

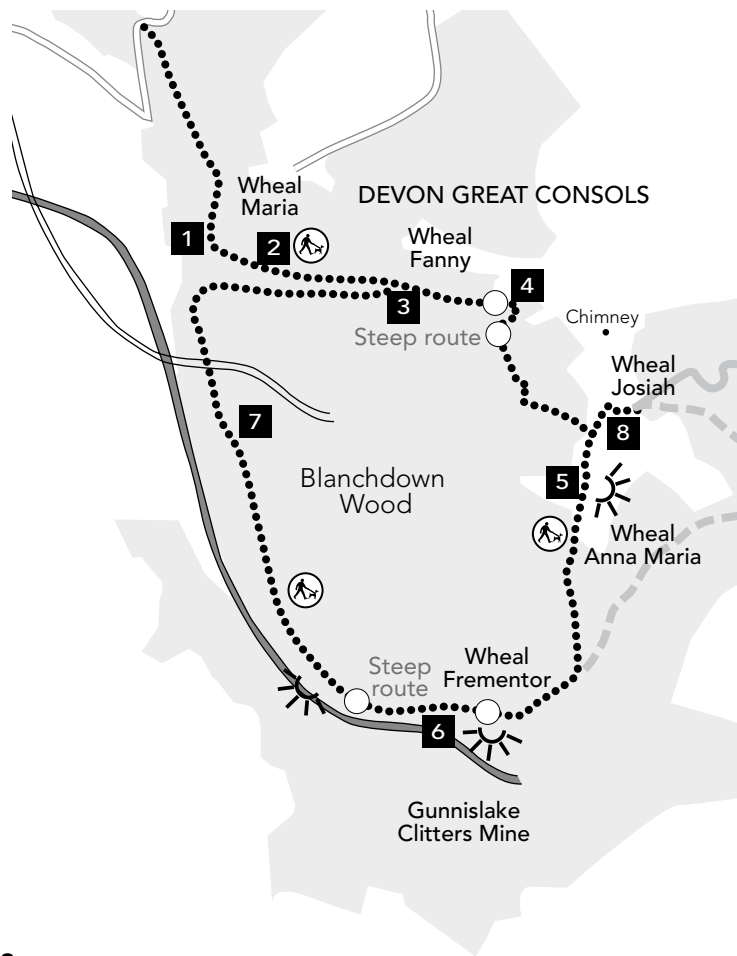
Wheal Maria Trail

Wheal Maria Trail

(multiuse,
length 5 km.

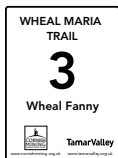
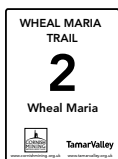
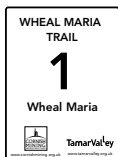
Approximate time
to walk 2 hours)

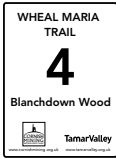
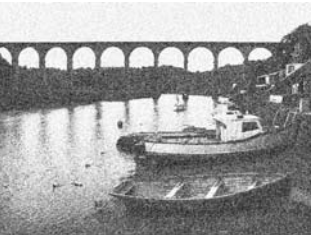
This wide trail passes through mixed woodland, opening into spectacular views across the Tamar Valley and mining remains. The trail is a compacted surface of mud and stones, with some loose stones in parts. It is generally level with steep, challenging sections in parts. It is recommended to complete this circuit in a clockwise direction.



Trail markers

- 1. Wheal Maria.** Discovered in 1844, this mine was part of Devon Great Consols and was named after the Duke of Bedford's wife. It produced copper, lead and arsenic until its closure in 1920.
- 2. Wheal Maria.** Rich deposits of copper were found in 'Gard's' shaft just 18 fathoms (36 metres) from the surface. The lode (a vein of mineral ore) was 12 metres in width and stretched eastwards for over three kilometres. Large (arsenic contaminated) dumps can be seen in front of you.
- 3. Wheal Fanny.** When Wheal Fanny was started in 1845 the mineralised vein was hit at only 3 fathoms (5.5 metres) from the surface. The lode here lies some 200 metres southwards of the rest of the lodes of Devon Great Consols.





4. Blanchdown Woods. These woods have had only three owners since records began. Tavistock Abbey originally held the lands until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1540 when it went to the Dukes of Bedford; finally it was purchased from the Dukes in 1959 by the 6th Earl of Bradford.



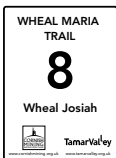
5. Wheal Anna Maria. Part of Devon Great Consols the mine covered 3.2 hectares and had over 6,850 cubic metres of arsenic flues. The equivalent of approximately 185 double-decker buses!



6. Wheal Frementor. Again part of Devon Great Consols. On the river bank opposite are the remains of Gunnislake Clitters. The large opening in front of you is an extensive open stope (this is the space left behind after the ore has been removed). The main output was tungsten and tin.



7. Blanchdown Woods. The Earl and his Forester, Phil Hutt, developed what is known as the 'Bradford-Hutt Plan' for growing conifers. The woods are divided into sections and then coupes (small areas of forest) 18 metres square, each with trees of different ages. Each year, some are felled and some planted, which allows for continuous cover in the woodland despite commercial felling regularly taking place. Look out for the rare heath fritillary butterfly, which can be found here and only a few other spots across the UK.



8. Wheal Josiah. This was the location of the deepest shaft on Devon Great Consols, sunk at the insistence of the Duke of Bedford who hoped to find tin at greater depths. This however proved a costly failure and no tin was found. Nearby rare nightjars have made their home on the heathland that emerged after the industrial decline.