

Walk of the Month

Blisland and the De Lank Quarries

Distance 4 ½ miles. Time 2 hours. Ordnance Survey 109 (SX101733)

Character: Starts at one of Cornwall's prettiest villages, with a shop, a good pub, interesting church and (unusually for Cornwall) a village green. Initially farming country with commonland, then a working granite quarry. Footpaths and some quiet lanes. One steep descent, one steep ascent and some very uneven walking around the quarry area. Take care when within the quarry and stick to the path. A compass will come in useful for directions.

Start from Blisland's church, St Protus and St Hyacinth. Take the road up the side of the green (cassacawn/pendrift) and at the crossroads continue ahead for Pendrift.

Cross a cattle grid, pass a house and go through a wooden gate. Follow the yellow waymarks. The path descends steeply, then winds across the valley floor to a footbridge. Cross the river and continue following the waymarked path, first left along the bank then uphill. Pass a house and cross the quarry access road, going through a kissing gate. Now keep the fence on your right.

After 250m, turn right across a stile. The path winds up to a junction.

Turn right and you will see the quarry on your left. Pick your way along the upper edge of the quarry then descend to the quarry car park.

It is quite easy to miss your way here. Turn left (waymarked) past the settling tank. Then at the next waymark, take neither of the tracks but instead look for a narrow footpath bearing left (north-east) This winds up the hill to a stile. Turn right along the path. Go through a small gate, then through a field gate and turn right, keeping the hedge on your right. At a cattle grid and ford, use the stepping stones to the right and continue up the slope ahead until you reach an old field boundary.

Turn right along it and with a bit of luck you will find the Jubilee Rock, a massive and rather bizarre celebration of the golden jubilee of George the third in 1810. Retrace your steps to the corner of the enclosed land, then turn right (roughly south) until you reach a lane. Turn left, then at the next junction right. Walk parallel with the road on the common land to the right. When you reach a cattle grid, walk down the lane to a T-junction and turn right back to the village.