

CALSTOCK STATION WALK (A)

WALK THREE: Distance: Approximately 6 miles

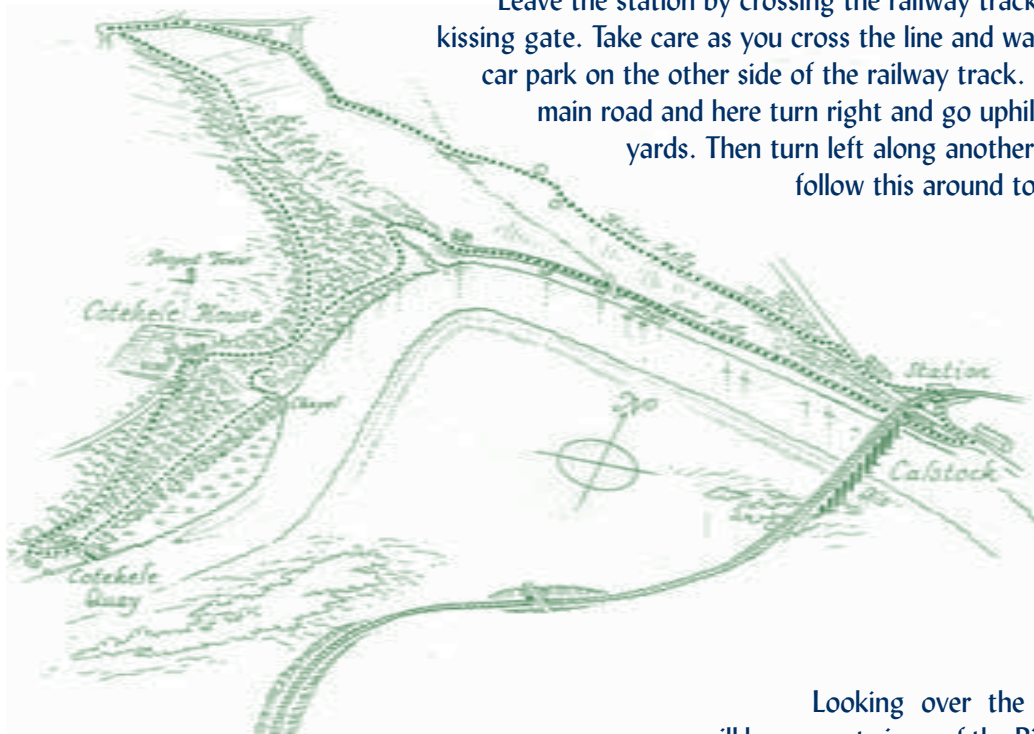


Starting point: Calstock Railway Station

Time: Approx. 3 hours

Terrain: Tracks and paths through woods and some road walking. Some steep hills. Can be muddy after heavy rain.

Leave the station by crossing the railway track using the kissing gate. Take care as you cross the line and walk into the car park on the other side of the railway track. Go to the main road and here turn right and go uphill for a few yards. Then turn left along another road, and follow this around to the right.



Looking over the wall, you will have great views of the River Tamar, Calstock Viaduct and Cotehele House. The railway viaduct was completed in 1907 and is built of concrete blocks which were cast on the Devon bank. Until the 1930s, there was a lift which enabled trucks to be lifted to and from the quays, which run for 3/4 mile on the Cornish side. Carry on along this road with houses on both sides. The road will soon become a track going uphill through the woods. It becomes narrower and then turns to the right at the top. You will cross a bridge. This goes across what was once an old railway incline where wagons of ore would be taken down to the quays below. This ore had come from the many mines above Calstock.

The path very soon becomes a track and you head uphill at the next junction until it turns into a road. At the top of the hill, there is a viewpoint over the gate looking towards Kit Hill. Bear left

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down the road. Do not take paths off to the left until you reach the bottom of the hill, then turn left into the woods beside the stream. This hamlet is called Danescombe. It is said that Danes came up the River Tamar and made their way up stream to this place and that is how the settlement got its name.

Follow the path down beside Danescombe Brook until you reach a wooded bridge over the stream. Cross over and follow the path as it goes uphill. On the left are some steep steps that lead to an old mine entrance. Below, through the trees, you may see a mine chimney and other buildings from what was once a busy mining valley. The mine was called Cotehele Consols and was mainly worked for copper and arsenic.



When the path joins a track coming in from the right, turn left and carry on walking through the woods. Do not take the path to the right, but carry on. As the track heads towards a gate, turn left. This path very soon reaches another track coming from the left. Turn right and after a few yards you will see a wooden gate on the left. Go through the gate and follow the path through the grounds of Cotehele. Once, Cotehele House was owned by the Edgcumbe Family. It is now in the ownership of the National Trust. There is a public right of way through the grounds. Access to the gardens and house is by ticket only. These are available from the reception building (free to National Trust members).

Follow the path around, through some gates and into the yard. Turn left, go into the car park and bear right. Follow the road sign post for 'Cotehele Quay'. At the bottom of the hill turn left into the car park.

Here you will find limekilns, quays and slipways which demonstrate the importance of the river at one time. There are toilets here if you should need them and tea rooms in the summer. Follow the path which starts at the entrance to the car park and climb up past the old chapel on the right. The track then goes downhill, turn right around the marsh and past the former Danescombe Hotel. Now follow this road back to Calstock. At the road junction turn left uphill back to the station.

