



Gunnislake is a small mining settlement on the edge of the Tamar that prides itself on being the first village that you reach in Cornwall after crossing the river.

Small scale settlement has existed at Gunnislake since at least the Medieval period, and Newbridge itself was built in the early 16th century. The village is sited on the Cornish bank of the River Tamar, overlooked by the huge rocky outcrops on the Devon side of the river. It is the river and geology of the area that has had the most impact on the village. The weir was originally built by the Abbots of Tavistock as a fish weir, and fishing continued to be a major activity on the river until recently.

Granite and slates hide precious ores that became the focus of industry and activity in the area for over a hundred years. The mining boom saw a huge expansion of the village, with the building of typical one-down, two-up cottages seen all over the area. Over 7000 people were employed in the mines of the Tamar Valley in 1862, but most mines have now been reclaimed by nature and are rich eco-systems of wildlife and plants. Alongside mining, market gardening grew to exploit the mild and early climate of the valley, and apples, strawberries, cherries and daffodils were all found on the favoured slopes around Gunnislake.



Welcome to
Gunnislake

Gunnislake - Points of interest

Gunnislake Clitters

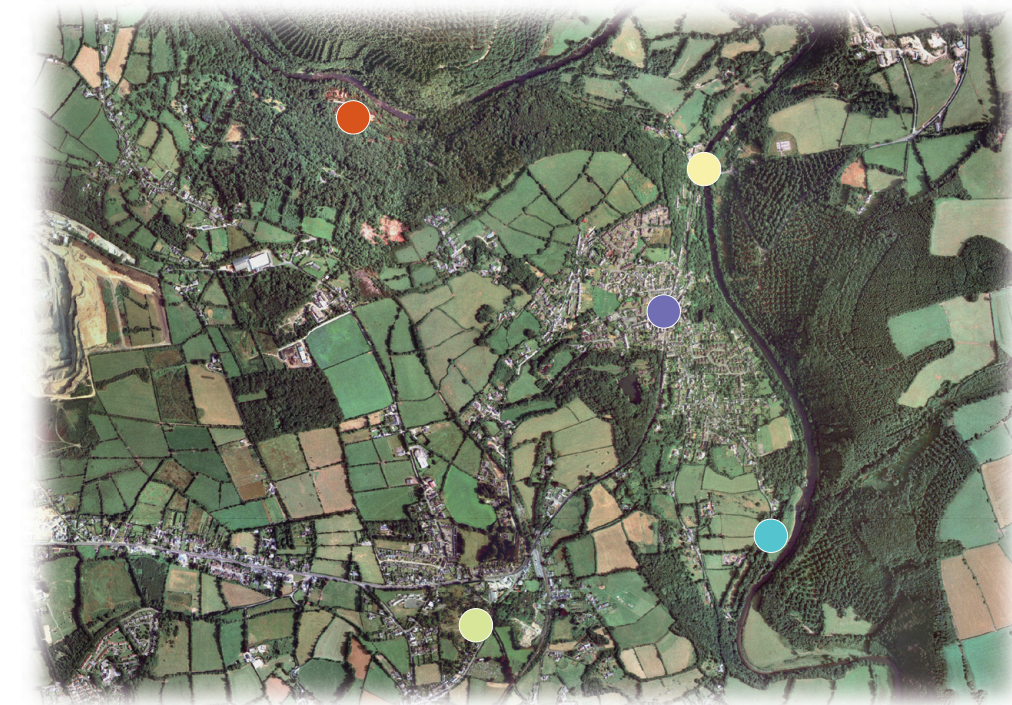
Clitters was mined intensively for tin, copper, arsenic and wolfram from 1820 to 1920, although there is evidence mining had been going on earlier than this. Connected to Calstock via the tramway and East Cornwall Mineral Railway the mine remains here are partially accessible to the public and form part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. The main structures can be seen from the Tamar Valley Discovery Trail.

Tamar Manure Navigation Canal

The canal was permitted by an act of parliament in 1796 and built to enable navigation beyond the weir to take manure up to market gardens and the spoils of quarrying and mining downstream. It was originally intended to link all the way to Bude, but this plan was never realised. The lock, lock keeper's cottage and lock gates still exist here and are considered nationally archaeologically significant.

Tamar Valley Centre

Situated on the site of the Drakewalls mine, and just 5 minutes walk from Gunnislake train station, the Centre affords views towards Dartmoor and down the Valley towards Plymouth. The Centre houses Calstock Parish Archive, Tamar Valley AONB office and the Calstock Parish Council and acts as an information point for the Valley area as well as housing occasional exhibitions.



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William the Miner

This statue in the heart of Gunnislake is a reminder of the people involved in the industry of the area. He is named after John Williams, who bought Old Gunnislake Mine in 1825 and is responsible for building many of the characteristic miners' cottages here. The Williams family owned so much of the village that at one time it was known as Williamstown!



Newbridge

Built in around 1520 by Sir Piers Edgcombe this bridge was the lowest bridge on the Tamar until the 19th century, and a main route into Cornwall. Joseph Turner's famous painting 'Crossing the Brook' features Newbridge, and also depicts gate piers and a granary, the remains of which can be seen along the Discovery Trail. Other buildings, such as the miners' lodgings, have since disappeared but can be seen in other paintings and later photographs.

Getting there:

The village is at the end of the train line from Plymouth and well served by buses.

For bus times please visit

www.travelinesw.com

For train times please visit

www.nationalrail.co.uk

There is a ticketed car park in the centre of the village.

Facilities:

Gunnislake has a range of services and shops, and there are public toilets next to the carpark. There is a recreation ground close to the river and the Tamar Valley Centre is close by in Drakewalls.

