

round the corner and down the hill where you come to the main Tavistock to Callington road and rejoin the new pathway/cycleway.



There are many other paths for walking around Kit Hill. However this route gives you a good feel of Kit hill. Should you wish to explore further please keep to the well defined pathways for your safety and the preservation of the hill. There are many shafts which are fenced in and many areas where it is not safe to go. If in doubt please keep out. There are also adders on the hill, so take care not to disturb them.

Apart from the walk around this fascinating hill, the views on a clear day are worth the walk alone. The hill is alive with all sorts of wildlife and birds at all times of the year. There are a range of books about mining, history and the hill available in the Museum, Liskeard Road, Callington, This is open Easter to the end of October, Friday, Saturday and Sundays.



Please report any difficulties on your route to the Town

Clerk, Town Hall, New Road, Callington. (01579 384039) www.callington.uk.net

The Town Council also produces leaflets on Callington's internationally renowned mural trail, as well as other walks and heritage leaflets.

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The Kit Hill Walk

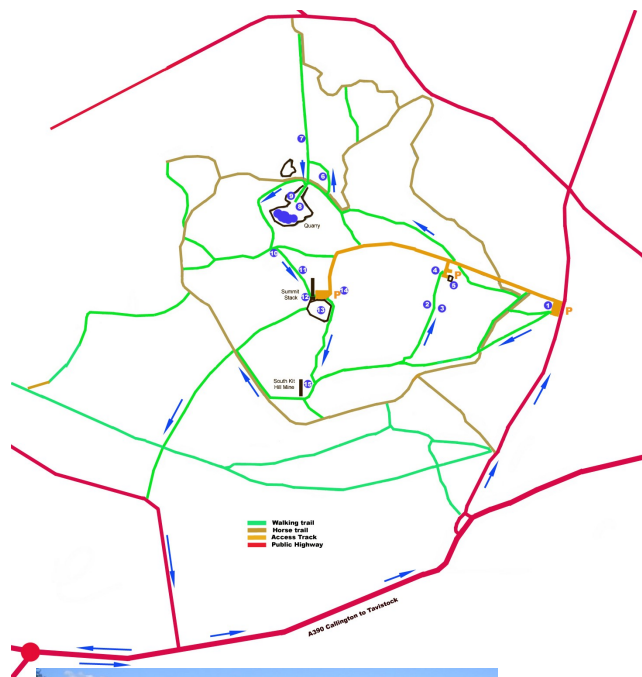
CALLINGTON

park you will see on your left the remains of No 1 level [4], which was a partly open mine before going underground. On your right, across the parking area you will see the remains of the reservoir [5]. The car park is on the substantial dumps from the spoil and views across the countryside show many stacks remaining from the mining. *Information board here.*

Cross the road and go through the kissing gate. Follow the path along the side of the hill with views towards Stoke Climsland and Devon on your right. Pass through another kissing gate and join a dirt track by an old mine building. Turn right on this track which will lead you to the quarries. A short distance on your right you will see a path down to one of the many small quarries and the large stones left which were not suitable for use or were flawed.

Follow this path down past the walls of large rocks [6]. The path opens out onto a level grassed area where you bear left and you will come out on the Incline [7]. This was made to transport the rock down by truck on rails to the sidings at Downgate for onward transportation by rail. The incline was worked by gravity with a long wire wound round a 12ft wooden drum to pull empty trucks up when the full ones went down. Follow the path back up the incline

and you see the entrance to the Northern granite quarry.[8]



the uphill path which will take you through another gate where you then turn left. If you walk up the slope in front of you, you can look down the North shaft [10], known as 'Big Crumbly' from behind the fences. This shaft became the deepest on the hill being 110 fathoms [203m], it would have taken exhausted miners half an hour to climb to the top after their shifts. Return to the dirt track and take the grassed track, marked with small granite stones that will take you past 'Big Crumbly' on your right and another fenced shaft on your left. From here you can see the remains of many mine

Turn left after leaving the quarry and walk round to go through the upper of two gates. Take

fortifications. At one point these were thought to be Civil War fortifications, but evidence has now revealed that this is Sir John Call's folly, a mock Saxon castle erected in the 19th century as a monument to the Battle of Hingston Down in 838. Sir John Call owned Whiteford House [now demolished] and would have had a clear view of the hill. The central grassed area was once used as a putting green and in the 1930's residents came up the hill and paid to play on it. [13]. On the other side of the car park, is the reservoir where water



was stored for mining operations. There is a trig point on top [14]. If you stand beside this you are

333m or over 1000ft above sea level. *Information board by the car park.*

From the car park walk downwards keeping the mound on your right, follow this path through a gate and veer right onto the wider path until you come to the South Kit Hill Mine, here there are the remains of various mine buildings.[15] *Information board here. [★ Less able rejoin the walk at this point]*

Continue walking westward along the path where you will come to a fence on your left hand side. Go through the first gate you come to and turn left over the stile. Continue over the fields and negotiate three more stiles. Go past the water grid and down the track past Claremont Farm until you reach Florence Road. Compton Park is a few metres to your right. Turn left onto Florence Road and follow it

The Kit Hill Walk

Transport. There is a bus service to Callington from several of the adjacent towns. If you come by car there is a free car park on the southern access road. Walk down through the park to the traffic lights and turn right to start your walk.

Public Conveniences, These are situated in New Road by the bus stop.

Refreshments. There are various inns, cafes and shops in Callington. There is a café on the east side of Kit Hill just before the entrance to the hill and one at Compton Park [turn right when you join Florence Road], both have panoramic views and Compton Park originally housed the mine engine house and stack of the East Wheal Florence mine.

Map. Recommended map for this walk is OS No.108 this can be purchased from newsagents in the town. Please follow the country code. No liability can be accepted for any inaccuracies, alterations or omissions on this route.

Leaflets. This leaflets should be read in conjunction with the 'Kit Hill' leaflets published by the County Council.

Useful Tips. This walk covers some rough ground with plenty of stone, vegetation and water at times. You are advised to wear a good pair of walking boots or shoes and appropriate clothing, depending on time of year, remember the weather can change before you complete your walk!. Kit Hill has an abundance of bird life, binoculars would be an advantage as is a good camera. There are a few places on the route for refreshments but it is advised that you do take your own as well.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE.

- ❖ Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work. Guard against all risk of fire.
- ❖ Fasten all gates.
- ❖ Keep dogs under close control and clean up after them.
- ❖ Keep to public paths over farmland.
- ❖ Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
- ❖ Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- ❖ Take your litter home.
- ❖ Help to keep all water clean.
- ❖ Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- ❖ Take special care on country roads, walk on the right.
- ❖ Make no unnecessary noise.

There is a horse trail on Kit Hill, but there are no cycle routes in the country park other than the access track to the top.

Kit Hill in 1908



THE KIT HILL WALK

Callington

Length of walk approximately 9 kilometres or 5 miles.
Can be walked in 2½ hours but allow more time to explore fully.

Kit Hill is an area of 400 acres overlooking Callington. A wild rugged hilltop with outstanding views to Plymouth Sound, Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor and West. An area providing mining heritage and quarrying, bird watching, walking and horse trails. Formally owned by the Duchy of Cornwall it was given to the people of Cornwall in 1985 to celebrate the birth of Prince William. This Hill is now connected to Callington by a level path suitable for pedestrians or cyclists.

This walk includes some uneven ground and is not suitable for the elderly, infirm or less able. A wide reasonably level scenic route is possible by leaving out the sections between the two asterisks ✱, but note there are some stiles to negotiate at the end.

Start at St Mary's Church, and walk along Fore Street



to the traffic lights. Cross the main road and carry on along Tavistock Road (A390). Just after passing Ginster's factory you will see the start of the new pathway on the left. This path is a combines footpath and cycleway. Follow this to the Kit Hill

turning. Leave the pathway and turn up towards the hill. Go up this lane and pass the café on the right continuing to the crest of the hill where, on the left you will find the entrance to Kit Hill. Turn left into the car park and take the gate on the right. *Information board here.* Inside the gate just to the right you will see the raised mound of a Bronze Age barrow [1] this is one of a line that used to run along the length of Hingston Down and over Kit Hill. Proceed straight along the path from the gate where, after a short distance, you will see South Kit Hill mine stack ahead of you. This path was the original track to and from the mine. When you see two gates on your right go through these and shortly after, by the bench, turn right onto a narrow and sometimes muddy path. [★ *Less able continue along the wide path*]. This path originally was a Costening trench cut across the slopes to expose the loads. This path leads to the road from the main entrance.



The area you are entering was the Wolfram and Tin mine, this was mined in World War I. As you pass over the wooden bridge you will see the 2nd lode entrance [2] to your left and on your right as you look down opposite the Adit there are the best preserved shode pits in Cornwall [3]. [A shode is a stone containing tin ore] As you exit the path onto the car

Information board here.

Around the entrance to the quarry you will see the remains of machinery bases and finished parapet stones [9], left when the quarry closed. The water is around 13 metres deep and stone was removed using a steam



crane. As you look round there are still the remains of anchor points for early fixed cranes.

buildings as you walk towards the Kit Hill summit stack. On your left you will see some of the mines calciner flues [11] still intact. Dressed ore was roasted in the calciner house and the gasses were sucked up to the stack, the arsenic would settle on the walls of a chamber and flue and the crystals periodically collected for sale.



There are the remains of old mine buildings around the stack as well as an ugly modern one. Around the base of the stack on the south side are three viewing tables or Toposcopes. These give a guide to the places and distance around the countryside from Kit hill. From this position you can see from Bodmin Moor to Dartmoor and down the Tamar Valley to Plymouth Sound and beyond.

The ornate summit mine stack [12] was built in 1858. Previously a windmill that was used to drain water from the mine stood here but this was blown away in a gale. Prior to this there is believed to be a Bronze Age barrow at this location. Around the stack you will see the remains of the mounds and walls of what appears to be ancient

