

A BOOT UP

MINING WALKS IN CORNWALL AND WEST DEVON

Peter Hancock

The Pixz Boot Up Series is fast becoming a phenomenon in local walks books that attract families and others to exploring the countryside in a leisurely way. It includes short walks for those living in or visiting popular areas of the country, written by those who know the area well. They provide a healthy hour or two of exercise, exploring parts of Britain's countryside that the casual visitor might otherwise miss, pointing out interesting features along the way. These are perfect walks for families.

In journeys through the Westcountry we are often confronted by tantalising glimpses of the industrial past in the form of evocative engine houses, chimney stacks, canals and harbours. This book aims to help the inquisitive walker delve deeper into this rich legacy by providing ten diverse walks throughout Cornwall and West Devon. It not only offers step-by-step routes, sketch maps and inspirational photographs, but also provides information about the places visited along the way.

A Boot Up Mining Walks in Cornwall & West Devon offers fresh ideas and gives a different perspective to a familiar ramble. Whether crossing open moor or walking along a coastal path, trekking through wooded valleys or following a long abandoned canal, it is a convenient pocket-sized companion designed to add an extra dimension to the enjoyment of a leisurely walk.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

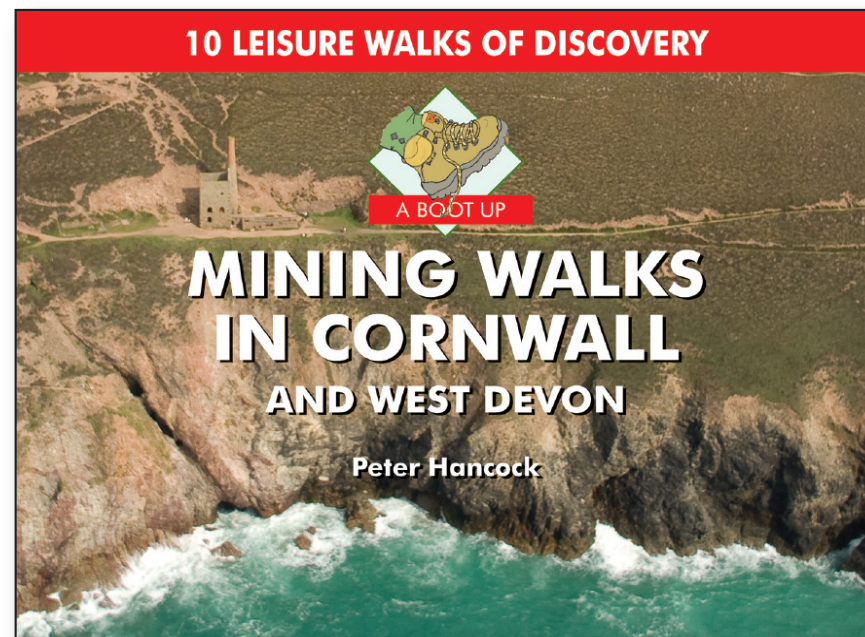
Pete Hancock is a seasoned author having published *Cornwall at War* with Halsgrove in 2002. He has since written two books about his home town, *St Austell: The Golden Years* (2004), and *The Book of St Austell* (2005). What might be considered a companion volume to this present book, *The Mining Heritage of Cornwall and West Devon*, appeared in 2008. When not writing he works as a teacher, and has produced three school text books. He enjoys walking, photography and delving in to the region's past. Other interests include classic cars, and he is a regular contributor to car magazines.

HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

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The pumping engine house at Pascoe's Shaft, South Wheal Francis, erected in 1887, stands beside the path.



Charlestown Harbour. An evocative scene, for it is now home to the 'Square Sail' fleet.



The chimney that served the arsenic flues, as well as ruined buildings at Wheal Josiah. Once a water wheel stood where the photograph was taken.



The engine house at the Prince of Wales Shaft, Phoenix United, with Cheesewring Quarry in the background.

2 The Forestack Canal

8 The path soon reaches a lift bridge and lock gate, restored in 1998, fuelling the imagination with laden barges low in the water, sweating horses and their impatient handlers.

A view down the Lantburn Aqueduct, constructed in 1808 to carry the canal 60 feet above the valley floor.

9 Around the bend an aqueduct takes the canal over the valley of the River Lantburn, some 60 feet (183 m) below, before abruptly terminating at a no entry sign. It is therefore necessary to re-trace one's steps. Anyway, a short distance further on it disappears into the tunnel. Here, in the 1850s, an attempt was made to use waterwheels to winch the barges through, but this system was abandoned, the men resorting to the laborious use of poles.

3 The Caradon Mines
Discover the great age of mining from boom to bust

This walk takes a circuit of Caradon Hill, visiting the significant mines south of Minoers via the Gonemena Incline and the Liskeard & Caradon Railway. The Caradon mines enjoyed a boom and bust existence; copper was discovered here in 1837, but by 1885 most had ceased operations. A walk around Caradon Hill provides an insight into what made this, for a time, the third largest producer of copper in Cornwall. From Minoers it follows parts of the route of the Liskeard and Caradon Railway, as well as some tramways that served South Caradon Mine.

Level: 4 miles (6.5 km)
Terrain: Hilly, with some rough terrain, steep to places.
Peak & Start ref: Minoers, OS map 100, 282711, 282712, or 282697.

Example of a double-page spread.