



To the north of the condenser housing is the flywheel slot and the whim cage slot. ⑨ The boiler house ⑩ is to the north of the main engine house and the boiler house chimney is at the west end. Now turn right and head towards the gate walking on level ground. Look to your right and you will see the remains of two reservoir ponds which served the steam engines.



Copper Crushing House

Now leave the Holmbush Plantation and turn right towards Kelly Bray. After a short distance you will see a 'Public Footpath' sign on the right and here you must decide whether to walk back to Callington on the same route or to take the longer route through the countryside. If you decide to go back to town you might like to first explore the mining area to the east along Winsor Lane, The Heritage Centre has further information on Holmbush and the Winsor

Mine to give you a greater understanding of the site. The footpath to the right is a short route to the main A388. When you come to the main road turn left and keep on the grass verge until you see the footpath sign opposite when you need to carefully cross the road and proceed along this green lane. All of this area was once common and Redmoor mine spread over the land to the left. You will then come to a track on the left that takes you to Maders, follow this track down to South Hill road and turn left. Walk along South Hill Road in the direction of Callington and on the right you should be able to turn into the drive by Woodland Lodge, however this right of way is currently blocked, so until a footpath sign appears on the roadside take the next unmade track on the right almost opposite Redmoor Road. Go down this track, turn right at the fork and then left through the gate into a field, your path now rejoins the right of way and you will have stunning views of the moors from here. Go straight down the field to the gate at the bottom, turn left along the bank and go through the next gate and then right through another gate. Proceed down two field and then there is an unofficial diversion signposted to take you to join an unmade road. Turn left and follow this track, go through the grounds of Bearland Cottage to at Bearland Bridge. Go onto the lane and bearing left follow this uphill. Proceed along this lane and you will go past the Health Centre and into the town. At the Junction by the Phoenix Inn if you turn right you will come to the Heritage Centre or if you go straight ahead you can turn up New Road to the car park or bus stop.

**WARNING: Holmbush Mine is on Duchy of Cornwall land. The Duchy allow permissive access but stress that visitors must be aware this is an old mine site and there are un-located mine shafts that have not been securely capped. You are advised to remain on level ground & on well worn footpaths. Do not stray from these and do not enter fenced areas.**

Callington Heritage Centre is in Liskeard Road, Callington. It is open from Easter to the end of October, on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays, from 10.00 to 16.00hrs.

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# Heritage Walk 4 Holmbush Mine



# CALLINGTON

# HERITAGE WALK 4

## Holmbush Mine

Length of walk almost 3 kilometres or nearly 2 miles. Healthy longer alternative is 8½ kilometres or 5¼ miles. The short walk is level. The longer walk includes some slopes and sections that can be muddy in winter.

**Transport.** This walk starts from the Car Park in New Road Callington or the free car park in Saltash Road can be used. The bus stop is also in New Road. The less able could drive to the parking area near the mine,

**Public Conveniences.** The only public conveniences are in New Road, Callington.

**Refreshments.** There are several café's, inns and food retailers in Callington and a public house in Kelly Bray.

**Further information.** Is available from the Callington Heritage Centre in Liskeard Road. It is open Fri. Sat, & Sun. 1000-1600hrs every weekend from Easter to the end of October and Bank Holiday Mondays. Further information on locations featured in this walk is available. Other walks leaflets are available in the Town Hall which is on your left just as you leave the paying car park.



From New Road walk across Fore Street to the Church and then down Church Street. When you get to the A388 continue walking northwards to Kelly Bray making use of the pavements. At Kelly Bray take the turning that goes on the right hand side of the Swingle Tree. Carry on walking north and just after the large timber building on the left turn into a parking area and proceed to the other side where you turn left and take the path along by the fence. [Please read the warning note at the end of this leaflet.] The plantation is relatively new as when the mining was at it peak in the 19th century the whole area was open moorland. Holmbush is just one



mine in a row that stretched from Winsor in the east and towards Maders in the west. There are indications that there was mining at this site as early as the 17th century but the peak period of production was from 1837 to 1892 when copper, lead and silver were mined as well as some arsenic. The two main shafts Hitchens and Wells were excavated to a depth of 325 metres.

To your left is a large spoil dump ❶ and ahead of you is Hitchen's Pumping Engine house ❷ one of the two main engine houses which have now been stabilised. Just before the house take a right turn along a narrow uneven path in front of the fence that surrounds the shaft area this went to a depth of at least 175 fathoms [323 metres]. Due to the depth of the shaft a balance bob was necessary to counteract the weight of the pump rods and the balance bob box ❸ is on your left. Ahead of you is the remains of the boiler house ❹ with the chimney at the corner. The position of the three boilers can just be identified as three

low mounds amongst the vegetation. To your right a water wheel and crank pit ❷ have been cleared of vegetation. The water wheel pit measures 7 metres in length and only one metre wide internally and to the south of this is a crank or flywheel pit with the same internal width but only 4 metres long.

Now retrace your tracks to the main path and look at the main engine house which may have been constructed prior to 1820. ❹ As you approach the engine house you are facing the bob wall. This is usually the stoutest wall of an engine house as it had to carry the weight of the huge bob arm which projected from the top opening which is about 9 metres above ground level.

Walk round the buildings and now enter through the large cylinder arch in the south wall. This feature permitted the easy ingress of the cylinder. The cylinder bedstones can still be seen and they comprise four blocks of granite with three visible cylinder bolt holes. On the west wall is an access doorway to the adjoining boiler house, whose floor level is well below that of the engine house.

Follow the track round to the south of the engine house and from there it doubles back and passes through the south wall of the Copper Crusher House ❺ - a rare survival.

As you follow the path round to the left you come to the second engine house which housed the winding engine which was constructed during the 1880's. In front of it [east] is the condenser housing ❸ but one wall of this has collapsed.



Hitchen's Engine House