

Tavistock Canal

A level walk along the wooded banks of an early 19th-century canal, constructed to link Tavistock's copper-rich mining areas to the port of Morwellham on the tidal River Tamar.



Scan for a detailed video about the route

Factoids:

- The canal was constructed between 1802 and 1817 to link Tavistock's copper-rich mining areas to the port of Morwellham on the tidal River Tamar.
- It now forms part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.
- It was last used by barges ended in 1873 due to a slump in the price of copper and the arrival of railways to Tavistock.

STROLLS AND ROLLS

EASY ACCESS STILE-FREE ROUTES
IN THE TAMAR VALLEY

Grade, surface and terrain:

Route for all: The first section through The Meadows Park (and alongside the River Tavy up as far as Abbey Bridge) is along a level tarmac path suitable for pushchairs and unassisted wheelchairs.

Route for many: South of the park, the tarmac path alongside the canal to Tavistock College is level apart from the descent and ascent through the underpass. However, care needs to be taken as the path is much narrower, with an unprotected drop into the canal. This section is suitable for assisted wheelchairs and more robust, all-terrain type equipment.

Route for some: Beyond Tavistock College there is a short section of 1:8 ascent and the path although firm with a rolled stone surface becomes more uneven with some slightly muddy sections. Just before Shillamill Viaduct the path narrows to 2ft 7" (80cm) for short section. As such it is only suitable for careful drivers of more robust all-terrain push chairs and off-road mobility vehicles.

Distance: 4½ miles there and back (easily shortened)

Nearest facilities: Toilets (disabled) in the Bedford car park. There is a café in the Wharf and a wider selection in nearby Tavistock town centre.

Parking: Bedford car park, next to the Wharf and Meadowlands in Tavistock. Postcode: PL19 8AR, Grid Reference; SX 480 742, What3Words: bother.metro.space

Directions: From the car park follow the road to the entrance of the Wharf and then bear left onto the riverside path and into the park. At the end of the park, take the path bearing right through an underpass under the main road and then double back to rejoin the canal path (stay on the adjacent cycle path if busy). Shortly after a footbridge, the canal path narrows, so fork left onto the cycle path. After about 100yds at the bottom of a slope turn right onto a steep (1:8) path into the woods to region the canal path. This path continues for another 1½ miles to the aqueduct over the River Lumburn. Return the same way.



Connecting with nature: Tamar Valley National Landscape seek to promote and create rewarding opportunities for more people to enjoy healthy outdoor activities, improving connections with nature and heritage. For more walks like this, visit www.tamarvalley.org.uk/walking If you find any problems with this walk please contact us at e: tamarvalleynationallandscape@cornwall.gov.uk To download the route onto your phone visit www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/discover-explore/walking/strolls-and-rolls/

