The Weatherman Walking maps are intended as a guide to help you walk the route. We recommend using an OS map of the area in conjunction with this guide. Routes and conditions may have changed since this guide was written. The BBC takes no responsibility for any accident or injury that may occur while following the route. Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear and check weather conditions before heading out.
This walk takes you on a tour through time as we walk around the Dolaucothi Gold mines, before breaking out onto the nearby estate and climbing up to the trig point for some stunning views over the Cothi Valley.

And if you’re lucky you might also get your hands on some gold!

**Directions**

Park in the Gold Mines car park near the small village of Pumsaint and make your way up the track towards the mine yard. There is an entrance charge to tour the site which includes guided tours of the underground mines. But you can also access the walks from the car park if you don’t want to enter the mine yard.

On site there are toilets and a café as well as an exhibition centre. There is also a chance to pan for some gold in the mine yard so it’s worth spending some time exploring the yard before setting off on your walk.

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### The Romans

The Romans began mining here between 70 and 80 AD, creating large open-cast workings and digging several tunnels, mainly using picks and hammers.

Slave labour provided the bulk of the workforce and the work was extremely tough and unpleasant.

The Romans also established a fort nearby where the village of Pumsaint now sits, but today there is nothing left to see.
Our walk begins in the mine yard. With your back to the entrance cabin head right and cross in front of the tall bit of machinery with a big wheel on top – aka the 1930's headframe. Next to it head for the steps and follow the blue arrows up to join a little woodland walk.

Cross over the road and follow the path through the woods to the entrance of the old Roman mine entrance (access only with the guided walks).

Follow the path around until it levels out and cross some open fields heading downhill. Joining the tarmac track at the bottom, go left.

At the small lane turn right then cross over and follow the blue coloured marker. Notice the remains of the 1930's barracks hugging the path, including the remains of the shower block.

The 1930's barracks (SN 664 402)

During the 1930s, one last effort was made to produce gold profitably but despite huge investment and a workforce which at one time reached nearly 200 men, in 1938 the mine closed.

During that time it’s hard to believe that from the 4,000 tonnes of extracted ore only a small amount of gold = 1,000 ounces (28kg was actually collected.

It’s also possible to still see the remains of the workers’ accommodation on the walk. The floor of the shower block, complete with drain is still visible from the barracks.
Continue straight along the path heading downhill, and you’ll soon pass the opening to the Victorian mine on your right. This can be explored via the guided tours back at the entrance. Stick to the path and look out for a viewpoint overlooking the mine yard, with an information board about the Roman open cast mining.

You are now following part of an old drover’s road.

Once you reach the single lane, turn left downhill. As you near the entrance to the car park, look left to see a large grassy clearing with a solitary stone sitting on a mound. This is the Pumsaint Stone.

**The Pumsaint Stone** (SN 663 403)

This strangely-shaped stone is full of myth and mystery and is believed to be the reason the village of Pumsaint got its name.

It has four indentations that look like the shape of a human head and body. As a result the legend goes that five Welsh saints were passing through the area, when an evil sorcerer conjured up a violent hailstorm to stop them. Four of the saints sought refuge next to the stone during the fierce storm, while the fifth saint is believed to have been taken underground and is still stuck down there!

Archaeologists believe it is actually a Roman anvil used to crush the stone to get to the gold.

Continue along the road before crossing over and head through the woodland following the path signposted ‘Estate Walk’ and the red and yellow markers.

Cross over the River Cothi and turn right towards Dolaucothi Farm still following the red and yellow markers.
Eventually, the path takes you alongside a high stone wall forming the boundary to the Dolaucothi Mansion, which was the home and family seat of the Johnes family.

Today, all that remains is the servant’s wing which is now part of the Dolaucothi farmhouse, visible over the low wall as you continue along the path.

The path brings you to the drive leading to the farm. Here turn left and head towards the road. When you reach the road, cross over and continue over the stile and up the field heading for the gap in the wood at the top.
At the top of the field, go through the gate but take the path to the right sticking to the red trail then continue through the woodland path.

Emerging from the wood the path curves right and starts to climb through a series of fields, crossing over stiles and through gates until you eventually arrive at the Trig Point.

You’ve now completed the Trig Point Challenge! At 600m above sea level you can enjoy extensive views in all directions over the Cothi valley and Caio Forest.

When you’ve taken in the views, head back in the direction you came, but continue on along the ridge line until you come to a stile. Cross the stile and head downhill following a path that leads to a steep forestry track.

From here follow the National Trust footpath and waymarkers, taking you above the lane and the Cothi river until you arrive back by Dolaucothi Farm.

Now join the orange trail and continue walking next to the river to reach the village of Pumsaint.

Derek ended his walk at a local pub, ‘The Dolaucothi Arms’. From here it’s just a short walk back along the main road in the direction you came, before turning off down the single lane on your left, then left again onto another single lane signposted ‘Dolaucothi gold mines car park’.