

Wheal Rose, The Poldice Plateway and Mawla.

Start the walk at **Smokey Joe's Café** on the Blackwater road near Scorrier; a good venue for refreshments before or after your walk.

Almost opposite the car park entrance is The Doghouse Brewery which was established in 2001 in what was once the rescue kennels at Startrax Pets' Hotel. One of the kennel blocks has been converted into a 5-barrel capacity brewhouse; its beers have a 'doggy' theme, as do the many seasonal and house brews that they produce for pubs and inns.



Turn right at the far end of the car park and walk up the road with the mine building ahead **A.**

This is North Treskerby mine, it is on the site of an earlier mine called Trewan or Truan, which was most productive from the 1700s to about 1830. However, In 1871 two boilers were blown out five times causing the water to rise to above the 110-fathom level. This led to the building of the current engine house following the purchase of an 80" cylinder steam engine and 2 boilers at a cost of £1030, used to drain the mine. It was designed by Messrs Mitchell Mining Engineers of Redruth and was likely to have been built by a branch of the family living in St Agnes. The bob wall was 8'6"(2.6m) thick at the foundation and 6' (1.8m) at the plug door. The stack was 90' (27.4m) above the foundations and the stonework rises to a height of 62' (18.9m). The new engine did not start pumping until 12 November 1877. Over its lifetime North Treskerby produced 19,000 tons of copper ore.

Turn into the lane to the left signposted Avrisu. Passing a bungalow on the right proceed to a multiple fork in the track, take the left-hand one, passing 'The Abbots' on the left-hand side. Bear right down hill to a road which will bring you into Wheal Rose **B. Turn left on the road, then almost immediately turn right into a lane by 'The Old Forge' **C**.**

The Old Forge was built around 1877 for Henry Tonkin; blacksmith to Wheal Rose and the mines. It later served as a workshop and was requisitioned during the last war by the ARP for fitting villagers with Gas Masks. Later it reverted to a smithy again and was run by Harold Williams until the late 1960s.

At the track turn right. This is the Poldice Plateway, which is popular with cyclists. This Mineral Tramroad ran from Portreath



c.1910



Harbour to the mines of Scorrier & St Day. It was built in 1809 and comprised of cast-iron plates pinned to granite setts carrying three ton capacity horse drawn wagons. One of the surviving passenger wagons is in the museum at Truro **G** and is reputed to be one of the oldest in the world having been built circa 1810 and used to carry the Directors on mine inspections. The original intention had been to build a canal but this idea was dropped. Before its construction pack-horses had been used to haul the copper to Portreath for onward shipping and smelting in South Wales, returning with Welsh coal to fuel the steam engines of the mines. The coming of the railway line through to Hayle harbour introduced competition and by about 1870 the tramroad was derelict with the tram plates being sold for scrap shortly after. In a short while you

will see on the right the restored engine house of Wheal Rose **D**. It was on this site that one of the first steam pumping engines known as Newcomen engines was installed in Cornwall in 1725. Although invented in 1712, steam technology was not used for some years in Cornwall due to the difficulty and cost of importing coal. **Keep straight on this level track, passing three gates across the track and stone signs for Lower Brigan and Wheal Plenty.** On a bend after the third gate, some of the old plateway stones **E** can be seen underfoot. At the fourth gate, which is Mawla, the track ends at a road (in fact the plateway continues straight on for a short distance as a tarmac road).

Turn right onto the road, go downhill and cross a stream **F; continue uphill past Mawla chapel.**

Mawla is actually a very early area of settlement, although almost nothing remains to be seen, many ancient artifacts have been found which now rest in the museum in Truro. These include Iron Age worked stones, a quernstone, fragments of stone vessels, a drilled shaped stone and also spindle whorls of unknown date. Nearby there was a flint-working site and early maps show several Bronze Age barrows in the vicinity of Mawla Chapel **G**. The current Chapel was built in 1908 and opened just a year later, much of the work



Spindle whorls, used in spinning, showing position of spindle.



D



c.1908

F



G

being done by the local congregation **I** and **J**. It replaced a smaller earlier chapel located on the right, just a few metres up the hill on the opposite side of the road, where the Sunday school was then based **K**. Mawla at one time was a much more wooded area but suffered heavily when Dutch Elm disease swept through the United Kingdom.

Continue up the hill and ignoring the road junction on the left, at a right hand bend take the track on the left. After about 50 metres, just before a bend in the track, take the stile on the right, this is set into the hedge and easily missed but is indicated by a small arrow on a post. Descend through woodland observing the adit on the right at the bottom **L.** This used to drain the Stencoose and Mawla United mines, which again had flooding problems, having an engine that was too small to cope with the water. There are stepping-stones across the small rill from the adit and a plank bridge over the adjacent stream. **Cross the road and go up the road opposite,** this hamlet is called Manor Parsley.

Continue up the hill past the bungalows on the right; look for a bungalow on the right with an interwoven fence atop a stone wall, opposite 'Little Oaks.' *There is a track to the right here **M**, one can take this track and shorten the walk by $\frac{3}{4}$ mile – also this is an advisable route in wet weather conditions for those without stout boots, as the longer route can be muddy.*

If one desires the longer walk continue up the road to the nearby corner and leave the road on the straight ahead track, passing 'Nantrevé' and 'Bumble Down Barn.' Keep on the track to 'Bluebell Cottage,' the name is barely visible but there



H



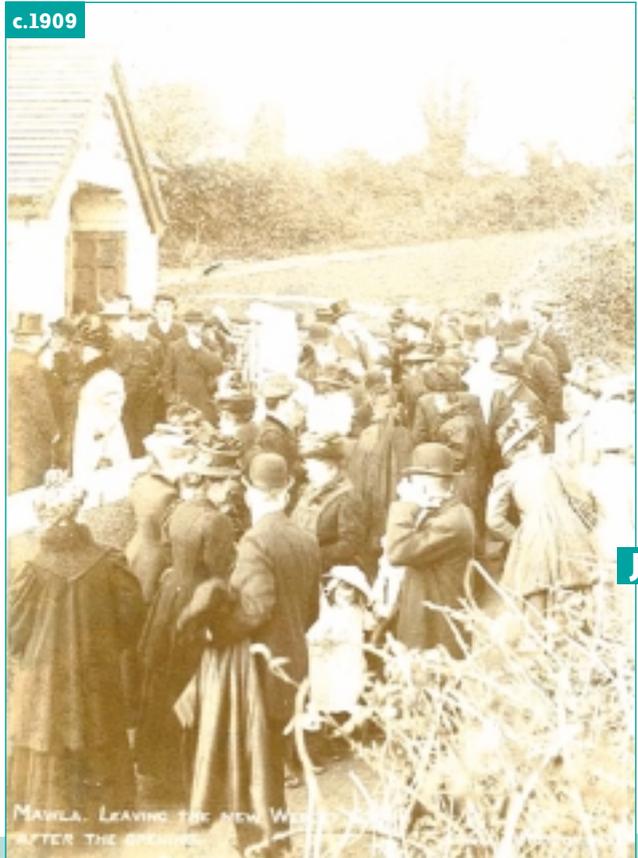
K

c.1908



I

c.1909



J

Mawla. LEAVING THE NEW WELLS... AFTER THE OPENING...

are no nearby neighbours, then take the path keeping the cottage to your left. Cross the stream and continue to a junction with a track and turn right, passing a bungalow by a concreted area. This bungalow is a converted water pumping station **N** used before Stithians dam was constructed; here the path can be muddy for a short distance. **This path terminates in a track by a cottage. Turning left here rejoins the alternative route. Continue along this path to a road, turn left on to the road, then turn left again at the adjacent road junction. As the road bends to the right, go straight on at the next junction in about**

20 metres. This is a very good place to stop for a breather and to look back before starting a long uphill road walk. If it is fairly clear you are rewarded with a lovely view **O** of the Tywarnhayle Mine on the hillside with Wheal Ellen in the valley and the sea sparkling in the distance. (See walk 3)

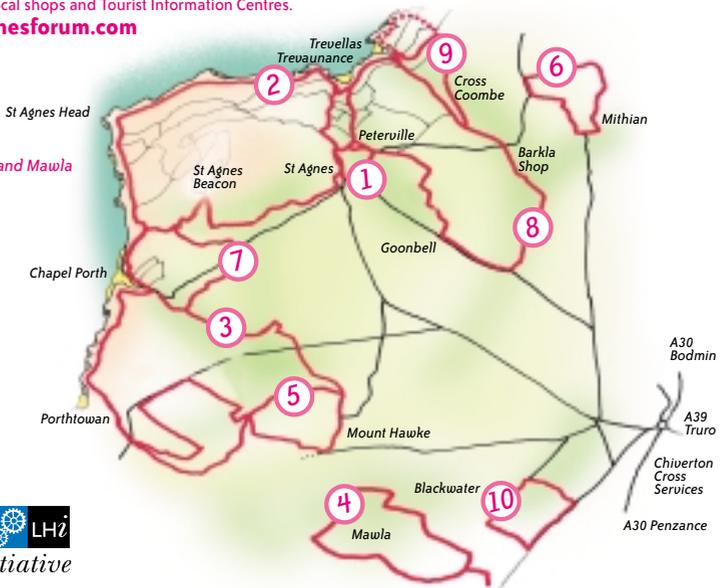


Keep on this road looking for the drive to 'Myrtle Cottage' on the right, take this. From this track distant views over the countryside to engine houses and Carn Brea can be seen. **When you reach the cottage take**

the path on the left. This soon becomes a track, keep straight on until you reach 'Avrisu' on the left. Turn left into the track on which you started your walk. Turn right at the road to return to your starting point and perhaps some well earned refreshment.

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



walk number

4

ST. AGNES

HERITAGE TRAIL

Wheal Rose, The Poldice Plateway and Mawla
8km or 5 miles

