

RUBY



COUNTRY

Ruby Trails

The Tetcott Trail

Atmosphere and Antiquity

Local residents have given nicknames to certain areas along the trail including the view back from the Holy Cross churchyard, known as 'the wilderness'.

This trail has extensive, wide views and a tranquil air. Keen historians will also find the Tetcott estate of great interest.

Front cover photo: Common Blue
Back page photo: Guelder Rose Berries,
English Nature

FACT FILE

Bus services run to Tetcott from Okehampton via Halwill Junction, Launceston and Holsworthy. Traveline have timetable details 0870 6082608.

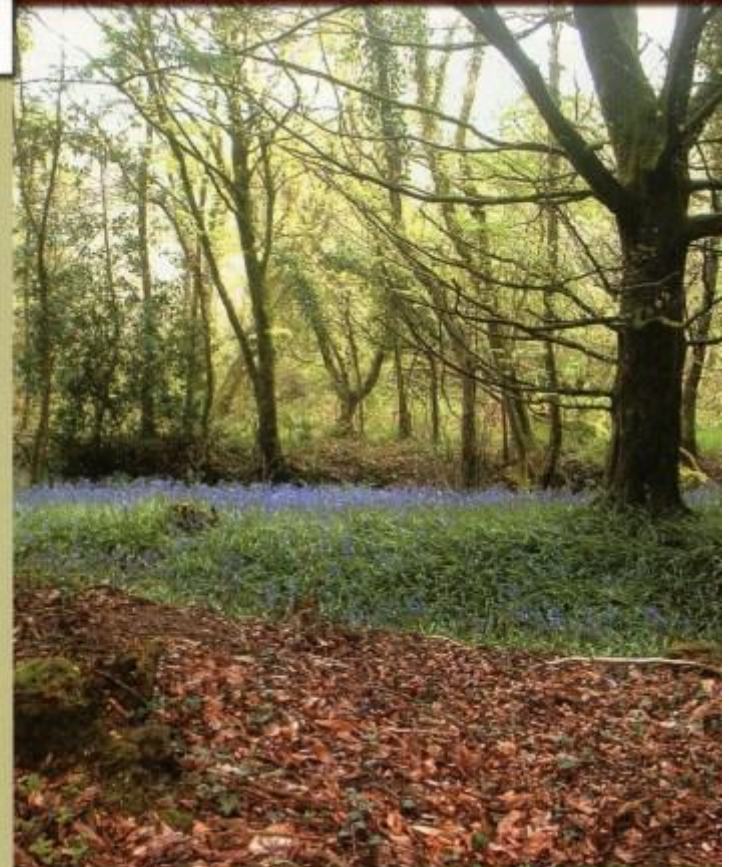
Grid Reference
SS 340 963

Walk Length
8.5 km/ 5 miles.
There are two stiles and the gradient is low.

Facilities
Park at the Tetcott (Lana) village hall car park, to the left of the village notice board. Please respect local peoples' access when parking your vehicle.

Optional 4 km loop to Ashwater and the village pub, post office and stores.

www.therubycountry.com



The Walk



This is an atmospheric and historic trail. There are a good number of veteran trees, (mainly oak) along the route and an area of ancient woodland. This is a good trail for wildlife as buzzards are often seen in the area, as well as brown hares. The trail lies mainly within the Tetcott Estate, which has some interesting social and architectural history.

The Tetcott Estate used to have a dwarf jester "Black John" who for many years was said to haunt the Manor House – so keep an open ear for the tinkling of bells.

1 From the car park, cross the lane past the bus shelter. Continue along the lane. Take the left-hand footpath turning down over a cattle grid which heads through the Tetcott Estate to the Holy Cross Church.



The church is kept locked but will be opened for viewing on request (contact details are found in the church porch). On reaching the churchyard look back along the trail at the view nicknamed 'the wilderness'.

The main centre of the Holy Cross Church is from the 13th century, which is quite early for Devon. Main features include monuments to the Alscot family, including an ornate family pew.

2 The trail leads through the cobbled track of the estate and then winds right along the track to the farmyard gateway.

Tetcott Manor dates from the 16th and 17th centuries and is extremely complex in terms of mixed architectural styles and periods. As you walk through the grounds surrounding the church there are a number of brick outbuildings and garden walls and these are associated with what at the time was called the 'new house', and built around 1700. It's unusual in that it was built of

brick, which was not generally employed until later in Devon's architectural history.

3 From the gateway, head down the farm lane, passing farm sheds on the right. Continue down the track, veering to the right. The track takes you all the way down to Beardown Plantation. From here, keep to the bottom woodland track, parallel to the River Tamar. On the other side of the river is Cornwall.

4 The woodland track runs alongside the old mill leat (a leat is a man-made channel of water) eventually arriving at the mill house. Take the track in front of the house through woodland, keeping to the leat edge.

5 On reaching the gateway, walk through field, keeping to the left-hand side before reaching the bridge gateway.

Once you cross the bridge, enjoy the stepping-stones through the woodland. There are several types of vegetation here including wood sorrel,

OS maps for this walk:

Landranger: No.190 Bude and Clovelly (1:50,000 scale)

Explorer: No.112 Launceston & Holsworthy (1:25,000 scale)

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wood sedge and blackcurrant, indicating an ancient wooded area.

6 Follow the stepping-stones to the next gate and walk up the hill, keeping to the right-hand side of field through farmyard (please keep dogs on the lead here). As you pass through the farmyard continue left up the road and away from the farmhouse.

If time permits it is worth taking a look at Luffincott Church, St James, just off to the right. It has a view towards the wooded slopes of the River Tamar. This is the sister church to Tetcott Church and is open for public viewing. Luffincott Church dates back to the 15th century but was largely rebuilt in 1791. Note the unusual Georgian sash-windows. It is a good example of 18th century church restoration.

7 Continue up the lane until you reach the Old Luffincott shop (now residential) which was once the village blacksmith shop. For a shorter walk turn left here and take the steady climb back to the village of Lana.

8 If you've still got plenty of puff, cross the road at Luffincott shop and follow the right of way signs up the lane. From lane, head over four fields towards Yeo Farm, keeping to left-hand field boundary in the first two and right-hand field boundary in the final two. Go through the farmyard and out towards the road, take a sharp left and walk back into farm lane above footpath from which you came.

For refreshments and to extend the walk, there is a 2 km footpath to Ashwater village and Inn. From Yeo Farm follow the main road north then take right-hand footpath towards Larkworthy Farm. At Lower Larkworthy take footpath east of the farm bringing you out just short of the village square. Return to Yeo Farm along the lane through Henford or retrace your steps on the footpath.

9 The trail now takes you towards Yendon Farm, walk through the top right-hand side of the farmyard (please keep your dog on a lead through the farm). From the farmyard walk on the right-hand side of the first two fields, following the Ruby Trail arrows, go through



a metal gate and follow the right-hand field boundary which takes you down to the top of a wooded area. Pass through the gate and walk in a two o'clock direction across the field. Take the tractor tracks down the next field heading towards the ford and road.

10 Turn left onto the metalled road leading uphill back towards the centre of Lana.

Before you head home – look out for the little black doors along the hedge, opposite the village hall – these were once pigsties for the village families.