

Key

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- Walk route

About Heralds of Spring

During the spring, Tamar Valley hedgebanks and woodlands explode into a riot of colour, as daffodils bloom, making a striking impact on the landscape. These are very special daffodils representing the strong heritage and cultural legacy of the market gardening industry, one of the key factors determining the Tamar Valley's sense of place and the heritage of communities within this nationally protected landscape.

Heralds of Spring is a ground-breaking Heritage Lottery funded 'collection in the landscape' project. During Spring 2017 over 100 varieties of daffodils, many of which date back to cultivation before the first and second world wars, were recorded by a group of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. The project has also increased awareness of this amazing resource, which is unique to the Tamar Valley and we hope will be there for future generations to enjoy as much as we do on a sunny spring day.



This is one of a series of downloadable walks that help you to discover the wonderful historic daffodil legacy in our beautiful landscape which are so much part of Spring in the Tamar Valley. However, they are great walks at anytime of the year for anyone looking to explore the valley from one of the stations on the beautiful Tamar Valley Line.

Please remember all public rights of way cross private land, so keep to paths and keep dogs on leads. Occasionally short-term work may mean diversions are put in place, follow local signs if necessary. The maps are intended as a guide only; it is always advisable to carry the appropriate OS Map with you whilst out walking.

Credits: Walk Route and Images – Ann Marcer and Lesley Strong (Tamar Valley AONB)



Discovering Daffodils
A circular walk from Bere Alston Railway Station
via Tuckermarsh

Distance

Shorter walk – approximately 1¼ miles

Longer walk – approximately 2 miles

Moderate with some steep uphill sections. Some areas may be muddy after heavy rain. Please dress accordingly. There are old mine workings scattered throughout the woods, so please keep to paths.

The Route...

1. From Bere Alston station, cross the station car park to the start of the footpath along the concrete road. Follow the footpath and continue past the houses on your right until you meet a road junction. Take the track opposite and you start entering woodland.



2. Continue under the old railway bridge following the path. Take note of the daffodils above the hedges on your right hand side, both in the woodland and in a small field. The daffodils have naturalised into the landscape but the volume suggests they may have been grown commercially here. Also notice the old corrugated iron building, which may have been a packing house.



3. On the left hand side of the pathway you will see an old market garden, now a private residence called 'Kingston' with different varieties of daffodils growing in rows in the field, and another old packing shed in the bottom corner.

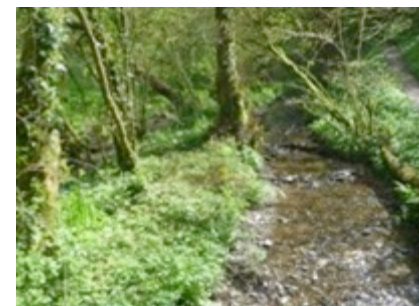
4. The walk route will be following the edge of the market garden downhill towards the bottom of the valley. Don't forget to look on the right hand side too for more daffodil clumps up on the bank.



5. Where the path ends at the junction take the downhill road past 'Kingston' house at the bottom of the concrete path, take the footpath off to the left and into the woods sign-posted 'footpath only'.

6. Continue through the woods, taking note of the daffodils high up on the banks and in the woodlands on both sides of the path. This is a very old path that may well have been used to connect with a ferry across the Tamar and/or for miners to get to the nearby silver mines.

7. On the right-hand side of the path you may notice the stream actually cuts into two, one being a leat, although it is not known what the leat was feeding into.



8. At the bottom of the woodland path, cross onto the concrete path; keep to the left and head towards the river, joining the driveway to Tuckermarsh Cottages. Follow the footpath signs in front of the cottages, which have fantastic views of the river and the viaduct across the river at Calstock. There was a ferry service across the Tamar here.



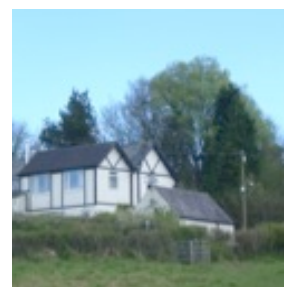
9. Once through the gate at the end of the cottages, continue along the river on the level footpath. You will come to an old quay, now disused and dilapidated but you can still make out the very large quayside stones in the wall. Before the river silted up the quay would once have berthed quite sizeable cargo boats for loading and unloading, servicing the mining and market gardening industries.

10. Cross the stream and there are now **two options**. For a **shorter walk**, after the stream take the left hand path, which climbs uphill and joins with the longer path at the top of the woodland. Turn right and head back to the railway station.



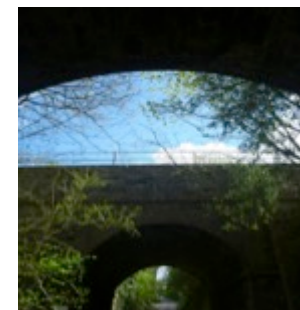
11. The **longer walk** takes the right-hand path that leads along the riverbank through the woods until you come to the path junction. Take the left-hand footpath which now leads uphill. Note the interesting granite waymarker on your left as you walk up the hill, a possible relic from the mining era. There are several fenced off mine shafts and adits, a chimney and disused mining buildings if you look closely into the woodland as you walk uphill.

12. The footpath leads you to a field, entered through the metal kissing gate. Please be aware that there can be cattle grazing in this field and keep dogs on a lead whilst in this field.



13. Walk up the hill, heading towards the top left hand corner of the field. As you come to the brow of the hill, you will see a large white house, head towards the house and you will see another kissing gate which leads back out to a lane.

14. Go through the gate and follow the path back uphill, under the two railways bridges and you will return to the station on your left.



All information supplied in good faith and believed correct at time of going to print (February 2018). No responsibility can be accepted for any errors, changes or omissions. Published by the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as part of the Heralds of Spring project
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