

## Tunnel Track and Smiths Reef

Difficulty:	Moderate
Distance:	22 km
Elevation gain:	236 m
Type:	Off-bitumen (89% unpaved).

The approximate distance from the start to each point is shown in km as [1.4].

### Detailed Route

From Maldon Post Office, take High Street south to Maldon-Newstead Road C283. Continue to Popeks Road on the left [1.4]. Follow Popeks Road to a ford [usually dry] across Sandy Creek [3.9] on the left. After 200 m, turn right onto Sandy Creek Road. Continue south for a short distance and take the left fork onto Mia Mia Track [4.3]. Continue along Mia Mia Track and cross Pullan's Road [5.7] before taking the left fork into Telecom Track [7.3]. After 1.2 km, turn left into Tunnel Track [8.5]. After 0.8 km a disused mining tunnel is seen on the right-hand side of the track (photo below) [9.7].

Continue along Tunnel Track for 100 m to the intersection with Break Track. Follow Break Track north until it intersects with Tunnel Track [11.2]. Keep to the right and after 300 m, cross Pullans Road and continue north on Neville's Track to Maldon-Castlemaine Road C282 [13.3]. Cross here to Smith's Reef Track, passing Tatt Town Track (also signed as Tait Town Track) on the left [14.4] to the intersection with O'Connor's Track (not signposted) on the left [15.1] where there is a stone fireplace. The Smith's Reef mine workings are beyond the pondage to your right.

Head north-west along O'Connors Track and turn right into Tatt Town Track [15.6]. Stay on this track for 2.5 km to where it joins Railway Track [18.1]. Turn left onto Railway Track and continue until it joins Morris Street [18.6]. Continue on Morris Street, and cross the Bendigo-Maldon Rd (C283), into Hornsby Street [19.2]. From here follow the Castlemaine-Maldon trail markers back into Maldon.

Alternately, continue on Hornsby Street for 400 m and turn right into Woodlocks Rd [19.6]. After 200 m turn left onto a dirt track (Adair St East continuation) and follow this track, crossing Tailings Rd, for a further 900 m [20.7] reaching the Maldon State Battery (see photo). To return to Maldon you can either take the gravel track on the left past the site of the Alliance mine towards the railway station, or continue along Adair Street East, turning left into Reef Street [20.8] which leads back into Maldon.



**Mining tunnel, off Tunnel Track**



**Maldon State Battery**