

Camel Trail

- 📍 **Location** Cornwall
- 💰 **Budget** £56,000
- 🏗️ **Scheme** Public art

THE CAMEL TRAIL is a 27km traffic-free route based on an historic railway track. It passes through some of Cornwall's countryside, part of which has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Cornwall County Council converted 17 km of disused railway beside the River Camel from track bed to trail. An extension follows the river towards Camelford.

New extensions, 1.5km long, were made to the Trail in 2006 to create improved access to Bodmin town from Scarlett's Well and from Poley's Bridge to Wenfordbridge. These extensions feature industrial heritage, such as china clay workings, former quarries and mineral lines and were delivered as part of a three-year programme, led by North Cornwall District Council (NCDC) under the 'Walk to Work' Project.



NCDC wanted to deliver high-quality installations in the settings, which would combine functionality with aesthetics to enhance the visitor experience. NCDC was also keen to develop a new language for future, similar installations along other parts of the trail, as some of the signs and bike racks were becoming dated.

The design brief given to landscape architect Mor Design was to take an imaginative approach to the provision of resting places along the trail, which included picnic furniture, cycle racks, and visitor information. The practice drew on aspects of place along the route to create practical objects with meaning, distinctiveness, and appropriateness to each location, each piece relating to the

others, and each site linking to the next. Themes incorporated from the landscape into the furniture included: railways; time; journeys; travel; metal; industry; the river; fish; woodland and wildlife; the seasons, pine, oak and ash.

The installations relate to individual locations, creating a sense of place while serving to inform and add a thought-provoking element. The improved access has contributed to the economy of Bodmin by helping bring more visitors to the town and the wider area.

Above and left: Aspects of place along the new extension to the Camel Trail inform the design of resting places



Details

Project manager	Mor design
Client	North Cornwall District Council and partners including Bodmin Town Council and the Camel Trail Partnership
Area of project	27km course
Start and finish dates	Start: February 2006; finish: June 2006
Project costs	£56,000 for commissioning fee and materials
Funding sources	Objective One, Sport England and the Big Lottery Fund, as part of its Active England programme, Cornwall County Council, South West Regional Development Agency, and County Environmental Trust
Graphic artists	Ceri Pashley and Rachael Carrington
Carpenter	Russell Blight