

# BERE ALSTON WALK



**WALK TWO:** Distance: Approximately 3 miles

**Starting point:** Bere Alston Railway Station

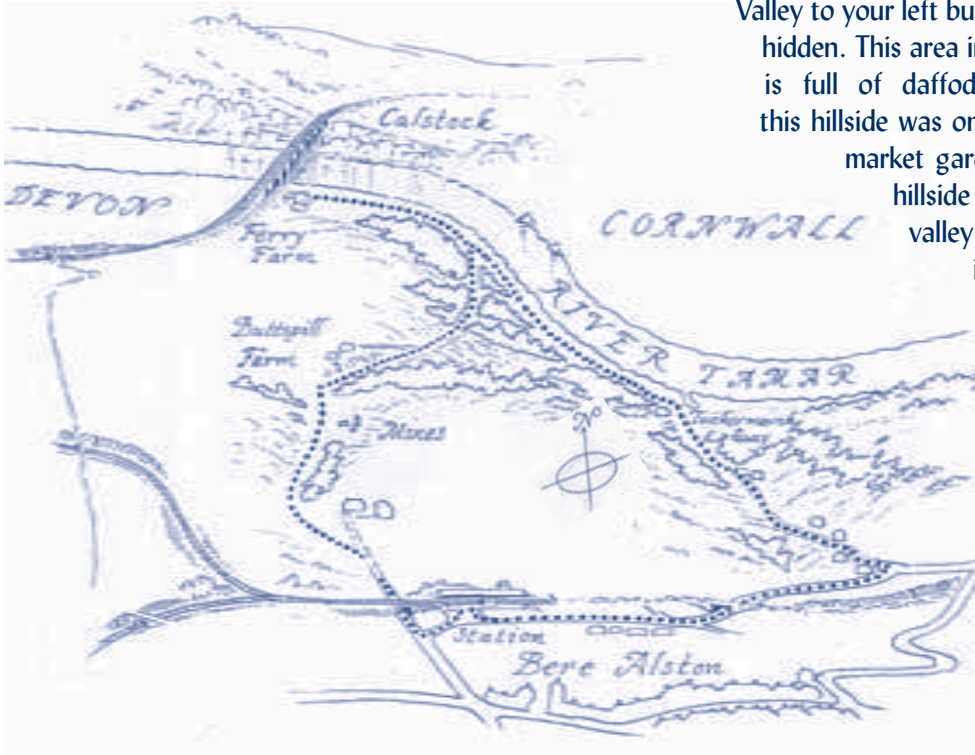
**Time:** Approx. 2hrs

**Terrain:** Tracks and paths through woods and fields. Some steep hills. Can be muddy after heavy rain.

Leave the platform and cross the station car park walking towards the road. Turn sharp left before the road and follow the bridleway running beside the car park. Follow this track passing the bungalows on the right. At the next junction of tracks keep straight on, do not turn left, and, when you come to it, go under the old railway bridge.

The railway line used to carry on from Bere Alston to Tavistock and onwards to Waterloo in London via Exeter. Continue along this path and there are some wonderful views of the Tamar

Valley to your left but the river is hidden. This area in the spring is full of daffodils because this hillside was once used for market gardening. The hillside across the valley is Kit Hill in Cornwall.



When the path joins another, turn left and follow the lane downhill and after about 100 yards, the lane passes a cottage on the right and enters a gateway. Turn left in front of the gateway into the woods. The path crosses a small stream and then follows it down towards the River Tamar. Do not turn left, when wide track joins the path, but carry on.

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## WALK TWO:



On reaching the river turn left and walk in front of the cottages at Tuckermarsh Quay. The Quay was once used to ship out silver and copper from the nearby mines. The path now goes back into the woods and here the path, in places, is high and sometimes close to the river so take care. The path swings left and down to cross Butts Stream, where there used to be a quay. Cross the stream and follow the higher of the two riverside paths. Follow the path through Buttspill Wood and, keeping near the river, you will come out of the woods into a lane.

This lane can be muddy after heavy rain but there are good views of Calstock Viaduct, which was built in 1907, and of Calstock across the river. Carry on until you reach Ferry Farm. This building used to be a pub called the Passage House Inn. Today, during the summer months, there is a passenger ferry here which takes you to Calstock or Cotehele Quay.

Retrace your steps and return to the woods. As you enter the woods you will see the path you came along and a track going up the hill. Take the track uphill. Near the top, bear left (not through the gate) and you will pass Buttspill Farm high on your right. Carry on along this path and soon you will pass the remains of buildings and mine shafts on your left.

Silver was taken out of this area from as early as the 13th century until the late 19th century. Please keep to the path as open mine shafts are dangerous. Soon you will come to a stile on the edge of the woods. Cross the stile and walk uphill and slightly left, passing midway between the edge of the woods and a copse in the centre of the field. Climb the stile next to the gate at the top of the field and turn right into the lane. Keeping the railway cottages on your left, walk under the railway bridges and turn left into the station car park.

