
Useful Information

Parking: Two free car parks in Minions. Use the western one at 25973/71094

Intermediate Parking: Tokenbury Corner.

Getting There: From A38 Bodmin to Plymouth at Doublebois, go L on minor road signed Minions.

Transport: Western Greyhound bus 574 links Liskeard, Crow’s Nest, Callington. One a day goes via Minions.

Refreshments: Minions, Cheesewring Inn, Hurler’s Halt and Shop tearooms (both seasonal). Crow’s Nest Inn.

Toilets: Minions, near Hurlers Halt tearooms.

Route Directions

Minions to the Crow’s Nest Inn – 1.38 miles

Start from entrance to Minions western CP at 26004/71094.

Go L on the road for about 100 yards to just before the Cheesewring Inn and go R on a well-made track (FP sign). After another 100 yards, continue forward on grass to a gate. You are now on a former tramway track (*note the granite setts; Caradon hill masts in view above L, first mine remains in view ahead*). Continue, passing Ponton’s Piece cottage and ruined buildings on your L (WM) (*note ruined presumably mine buildings to your R*) to a gate (*muddy here*). Continue through a field, following the RH hedge, through an open gate and past a sewage farm on your L. Continue on a track to a galvanised gate. Cross a sometimes muddy area, Higher Gonamena Farm on your L, and continue along the track (*may be muddy here*), passing a former tramway loading ramp (*note LCR marker stone above L*). *You are now on the Gonamena Incline. (0.54 miles)*

A grassy track becomes muddy and rocky, continues briefly up as a narrow path to damaged WM post by a galvanised gate on your R. The path becomes a wide track between high banks. *Here it can be very very wet and muddy but use the granite setts as stepping stones.* Continue through furze to a stile (WM) at 0.66 miles. *Pause for the view back L up to handsome Gonamena House.* Continue on a grassy track between high banks, passing old rails on the L. Here there are more granite setts, then the track narrows above South Caradon valley, with mine remains seen across the valley and in the valley. It continues through some furze, along a revetted bank, with massive spoil heaps above on your R.

At 0.81 miles ignore a track which heads L downhill into the valley and continue past spoil heaps on both your L and R. Continue forward on a wide track and at 0.92 miles go L on a wide rocky track that leads down to the valley floor and cross stepping stones over a stream at 0.97 miles. Now bear R along the former South Caradon Mine dressing floor. The going is now easy and grassy as you continue to towards a railway bridge to a well-made track. Go R on the track for 20 yards to a wooden gate at 1.14 miles. Follow the track under the railway bridge and down past houses to the road at Crow’s Nest. Go R for 35 yards to the Crow’s Nest Inn. There is also phone box and a bus stop. **(1.36 miles)**

Crow’s Nest Inn to Tokenbury Corner – 1.48 miles

Return to the track you came down and go L uphill on it, under the railway bridge and through the gate. Follow the track uphill towards a tall chimney, first passing a small reservoir on your R, then passing two tracks heading up R, to the tall chimney at 1.73 miles. The track continues up stony and fairly steep. At 1.79 miles the track bears R, with an ivy clad chimney then spoil heaps below on your L passing, at 1.87 miles, a track on your R down to ivy clad Jope’s Shaft engine house. After a while, the ascent eases off as Holman’s Shaft engine house comes into view ahead. Keep L up to Holman’s Shaft engine house at 935 feet at **2.19 miles**. *Views from here include Liskeard, coast near Plymouth, and Dartmoor.*

The track, now well made, bears R and L downhill with long views. At a fork at 2.22 miles, the L fork is preferred, heading for what looks like a conical spoil heap, uphill easy. 200 yards before the spoil heap, at 2.35 miles, bear R on grass to rejoin the main track. Pass the spoil heap on your L and soon the track heads downhill to Tokenbury Corner. *Your view ahead L is to Kit Hill, and beyond to Dartmoor.* About 50 yards before a galvanised gate to car parking area bear L on grass. **(2.84 miles)**

Tokenbury Corner to Minions – 2.29 miles

Continue, roughly parallel to the road, uphill easy through furze to a Wheal Tor Inn sign. At 2.93 miles bear L on a well made track, and through granite gate posts at 3.08 miles. Continue for 30 yards to a fork. *At this point you could take a short cut back to Minions, following the LH hedge uphill to eventually reach the lane from Minions to the TV transmitter station, turning L on that down to Minions. This would cut off about half-a-mile but is less interesting with less distant views eastwards.* Fork R on the track. At end of the fence on your R, at 3.13 miles, go R downhill on a track, with a drystone wall on your R, then pass a spoil heap on your L and bear L across open ground downhill. *Here you join one of two tramways that ran round the east side of Caradon Hill, part of the Liskeard and Caradon Railway, heading for Minions village.*

After a little while the lower tramway forks R but stay on the upper tramway, climbing easily. *As you climb, views open out, first over the valley below, then across to Kit Hill and Dartmoor, finally over the tors north of Minions. At 3.91 miles, as the tramway begins to bend west, Sharp Tor comes into view ahead. At 3.97 miles, Stowe’s Hill, the Cheesewring and the Cheesewring Quarry come into view. At 4.00 miles Houseman’s Shaft engine house, the one with the visitor centre display in, comes into view.* Continue on grass to a fork. *The R fork is the old tramway, passing an engine house to a dismantled bridge over the road to Upton Cross.* Fork L leaving the second engine house on your R and continue, bearing slightly L to a gap in a fence at 4.76 miles. Continue forward to the lane that comes down from the communication masts. Go R to the square in Minions at 5.00 miles. Go L, passing the Cheesewring Inn on your L and a row of cottages on your R, to the western car park. **(5.13 miles)**