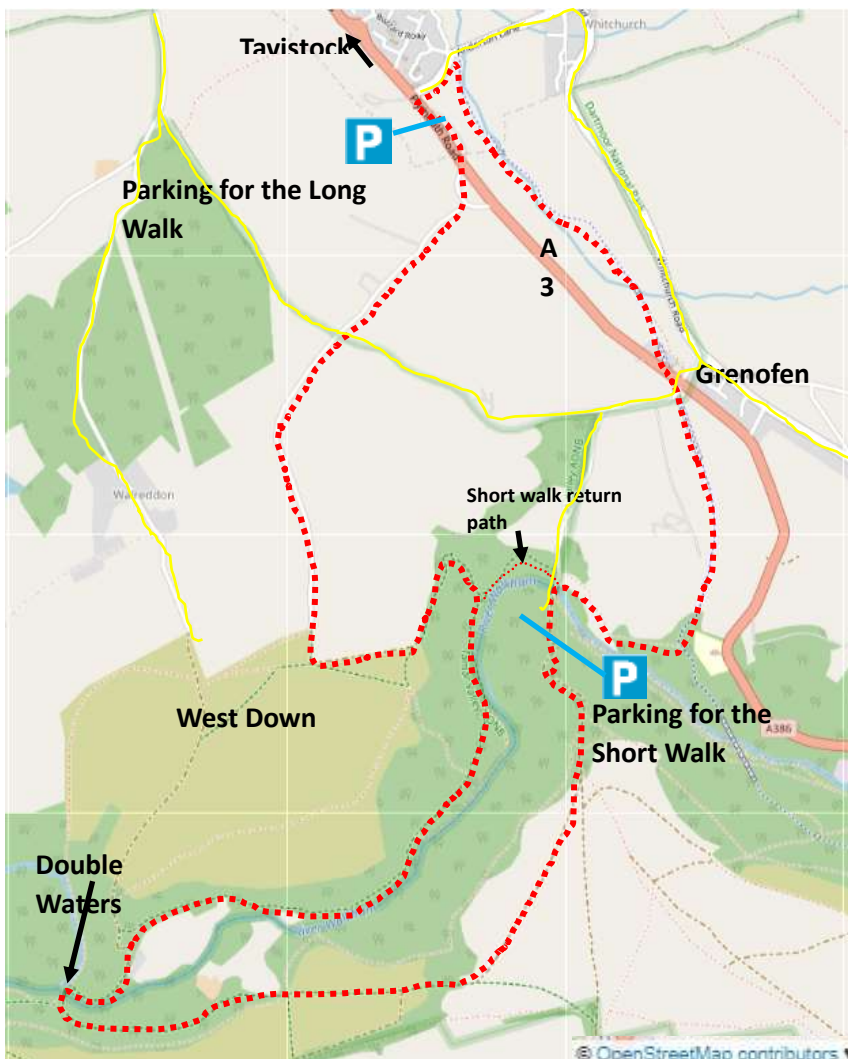


# Double Waters

A

## Long walk and Short walk



Starting at the large lay-by on the A386 the 6.3 mile long walk will take you through the Grenofen Railway Tunnel along the river Walkham to see the old mine workings and back via West Down.

**The shorter walk** is 3.2 miles and starts at the car park at Grenofen Bridge SX489 709 where both walks merge. You will miss the tunnel but will see the industrial archaeology along the river.

To find Grenofen Bridge coming from Tavistock turn right opposite what was once Drake Café and then take the next left which is a no through road ending at the woodland car park by the bridge.

The long walk starts from the south bound lay-by off the A386 on the southern approach to Tavistock. SX487722 .

*Scroll down to find the start instructions for the short walk.*



From the lay-by set off along the pavement back towards Tavistock...

....and in less than 50m turn right to go down Anderton lane signposted to Whitchurch.



At the bottom of the hill turn right on to Drakes Trail cycle track.





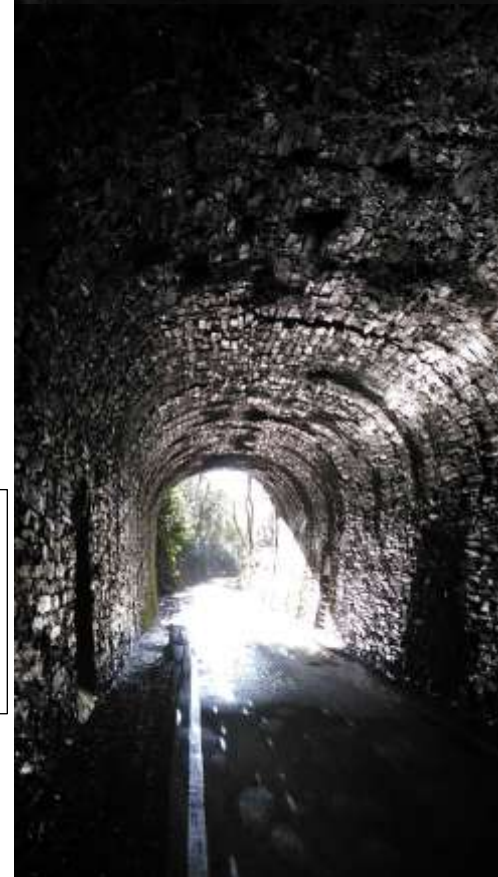
**Be aware that you are sharing the track with cyclists many of whom don't have bells on their bikes.**

**Ignore the right turn up to Drakes café and head on into the tunnel.**

**There are lights in the tunnel but do make sure you can be seen by the passing cyclists.**



**If you have an umbrella now is the time to use it as this tunnel drips water all year long.**





**Gem Bridge**

**In 10 mins or so you will arrive at this gate on the right. Go through the gate and down through the wood.**

***However If you want to go and see Gem Bridge built 2012 it's only another 5 mins walk along the cycle track and is worth a detour.***



**Go through the gate at the bottom of the wood...**



**.....and follow the path all the way to and through the next gate.**



**Turn left and walk on down and over Grenofen Bridge**



**A good place to pause for coffee**

**The short walk starts here.**



**From the car park walk away from the bridge along this wide track which does get a bit steep as it climbs out of the valley**



**When it finally levels out and with all the woodland behind you turn right at the foot path crossroads.**



**Stay on this wide grassy track and when you reach a tarmac drive turn right and continue on downhill.**



The tarmac track ends at the gate to a house but keep going along the woodland track passing lots of evidence of old mining activity. Soon you will see the little bridge over the river Walkham.



Turn right off the track and go over the bridge





**A good place to stop for refreshments. There is even a sandy beach.**





**Continuing on your way, start to walk along the River Tavy on your left but only for a couple of dozen paces....**

**...then turn right to go between the rocks to once more follow the river Walkham .....**



**...but this time on your right hand side.**



**The woodland glade becomes a wide track which we now follow up hill but only for a short way.**



**On reaching this triangle junction fork right**



**Go past the house whose drive you are now walking on and....**

**... back down to the river which we now follow for about a mile.**



**Popular rapids for canoeists to attempt**



**You can walk right next to the river all the way but if you keep to the path that veers away from the river you come across old moss encrusted mine buildings and this chimney built but probably never used as the flue is quite clean inside.**



**Passing the chimney you arrive at this stonemasons wall where elvan rock was shaped having been cut from the quarry above.**



Arriving at this footpath junction if you are on the short walk keep going over a stream through a gate around a house and turn right when you meet the road to walk back to your car.

The long walk turns left here. The path goes sharply left but it is very muddy and being a bridle way is rather churned up by horses. Better to take the adjacent track up through the wood.



The path through the wood has a large hairpin bend which nicely reduces what would be a very steep climb.

On emerging from the wood stay close to the wall on your right





**Keep the wall on your right at all times. You may need to go around a large puddle.**



**And through a gate onto a narrow lane**



**Straight across at the cross roads and down the hill which gets steeper**



**There are some magnificent views of the Dartmoor tors from this road when it's not raining.**



**At the bottom of the hill turn left....**

**...and cross over the A386 to get back to your car.**



**I hope you enjoyed the walk whichever one you went on. If you go the BuStop Walks you will find a very similar walk that is about 5 miles long and goes over Gem Bridge.**



Words and pictures by David Simkins