

BAT TRAIL-12

Tamar Valley Landscape Walk



Photo: Tamar Valley AONB

The steeply sloping and heavily wooded landscape of the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) forms the boundary between Devon and Cornwall. Mining history is key to the story of the valley and the remains around the former Devon Great Consols mine are important for the local greater horseshoe bat population.

The old mine at Devon Great Consols supports a key maternity roost for greater horseshoe bats. Wooded valleys, river corridors, networks of hedgerows and cattle-grazed pastures that surround the roost are great for feeding bats and help them to find their

way around the landscape.

This longer walk gives you an insight into the features in the landscape that make the Tamar Valley AONB an ideal place for bats. .

**DEVON
GREATER
HORSESHOE
BAT PROJECT**



ROUTE INFO

Start:

Tamar Valley Centre, Drakewalls
(NOT the Tamar Trails Centre).
Free Parking

Distance and timings:

3.5 miles

Circular Walk:

No, need to return to start point via
public transport

Terrain & Description of paths

Easily accessible, not wheelchair
friendly

Obstacles and Gradients:

One steep ascent to Calstock
churchyard

Public Transport:

Bus/train in Gunnislake. Return to
start by bus/train from Calstock to
Gunnislake station

Toilets:

Weekdays at Tamar Valley Centre:
Calstock Quay

Refreshment & Other Facilities:

Pubs and cafes in Calstock, visitor
info at Tamar Valley Centre

OS Map:

OS Explorer Map 108
SX 42565 70665

Grid Reference and postcode:

Postcode PL18 9FE



Photo: Tamar Valley AONB



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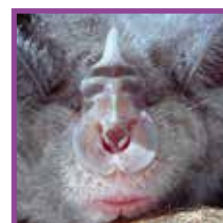


Photo: Phil Richardson



Photo: Frank Greenaway

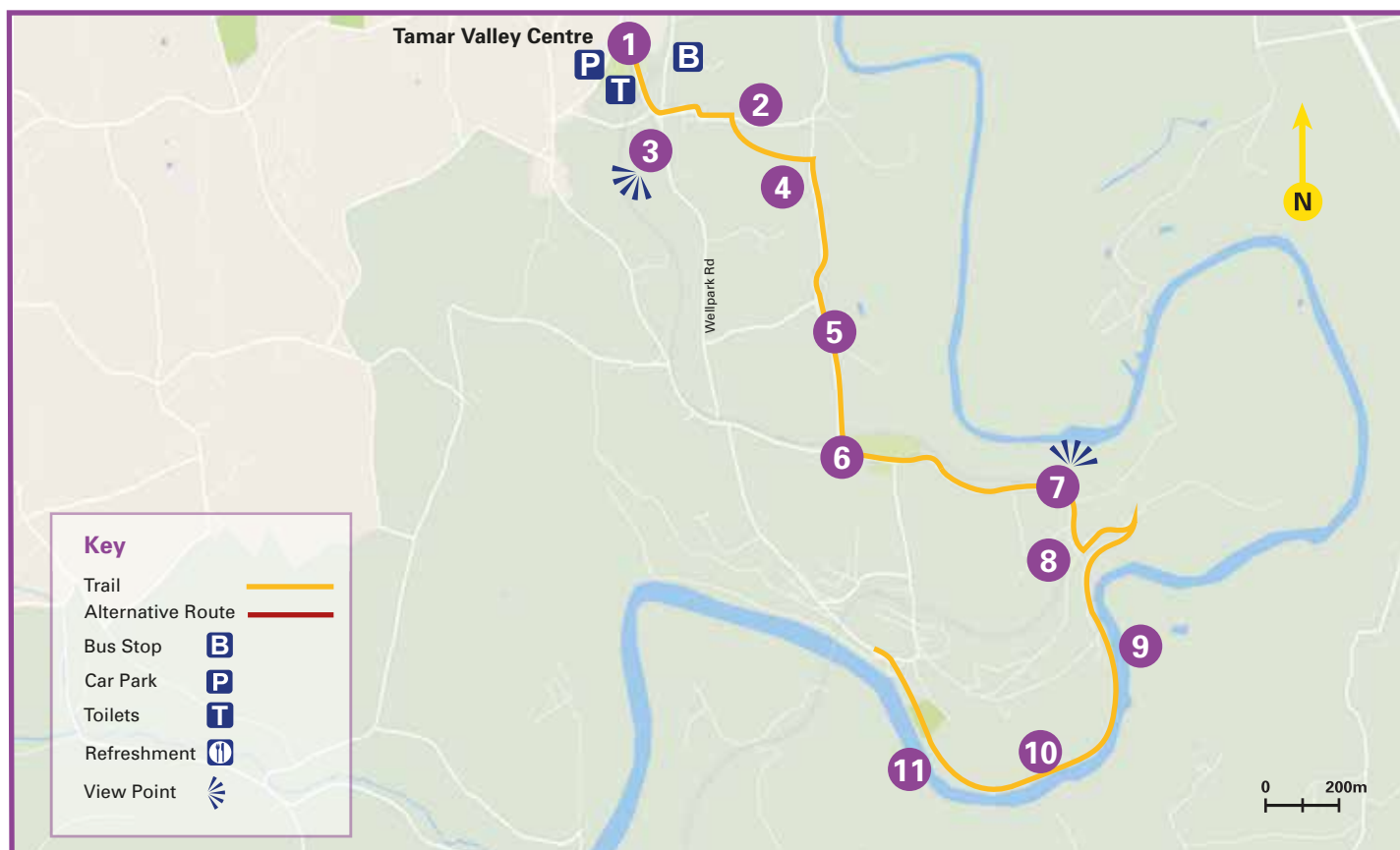


Devon
Wildlife Trust



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DIRECTIONS

- 1** Take the lane directly opposite the Tamar Valley Centre. The hedge lined lanes of the Tamar Valley make wonderful navigation routes for bats and the network forms a great aid for them finding their way around the landscape.
- 2** When you reach the end of the lane turn left and then immediately right and head downhill. There are plenty of mature trees en-route and their branches make a great place for greater horseshoe bats to perch and eat their insect dinner.
- 3** After about 200 yards take the public footpath on the right. There is a wonderful view from the entrance gateway. Grass pasture grazed by cattle makes great habitat for greater horseshoes - they love the insects that live in cowpats.
- 4** At the house, bear left and follow the track along the woodland edge. This track provides an ideal fly through for bats. Continue to the end of the track and turn right onto the minor road. You have now joined the Tamar Valley Discovery Trail (Apple logs) and will now follow it to Calstock.
- 5** Keep a look out for old farm buildings along this stretch of the road, they are great places for bats as long as they are accessible at all times so that they can enter and leave easily. At the road junction, head straight on and under the railway bridge. At the T-junction, turn left follow the stone wall and take the first gate into the churchyard.
- 6** Churchyards are great places for bats, as they are often home to good populations of insects. Continue along the Discovery Trail towards Harewood.
- 7** As you walk along this road you start to see great views of the landscape and how it all connects to provide great habitat. The wooded slopes around the former mining area at Devon Great Consols. are a key site for greater horseshoes and the river corridor makes an ideal route for feeding bats.
- 8** Continue over the railway level crossing. The Tamar Valley line is a great way to see the local landscape as well as being a natural byway for bats.
- 9** Turn left and follow the Discovery Trail to the start of the trackway leading to Okel Tor Mine. There are glimpses through the woodland towards the river and the former Okel Tor mine buildings.
- 10** Just before you enter the riverside path, turn around and you will see a very good example of a limekiln. Limekilns can provide homes for bats as they are cool and dark spaces with lots of nooks and crannies.
- 11** Follow the riverside path back to Calstock and identify the features in the landscape that make it such a great place for bats both now and in the future. The riverside path emerges at Calstock Quay and the end of the walk.