

Where is the Drake link?

Sir Francis Drake was reputed to be born at Crowndale Farm in around 1540. It is difficult to be exact about this as only deaths were officially registered in the mid 16th century.

Young Francis began his seafaring career at the age of 13 and became the owner of his first commercial vessel at the age of 20.

The farm that you can see at Crowndale now is not the building that Drake would have known. The original farm was demolished and the stone was carried north to be used in Lewtrenchard.

Other local information...

This walk follows part of the Tavistock canal, the construction of which was overseen by civil engineer John Taylor. The canal took 14 years to complete - with labour by French prisoners - and was officially opened in 1817. The canal played an important role in transporting copper ore 4½ miles to Morwellham Quay, at the time one of the biggest trading ports in the world.

The town of Tavistock dates back to the building of the Abbey in the 10th century. After five and a half centuries the monastery was dissolved and the town was given to John Russell the first Earl of Bedford. The Earls, and later Dukes of Bedford, owned the majority of all property in the town until 1911, when many of the buildings were sold off.

Still want to know more?

Tavistock Town Council for local information:

www.tavistock.gov.uk

Drake's Trail website for more recreation routes:

www.drakestrail.co.uk



find out more through the **Drake's Trail podcasts** available at:
www.drakestrail.co.uk or
www.drakestrailpodcasts.info

Accommodation & local services

There are numerous places to stay in and around Yelverton, from campsites to hotels catering to your every whim. Check the following websites for details and booking information:

www.drakesdartmoor.co.uk

www.dartmoor.co.uk

Or contact the
Tavistock Tourist Information Centre
01822 612938

email: **tavistocktic@westdevon.gov.uk**



How to get here

A regular, daily bus service runs between Plymouth and Tavistock, stopping at Yelverton. Most frequent are the 83 and 84 services.

Timetables and more information are available from Traveline:

0871 200 22 33

www.traveline.org.uk

There are a number of small pay and display car parks in the centre of Tavistock, as well as the bigger Bedford car park at the end of Canal Rd.

Additional travel advice can be found at:

www.travelwise.org.uk

This document can be made available in large print, Braille, tape format, other languages or alternative format upon request. Please contact West Devon Borough Council on 01822 813600
Or email: services@westdevon.gov.uk



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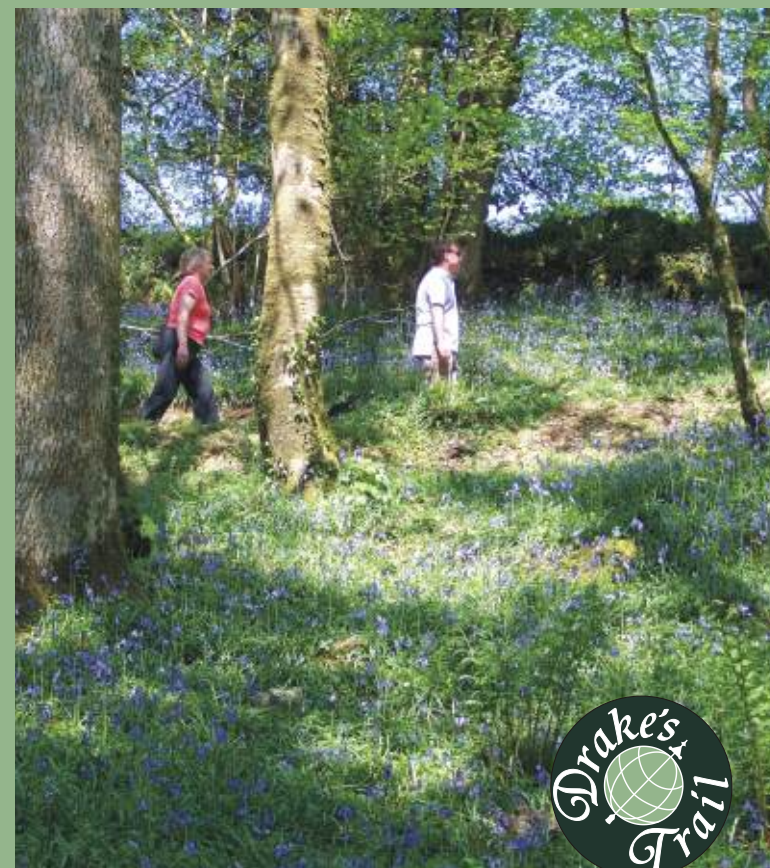
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Drakes Trail Walking Spur 4

Tavistock to Crowndale



Start: Bedford Square, Tavistock

Duration: 1 - 1 ½ hours

Distance: 3 miles / 5 kilometres

Grade: EASY

Surface: Paved surface and
firm footpaths.

Also see OS Explorer maps 108 and OL28

Route directions and other advice / instructions are shown on the map inside.

Walking Spur 4 - Tavistock to Crowndale



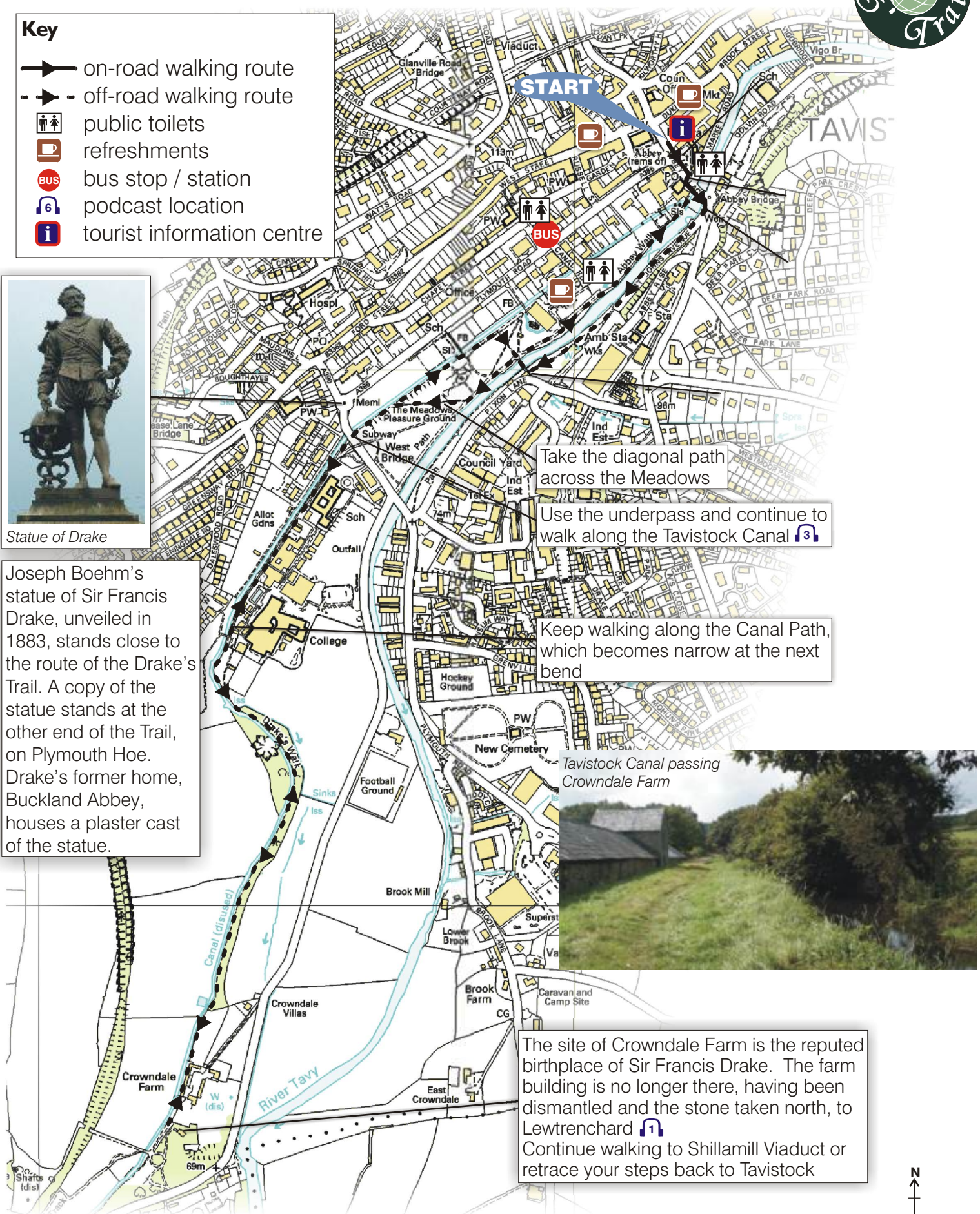
Key

- on-road walking route
- off-road walking route
- public toilets
- refreshments
- bus stop / station
- podcast location
- tourist information centre



Statue of Drake

Joseph Boehm's statue of Sir Francis Drake, unveiled in 1883, stands close to the route of the Drake's Trail. A copy of the statue stands at the other end of the Trail, on Plymouth Hoe. Drake's former home, Buckland Abbey, houses a plaster cast of the statue.



START

Take the diagonal path across the Meadows

Use the underpass and continue to walk along the Tavistock Canal

Keep walking along the Canal Path, which becomes narrow at the next bend

Tavistock Canal passing Crowndale Farm



The site of Crowndale Farm is the reputed birthplace of Sir Francis Drake. The farm building is no longer there, having been dismantled and the stone taken north, to Lewtrenchard Continue walking to Shillamill Viaduct or retrace your steps back to Tavistock

Scale:

250m

500m

1km

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