

And a walk around nearby Prince of Wales Quarry, famed for its restored engine house

Start from entrance to Jeffries Pit Car Park (FP) at 06767/86181

Getting there: From Wadebridge take B3314 through Delabole to Rockhead at far end. Go L on the Trebarwith road and first R on Bowithick Hill to the bottom (hairpin bend). L towards Tintagel, first L towards Trebarwith Strand and shortly L into Jeffries Pit free car park at 06767/86181.

Jeffries Pit to Trenouth – 0.43 miles

Start from entrance to Jeffries Pit Car Park (FP) at 06767/86181 at 400 feet

Cross the car park diagonally R to a WM and follow it uphill on a grassy path through a picnic area with a small stream to your R at first, entering woodland at about 100 yards. *The woodland is pleasant with small trees, ferns and wild flowers. The path up through it is rocky in a few places and a bit slippery in others.* After 225 yards it becomes a bit steeper with several rough stone steps up. 50 yards later there is another short steep section. After 330 yards you cross the stream. On the other side go L uphill, following a partly obliterated WM. The path forks in a few yards, keep R uphill fairly steeply to a kissing gate (no WM) to a field at 350 yards. **(350 yards)**

Go L and follow the LH hedge quite steeply uphill. As you climb, looking L you can see Prince of Wales engine house. The hill eases off at 450 yards and at 565 yards follow a prominent WM forward to the RH of a couple of galvanised gates to Trenouth farmyard. Go forward on a track (could be muddy) and bear L, leaving a barn on your R, to double galvanised gates to Trenouth. *Looking back to Tintagel you see St. Materiana's church and the Camelot Hotel.* Continue up a well made track, still uphill, with a high wooden fence to your L. At 710 yards, the track bears R, but continue forward on grass to a galvanised gate to a field. **(0.43 miles)**

Trenouth to Delabole – 1.09 miles

Follow the RH hedge gently uphill to a galvanised gate (WM), halfway along the field, at 0.51 miles to a second field. Cross this field diagonally to a galvanised gate in the opposite corner at 0.58 miles. Continue on much the same line across a third field to a high step stile up/sheep stile down in the opposite corner. **(0.65 miles)**

Cross the road to a fairly high cattle stile (no WM) followed by a wooden stile to a field. A clear path then heads diagonally half L across the field (*towards unusual looking Medrose church tower*) to a narrow cattle stile at 0.75 miles. Go R on a broad grassy track between hedges, heading overall roughly SSW. *This track has the look of a byway or bridleway but is only a FP and, indeed, there is a stile along it.* At 0.85 miles track bears L and R then there is a hybrid step/wooden stile (WM) at 0.91 miles and the wide grassy track between hedges continues. You cross a wooden stile (WM) by a wooden gate at 1.21 miles. Continue on a well made track (*it could be muddy*) through a scruffy farmyard and go through an open galvanised gate at 1.25 miles. At 1.31 miles pass cottages on your L. At 1.36 miles on your R an old FP sign points to Treligga, but the route goes L through an iron gate (no FP or WM) to a narrow path, hedge on L, builders yard on R, to an iron kissing gate to a street, Atlantic Road, at 1.45 miles. Go forward on the footway to its end to the main road (B3314) through Delabole. **(1.52 miles)**

Delabole to Delabole Slate – 0.36 miles

Go L on the footway, passing an attractive small slate clock tower (*note the slate worker weathervane*) for about 50 yards and, just before the Bettle & Chisel pub on the L and a Spar shop on the R, follow signs *Pengelly* and *Delabole Slate Quarry*, crossing the road into Pengelly. Follow Pengelly gently downhill. *At 1.74 miles there is an unexpected view ahead of Roughtor. At 1.79 miles pass on L Railway Cottage with interesting collection of railway notices. At 1.98 miles, just before West Lane, note on your R the former Pengelly village well house. At 1.88 miles, ignore FP sign pointing L but follow one pointing forward and go through gate pillars on to Delabole Slate premises. (1.88 miles)*

Delabole Slate to Medrose Methodist Church – 1.17 miles

Continue ahead through the car park, then with showroom and offices on R, at 1.96 miles, go L following a sign “viewing platform”. The viewing platform (*best view of the quarry*) is straight ahead. Go R on the well made path that circles the quarry counter-clockwise, with the works yard on the R. At 2.08 miles at 07593/83675 the path bears L but you really should make a diversion to see *Slatehenge*, so go straight ahead uphill. Slatehenge is at the top of the slope at 07695/83634. *Fine views, NE to Delabole wind farm giant turbines, WSW to Roughtor, S to Clay Country.* Return and go R on the perimeter path (FP & WM). **(2.22 miles)**

At 2.52 miles go through a wooden kissing gate by a redundant step stile to a field. Continue round the perimeter to another wooden kissing gate by a redundant cattle stile to second field at 2.62 miles. Go down fairly steeply for a short way then up, passing a WM at 2.71 miles, to a third kissing gate (FP) at 2.75 miles. Go L still round the quarry perimeter towards houses. At 2.85 miles ignore a kissing gate to a street and continue through scrub, with no view of the quarry. At 2.89 miles at 07418/84259 go up 8 steps on your R to the corner of Rendle Street and Medrose Street. Go forward on Medrose Street uphill to the main road, with Medrose Methodist church on your R. **(3.05 miles)**

Medrose Methodist Church back to Jeffries Pit – 1.31 miles

Cross and go R on the footway in front of houses. After the last house, at 3.09 miles, go L (FP) on a well made track, becomes grassy, gently uphill, with gardens on your L. Shortly before a wooden gate, at 3.13 miles, go R over a step stile and a wooden stile to a field. Cross diagonally L on a clear path to an unnecessarily complicated and awkward wooden stile, a step stile with wooden barrier on top, and a step stile down to a second field at 3.20 miles. Cross diagonally to the far L corner to a high step stile with high wooden bars and a step stile down to a track. Go R on the track and at its end at 3.44 miles go over a cattle stile (FP) to the L of a galvanised gate to Trebarwith Road. Go L on the road to its junction with a lane (Bowthick Hill) at 3.52 miles. Go R and follow the narrow lane with blind corners, mostly downhill. *At 3.93 miles note the view ahead slightly L to the coast and St. Materiana’s church.* Go round a hairpin bend to the B3263 Camelford to Tintagel road at 4.31 miles. Go L downhill on the road for a short distance and, at the bottom at 4.41 miles, go L downhill on a road to Trebarwith Strand, for a few yards back to the entrance to Jeffries Pit. **(4.46 miles)**

A brief guide to Prince of Wales Quarry and its restored engine house

Prince of Wales Quarry is in Trebarwith Valley near Trewarmett. It opened in 1871 but was only worked for just over 20 years. The slate quarried here was blue slate from the Upper Devonian Penpethy Beds. A circular path now leads through the old slate tips, past the quarry pit (now a lake with a small waterfall) and up to the engine house which has good views of the valley and coastline. The building is the only Engine House in this part of Cornwall that housed a Beam Engine. It drove a wire ropeway that hauled the quarried slate and pumped water out of the quarry pit. When the beam engine was installed in July 1871 it cost £1,590, in today’s terms around £160,000. The beam engine is long gone but the engine house was well restored in 1973 by local effort. In 2015 the 45 acre site was sold at auction for £81,000.

See page 3 for a description of the route round the site

From the parking area at 07088/86093 at 460 feet, head uphill, through a gate, to a fork in the path. Where the path forks, take the left path (more or less straight ahead) which climbs through the slate tips, passing a massively built low slate wall to your R, then levels out, until you reach a flight of steps on your right. Beyond this, the path ends in a platform which overlooks a waterfall, tumbling into the quarry pit, but your view may be obscured by growth.

Climb 59 steps up and go through a collapsed cattle stile to the top at a grassy platform at 400 yards. There are great views down the valley to Dennis Point and Gull Rock, and over the quarry pit and spoil tips. Descend to the engine house at 610 feet. For the best photographic view of the engine house, with the sea and Gull Rock beyond, go left uphill at the engine house up to about 650 feet.

To return, facing out from the engine house doorway, take the path to the left and descend a series of shallow slate steps on a narrow path through overgrown scrub. When you reach the bottom, turn left to reach the car park.

Distance: 0.53 miles

Ascent: 200 feet

Steps: Up 59. Down many shallow slate steps on way down

Stiles: 1 collapsed cattle stile

Map: OS 111 Bude