

This trail is 1.5 miles (2.5 km) long and designed to allow you to walk it at your own pace. It should take approximately one to two hours to complete.

Park your car by the reserve gate, (P) taking care not to block access. Go through the kissing gate to the Information Board. Continue up the track to the 19th century engine house. (1)

1. Engine house

This housed a beam engine which pumped the valuable clay slurry from the clay pit to the settling tanks.

Take the next gate on the right to view the flooded clay pit. (2)

2. China clay pit

This area is the site of the former china clay pit. Now flooded, it provides a great habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

Return to the track and turn right. Take the next right through a wooden gate, cross the hay meadow and pass through the metal gate. The large mound on your left is a clay waste tip, (3) walk to the mound's summit for views of the whole reserve area.

3. Mound

This mound is actually a tip of waste material from the china clay pit. Climb the steps to the top for some fantastic views.

After enjoying the views return to the trail and follow the waymarkers through a wooden gate to Polhigey, (4) the remains of an 18th century hamlet. Continue through another wooden gate and cross the track ahead, to ascend the hill. Look back for more fine views.

4. Polhigey

Here are the remains of around six buildings which make up this deserted settlement. The name Polhigey comes from the Cornish for 'the ducks' pool'.

At the top of the hill, climb the stile and cross the hedge. Continue along this path for a short while until you reach a T-junction. Turn left and walk downhill along a medieval holloway. To your left is a prominent round mound which is a Bronze Age barrow. (5)

A little further on, if you cross the stile on your right, you can make a short diversion to Castle an Dinas and Roger's Tower, an Iron Age hill fort and 18th century folly, with expansive views over Mount's Bay.

5. Bronze Age Barrow

Probably about 4000 years old, this mound is likely to have been the final resting place of someone important from the local community but may also have been a local shrine.

The Baker's Pit trail continues downhill (on your left through the kissing gate is an alternative route along another medieval holloway back to the car park). For those staying on the main trail, continue straight ahead (downhill).

6. Medieval holloway

Try to imagine people from the medieval period until the early 20th century, using this holloway to lead their livestock onto the moors for summer grazing and carrying home bundles of cut furze to fuel their homes.

To your left is the main heath area (7). At the next junction you meet a stone track, turn left. Once you pass the cattle grid, take the second right turn, which is a fork that takes you to the clay processing works.

7. Grazing

Grazing and trampling helps maintain the heathland, improving it for wildlife, whilst helping to prevent bracken and scrub from taking over.

8. Banjo enclosure

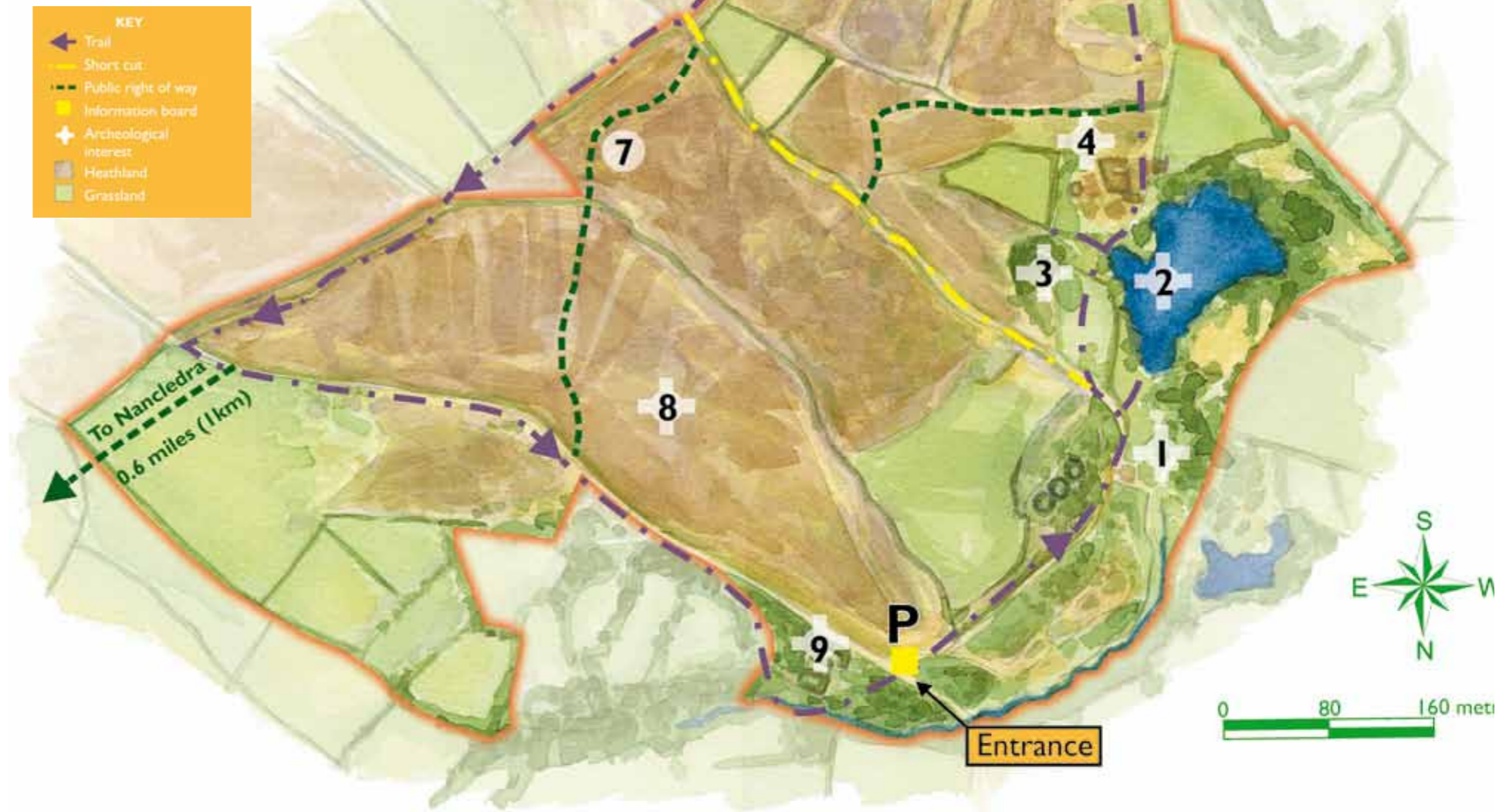
Although not visible under the vegetation, this is the location of the Iron Age enclosure and earlier roundhouse settlement.

Here are the remains of storage tanks and the 'clay dry' with its chimney (9). Take the next left path round the back of the buildings to see the clay dry fire mouths on your left. Continue along this path to the car park.

9. Pan kilns and clay dry

These structures were used for drying the refined clay. The furnace provided heat which was drawn under the clay floor by the chimney.

Baker's Pit Nature Reserve - self guided trail



Common lizards feed on insects, spiders, snails and earthworms. Look out for them basking in the sun during spring and early autumn.



Adders prefer areas of rough open countryside. They eat small rodents, lizards and frogs. In winter several adders will hibernate together in a hibernation den.



Hen harriers are regular winter visitors (October - March) to the Penwith moors, they can be seen coming into the heaths at dusk to roost.



A common heathland butterfly, the **grayling** is camouflaged when at rest, it is on the wing between June and September.



The heathland areas at Baker's Pit are designated as Open Access.