

ST DOMINICA HERITAGE TRAIL



The St Dominica Heritage Trail follows ancient routes that have been walked for centuries. The paths link the old hamlets of Ashton, Bohetherick and Halton with the village and church of St Dominick.

St. Dominica, and her brother St. Indract, were children of an Irish King who sailed up the River Tamar in about AD689. They landed at Halton Quay and established a religious settlement at Chapel.

The manor houses of Ashton and Halton are in the Domesday Book of 1087 and are then known as Assietone and Haltone. Loaded carts of grain travelled down steep hills to the local Mills of Barret's, Glamorgan, Radland, Dairy and Morden (now Cotehele), which were powered by water from the streams that flow into the River Tamar.

Children walked to one of the two schools, some coming from across the river in Devon. There were 4 pubs for gatherings and refreshment. Blacksmiths and bakers, brewers and butchers, all lived and worked in the area. Shops sold everything a household needed, while dressmakers and tailors worked from their premises. The paths were used on Sundays to attend one of the 3 churches, and coffins were carried across the fields for burials.

The Tamar Valley was a highly productive market garden area and there are still some remnants that can be seen along the Heritage Trail routes. Daffodils grow in the hedgerows, pittosporum sprouts from coppiced roots, and old flower packing sheds, some still with their fireplace, all provide an insight into use of the land in more recent history.

ASHTON BARTON

The Manor of Assietone owned much of the land to the west of the Parish of St Dominick and was one of the manors within the feudal barony of Trematon (near Saltash). It was unusual as, unlike other English baronies, it was not held from the King, but from the descendants of Robert, Count of Mortain, half brother of King William the Conqueror.

BARTON OF HALTONE (NOW HALTON BARTON) was the other Manor House in St Dominick Parish, and was once owned by Sir Anthony Rous, who was a friend of Sir Francis Drake. Following his death in 1620 he was laid in his tomb, alongside his son who died in the same year, in St Dominick Church. Halton Barton has also been the site of a monastery and the monks are buried in a field close to the road.



For more information and detailed walking notes see the website of St Dominick Parish Council and follow the link www.stdominicpc.org.uk

ASHTON

3.5 miles (5.6km), allow about 1 hr 30 mins. Total ascent 160m.

BOHETHERICK AND HALTON QUAY

6.7 miles (9.5km), allow about 3 hrs. Total ascent 377m.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO ST DOMINICK CHURCH

From ① Vogus Lane, 1 mile (1.5km) allow about 30 mins, total ascent 100m. NB can be slippery and is steep.

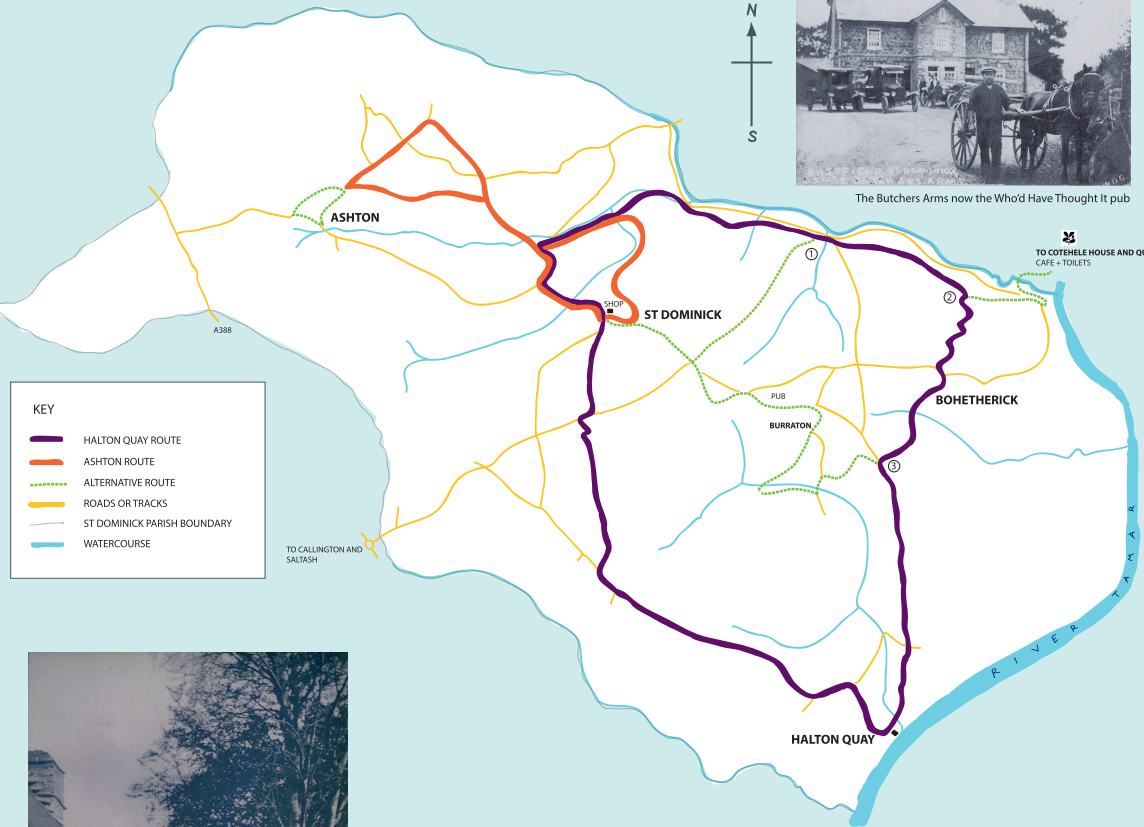
From ② facilities at Cotehele, 0.75 mile (1km) about 15 mins.

From ③ near Burraton, 1.8 mile (2.8km) about 40 mins, total ascent 114m.

All timings and distances are approximate

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Some places may be wet and muddy – wear stout boots
- There are places where there is limited mobile phone signal
- Keep dogs under close control, on leads across farmland and clean up after them
- Co-operate with people at work in the countryside
- Leave gates as you find them and follow the marked paths
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Be considerate of the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors

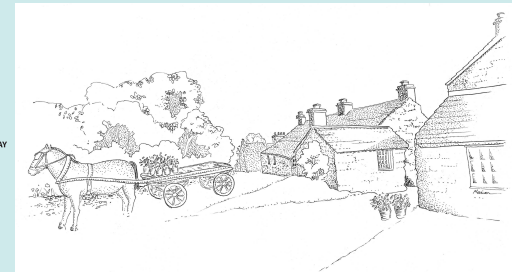


The Butchers Arms now the Who'd Have Thought It pub

BOHETHERICK

A thriving community, Bohetherick is now owned by the National Trust as part of the Cotehele Estate. It used to have a village shop, known as Em's Shop which Emma Martin ran from a room in her father's cottage. Shops were supplied with goods collected by horse and wagon from Cotehele Quay when the steamers arrived from Devonport.

Trig House was the pub in Bohetherick. It had Butcher Martin's shop on the premises and animals were slaughtered in a nearby outhouse. Carters would stop there to "trig" their wheels to ensure that the wagons would not move if the horses got restless whilst waiting for them to have their ale. The horses were watered at the granite trough further down the hill.



Collecting daffodils at Bohetherick

HALTON QUAY

The area around Halton Quay was once a thriving port on the River Tamar. Farmers would arrive with wagon loads of goods early in the morning. These were loaded onto steamers (one was called The Empress) and taken to North Corner in Plymouth where they were unloaded onto wagons for Devonport market. In the evenings the empty containers and other goods that had been ordered were returned and the farmers and fruit growers went back to collect them.

The Office for the Clerk of Works, who managed all the shipping, is now a chapel which was consecrated in June 1959. The room below the office was used to store salmon fishermen's nets.

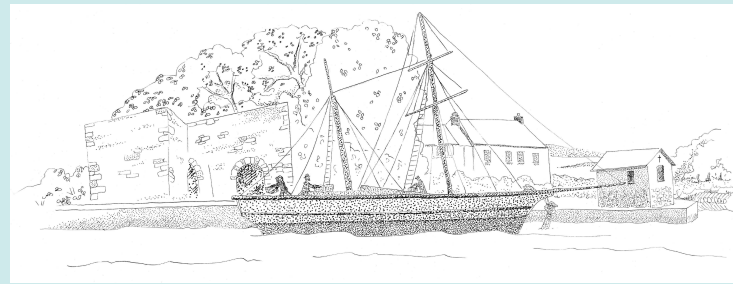
There were timber businesses, a mill, coal yard and lime kilns. St Dominick Parish has the longest recorded tradition of lime burning in the Tamar Valley. The lime kilns at Halton Quay first operated in 1411 and they last burnt lime in 1916 which went to Viverdon Down near St Mellion, where it was ploughed in to neutralise the acidic soil.

Milk was taken by cart then steamer for Cundy's Dairy in Plymouth on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and by train from Saltash on the other days. The Tamar Valley was famous for its market gardens, growing early spring flowers for the London markets and strawberries, cherries and rhubarb followed. One building on the quay housed an engine which drove a saw bench, and timber was cut there for use in the making of sections for strawberry boxes. There was also a machine which planed timber into very thin strips, called lacings, used for punnet making.

The St Dominica Heritage Trail was developed with the support of St Dominick Parish Council and funded by the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. Many people have helped in so many ways but special thanks to: The National Trust, Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, EFT Designs, Marion Kemp-Pack for her drawings of Halton Quay and Bohetherick.



The main street at Church Town. The Cornish Arms pub was demolished in 1902 and rebuilt as the Village Shop and Post Office



Halton Quay and the lime kilns from the river