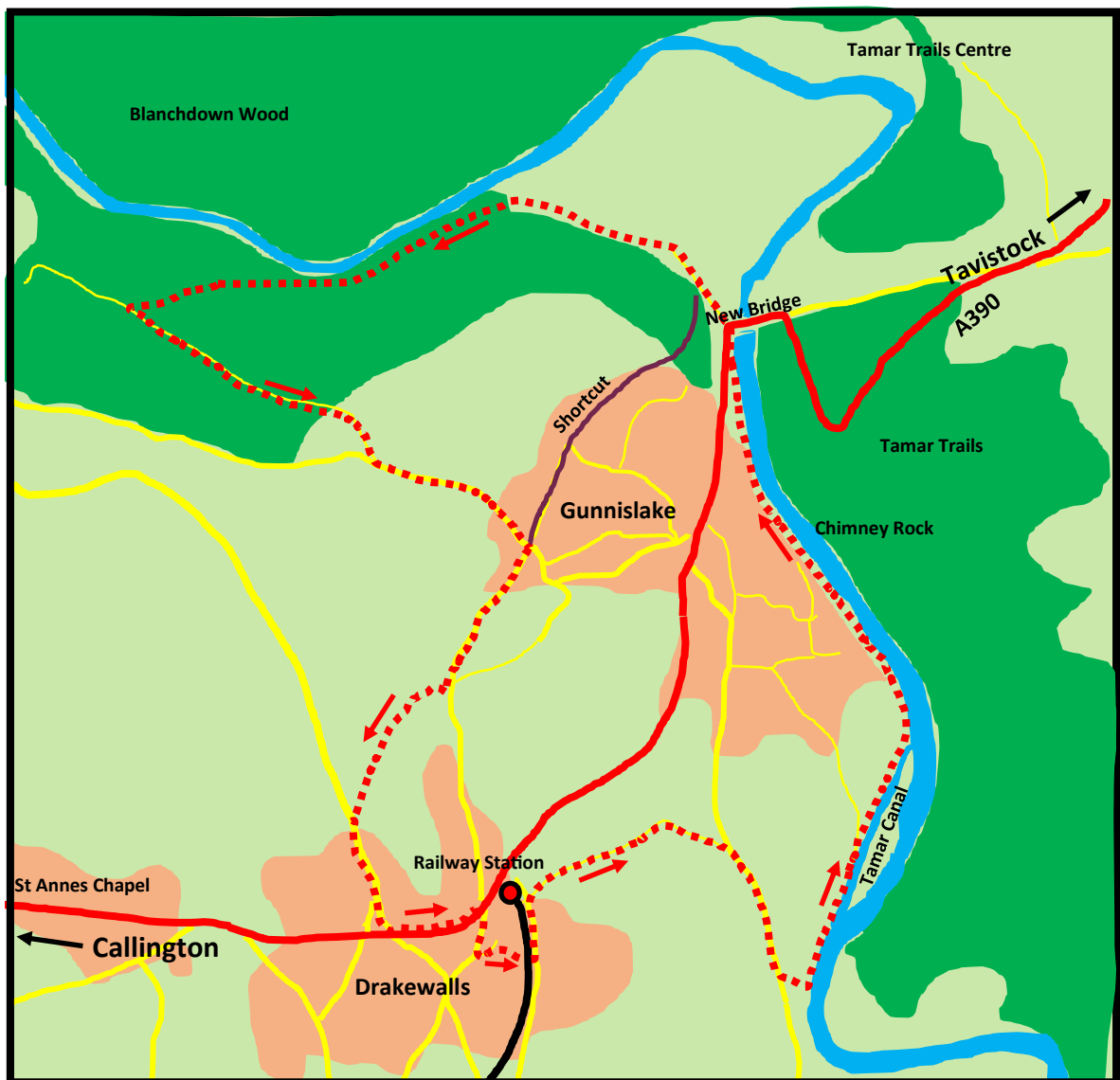


Walk 6 Gunnislake Mines and Manure

The walk takes you along the banks of the river Tamar passing the disused Tamar Manure Navigation Canal which operated for 120 years carrying lime sand bricks and granite servicing the lime kilns mines and farms in the area. Further along the river bank you will reach New Bridge a 16th Century bridge made famous by Turner as it forms the back drop to his painting “Crossing the Brook”.

This walk starts near Gunnislake Station which is the end of the Tamar Line PL18 9EE SX426708 and is fractionally over 5 miles. The 79 bus between Tavistock and Callington also stops close to the start.



To reach the start point from Gunnislake village centre drive up the hill in the direction of Callington and just past the entrance to the station fork left signposted to Albaston and Calstock and park as soon as you can.



Set off along the road and turn immediately left into Glendorgal Park a small estate of new houses.

As the estate road bends left fork right to go behind a newly planted hedge and on to the footpath which takes you down and under a bridge.



On the other side of the bridge is Well Park Road. Here turn left and walk on up to the next junction with Stoney lane on your right.

Opposite the junction on your left is Gunnislake station but there is no access this side.

Turn right and walk to the bottom of Stoney lane. It's a very steep lane hence the reason I am taking you down and not up to end the walk but it can be slippery when autumn leaves fall. On reaching the bottom of the lane turn right.





Then in about 250m fork left along a track that leads to a house called Netstakes. You are now back on the Tamar Valley Discovery Trail a continuation of the long distance path that you first used on **Walk 2**.

Walk on down to the river and stay on the path with the river on your right at all times. Quite soon you will pass by the Tamar Manure Navigation Lock part of the canal that operated from 1802 to 1929 and now abandoned but still quite visible. Manure was a fertiliser derived from lime and sea sand and was brought in by barge up the canal and landed at a quay which has now disappeared from view near New Bridge



After passing some white painted cottages on your left turn right in front of a newer looking house. A turn that is easy to miss.

Look out for the footpath way marker on the telegraph pole.

On reaching New Bridge (first built in 1520) and the A390 go straight across and up the track in the direction of the Gunnislake Cricket Club. There is a bit of a blind bend on your left so you may find it safer to cross the road by keeping well to your right.





At the top of the short hill you will come across a three way junction. Staying on the TVDT keep dead ahead on the wider level track .

A little further on the track narrows significantly. Again keep dead ahead ignoring gateways and private drives. Then fork left onto a narrow path that goes to the left of a wooden shed



noting all the private property signs and sticking to the permissive path.

The permissive path soon becomes a public footpath which will take you all the way up through Gunnislake Clitters mine. One of the longest lasting of the Tamar Valley mines finally closing in the late 1920's.

After passing a mine chimney and engine house on your right, *which you are free to visit if you wish*, the track makes a steady climb all the way up to Bitthams lane where you leave the Tamar Valley Discovery Trail and turn left.



At the end of Bitthams lane you reach North Dimson here turn left and walk downhill to Middle Dimson.



On reaching Middle Dimson believed to be the earliest of the medieval settlements of Dimson turn right and walk up to Higher Dimson.



When you reach a sharp bend in the road at Higher Dimson turn right and follow the footpath sign to Delaware Road walking next to a fast flowing stream.



On reaching Delaware Road turn left and staying on the left walk on out to the junction with the A390. Its about 300m. Cross over the main road and walk down the footpath to your car.



Facts about Gunnislake. The village was first recorded in the 15th Century but is of course far better known for its mines and mine shafts especially in 1992 when Michael Shaft collapsed creating an 8m wide hole 10m deep just a couple of meters from a bungalow in Woodland Way.

The name Gunnislake is derived from the word Gunnis which describes an open cast mine or exposed surface lode presumably filled with water. Gunnislake was also known as Williamstown on account of most of the mines lime kilns and other industrial building being owned by John Williams perhaps best described as a mining magnate of the time.

The little hamlets of Dimson are very much older and believed to be medieval being named after John de Dymsham a free tenant who owned 30 acres in 1337.