

# A circular walk from Liskeard Station: Up and Under the Viaducts

**Distance:** approx. 3¼ miles (5 km). Allow about 2½ hours for this circular walk.

**Surfaces:** Mostly on lanes, with some footpaths across fields. Sturdy waterproof footwear is advised.

**Gradients:** Some challenging hills.

**Obstacles:** Four stiles (dogs must be carried over the stiles, so the route is suitable only for small dogs). All dogs should be under close control.

Bring a camera to capture the view of the viaducts.

*(All information is provided in good faith and for guidance only. Numbers in the text refer to the detailed route map on page 2.)*

## Route Guide

This walk starts and finishes at Liskeard railway station, and reveals much about the industrial history of Liskeard.

**1** Turn left at the corner by the station, cross the road and head away from town over the railway bridge. Just beyond Tollgate House, you will see the green **Caradon Trail** signs **2**. Take the right hand fork in the road downhill, past the Pencubitt Hotel on your right.

Keep on down this old lane, sloping steeply downwards between high banks and passing Sunnybanks cottages on your left, into the tiny hamlet of Lamellion. The Wool Factory to the left **3** was a thriving depot where fleeces from South East Cornwall farms were weighed, graded, washed, processed and baled up for transport by rail or canal along to Looe.

### The Canal and Railway

Opened in stages from 1827 on, the Liskeard & Looe Union Canal ran for c.6 miles, through 24 locks due to the steep gradient. Initially it brought sea sand and lime inland from Looe for agriculture; but as mining grew on Caradon Hill, carriage of tin and copper ore down to the port became more important. The canal alone could not meet demand for transport, and gradually fell into disuse when a railway was built alongside it, opening from Moorswater to Looe in 1860. Passengers were carried on the line from 1879 onwards, and between 1898 and 1901 a steep sharply curving line was built to link into the mainline railway at Liskeard.

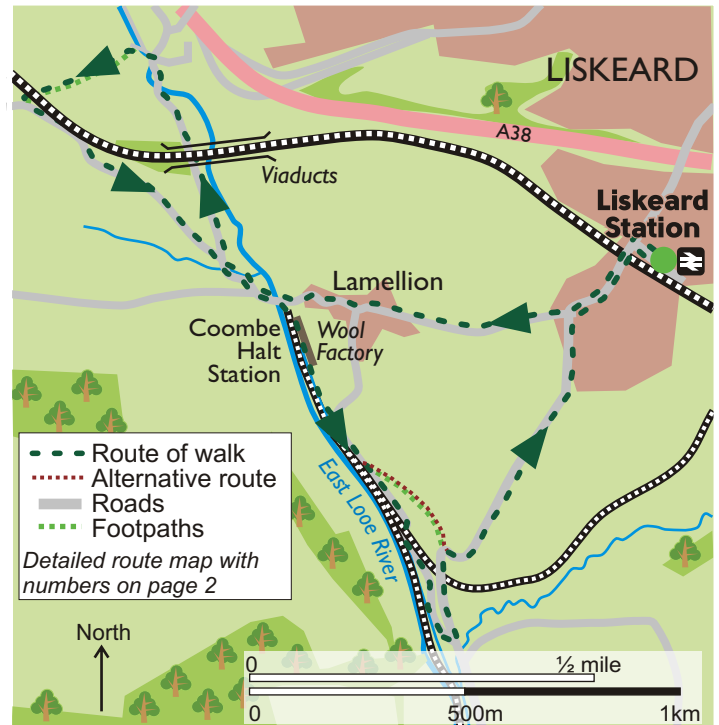
Head on along the road and over the bridge, taking the first turning on your right **4**. This pleasant lane has excellent views of the viaducts and takes you under them, near the aptly-named Viaduct Cottages.

**5** Above you are the two splendid stone viaducts: one built in 1881, now used by the Paddington – Penzance main rail line; the second is the remains of Brunel's earlier viaduct, with magnificent brick piers which supported the timber frame carrying the track.

Carry on past some crumbling lime kilns on your left and then turn sharp left after the cottages **6**.



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You will see two tracks leading uphill. Take the left-hand one and climb over the stile. Follow the footpath to the right up to and over the next stile, and cross the large field to the pedestrian bridge over the main railway line **7**. From this vantage point you have some spectacular views of the Moorswater viaduct and surrounding countryside.

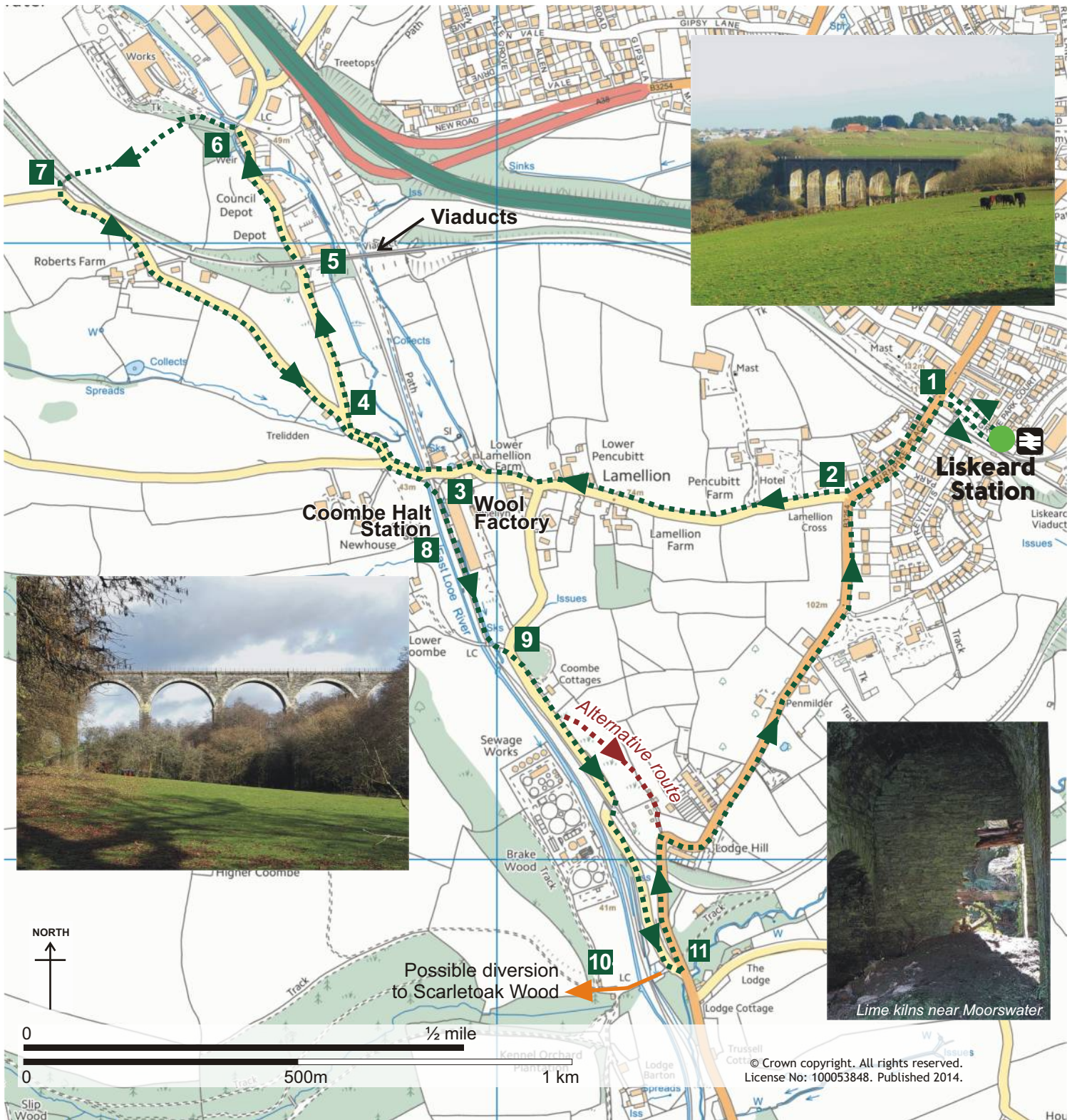
Over the bridge, turn left and head down the lane. Bear right at the first junction you reach and left at the next. Cross the bridge, then turn right, through the white wicket gate, and head left into **8** Coombe Halt, the second-least-used station in the country!

Turn left when you reach the end of the paved path **9** and then turn right onto the road. Some yards on you will see a stile and a sign-posted footpath on your left. You can take this and scramble up to the cottages on Lodge Hill. Alternatively, you can follow the lane under the railway bridge until you come to the St Keyne road.

**10** If you are walking with a dog, you can take a little diversion along the small road on your right: head over the railway line, bear left and cross the stile on your right onto the permissive tracks in Scarletoak Wood.

To finish the walk, head left on the main road **11**, then up the long and testing hill back to the station. On the opposite side of the road, the former "Old Stag Inn" was built by Liskeard's renowned architect Henry Rice, to welcome travellers arriving on Brunel's railway. Today, at the end of your walk, you can enjoy a cup of tea at the station café.

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## A circular walk from Liskeard Station



For more details of the route, use OS Explorer map 107, St. Austell and Liskeard

Follow the Countryside Code - Respect other people; Protect the natural environment; Enjoy the outdoors. (Visit [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk) for more details)



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