
Start from Old Cowlins Mill car park, S side of railway, just off Pool to Four Lanes road, at 67015/40734

Getting there: From A30 westbound. After Chiverton Cross take third exit (signed Pool & Heartlands) and go due south, passing Cornwall College and Western Power Distribution on L, crossing A3047, passing Heartlands and then Tesco on L, Geevor Mine on R, to traffic lights. Go R, signed Four Lanes, over railway bridge, turn L and L again into Old Cowlins Mill car park. *(Best at weekends & holidays when no staff cars are parked here)*

Old Cowlins Mill to the start of the Carn Brea Ridge – 0.98 miles

Start from the Great Flat Lode Trail storyboard in the Old Cowlins Mill car park at 67014/40803 at 390 feet. From here your primary destinations of the Bassett Monument and Carn Brea Castle are clearly visible. Go forward to the road and go L towards Tregajorran, following a Great Flat Lode (GFL) sign. Shortly, at a fork, bear R gently uphill towards Tregajorran, again following a GFL sign. After passing on your R the entrance to Treggy Farm, where the road bends L at 475 yards, go R on a track for 15 yards to a high hybrid cattle/coffen stile (WM) to a short hedged path to a field. **(0.28 miles)**

Follow the RH hedge to another hybrid stile at 660 yards to a narrowish path between hedges to a third high hybrid stile at 745 yards. *(Here an un-waymarked path goes off R, ignore it)* Follow the RH hedge to an open coffen stile at 850 yards to a third field. Cross slightly R diagonally on a faint path to an open coffen stile to the L of the white painted house at 0.56 miles. Go diagonally R to the corner of the fourth field and another hybrid stile to a FP post at 0.58 miles. Do not go forward through garden of the house to the road from Pool to Four Lanes. **(0.58 miles)**

Go L (WM) uphill on a narrow path between tree-lined hedges. At 0.74 miles the path ends and a short grassy track passes Burnt Cottage to your R up to a tarmac track at 0.76 miles. *Good views L over Camborne and on to St. Ives Bay and Penwith Hills. At this point you could go straight ahead on a narrow path uphill and cut off a corner but that is technically not a footpath.* Go R on the track and, after about 120 yards, go L on a stony path uphill between scrubby hedges. A little way up you leave the hedges for open land but in bramble and furze covered ground. The path climbs and winds up Carn Brea, fairly steep, rutted and rocky. You reach the first impressive rocky outcrop at around 700 feet at 0.98 miles. *From this point the route is fairly consistently ENE until you have passed the Bassett Monument.* **(0.98 miles)**

Once you are on the Carn Brea ridge, views in all directions are superb. Initially they are back to Tregonning and Godolphin Hills, the Penwith Hills and St. Ives Bay; left over Camborne, Pool and Redruth to the coast; forward left to St. Agnes Beacon. Later you look forward to St. Euny's Church, Wheal Uny and Carn Marth and right across mine remains in the valley to the TV mast on Carnmenellis.

On to the Bassett Monument – 0.48 miles

The path heads for and undulates up to the (ever visible) Bassett Monument, passing other massive rocky outcrops. You pass through a gap in a hedge at 1.13 miles and at 1.25 miles you reach a waymarked junction and a bench with a view at 68080/40636. A path back L heads down to Tregajorran *(this will be taken later)*, one L heads to Illogan Highway, a bridleway heads R down to Castle Bungalow and is the path by which you will return later. Ignore all these and continue towards the Bassett Monument. *Just before you reach it note, at the front of another great rocky outcrop, there is an odd rock with a hole at ground level. Locals tells stories about it concerning the Giant Bolster.* *At the other end of the outcrop note an oddly weathered balanced rock.* Reach the Bassett Monument at 1.46 miles at 750 feet. **(1.46 miles)**

Bassett Monument to the Great Flat Lode Trail – 0.45 miles

Carn Brea Castle is now in clear view ahead. A path heads just to the right of it to pick up a well-made track from Carnkie village at 1.58 miles. Go L on it and pass Carn Brea Castle on your L at 1.68 miles. Go across the turning circle to find a narrow rocky difficult path, heading steeply down, at first towards St. Euny's Church, than to the R of it. At 1.72 miles the path forks. Take the R fork (*towards Wheal Uny and Carn Marth*). The path continues on down, muddy and rocky, to a junction at 1.91 miles at 510 feet at 68985/40872. **(1.91 miles)**

Forward is an un-waymarked path leading down to a stream crossing and to the Carnkie to Carn Brea Village road. The major crossing track is the Great Flat Lode trail. If you wish to make yours an easy walk, go L here to return to your starting point by the well-made and well waymarked trail, reaching your start point at 3.34 miles. Should you plan now to complete a clockwise circuit of the GFL, go R here; it is about six miles back to Old Cowlins Mill, for a total about 8 miles.

West Bassett Stamps

An interesting shortish detour would take you to the considerable remains of West Bassett Stamps and back, adding only about half-a-mile to the walk. Go R on the GFL and, shortly, where the trail is signed L, continue ahead on a well-made track to reach the site.

Great Flat Lode Trail back to Old Cowlins Mill – 1.43 miles

Go hard right on a very stony path leading back uphill through gorse and brambles. *Shortly Carn Brea Castle comes into view above R, then Bassett Monument appears straight ahead.* After 150 yards it opens out a bit and the path bears L and levels off, winding through brambly, furzey, scrubby woodland. Another 80 yards on an easy but rocky climb begins, soon passing on the L an extensive hedged-off shaft of former South Carnbrea Mine. *More open soon with a view L across valley of Carnmenellis TV mast, below it South Wheal Bassett mine remains and, L below that a former count house. Further L you will see Seleggan copper works, Wheal Uny and Carn Marth. Above half R is the Bassett Monument, R Carn Brea Castle.* After another 50 yards or so pass to your L Mount Pleasant Farm. Path continues up again, now a bit rocky. At 2.25 miles at 650 feet you come to the track from Carnkie up to Carn Brea Castle. Go L on it for a few yards past the entrance to Castle Bungalow and, where the track becomes tarmac, go R following a WM, on a narrow rocky path between hedges with Castle Bungalow grounds to your R. **(2.28 miles)**

The path becomes uphill easy. *As you climb, Bassett Monument is directly to your R, Tregonning and Godolphin Hills in distance half L.* Note standing stones (boundary stones?) in each of two small fields off to your R. At 2.34 miles the hedge on the R ends and you enter open ground but with low hedge to L, path less rocky now. *Looking off to L, in a 180 degree panorama you see engine houses and chimneys everywhere, from Pennance Consols to L round to Higher Condurrow to R. At top at 2.46 miles at 710 feet, you look forward to Carn Brea's western rocky outcrops and beyond to Penwith Hills and St. Ives Bay and St. Ives.* Continue gently downhill to a WM post at 685 feet where all paths join. **(2.54)**

Go left through the gap and, leaving a granite bench to your R, take a very narrow, rutted and rocky path downhill through furze, bracken and bramble. *You get a good view over Pool and Camborne, which includes South Crofty, Heartlands and quite a number of engine houses and chimneys.* At 2.67 miles go through a gap and down a steep cattle stile. At the bottom at 2.93 miles at 480 feet you leave Carn Brea and pass the first buildings of Tregajorran. Continue down on Chapel Hill and at the bottom at 3.07 miles go L on lane and follow GFL sign back to your start point at the storyboard at Old Cowlins Mill. **(3.34 miles)**
