

## Jericho Valley and Cross Coombe

**Go to Trevellas Porth car park to start your walk **A**. Return towards the road.** Whether you stick to the car-track or walk through the open valley floor, signs of the industrial past are to be seen. The car-park itself is situated amongst the remnants of mine-buildings and further up, amongst more ruins is a well preserved chimney. Not many years ago this entire valley was a hive of tin-producing activity.

**On reaching the road turn right to the gate where Blue Hills Tin Streams sign board is situated **I**. There is also a sign pointing to Barkla Shop. Pass through the gate and enter Jericho Valley.**



**A**

Immediately on your left is the shell of the Blue Hills Mine engine-house and nearby is its chimney **C**. These are more reminders of tin production in the past but a little further along the path is evidence that the production of tin continues today at Blue Hill Tin Streams. This is a father and son **D** business that not only produces tin but smelts it and even casts giftware and jewellery. Currently this is the only tin producing business in Cornwall. **Leaving the Tin Streams gate on your right follow the path to the left of their premises.** Peep over the fence and, if you are tall enough, you may just be able to see the water-wheel that provides the power for some of their processes.

**B**

As you proceed along the path the signs of industry become fewer and the walk becomes more idyllic. The valley sides, clothed in fern, gorse and heather, are now much closer together and with the stream tinkling alongside the path it really does become a private, dreamlike world; especially when the sun is beating down. After passing the lowest part of the path, where it dips towards water level, keep scanning the undergrowth on the left and you may see the bricked up mouth of an adit, a horizontal shaft that provides either drainage or ventilation to

**C**

mine workings. **Follow the path straight past Jericho Cottage **E**** and you will find that the valley starts to open out and become more wooded. **Keep on until a bridge is spied crossing the stream at a little pool and mini-waterfall. (Not the log crossing near the cottage.) At this point we**

**D**

**turn left, leave the stream behind, and take the path pointing upwards sign-posted Mount May and Buckshead.**

**E**

It is hard to believe that the area that we are just leaving was also a very busy part of the tin industry where much of the work of extracting the tin from its ore was carried out **F**.

Although climbing makes the going harder, this path is just as idyllic as the route through the valley. The high hedges, in the main, restrict the view but the wild flowers and the chattering of the birds make up for it.

Occasionally some wild creature is to be seen, even though it may only be a rabbit.

**At the top of the hill the path flattens and passes a pink house on the right and soon it joins a road. Now follow the road in the same**

**direction.** Soon is seen the first evidence of a nearby airfield as its bright orange wind-sock

comes into view. This is the Perranporth Airfield, which was a busy airfield in wartime, housing a number of Spitfire squadrons. It is still active in a more peaceful, civilian role; now providing a base for several light aircraft and a Gliding Club **▣**. It is also the destination for private pilots for business or holidays in the area.

*(Why Perranporth Airfield when it is in St Agnes parish? It is believed that it was to ensure that servicemen left the train at Perranporth, the official pick-up point, rather than at St Agnes).*

**The road jiggles left and then right as it passes Trevellas Manor Farm on the right.**



c.1925



These farm buildings have a fascinating Dickensian look about them; they also look as though they will still be nestling there after another century. However, a caravan site on the left shows that it really is of this century. **In a couple of hundred metres turn left at the T-junction towards Cross Coombe.** Now the airfield is over the hedge on our right but there is very little to see in that direction. However if you look to the left a panorama of St Agnes is displayed. It takes in the village against a backdrop of the Beacon, it shows where the coves are carved out of the cliffs and, with its display of many engine houses, reminds us once again of our industrial heritage.

**Shortly the Blue Hills Touring Park will be seen on the right. At this point **▣** you are invited to make a choice; either to continue down the road or to detour to the cliff path, a more scenic but more rugged route.**



I

### FIRSTLY THE ROAD WALK.

No more directions are required now; just follow the pretty little road downwards as it narrows almost beyond belief passing the cottages tucked into the hillside. Soon a wonderful view of the entire cove is revealed as the last corner is turned. It even seems that the Bawden Rocks have been towed into place to complete the picture **I**.

**Just a few more strides down the hill will take you back to your starting**

**point.** Take time before you leave, to cross the bridge **I** and explore the beach and notice another adit to your left as you descend the rocky steps to the beach.



J

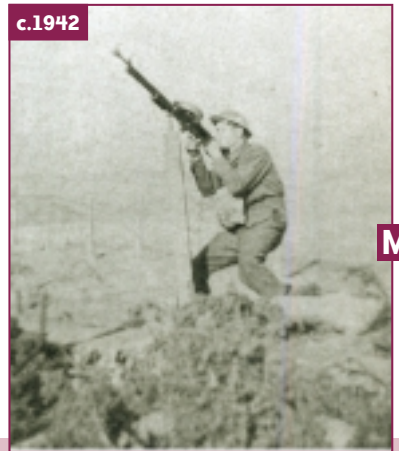


### NOW THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE.

Pass through the pedestrian access at the gate to the right of the Touring Park and follow the path to the airfield perimeter track where a waymark will be seen. Bear to the left and keep going. Ignore the two lanes that feed off to the left. Point towards the earth-covered shelter **K** that you see ahead until the Coastal Footpath is reached. Follow the path to the left.



K

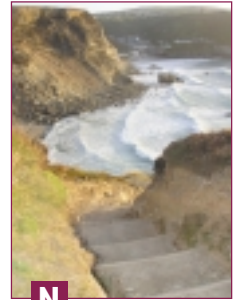


c.1942

M



It starts to descend but as it flattens out it is quite close to the cliff-edge; young children and dogs need to be watched carefully **L**. Finally and, once again at the last turn, the cove and the entire valley are displayed. A flat area suitable for use as a viewing platform will be found on the right. It is believed that this was a war-time gun emplacement **M**. **You will certainly see your car from here but you must proceed with great care down this last, steep descent to reach it safely **N**.**

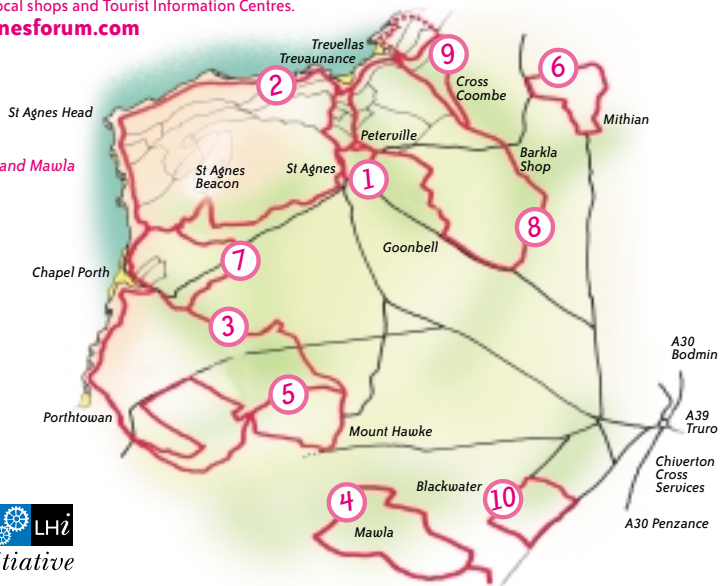


This map is one of a series available from local shops and Tourist Information Centres.

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

9

# ST. AGNES

## HERITAGE TRAIL

Jericho Valley and Cross Coombe  
3km or 2 miles

