

# Welcome to Goss Moor multi-use trail

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The 7 mile (c. 12 km) Multi-Use Trail is a safe, free resource providing a chance to explore the rich natural and industrial heritage of Goss Moor National Nature Reserve.

## Grazing and cattle



Working with local farmers, Natural England has started grazing hardy traditional breeds of cattle and ponies on many of the moorland areas in and around Goss Moor. Look out for the distinctive British White cattle along the trail.

## KEY

- off-road route
- on-road route
- Access point to Trail
- Goss Moor National Nature Reserve
- Information Board
- Take extra care!
- View points
- Small parking area
- Cycle hire
- Marsh Fritillary Trail (walking only)

## Former mineral railway lines



The Trail follows the tracks of old mineral railway and tram lines in places, and passes beneath one line through an arch which was built to give commoners access to the moors for grazing.

## The China Clay industry

The area to the south of Goss Moor is dominated by the china clay industry, which developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

China clay is a vital raw material in many industries, including ceramics and paper, and is used as a filler in many products such as rubber, plastics, fertilisers, paints, cosmetics and medicines. After oil, china clay is the UK's second largest mineral export.

The distinctive peaks to the south (above) - fondly known locally as "Flatty" and "Pointy" - are actually spoil heaps from earlier china clay working.



## The A30 - old & new

The old route of the A30 in the Goss Moor area was notorious for traffic jams and its restricted height railway bridge. There were many years of debate over the route and in 2002 the go-ahead was given for a new dual-carriageway A30 to be built, passing around the northern edge of the moor, to avoid the low bridge and Site of Special Scientific Interest. This opened in July 2007.

## The old road milestone

South of the bridge over the A30, watch out for this milestone, originally erected on the old A30 by the Bodmin Turnpike Trust in 1769, it was relocated here in 2007 when the new dual carriageway opened.



## Castle-an-Dinas

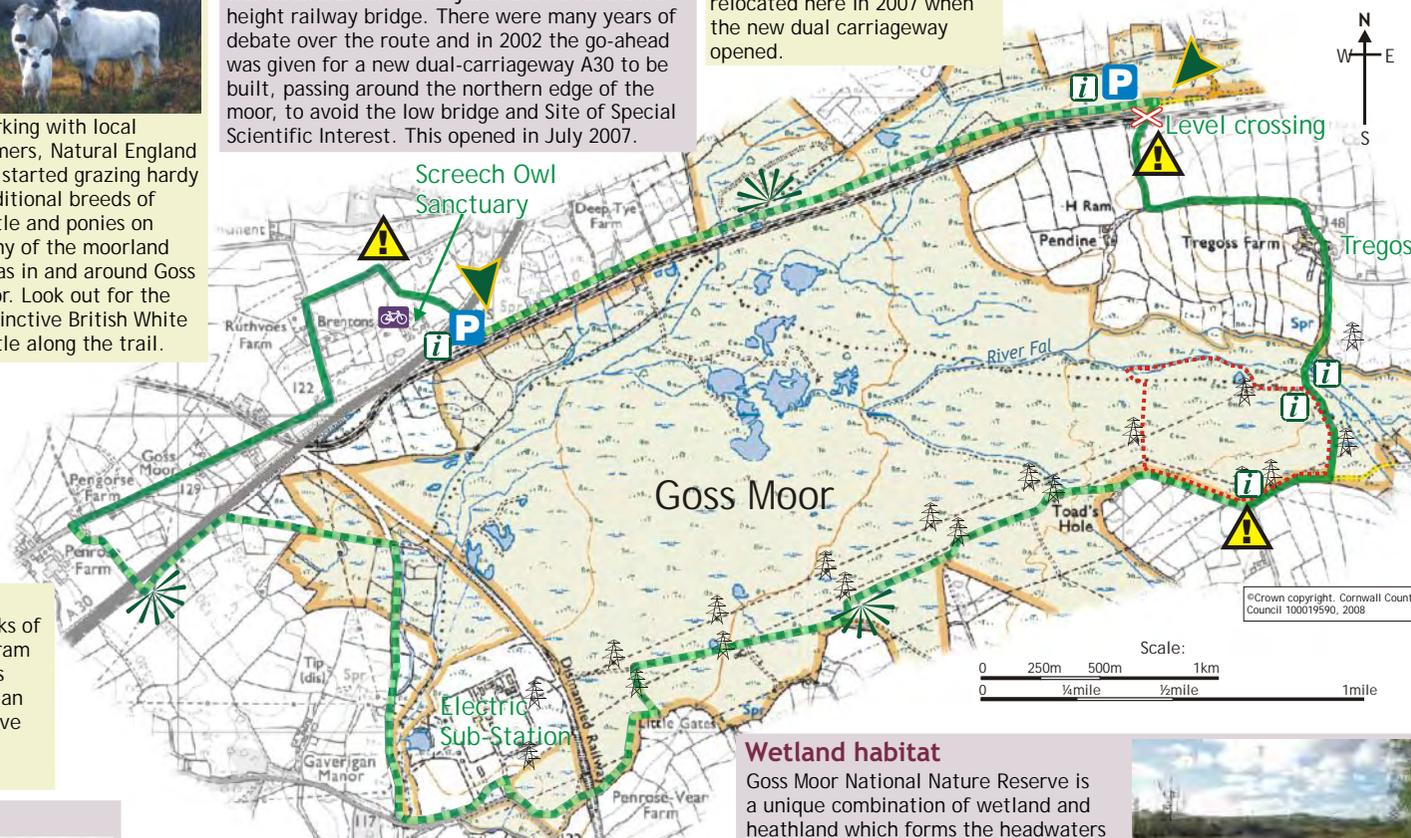
Seen from many stretches of the Trail, high on the downs to the north lies the Iron Age Celtic hillfort of Castle-an-Dinas. Dating from the 2nd or 3rd century BC, its three concentric circles of ditch and rampart enclose an area 850 feet in diameter. In legend, Cadoc, Duke of Cornwall and husband to King Arthur's mother, died here. A 20th century wolfram mine lies on the hillside just below.

## Mining and Quarrying

Most of the moors have been worked, intermittently, for tin. Tin streaming is recorded in the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the industry reached its height in the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the most successful period being 1820-40. Tin exploration was carried out more recently (in the 1980s) but did not warrant production.



In the 1930s - 1950s, sand and gravel were taken from the moor, reshaping it dramatically; and there was a block-making industry here in the 1930s. Disused Sand silos (above) still stand in the heart of the Moor.



## The Railway



The line crossing Goss Moor is the "Atlantic Coast" branch line between Par, on the Cornish mainline, and Newquay. St. Columb Road station (serving Indian Queens) lies to the west of the Trail; Roche and Bugle stations to the east. The Trail crosses the line at Tregoss level crossing and again by bridge at St Dennis Junction.

## Electricity

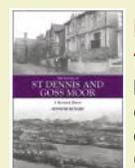


Since the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, high-voltage power lines and cables have crossed Goss Moor. The present large pylons were erected in the 1960s, and tracks built for access. National Grid has improved some of these as part of the multi-use trail project.

In 1975, a large sub-station was built to the west of the Moor, with a generating facility added in 1995. This is the most westerly point of the 400 KV National Grid. The sub-station controls the electricity supply for most of Cornwall.

## St Dennis

At nearly 500 feet above sea level, the village of St Dennis is visible to the south from much of the route. In particular, you can see St Dennis (originally St Denys) Church high on a hill, once the site of an Iron Age fort. The tower is the oldest part of the church, dating from 1327.



## Further information

More on the history, heritage and natural environment of the moor and surrounding area can be found in "The Book of St Dennis and Goss Moor", which is on sale locally.

## Wetland habitat

Goss Moor National Nature Reserve is a unique combination of wetland and heathland which forms the headwaters of the River Fal. The site's biodiversity is the result of natural post-mining regeneration and is recognised as being of European significance through its designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and it is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



Goss Moor is home to breeding birds - including Reed Bunting, Linnet, Grasshopper Warbler, Bullfinch and Song Thrush - and a number of scarce invertebrates including damselflies, butterflies and moths. In particular, the Moor is one of the main breeding sites in England for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly (left) and work has been carried out to improve habitat for this butterfly. For more information and a trail guide visit [www.midcornwallmoors.org.uk](http://www.midcornwallmoors.org.uk)