

# HISTORY TRAIL 4

## Dunvant Brickworks Area

### OVERVIEW

This is a circular walk around the Dunvant brickworks area.

**Distance:** 1.5 miles

**Start Point:** Car park off B4296 Walters Row/Garrod Avenue, SA2 7TB (free car park)

**Note:** Uneven terrain and can be muddy. Not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs. Consider other users and observe the Countryside Code.

### Using this guide

- All timings are approximate.
- **Track** indicates an unmaded surface.
- **Path** indicates a metalled surface (tarmac).
- **Bold text** is directions.
- *Italics text* is information.

- 1. The walk begins at the car park off B4296 Walters Row / Garrod Avenue, Dunvant, SA2 7TB.**



- 2. Facing this black signpost at the back of the car park, turn left towards Gowerton.**

*On your left you will pass a stone structure with information about the Brickworks on one side and the memorial to the Killan Mining Disaster, 1924, on the other side.*

- 3. Walk along the Old Railway path for about 5 minutes. Turn off the path by the sign for Dunvant Brickworks and follow a track on the right.**





- 4.** Continue on the track until you reach an information board about the biodiversity in the Duvant Brickworks area.

- 5.** Turn right with the lake on your right. After a short distance take the first track off to the left and left again down (rather than uphill) to visit this bricked up tunnel, now covered in graffiti.

*In 1904, £10,000 was spent to forge a tunnel through here and a track laid to move coal out of the valley to the main line railway.*



- 6.** Retrace your steps from the tunnel to the track you turned off. Turn left but not uphill and continue walking around the lake.

*In the vegetation to your left are extensive ruins of many buildings associated with the the early 20th Century brickworks industry.*

**At the T junction, turn right to re-join the main track - past the information board again.**



- 7.** Continue onwards to a kissing gate on your left. Go through this gate and follow the right hand track uphill to pause and take in the view around you.

- 8.** Return downhill, back through the kissing gate, turn left and continue following the main track.



- 9.** As you pass a 5 bar field gate on your left, a lake begins to appear.

*Look to your right to see the remains of a WWII defensive pillbox.*



- 10.** The large lake on your left was a clay pit but has since been filled with water.

**Take a narrow track off to the left by Orienteering Post 12/A. This track takes you out onto a spur of land into the clay pit, to see this air shaft ruin on the right. Take great care as there is a steep drop.**

- 11.** Retrace your steps to the main track. Turn left and continue upwards for about 5 minutes passing the farm on your right. This track merges into Highland Terrace.

- 12.** A short distance after the farm, and just before you reach these steps on your left, look to your right.

*Here are remains of the Penlan Colliery, including a wall and a tall, ivy covered chimney - only visible in sparse Winter vegetation.*

- 13.** Continue onwards on the main track until it joins Dunvant Road.





- 14.** Turn right and as you walk downhill you pass the site of The Old Dunvant Post Office - now a small park. Take the steps down on your right to join the Old Railway Path.



- 15.** Turn right, passing the site of Dunvant Station, to return to the start of the walk.

