

Bedford Bridge

Easy Going Walk

Bedford Bridge



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This riverside area at the northern end of Roborough Down has been popular since the 1800s when families used to travel out from Plymouth by train to visit friends in Horrabridge and picnic on the banks of the River Walkham.

Now designated parking spaces, disabled toilet facilities and a purpose built path from the car park to the riverside make this a highly accessible area for all the family.

Today evidence can still be seen of the Victorian copper mining era. Wheal Franco was the most important mine in this area; in the 1830s it employed over 130 people. The mine was abandoned in 1875.

The railway viaduct, which can be seen through the trees to the south of the car park, was built in 1902 of blue Staffordshire brick to replace the earlier timber viaduct with stone piers designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Bedford Bridge itself was built in 1822 as part of the system of turnpike roads (toll roads) between Plymouth and Tavistock.

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