

IASDA / SCIAS Field Trip Visit to Mid-Cornwall, 15th to 16th June 2019

Saturday 15th June

LUXULYAN VALLEY

This is part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.

The map below is taken from the Friends of Luxulyan Valley <http://www.luxulyanvalley.co.uk/>



9.00 am Assemble at the Carclaze Inn. PL25 4EJ from the A391 (SX 02272 54668)

Requirements:

Stout footwear (it will be muddy in places) and clothing appropriate for the forecast weather. There is no shelter, toilets or shops once we leave the village. Bring a packed lunch and drink.

Route:

The route will be approximately 5 miles and will include fields (with cattle) and rough tracks. There may be some steep ascents and descents but it will be at a leisurely pace. We should be back in the village by 5 pm at the latest.

It is hoped to visit various features constructed by J.T. Austen (later Treffry) and others, including: the Carmears tramway; the Fowey Consols and Carmears leats; the Carmears wheelpit and incline plane; the Long Drive (aka Velvet Path) constructed by the Kendall family; Prideaux Wood mine; Pontois Mill; the Par Canal; the Central Cornwall Dry; remnants of tin streaming; Lady Rashleigh Mine office; Cornwall Minerals Railway; and the Treffry Viaduct/Aqueduct.

Should anyone find the whole route too exhausting there are two points at which it can be cut short and a lift back to the village can be arranged.

Sunday 16th June

AN EXPLORATION OF A TRANSFORMED LANDSCAPE

The estuary of the Luxulyan or Par River has been utterly transformed in the last 300 years. It was once a broad estuary navigable as far as Pontois Mill but silting, initially caused by tin streaming, has filled the lower reaches. During the Industrial revolution further changes were brought about by: mining; the construction by J.T. Treffry of Par Harbour and Canal; the china-clay industry; the railway; engineering; and tourism. The watery pre-industrial world captured eloquently (and accurately) by Daphne du Maurier in *The House on the Strand* has vanished, although glimpses of a pre-industrial world can be glimpsed here and there.

Meet:

9.30 am Meet at in the council pay-and-display car park at the eastern end of Par Beach (SX 08721 53252),

Requirements:

Stout footwear (it will again be muddy in places) and clothing appropriate for the forecast weather. It will be a flatter route than that of the previous day. There are public toilets at Par Beach and in St Blazey. Bring a packed lunch and drink.

Route:

It is impossible to understand the changes wrought by J.T. Treffry, and his successors, by visiting Luxulyan Valley alone. His influence also affected the lower reaches of the river valley. We will walk along Par Beach to the Mount (site of Par Consols mine). From there we will follow the Par River and Canal (and replacement tramway and modern railway line) towards Pontois Mill. This will afford us the chance to look at interesting features in and around the industrial settlement of St Blazey. We will retrace our steps from Pontois Mill before further exploration of the remains of the estuary on our way back to the car park. This is not picturesque Cornwall, although quite attractive in places, but it does show the county's profound relationship (for good and ill) with industry.

Approximately 5 miles on paths and pavements (no fields). We will aim to finish by about 4 pm.

Costs:

The cost for each day will be £3 per person for DA members and £5 pp for non-members. In order to reserve a place for these 2 days please contact, (preferably by email):

Adrian Wills Tel: **01237 477705**
Email: **adrian@therollecanal.co.uk**

Acknowledgement of booking will be made by email.

Further details of this trip may be found in the 5th edition of the IASDA newsletter just published.

