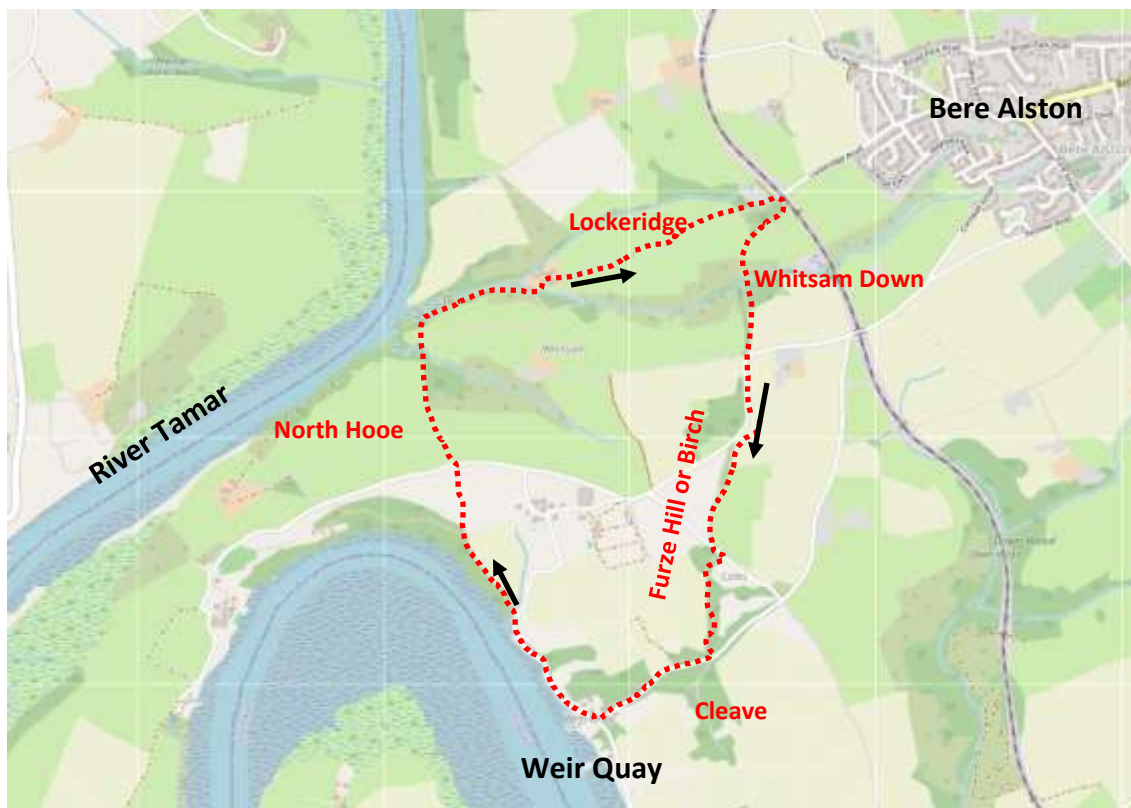


The Bere Peninsular

Silver mines a short walk



This 3 mile circular walk starts and ends at Weir Quay and passes the silver and lead mines of North Hooe, Lockeridge Whitsam Down, Furzehill also known as Birch and Cleave.





Weir Quay is located about a mile and a half South West of Bere Alston on the River Tamar. We start at the T junction near the Marina SX 433 649. With the river on your left set off to walk to Holes Hole. It's about 1/3 of a mile



As the road starts to climb fork left to walk up through Hanging Cliff Wood. It's a short steep climb up.

At the top of the wood take a right fork to go over a stile into a field. Then with the field boundary on your right walk up to a road.





**When you reach the road
turn left for just 20m....**

**....then cross over to go
through a gate and walk down
the field with the hedge again
on your right.**



**The path becomes
progressively
steeper.**



**At the bottom of the hill
you go over a board walk
that spans a stream**



Go through a gate up the hill and into a small field.



Go straight across the field through a gate and follow the ancient sunken track behind.



Ignore the reed bed board walk and continue on the path with a small stream on your left....



...through a gate

...through an orchard



..then following the footpath signs go through the gate and up through Lockeridge Farm.



Continue along the access drive out through the farm gate and up to a railway bridge. Between the gate and the bridge on your right is Lockeridge Silver Mine.



Lockridge Silver and Lead Mine, first opened in the late 13th century and worked intermittently until the 19th century when in 1861 it closed due to flooding. It is a private woodland but there is a well used dog walkers path all the way around from where you can see an adit, shafts and a chimney.





When you reach the bridge turn right and walk around the edge of the mining set

Turn left at the highest point and go through a small gate to reach a field.



Turn right and head towards the trees on the mound.



Go past the mound and follow the hedge on the right which leads down to a small metal gate that takes you into Whitsam Down mine.



Go through the gate and follow the well used path through the mine believed to have started in the 13th Century. Go over the stream at the bottom of the hill and follow the path up the other side to reach a road.



On the way up to the road you pass on your right bracken and brambles and scrub which cover more spoil heaps.

On reaching the junction take the road that is signposted to Holes Hole



Looking over the bank into the wood on your right you will see the fenced off mine shafts and spoil heaps of Furzehill Mine

As the road bends right fork left to walk along the Restricted Byway

(restricted to certain users but not pedestrians)



Furzehill Mine also known as Birch mine continues on the left hand side of the byway all the way to and then over the next road junction. Documentary evidence confirms silver was mined here from circa 1290. In 1845 it was amalgamated with Whitsam and Lockridge under the name of East Tamar Consols.



**Turn left
when you
reach the
next road**



**and in less than
100m turn right
next to Birch
Cottage and walk
on down through
the mine passing a
chimney on your
left**

**When you reach the
next road turn right to
walk down hill to
Weir Quay and back
to your car.**





Passing firstly on your left the entrance to Cleave Mine which is also believed to have been worked in Elizabethan times.

Further down hill on your right you will pass the Count House and Smelting works



Most of the ore from the lead and silver mines of the Bere Peninsula was smelted at Weir Quay; The Tamar Smelting Works and the Union Smelting Works date from about 1820 and were able to smelt over 300 tons of ore in a month. In 1852 the Tamar Silver-lead Mining Co sold the Tamar smelter to the British & Colonial Smelting & Reduction Co who expanded the works but it was wound up just 3 years later. The works then lay idle until 1864 when the Tamar Lead & Silver Smelting Co reopened both the Tamar and Union works for a short time. The Union works was later converted for use as a jam factory but now all the buildings have been converted to dwellings which we see today.

The Silver mines

North Hooe Siver and lead mine

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MDV19935&resourceID=104

Lockeridge silver mine

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MDV5443&resourceID=104

Whitsam mine

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MDV41530&resourceID=104

Furzhill mine

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MDV41529&resourceID=104

Cleave mine

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MDV41527&resourceID=104

Tamar smelting works

https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MDV5442&resourceID=104