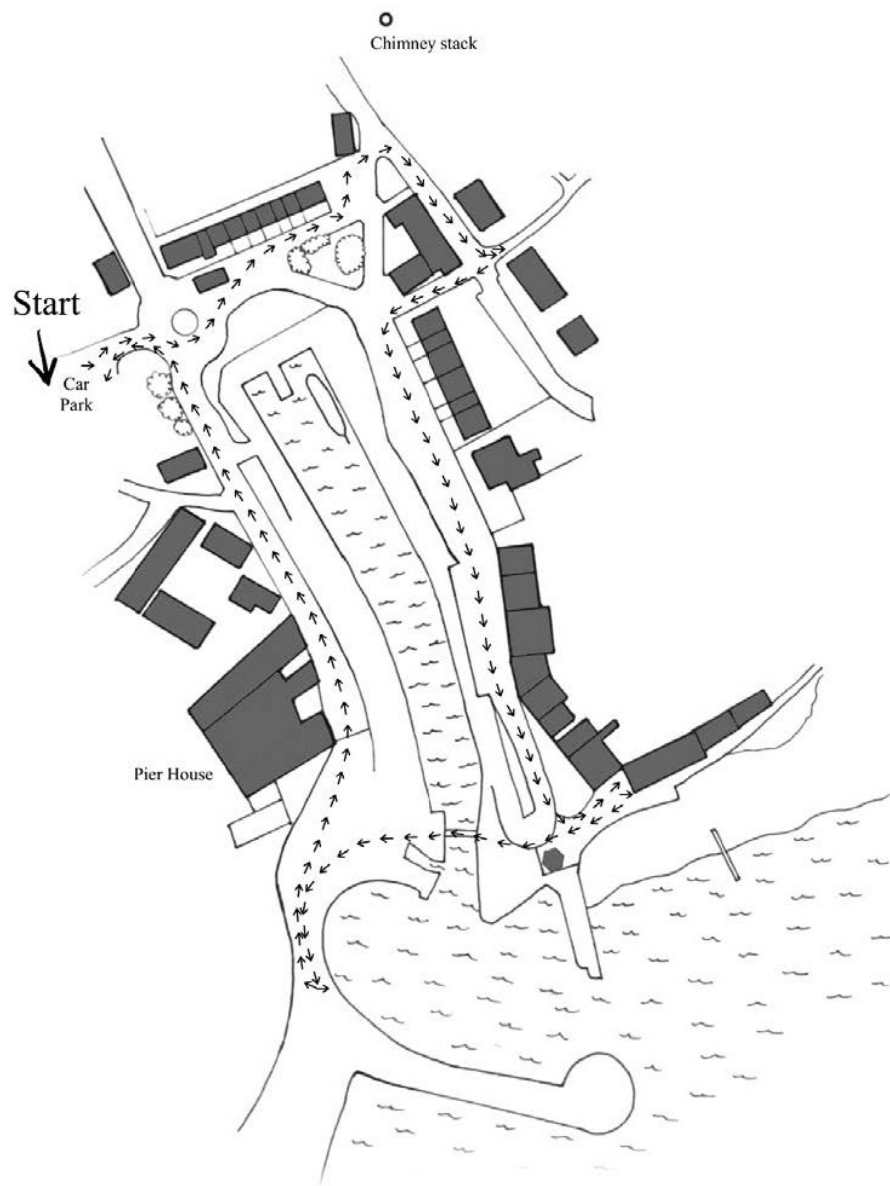
I hope this booklet allows you to sample a series of walks with historic interest, to experience new perspectives and to enjoy and appreciate our beautiful coast and countryside, with border collie optional!

Trudy Reynolds, St Austell Bay Parish Councillor.

Spring 2024

Walk 1

CHARLESTOWN HISTORY TRAIL - short circular walk - 1 mile (approx)



This walk highlights the main features of this historic harbour and its setting within the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site.

Leave the Car Park (Grid Ref SX03797 51685) and carefully cross Charlestown Road to look at Information Board above the Harbour.

Walk straight ahead keeping the harbour on your right. Note the raised Cask Banks (1) in front of you and on your right. On your left are the old weighbridges.

Bear left and ahead of you is the Rowing Club Gig Shed and behind it and to the left is one of the ore floors (2) which is a Listed Structure in front of the Rashleigh Arms. In front of you, towards your right, is the Lovering Clay Dry Chimney stack.

Turn right into Quay Road walking behind the museum. On your left and up a short slope is the new development of The Nest, formerly the Lovering Clay Dry (3). The chimney stack marks the far end of the Clay Dry and the nearest end retains some of the original Linhay and the tunnel entrance to the harbour. Several of the original features of the Clay Dry have been incorporated into the development.

Walk back down the slope and turn left into Quay Road and above the Inner Dock (4). The remains of the tunnel from the Clay Dry and tramway above the clay loading chutes are here.

At end of Quay Road note the pilchard pressing holes in Salamander (former pilchard cellar) (5) and the Roundhouse (former Harbour Master's office) (6). Walk down the steps towards harbour noting lime kilns. Cross the footbridge on the lock gates with the Pier House Hotel in front of you.

To your left is the Outer Harbour (7). In adverse weather conditions we do not recommend you walk to the harbour entrance.

Walk back along the harbour towards the car park. At Coastguard Lane you can take the optional addition to the route up to The Battery. Please note this section is uphill and will add extra time to your walk. Continue up Charlestown Road giving a good view of the Inner Harbour, Dock Gates, Clay shutes and boats (8).

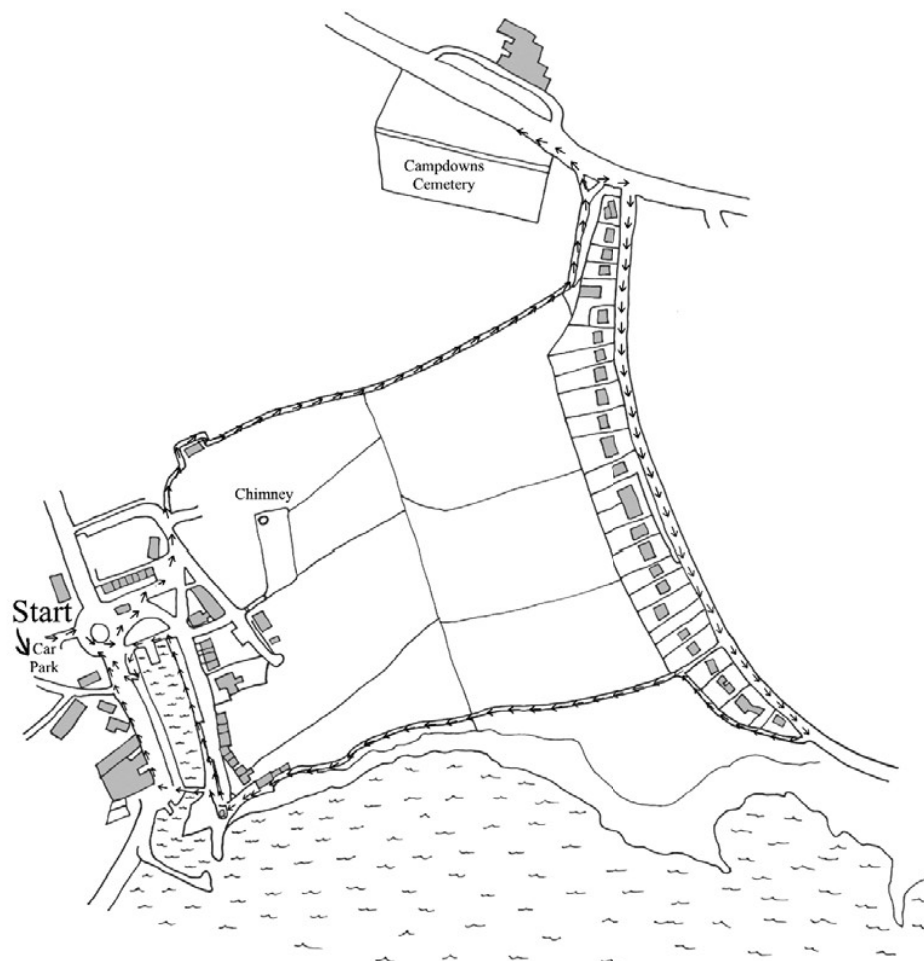
Note the remains of a pulley system, at the end of Barkhouse Lane, on your left. This operated the leat system for flushing the harbour (9).

Return to the car park.



Walk 2

CHARLESTOWN - EAST - 1.5 miles (approx.)



This walk takes you out of the village, through woodland towards Carlyon Parish and back along the coast.

Leave the Car Park (Grid Ref SX03797 51685) and carefully cross Charlestown Road to look at Information Board above the Harbour.

Walk straight ahead keeping the harbour on your right. Note the raised Cask Banks (1) in front of you and on your right. On your left are the old weighbridges.

Bear left and ahead of you is the Rowing Club Gig Shed and behind it one of the ore floors (2) which is a Listed Structure in front of the Rashleigh Arms. In front of you, towards your right, is the Lovering Clay Dry chimney stack.

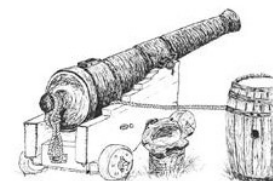
Bear left into Quay Road. Walk past Polmear Farm (keeping it on your right) and follow public footpath sign (permitted route) on your left. Follow this path and at the second right hand bend you will see the end of The Ropewalk*. There is no public access to this wooded area at present. Looking back towards Charlestown you will be able to see the Lovering Clay Dry chimney stack and the former Lovering Clay Dry.

Follow the path up through the wooded area, bearing left near the top of the footpath. At the road you can detour to the left to visit Campdowns Cemetery with its Commonwealth War Graves if you want.

If not, turn right at the road and turn right again into Sea Road. After about a third of a mile, after Monterey Lodge and before the Porth Avallen Hotel, turn right onto the South West Coast Path. Follow the footpath back to Charlestown past Salamander; note pilchard pressing holes in wall.

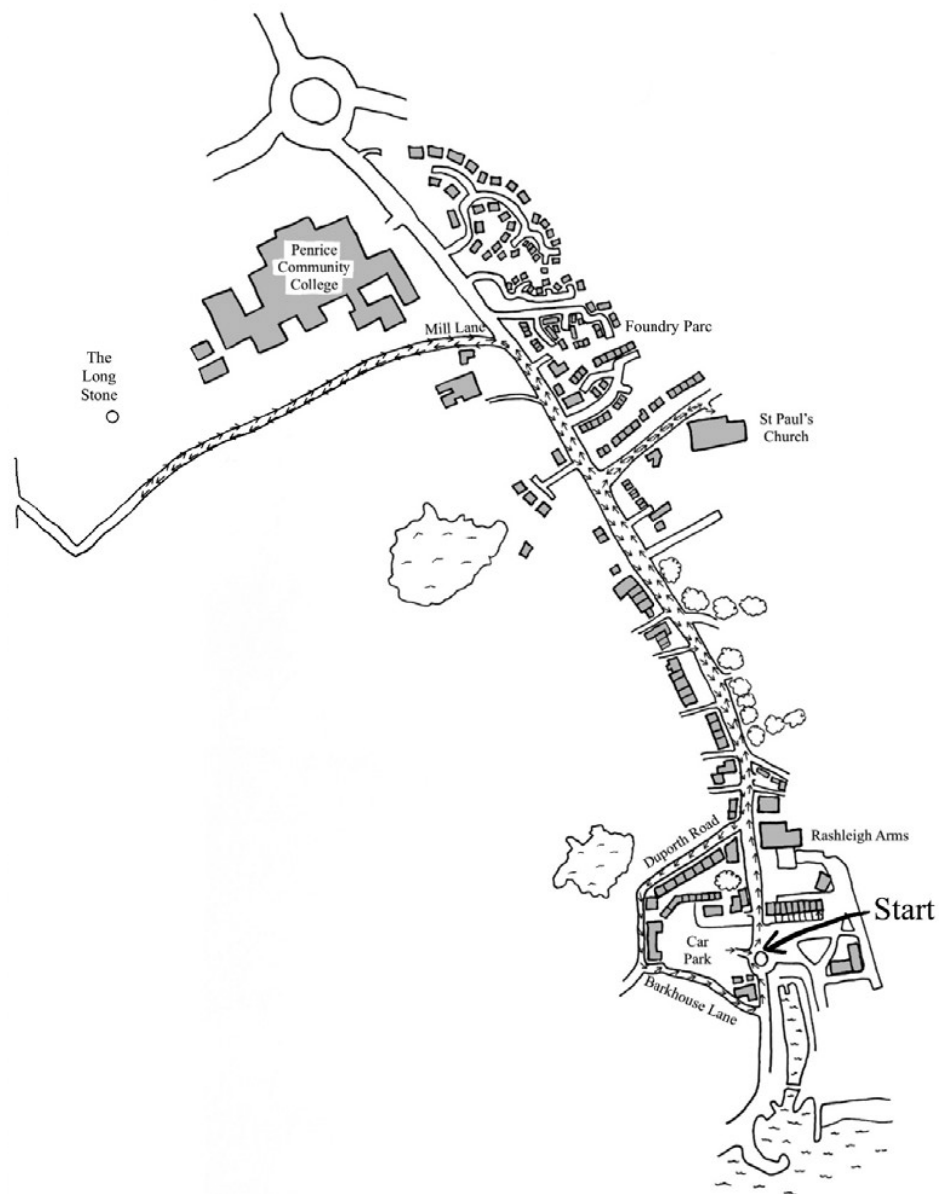
You can then either turn right into Quay Road, above the Inner Harbour walking to the head of the harbour and back to the car park or cross the footbridge towards the Pier House Hotel. Turn left to the outer harbour if you wish, before retracing your route back to the car park.

* The Ropewalk is a 360 metres long and 4 meters wide straight, level track which was used for spinning and twisting ropes during their manufacture. It is historically connected to the harbour where ropes were used for shipping. Although some 45 ropewalks are recorded in the county this is one of the most complete survivals. There is no public access at present.



Walk 3

CHARLESTOWN - NORTH - 1.5 miles (approx.)



This walk is mainly on pavements and takes you to the top of the village via the Church. At the top of the village you can appreciate former industrial sites and an Ancient Monument.

Leave the Car Park (Grid Ref SX03797 51685) and turn left into Charlestown Road. Cross over the road towards the Rashleigh Arms. Note the cobbled car park which was formerly one of the significant ore floors in the village. Above the Rashleigh Arms is the former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (Grade II Listed). Continue walking up the hill and take the next right into Church Road to walk to St Paul's Church. This was built in 1851 and although the original design included a spire it ran out of funding. The present spire was not built until 1971.

Retrace your steps back to Charlestown Road and continue walking up hill, past the Old Foundry on your right. This is now a modern housing development but it retains many historic features. Note the Waterwheel and former Pattern Store together with the facade of the main Foundry Building.

At the top of the village carefully cross the road and enter Mill Lane. Here you can still see some former retaining walls of the smelting works and the cornmill. Continue along this lane and where it becomes a footpath only you can see on your right hand side (in the school grounds) The Long Stone (Ancient Monument). There are good views down towards the village and the coast. This area was formerly the site of South Polmear Copper Mine. Retrace your steps to main road.

Continue walking back down Charlestown Road. Alongside the footpath are the remains of the leat system and about halfway down (near Pond House) you will have views of the ponds which stored the water for sluicing the harbour.

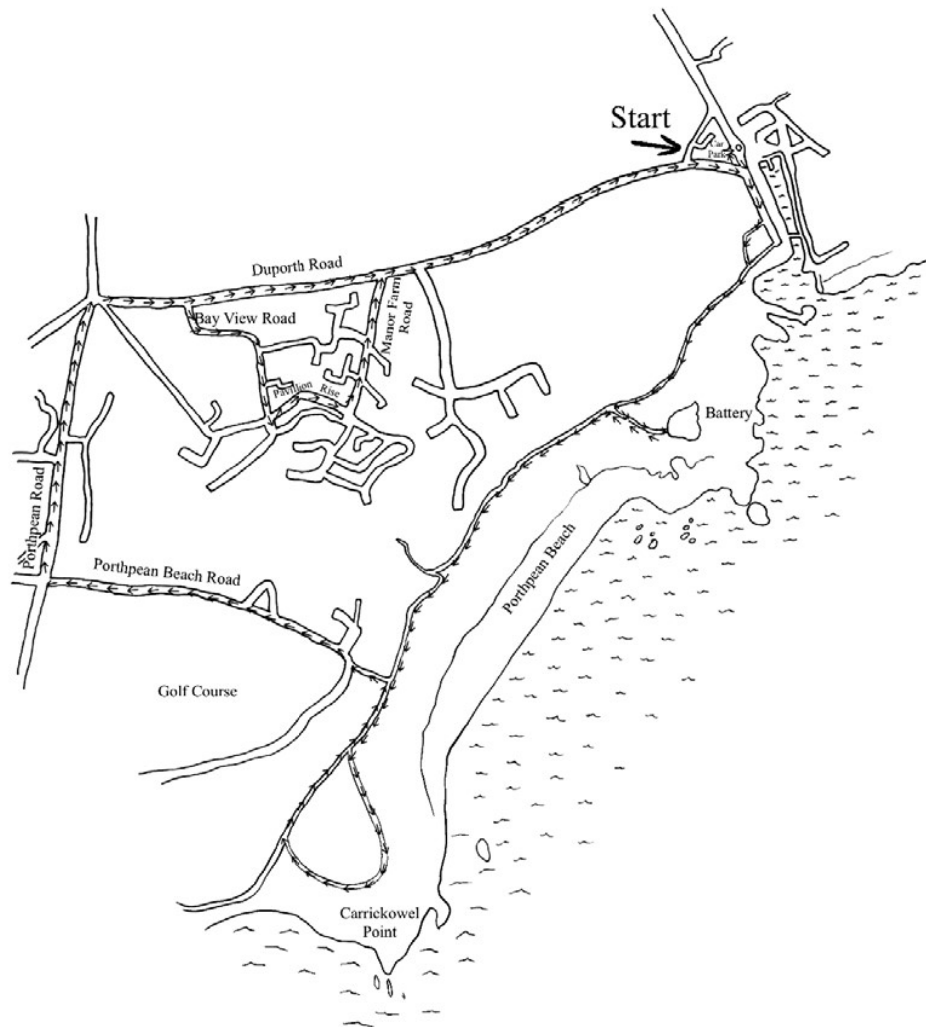
Opposite the Rashleigh Arms turn right into Duporth Road. At the bend in the road on the right hand side you will see the remains of an Anderson shelter. Take the next turning on the left hand side and walk down Barkhouse Lane. Note the remains of a pulley system which operated the leat system for flushing the harbour (9).

Turn left to return to the car park.



Walk 4

CHARLESTOWN AND DUPORTH - circular walk - 2.5 miles (approx.)



This walk takes you towards Duporth Bay and Porthpean via the Battery and introduces you to the former Duporth Manor Estate.

Leave the Car Park (Grid Ref SX03797 51685) and turn right, down the hill, towards the sea. Just before the Harbour Public House, at Battery Terrace, turn right and walk up the slope to a field gate and the South West Coast Path (SWCP) signed to Porthpean. Follow the footpath up to Charlestown Battery (QR 10). At the Battery you will have lovely views down on to Charlestown, with its inner and outer harbours as well as the Lovering Clay Dry Chimney Stack.

Continue on the SWCP towards Porthpean walking above Duporth Beach. The path then runs uphill into a wooded area on your left. Turn left and follow a semi-circular path around Carrickowel Point where there are views back to Duporth and the Battery and ahead of you to Porthpean Beach and Black Head. At the end of the path note the remains of a WW2 Lookout. Turn right here, back onto the SWCP, and in a short distance turn left into the public footpath taking you onto Porthpean Beach Road. Walk all the way up the road, keeping the golf course on your left. At the top of the road turn right. Follow the pavement along Porthpean Road. At the second junction turn right into Duporth Road (known locally as Brick Hill). You can then either walk directly back down the hill to Charlestown or you can take a detour into Bay View Road, Duporth and see the remains of Duporth Manor Estate, before rejoining Duporth Road further down towards Charlestown.

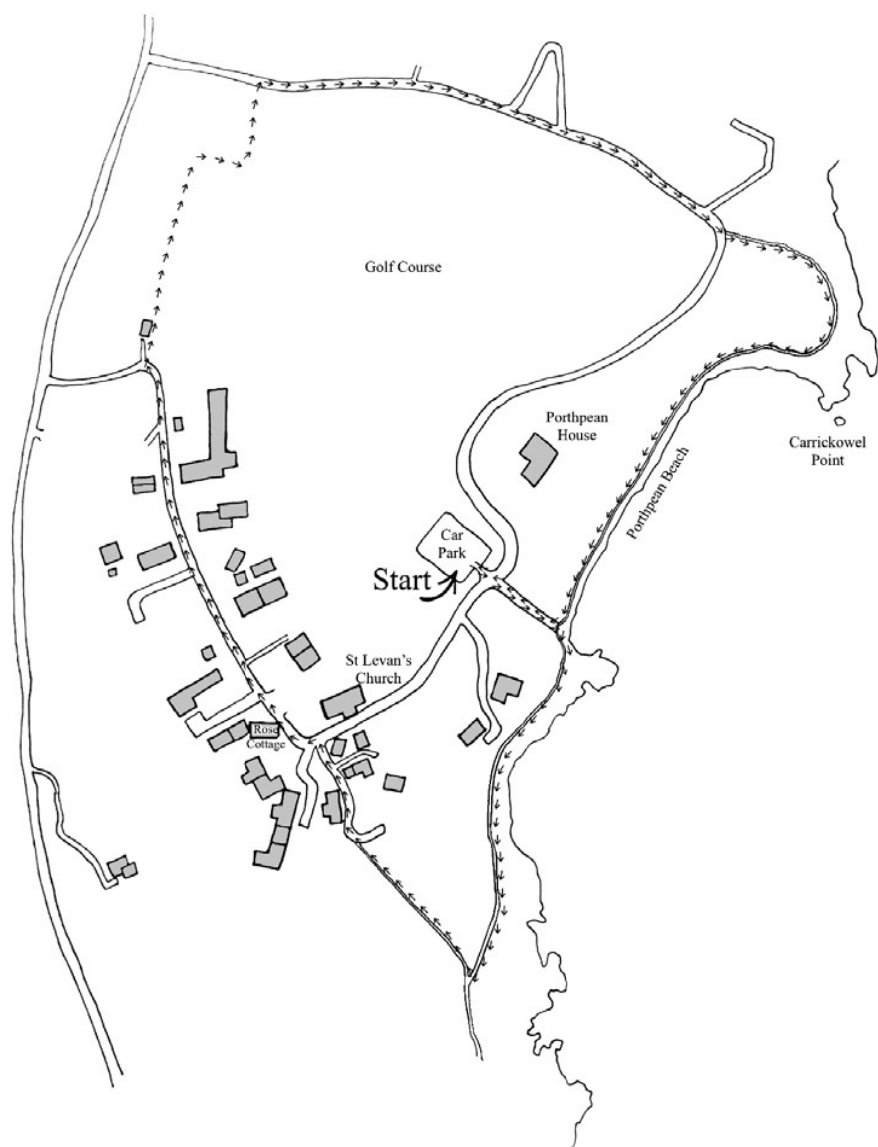
If you turn into Bay View Road you will be entering the former site of Duporth Manor, which was the home of Charles Rashleigh. Following Charles Rashleigh's death in 1823, the estate was sold and has had several different owners as well as being home to parts of the Indian and the United States armies in World War 2 and being a holiday camp site which ran until the early 2000's. You can still see two of the original holiday chalets which date from the opening of the holiday camp in 1934. The manor house itself suffered a fire in 1961 and gradually deteriorated becoming uneconomic to repair. It was finally demolished in 1989. The Clock Tower, once part of Manor Farm, does remain and is now a Grade II Listed Building. To see the chalets and Clock Tower, walk along Bay View Road following its route as it meanders through the estate, into Pavilion Rise. The two chalets can be seen on the left in a gladed area, and the Clock Tower further down the slope.

To rejoin Duporth Road follow Pavilion Rise into Manor Farm Road and continue to the end. Turn right into Duporth Road and walk, with care, down the hill, towards Charlestown and the car park.



Walk 5

PORTHPEAN - circular walk - 1.5 miles (approx.)



This short walk takes you towards Porthpean beach, turning along the Coast Path before cutting inland to the lovely hamlet of Higher Porthpean. You follow a bridleway through the Golf Course to the road then back down to the coast and beach.

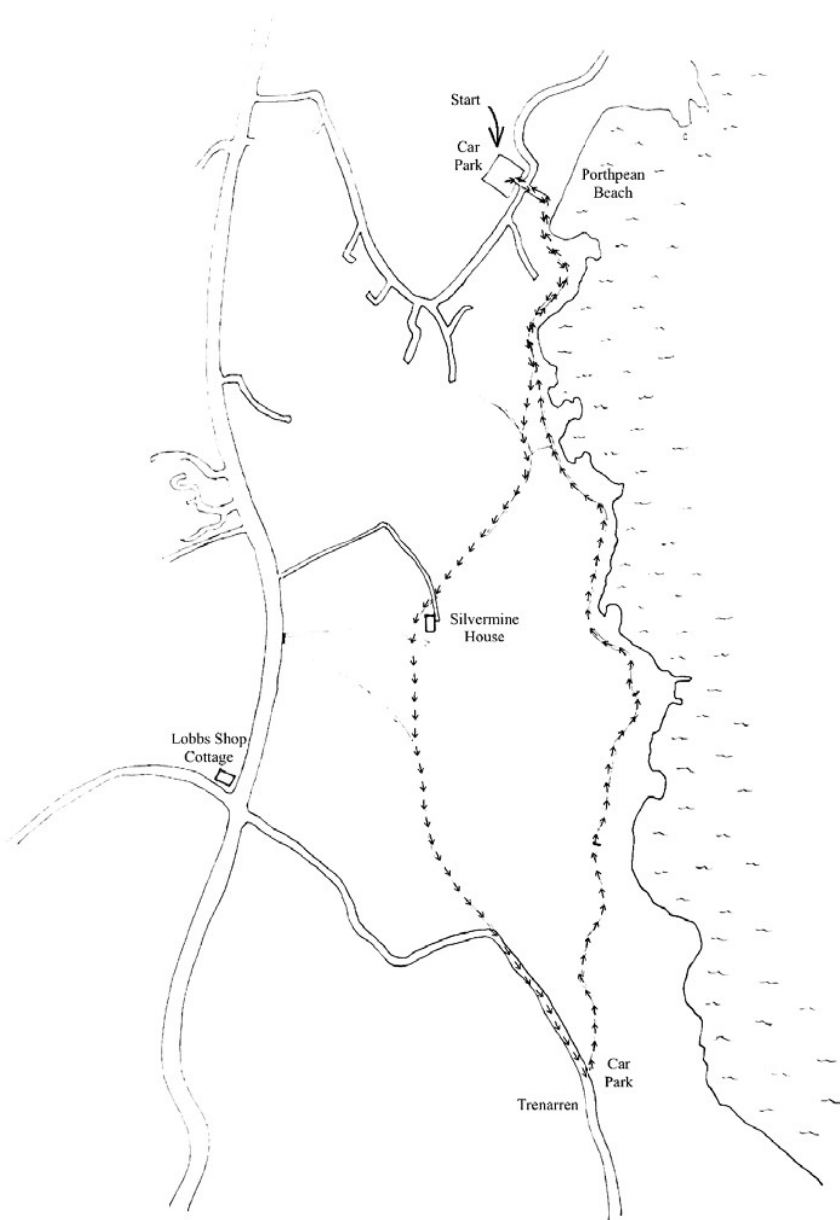
Leave car park (Grid Ref SX03072 50669) and walk downhill towards the beach. At the end of road, above the beach, turn right onto the South West Coast Path (SWCP). Follow this path, going up some steps, and after approx 230 meters go through the public gate on your right. Walk diagonally across the field towards the right and the hamlet of Higher Porthpean, which you can see in the distance. Go through the kissing gate, across the driveway and up the slope to the road. Turn left into Higher Porthpean. You will see St Levan's Church in front of you and the War Memorial Plaque on your left hand-side on Rose Cottage. Keep to the road up the hill. Walk with care.

Just beyond the end of the village at the left hand bend take the public bridleway in front of you and keep walking straight ahead. Continue on the bridleway through the Golf Course. On reaching the road turn right and walk on the pavement down the hill. Where the road bears to the right walk straight ahead on the footpath. Cross SWCP and walk straight ahead to follow the semi-circular path around Carrickowel Point in a clockwise direction. At the remains of the WW2 Lookout rejoin the SWCP and turn left to walk down the path and steps towards Porthpean Beach. You will see some of Porthpean House (private property) above the beach. Walk along the top of the beach and join the slip road before bearing right and uphill back to the car park.



Walk 6

PORTHPEAN TO TRENARREN - circular walk inland route - 2.2 miles (approx.)

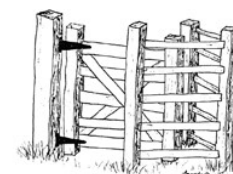


This walk takes you inland across farmland to the top of Trenarren village and back along the South West Coast Path.

Leave car park (Grid Ref SX03072 50669) and walk straight ahead, towards the beach. At the end of the road, above the beach, turn right onto South West Coast Path (SWCP). Follow this path, going up some steps, and after approx 230 metres go through a public gate on your right. Bear left and walk upwards across the field towards a granite post. Walk along the top hedgeline and about halfway across the field you will see 4 steps to a kissing gate. Go through the gate and you will see Silvermine House, in the distance, ahead of you. Walk diagonally across this field to a metal gate. Cross the track and go through the metal kissing gate. Walk across the lower corner of this field to a wooden kissing gate. Walk diagonally across the next small field to another wooden kissing gate. You are now close to Castle Gotha Scheduled Monument (there is very little surface evidence of this site remaining). Cross the next field to another wooden gate before following the lower hedgeline in the next field to a metal kissing gate which takes you onto the minor road from Lobb's Shop to Trenarren.

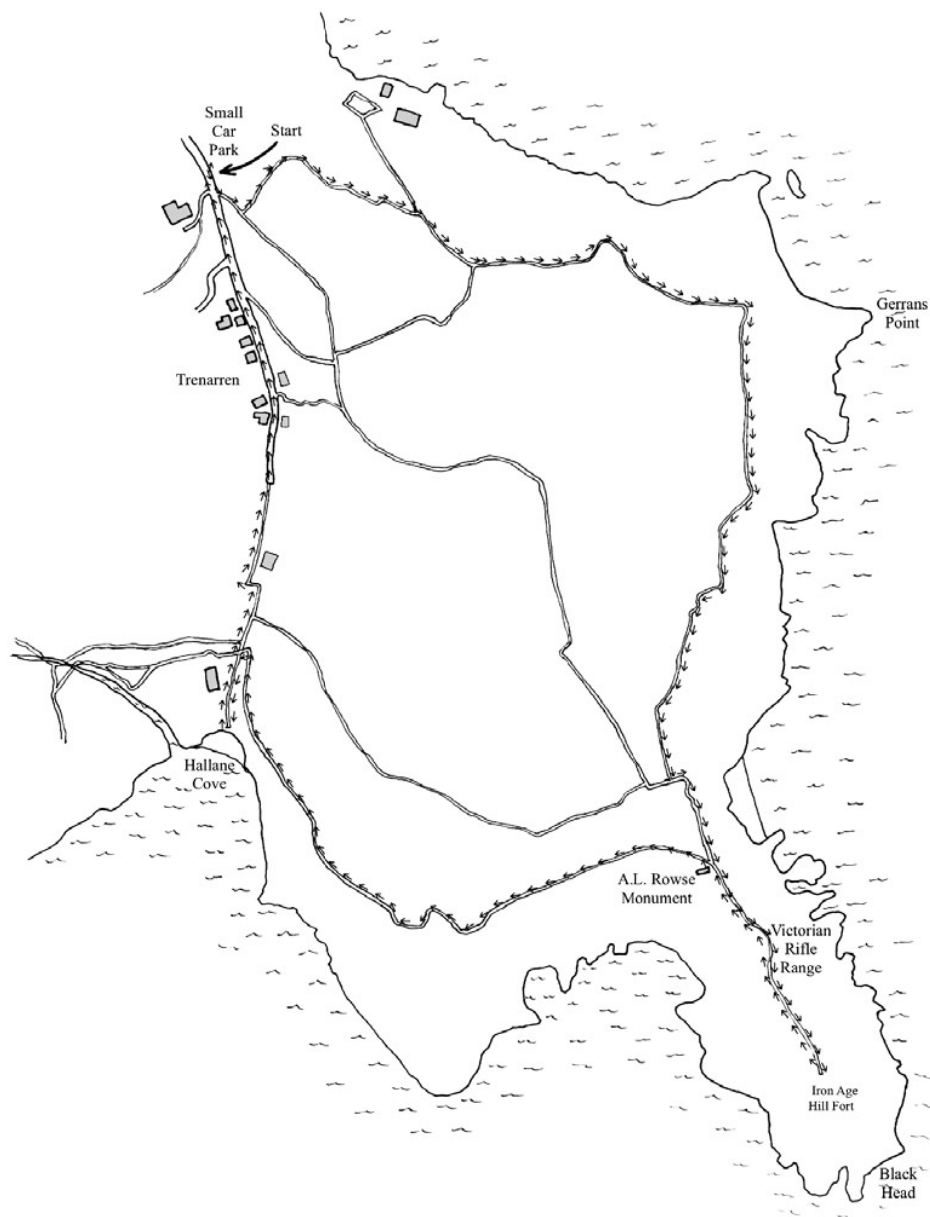
Follow this road which has lovely views across St Austell Bay. At the car park above the hamlet of Trenarren take the marked footpath on your left and go through a gate to rejoin the SWCP back to Porthpean and the car park.

If you want to extend this walk you can continue with Walk 7 Trenarren Circular Walk or Walk 8 Trenarren Circular Walk via Trevissick Farm.



Walk 7

TRENARREN - circular walk - 2 miles (approx.)



This walk takes you on the coast path to Black Head, down to Hallane Cove and back through the hamlet of Trenarren.

Leave the car park (Grid Ref SX03273 49020) and walk straight ahead on bridleway. Note the Information Board on your right. Just past Pensaguillas (first cottage) turn immediately left onto South West Coast Path (SWCP). This path takes you down through woods towards Ropehaven House (private property). At the T junction and bench turn right and walk uphill. Near the top bear left and follow the field boundary. Part way along this path at Gerrans Point look back for a lovely view of St Austell Bay. Follow the path, down some steps, past the granite monument to A L Rowse.

You can choose to walk straight ahead to the Black Head (National Trust) with its Scheduled Monument including an Iron Age Hillfort and Victorian Rifle Range, or you can bear around to the right and continue along the SWCP and field boundary. When the path starts to go downhill you will have lovely views of Hallane Cove and Mevagissey Bay.

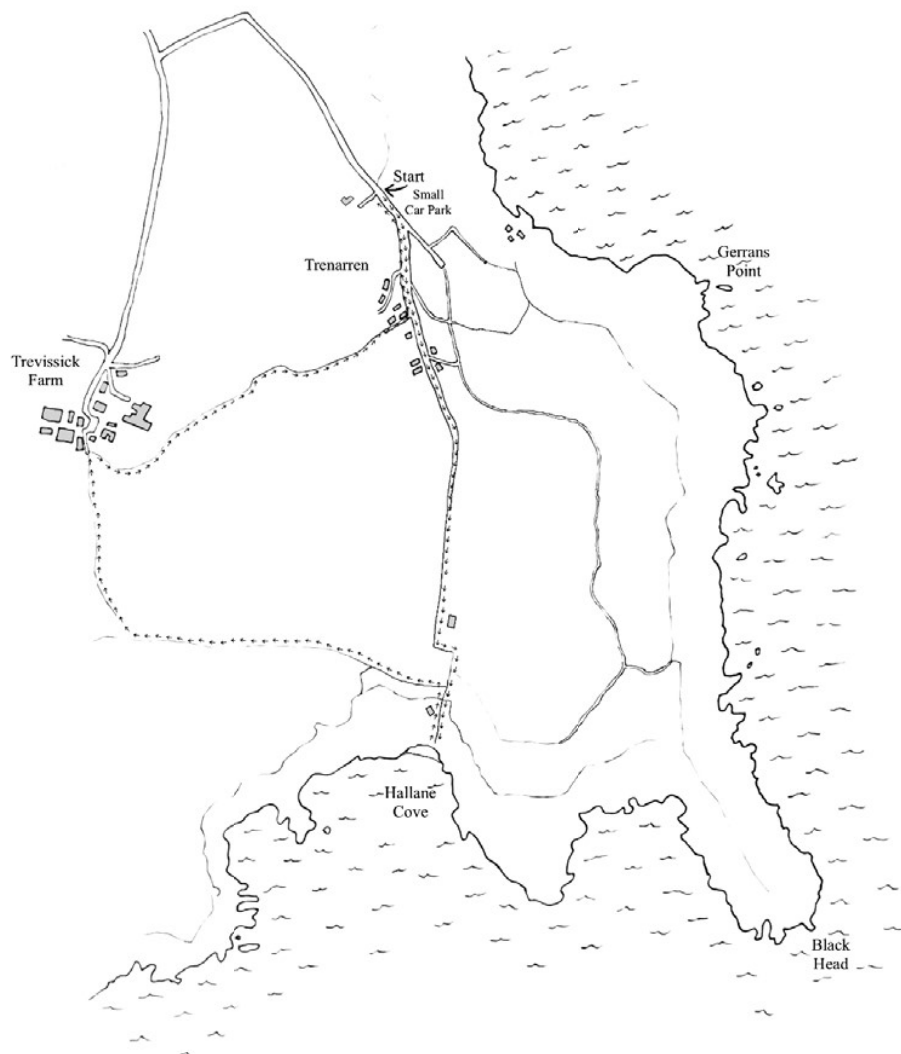
On reaching a T junction at the end of the field it is worth turning left and following the footpath to Hallane Cove (keep to the left hand side of Hallane Mill, a private property). The cove has a waterfall and natural arch and from the path you can see remains of fish cellars.

Retrace your steps and continue walking uphill in front of you on the designated path (the path has a sharp left hand bend and a right hand bend) until you join the road at the bottom of the hamlet of Trenarren. Walk up through the hamlet to return to the car park.



Walk 8

TRENARREN - circular walk via Trevissick Farm - 1.5 miles (approx.)



This walk takes you through Trenarren, visiting Hallane Cove and then following an inland route via Trevissick Farm back to the car park.

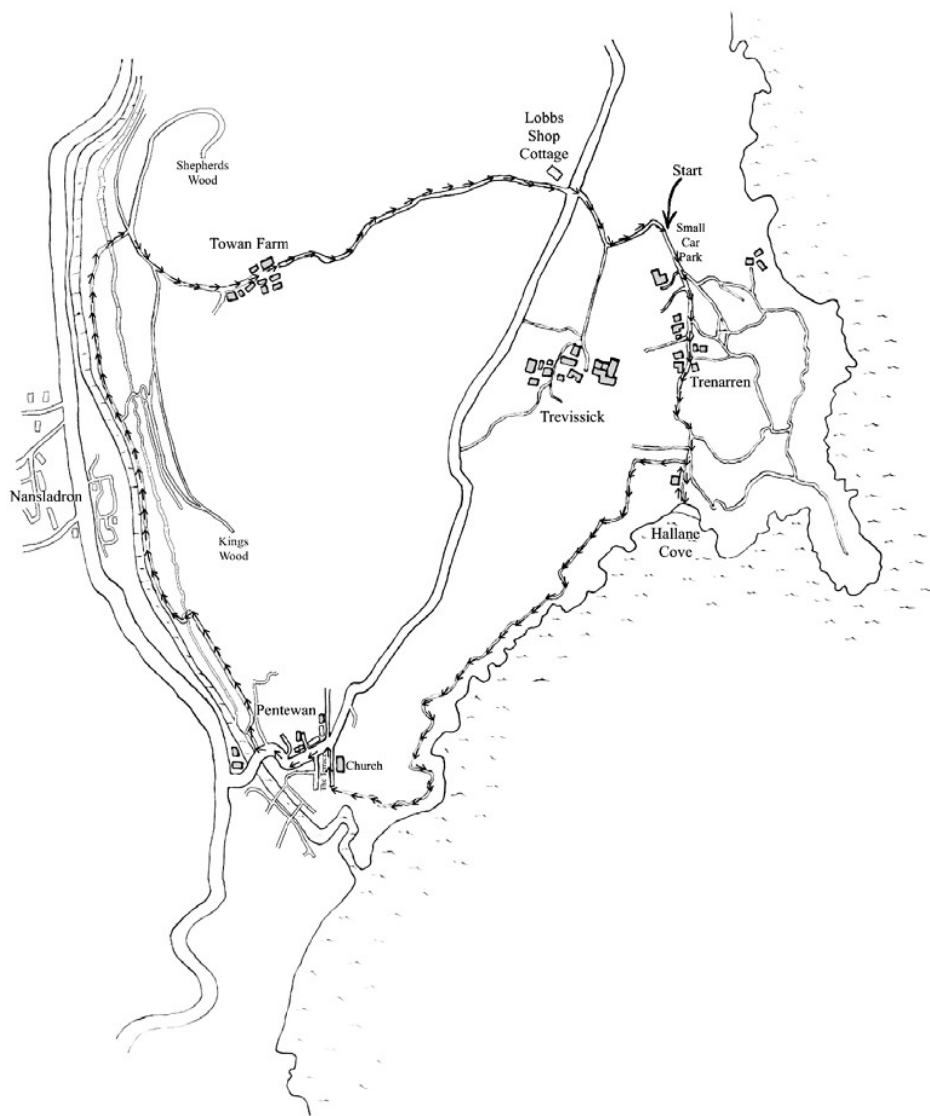
Leave car park (Grid Ref SX03273 49020) and walk down the road through the hamlet of Trenarren. At the end of the tarmac road take the bridleway on your right hand side and follow this track down the valley towards the sea. Just above Hallane Mill cottage (private property) take the short, narrow footpath ahead of you to visit Hallane Cove. The cove has a waterfall and natural arch and from the path you can see remains of fish cellars.

Return on this path and turn left onto the South West Coast Path keeping the Mill cottage on your left. Walk up through the woods. Carry on straight ahead at the wooden footbridge, keeping the stream on your left. Walk on through 3 gateways and continue to the end of the last field. Turn right and walk uphill along the field hedgeline towards Trevissick Farm. Follow the field boundary in front of Trevissick Farm and carefully climb over the stone stile into the farm lane. Follow that lane for a short distance and bear left through the gate into a large field. Walk along the field boundary until you come to a small gap in the hedge with a kissing gate. This takes you into a sunken lane which you can follow back down the hill to rejoin the tarmac road in the middle of the hamlet of Trenarren. Turn left and walk back up the hill to the car park.



Walk 9

TRENARREN TO PENTEWAN - circular walk via Kings Wood and Towan Farm - 6 miles (approx.)

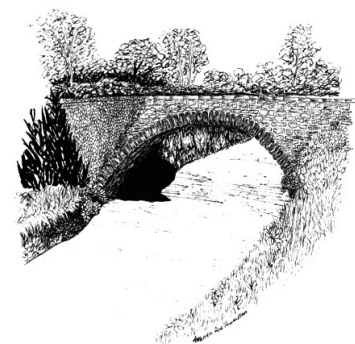


This walk takes you from Trenarren along the coast to Pentewan and back via King's Wood and Towan Farm.

Leave car park (Grid Ref SX03273 49020) and walk down the road through the hamlet of Trenarren. At the end of the tarmac road take the bridleway on your right hand side and follow this track down the valley towards the sea. Just above Hallane Mill cottage (private property) take the short, narrow footpath ahead of you to visit Hallane Cove. The cove has a waterfall and natural arch and from the path you can see remains of fish cellars. Return on this path and turn left onto the South West Coast Path (SWCP) keeping the Mill cottage on your left.

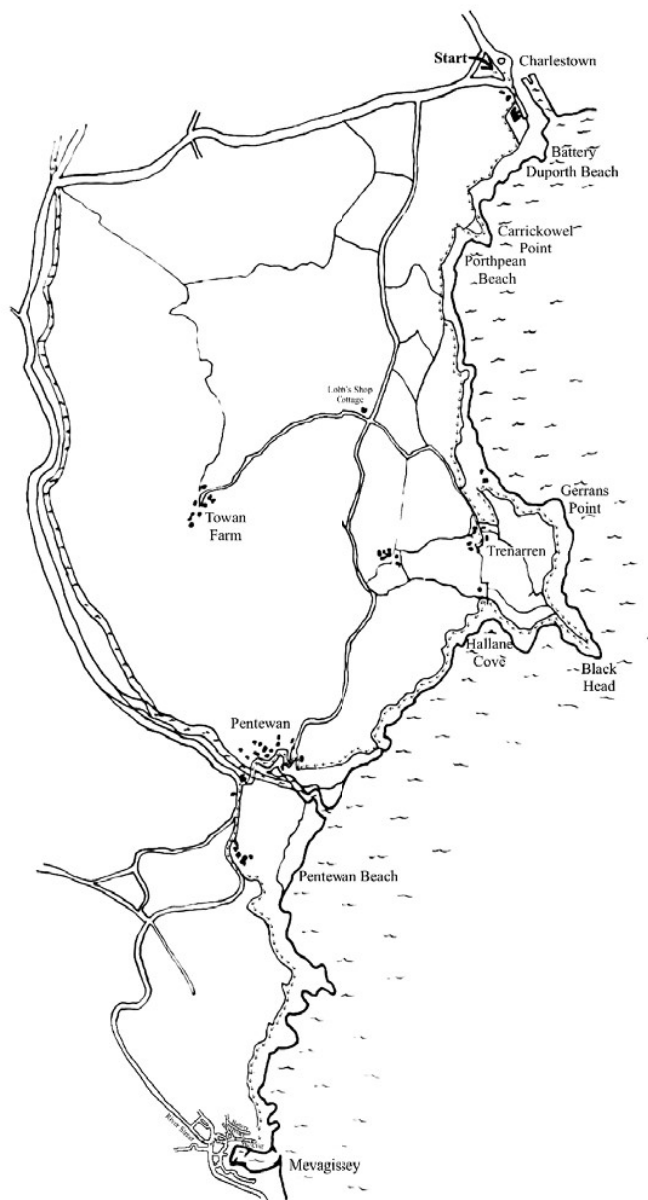
Walk up through the woods and cross the wooden footbridge on your left. Keep on the SWCP until you reach Pentewan. Walk along the Terrace and past the Church. Turn left down the hill and walk through the village square with the Ship Inn on your right. Walk over the small bridge and turn right, signposted for Pentewan Valley Trail.

Follow the trackway alongside the river which is on your left. You will pass a stone bridge and a small car parking area on your left. Continue on the trackway following the river bank until it bears off to the right and right again over a low footbridge. At the end of the track bear right, signposted King's Wood. Start walking up the slope and in front of you is a concrete track. Take this track, ignoring paths to the left and right into King's Wood, to the top of the valley. At the top bear left onto the path which takes you through Towan Farm. Pass through the farm yard and onto a minor tarmac road. This road takes you to the crossroads at Lobb's Shop. Cross the St Austell/Pentewan Road and continue straight onto the minor road and follow this back to the car park at the top of Trenarren.



Walk 10

CHARLESTOWN TO PENTEWAN / MEVAGISSEY - one way - up to 7 miles



This walk takes you along the length of the parish on the South West Coast Path.

Leave Car Park (Grid Ref SX03797 51685) and turn right towards the sea. Just above The Harbour Public House at Battery Terrace, turn right and walk up slope to field gate and South West Coast Path (SWCP) sign. Follow the footpath up to Charlestown Battery. At the Battery you will have lovely views back to Charlestown.

Continue on the SWCP towards Porthpean walking above Duporth Beach. The path runs uphill into a wooded area on your left. Turn left and follow a semi-circular path around Carrickowel Point where there are views back to Duporth and the Battery and ahead of you to Porthpean Beach. At the end of the path note the remains of a WW2 Lookout. Turn left and rejoin the SWCP down to Porthpean Beach. At the end of the beach continue straight ahead on the SWCP towards Trenarren. At the top of Trenarren village turn left onto tarmac road near a car parking area.

At this point you can shorten your route by taking the tarmac road on your right down through the hamlet of Trenarren where you will rejoin the SWCP just above Hallane Cove.

Otherwise continue straight ahead. Note Information Board on your right. Just past Pensaguillas (first cottage) turn left onto SWCP. This path takes you down through woods towards Ropehaven House (private property). At T junction and bench turn right and walk uphill. Near the top bear left and follow field boundary. Part way along this path at Gerrans Point look back for a lovely view of St Austell Bay. Follow path, down some steps, past the granite monument to AL Rowse.

You can choose to walk straight ahead to the Black Head (National Trust) with its Scheduled Monument including an Iron Age Hillfort and Victorian Rifle Range, or you can bear around to the right and continue along the SWCP and field boundary. When the path starts to go downhill you will have good views of Hallane Cove and Mevagissey Bay.

On reaching a T junction at the end of the field it is worth turning left and following the footpath to Hallane Cove (at the left hand side of Hallane Mill (private property)). The cove has a waterfall and natural arch and from the path you can see remains of fish cellars. Return on this path and turn left onto the SWCP keeping the Mill cottage on your left. Walk up through the woods and cross the wooden footbridge on your left. Keep on the SWCP until you reach Pentewan. Walk along the Terrace and past the Church. Turn left down the hill and walk through the village square with the Ship Inn on your right. At the end of the village turn left and there is a bus stop (Number 24) which could take you on to Mevagissey or back to Charlestown.

If you are still feeling active you can walk past the Pentewan Sands Holiday Park and start up the hill to rejoin the SWCP which takes you to Mevagissey where you can catch a bus (Number 24) back to Charlestown via St Austell.



Further information

Useful websites

Charlestown History Group - www.charlestownhistorygroup.com

South West Coast Path - www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk

Further Reading

Lyndon Allen: Charlestown '*Time and Tide*' and Charlestown '*Batten down the Hatches*'

Harry Woodhouse: '*Porthpean Church and Village*'

A L Rowse: '*A Cornish Childhood*', '*Peter the White Cat of Trenarren*' and '*A Quartet of Cornish Cats*'

Valerie Jacob: '*Tregonissey to Trenarren*'

Appreciation

My sincere thanks goes to Amanda Rae Thompson for her understanding and patience with my many amendments to her maps and designs. Getting it from my head and description to her finished design took skill, flair and good humour. It was a pleasure to work with Amanda.

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Production

St Austell Bay Parish Council has produced this booklet for the benefit of residents and visitors. Copies of the walks can be downloaded from the council's website;

www.staustellbay-pc.gov.uk

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or enquiries@staustellbay-pc.gov.uk

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ST AUSTELL BAY | PARISH COUNCIL

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY, PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE
SERVYA AGAN KEMENETH, GWITHA AGAN ERTACH