

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 – Juliette Bowers and Lesley Strong (Tamar Valley AONB)



Discovering Daffodils
A circular walk from Bere Ferrers Railway Station

Distance – Approximately 4 miles

Moderate with some steep uphill sections and long climbs but well worth it! Some areas may be muddy after heavy rain. Please dress accordingly. Please note that the riverside path may be impassable at high tide.

The Route...

1. From the railway station, turn right and walk to the end of the lane. At the T-junction turn left on to Station Road. Follow Station Road down and past the Church Hall.

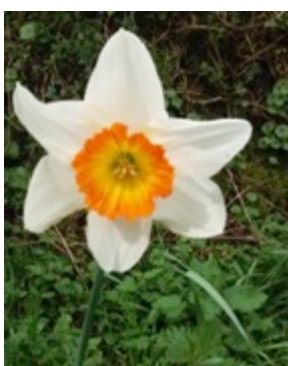


2. At Fore Street turn right to head down into the village and towards the river. (You can take a short diversion and turn left at this point to see the daffodils in the community orchard). Walk downhill through Bere Ferrers, carrying on



past the The Olde Plough Inn, down to the waterfront and continue along the road, which follows the river. When you get to the chapel, take the public footpath on the right.

3. Follow the riverside path until you get to the former quay at Gnatham. Bear left and continue on the Tamar Valley Discovery Trail (follow the apple) onto the lane and turn right. Continue around the hairpin bends, ignoring the paths leading into the woodland and the right hand turn to Gnatham Farm.



4. You are now in Collytown Lane. Continue uphill and keep an eye out for daffodils on the hedgebanks. This is a really good location to spot a wide range of varieties of daffodils. Ignore the trail to the right half way up the hill and continue along the lane. There are some amazing views of the lower Tavy valley to enjoy from here too.

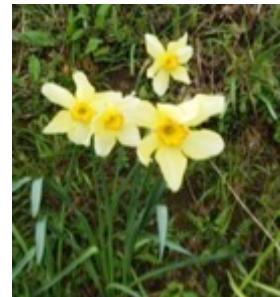


5. When you reach some cottages on a tight bend, continue on past them and take the footpath/bridlepath on the left just past Collytown Forge. Continue past Collytown Manor and bear left down the old hedge-lined track.



6. At the bottom of the track go through the metal gate and look out for the gate into the woods on the right. Take this footpath and then head down into the woods following the waymarked route.

7. When you get to the bottom of the valley, cross the bridge over the stream and head straight up to the fingerpost on the forestry track. Cross straight over and head uphill towards Hole Farm.



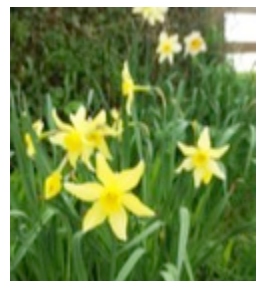
8. Pass through the gate and enter the farmyard then turn left along the drive. Dozens of varieties of daffodils grow in the hedgebanks around Hole Farm including King Alfred, a classic trumpet daffodil, also Van Sion, a very unusual and historic variety dating back to before the Great Fire of London.

9. At the end of the driveway you will emerge onto a quiet lane bordered by hedges full of numerous daffodil varieties, including White Lion. Turn left and follow the lane downhill until you see a bridlepath on the right hand side.



10. Follow this bridlepath across the fields, enjoying the distant views to Bere Ferrers church and the Tavy estuary.

11. Continue down the rough bridleway where varieties include Victoria and Daughter of Empress. The diversity and position of daffodils here suggests that these may have been discarded by local growers in the pursuit of newer, more popular, varieties or food for the war effort.



12. At the end of the bridlepath you will join Hensbury Lane. Turn right and then at the first corner turn right again onto a track leading to Shutcombe Farm. At the farm, bear right and head up the fields with a boundary on the left, continue until the path slowly opens out and crosses a stile. Take the left hand curve down to the road.

13. Climb over the ladder stile, turn right and cross the road. Take the next footpath on the left, taking care negotiating the stile - it's a tricky one. The path crosses the field and heads towards a house in the woods.

14. Follow the public footpath through the garden and onto the access road. Continue past the houses and the access road will take you to a lane with the railway station almost opposite on the right.



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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