

## Mount Hawke

A very varied walk; a sylvan valley and stark uplands.

Some areas can be muddy particularly near the start, hence the walk should be undertaken with appropriate footwear.

Start the walk at Banns on the North West outskirts of Mount Hawke.

Take the path just uphill of a cottage called "Rill Cottage" on the right and opposite Vale Cottage.



Upon commencing the walk, one soon encounters the worst mud, but this is quickly past. The track descends gently to border a stream on the right. Observe the adit on the left **A**, water from which has never been known to fail and is a recognised potential emergency supply.

You now enter an area known locally as "Parc Shady" **B**. It is easy to see how it acquired this name. **After a few hundred metres you see a simple bridge of two granite lintels C**. Ignore this (you'll see it again later!). **Continue on to a more open area where one crosses the stream (there is no bridge).**

**Having crossed the stream, continue on the well defined track**, you will shortly pass the wastewater treatment plant to your left. Note the extensive spoil heaps above on right.

**Passing a small market garden on the left you come to a metalled road.** Just at the junction you will see on the right the foundations of the "Elmore Flotation Plant **D**"; a 'new to Cornwall' ore separation technique used by the short lived reopening of the Tywarnhale Mine in 1907. This used electric power, another first for Tywarnhale, generated in a building we'll soon pass as we turn right onto the road. The Power House **F1** was used by the Royal School of Mines for many years as a



workshop and store. The generators in this building were powered by gas engines using gas produced on site from coal brought from Portreath harbour.

200-300 yards further on, just before the road sign for Porthtowan, you will find a vehicle barrier across a track which climbs the hillside towards mine buildings. These are the remains of Tywarnhale's Taylor's Shaft where the first electric centrifugal pumps in Cornwall were installed **F2**.

These ruins can be visited by using the old service track that is hewn out of the hillside.

**Returning to the bottom of the obvious track, take the smaller track on the left, ascending around a sharp right turn. You are now ascending parallel to the first track and above it.**

Have a look across the valley at evidence of bygone mining activity - trial and surface diggings and capped airshafts. Do have a look down at the old buildings, the truncated chimney showing clearly its construction. Under your feet are the remains of an old cobbled track.

The well preserved engine house you now pass is that of John's shaft of Tywarnhale which was used before the electric pumps. **Keeping the engine house to your right continue towards a hut, which you will then pass.** This hut would have been used by surface workers as a croust (meal break) shelter.

You will note the contrast here between the heathland and the lush valley below, the different climate in just a few hundred metres as the crow flies: resulting in a complete change in flora and fauna providing an utterly different aspect.

G



H

c.1900



**At the track end, turn left onto another** and enjoy the distant sea views to the left and ahead. **Approaching the gate, pass to the left and then shortly after turn right across the grass into the housing estate. Follow the estate road ahead and then round a left-hand bend on to the main road, where you turn right.**

I

**Take care, this is a busy road** but we only follow it for about 200 yards. Just past the Towan Cross sign opposite, turn right into lane marked Trevissick Farm. Follow this metalled lane passing buildings to the right on to a grassy track to the left



just before the double gateposts. This track becomes stony, slopes downhill and is steep in places. Minding the loose surface, go straight on to the granite bridge seen earlier.

*Now, if you are tired you can turn left back through Parc Shady to the starting point,*

**however our walk turns right and then almost immediately left, going uphill.**

As you ascend, take time to pause and look across to the castellated stack of Wheel Ellen [J](#): one of only two such in Cornwall. Near this was the so called Navy Pit [K](#), now filled in with rubble from the also defunct Wheel Concorde mine; the result of a failed attempt at revival in the 1980s (see walk 10).

Navy Pit was part of Wheel Music which was the largest open-cast copper mine in Europe, where in addition to ores of copper, native copper (metallic form) was found. Examples of this are to be seen in Truro museum.

**Continue to follow the track up the hill passing a small chalet**

c.1905



c.1910



c.1910



c.1905



M

park on your left until you reach the road. Turn left and at the crossroads in about 100 metres turn left again, continue through Mount Hawke passing the shops and Methodist Church.

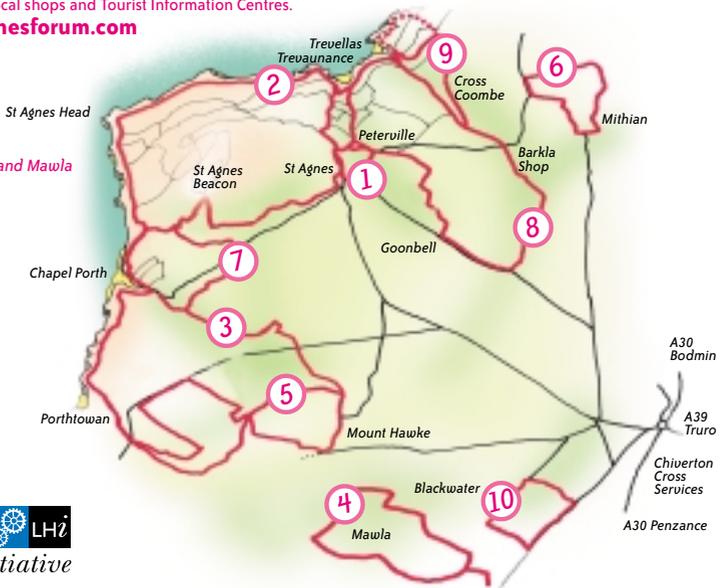
Walk slowly through the village and try to identify the photographs [K](#) to [M](#).

Unless you wish to take a detour to the pub [I](#) for refreshments, when the main road turns to the right, carry straight on, passing the post office and W I Hall. Your starting point is now only a couple of hundred metres ahead.

This map is one of a series available from local shops and Tourist Information Centres. For further information visit [www.stagnesforum.com](http://www.stagnesforum.com)

- Walk 1 St Agnes Village Trail
- Walk 2 St Agnes Beacon
- Walk 3 Porthowan, Banns Vale, Mount Hawke and Chapel Porth
- Walk 4 Wheal Rose, the Poldice Plateway and Mawla
- Walk 5 Mount Hawke
- Walk 6 Mithian Walk
- Walk 7 Wheal Coates, Chapel Porth and Wheal Lawrence Valley
- Walk 8 Water Lane, Wheal Butson and Jericho Valley
- Walk 9 Jericho Valley and Cross Coombe
- Walk 10 Blackwater

St Agnes 2000  
Regeneration Forum  
Chairman - John Slater  
Parish Rooms  
St Agnes  
Cornwall



  
Local Heritage initiative



walk number

5

# ST. AGNES

## HERITAGE TRAIL

Mount Hawke  
5km or 3 miles

