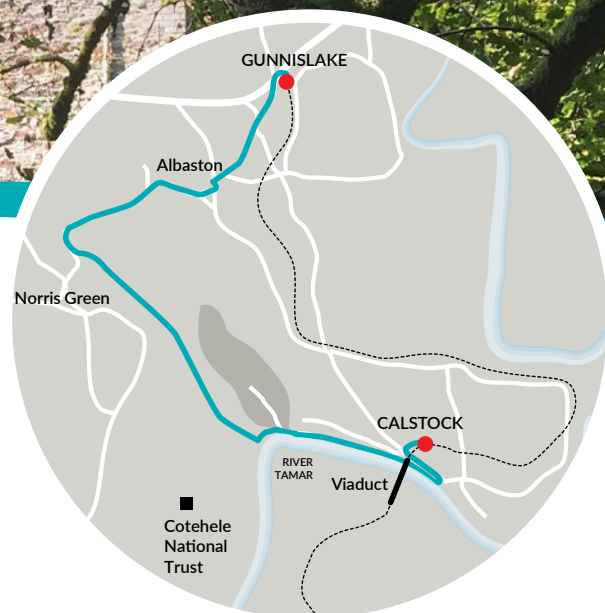


# Danescombe Valley and Calstock

**MODERATE | 3 MILES | APPROX. 1.5 HOURS**

<b>Line</b>	Tamar Valley Line
<b>Start</b>	Gunnislake station
<b>End</b>	Calstock station
<b>Facilities</b>	Pubs and public toilets in Calstock



*Enjoy a beautiful walk through the Danescombe Valley and its fascinating industrial and archaeological heritage.*

1. From Gunnislake station, walk through the car park and turn left up the hill towards the Co-op.
2. Just before the Co-op take the left fork and head towards the Tamar Valley Centre.



You'll pass the ruins of **Drakewalls Mine** (above). In operation from around the 11th century until 1905, it mainly produced tin but also copper and arsenic. In 1861 the mine employed 350 people.

In 1889 two men were entombed in the mine by sand. It took two days to free them.



3. Keep walking along this road which takes you past the cemetery until you reach the Queens Head pub and a junction.
4. At the Queens Head junction, turn left and keep to the left hand side.

Almost immediately, cross over the road and turn right, following the signs for Cotehele, Metherell and Norris Green.



5. Follow this quiet country lane, past some beautiful houses, for about 5 minutes.
6. As you go up a slight hill and leave the houses, you will see a gate and a field with a 'Footpath to Danescombe' sign on the left (see overleaf).

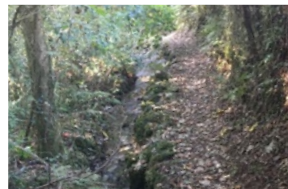




7. Go through this gate and walk across the field, bearing slightly left and downhill until the land flattens and you see a well-worn path.



8. Walk along this lower level until you come to a stile ahead of you. Cross this and you will find yourself in the woods with the river on your left.



### How did Danescombe Valley get its name?

The valley's name reputedly dates back to a battle in 838 at nearby Hingston Down between the Celts and the Saxons. The Celts were assisted by the Vikings in this battle.

It is thought this 'great ship army' sailed up the Tamar, into Danescombe Valley, then travelled over land to Hingston Down. But King Egbert and the Saxons won out.

9. Keep following the path and the course of the river until you get to a wooden gate. Go through this gate and follow the path which takes you away from the river now.



10. As you start to walk uphill slightly and the path narrows, you will see a house on the right.

Go through the gate up ahead and out into the lane where you will see an old white cottage on your left.



11. Walk past the cottage and on the right hand side you will see a slightly overgrown track with a 'Public Footpath' sign. Turn right down here.



12. Follow this wide track which leads you gently downhill through the woods and the river on your right. After about 5 minutes you will leave the woods and come to a restored mine.



**Danescombe Mine** (above) is a former copper and arsenic mine. It ceased production by 1900. Copper mining had been rendered unprofitable with the discovery of deposits in Cuba, South Australia and Chile, culminating in the copper slump of 1866-68. Tin then became the mainstay of Cornish mining.

13. Walk past the mine and some cottages and you will then cross over the river via a small footbridge.

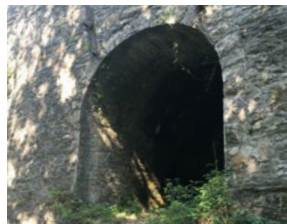
14. Walk past the cottages and downhill where you will eventually come to a roofless building, which used to be an old papermill.

15. Here the track splits and you will need to take the left track.



16. You are now on the quiet road which leads you into Calstock village.

17. Keep going straight along this path and you will pass the boatyard and lime kilns before the impressive Calstock Viaduct can be seen rising above you.



Lime kilns litter the Tamar Valley and were its first industry. Barges would bring sea sand and river estuary mud for improving the land. Kilns built in the 18th century provided agricultural lime to reduce the acidity of the soil.

18. At the end of this quiet road you will see houses in front of you.

If you turn right at this point in the walk, you can explore the village of Calstock with its pair of pubs, riverside picnic area, café and ice-cream parlour.



19. Turn left, walk up the hill and after 5 minutes you will see Calstock station on your right.



#### Train times

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#### More walks to enjoy

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Face coverings must be worn on public transport unless you are exempt. If you can, please buy your ticket in advance on the GWR app or website.

All public rights of way cross private land, so please keep to paths and keep dogs on leads. Occasionally work may mean diversions are put in place. If so, please follow local signs.

These directions are intended as a guide only. It is always advisable to carry the relevant OS Map whilst out walking.

