

GUNNISLAKE STATION WALK



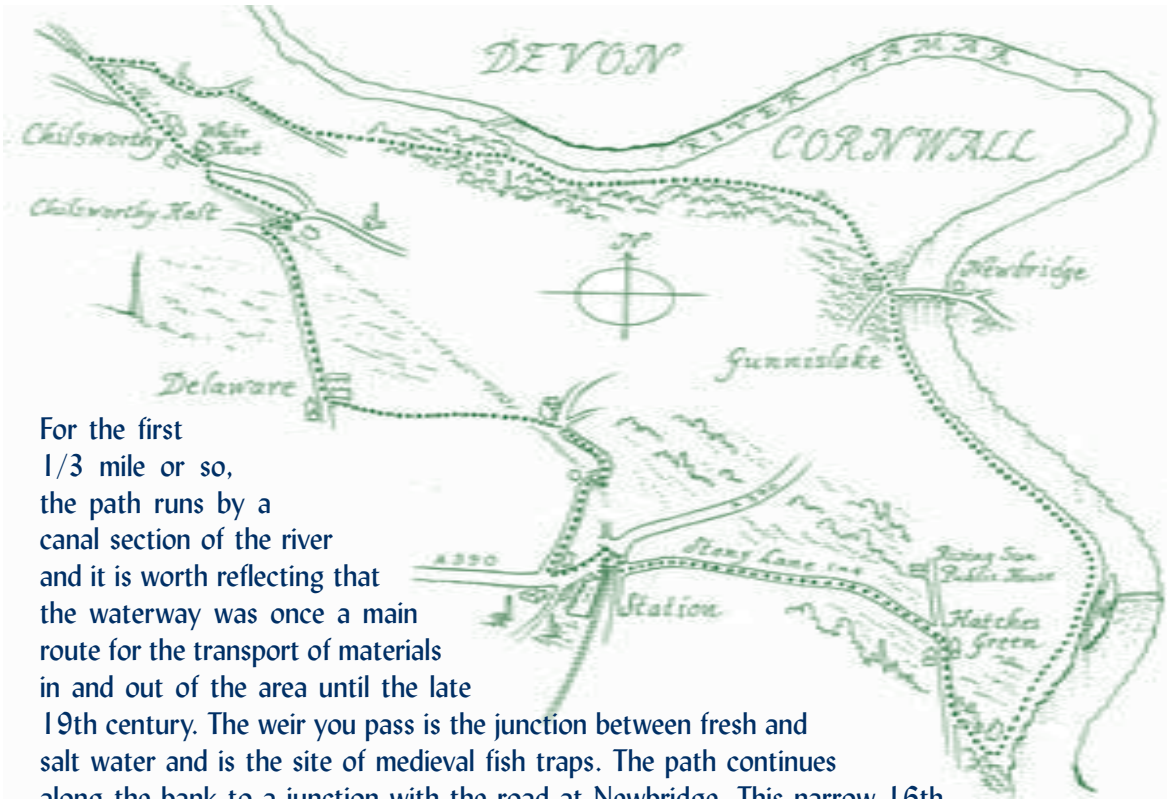
WALK FIVE: Distance: Approximately 5 miles

Starting point: Gunnislake Railway Station

Time: Approx. 3 hours

Terrain: Some minor roads, tracks and paths through woods. Some very steep hills and muddy in places.

Turn right out of Gunnislake Station onto the main Callington-Tavistock Road, then immediately right and then left down the hill to Hatches Green. Turn right at the bottom and continue along the road for about 250 yards before forking left down to the river signposted. This path will take you in front of a house beside the River Tamar.



For the first 1/3 mile or so, the path runs by a canal section of the river and it is worth reflecting that the waterway was once a main route for the transport of materials in and out of the area until the late 19th century. The weir you pass is the junction between fresh and salt water and is the site of medieval fish traps. The path continues along the bank to a junction with the road at Newbridge. This narrow 16th century structure was the lowest road bridge crossing of the Tamar until the construction of the Saltash Bridge in 1961. It was the site of a skirmish during the Civil War. The modern road winds up the hill on the Devon side, but the pack-horse route went straight up the hillside from the bridge. Parts of this track are visible from the path. Coming up from the river bank, cross the road with great care and go in front of the garage

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WALK FIVE:



which is built on the site of a former miners' hostel. After 200 yards a path comes in from the left, but continue along the track and soon it enters the eastern end of Clitters Wood where growth of oak, hazel and willow hide much of the workings of Gunnislake Clitters mine.

The mine buildings remain in part but it is still difficult to grasp the fact that the walk passes through an area which, early in the 19th century, was an important and busy mining area for tin, copper, arsenic and wolfram. The mine was one of the last to work in the area, continuing until the 1920s. The high arsenic content has prevented all but the sparsest growth on the mine dump to the south of the path. Please keep to the track as mine buildings can be very dangerous.

Beyond the mine dump the path climbs to join a lane. Turn right and follow the lane down past the old workings of South Devon mine and then uphill to Chilsworthy. Turn left at the road junction and, beyond the White Hart, take the track up the hillside to Chilsworthy Halt. This was part of a continuation of the Tamar Valley Line which, until 1966, ran to Kelly Bray, near Callington.

Turn right onto the road at the bridge, then left for 1/2 mile to the hamlet of Delaware. A footpath is signposted to the left, again crossing the disused line before coming out onto the country road at Higher Dimson, a grouping of a few houses including one of the oldest in the parish. Turn right uphill over the former railway and back to Gunnislake Station.

