



# West Devon Way

Explore the western edge of Dartmoor along this 37-mile waymarked walking route, linking to local buses

the place to be naturally active



[www.devon.gov.uk/walking](http://www.devon.gov.uk/walking)  
[www.dartmoor.co.uk](http://www.dartmoor.co.uk)





# West Devon Way

## Explore the western edge of Dartmoor

The West Devon Way is a recreational route for walkers of 37 miles, running from Okehampton in the north to Plymouth at its southern end.



View from Meldon Dam

### At a glance

- 37 miles in total
- Divided into 8 stages
- Easy to follow, waymarked trail
- Stage 7 suitable for wheelchairs and buggies
- Each stage starts and finishes at or near a bus stop

The walk is relatively easy with many level stretches, gradual gradients and a few steep short sections. The route crosses a variety of terrain, and while in the summer the route is likely to be dry, in the depths of winter parts of the route can be wet and muddy.

The route is waymarked and with the directions in this booklet should be straightforward to follow, though extra care should be taken across open moorland sections where way-marking is not possible. The booklet directions describe the route starting in Okehampton and walking in a southerly direction. Some points of interest along the way are highlighted in boxes within the route descriptions.

The waymarks contain a logo of the dramatic Brentor Church perched on top of its rocky outcrop. The logo is dark green on a white background outside of the National Park, and dark green on wood within the National Park, with the route directions indicated by black arrows.

A number of alternative and circular routes have been included in the booklet, showing further walking possibilities alongside the main West Devon Way route.

### Sustainable Travel

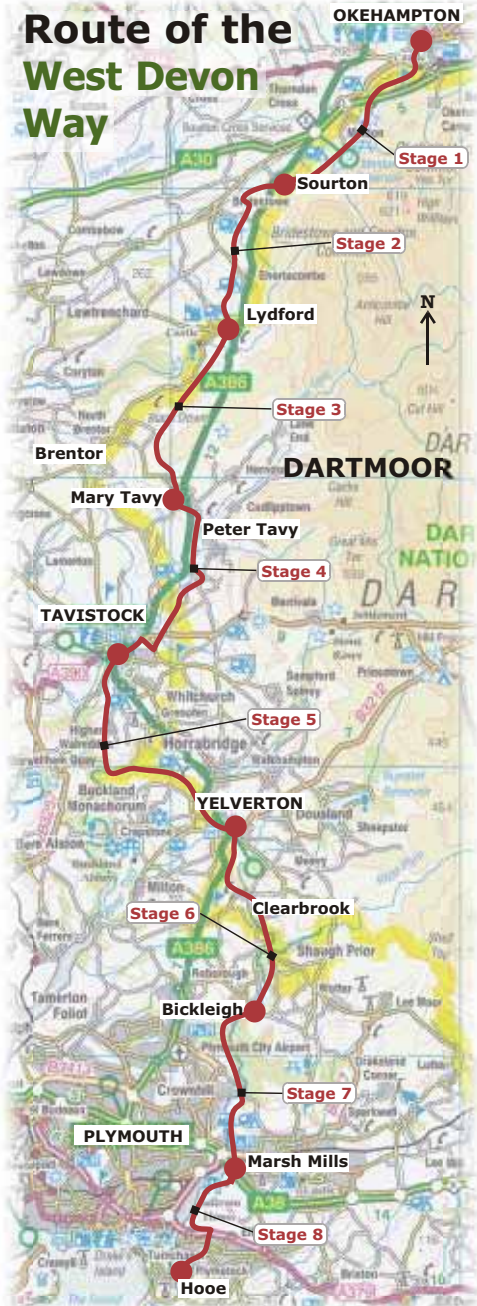
The route has been divided into eight sections, all accessible at each end by public transport. Since car parking is very limited along the route, the use of public transport (see page 23) is recommended. For up to date bus times call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

There are car parks (paying), toilet and food and drink facilities in Okehampton, Lydford, Tavistock, Yelverton and Plymouth, along with pubs at a number of villages along and close to the route.

For walkers over-nighting in the area, details of local accommodation can be found at the Okehampton or Tavistock Tourist Information Centres or from the visitor websites detailed on page 22 of this booklet.



# Route of the West Devon Way



## The 8 stages

**Stage 1:** 5 miles (8km)  
Okehampton to Sourton

**Stage 2:** 4.5 miles (7.25km)  
Sourton to Lydford

**Stage 3:** 4.5 miles (7.25km)  
Lydford to Mary Tavy

**Stage 4:** 4.5 miles (7.25km)  
Mary Tavy to Tavistock

**Stage 5:** 7 miles (11.25km)  
Tavistock to Yelverton

**Stage 6:** 4.5 miles (7.25km)  
Yelverton to Bickleigh

**Stage 7:** 4 miles (6.5km)  
Bickleigh to Marsh Mills

**Stage 8:** 3 miles (5km)  
Marsh Mills to Hooe Lake

## OS Maps of the route and area:

**Explorer OL28** 1:25,000 - covers the majority of the route

**Explorer 108 and 112** - to the west

**Explorer OL20** - southern end of the route

## Key to symbols used on route maps on following pages

- ..... West Devon Way
- ..... Alternative routes/ loops
- 1** See directions in text
- A** Points of interest
- BUS** Bus services
- i** Tourist Information Centre
- ☕** Refreshments
- 🍷** Pub
- ♿** Public toilets
- S** Shops
- P** Parking

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Scale: 0 1 2 3 4 5 10km



## Stage 1:

### Okehampton to Sourton

Distance: 5 miles (8 km)

**Surfaces:** Uneven surfaces, including fields, grassy lanes and woodland tracks. Some muddy stretches after heavy rain.

**Gradients:** A steep climb away from the West Okement River below Meldon Viaduct. Fairly steep descent to Sourton. Otherwise gentle gradients.

**Obstacles:** A few gates. Two foot-bridges with steps.

**1** The West Devon Way begins at the centre of Okehampton. When open, start by passing through a gated courtyard by the Museum of Dartmoor Life and Tourist Information Centre, following a path to the right hand side of the museum, through the car park onto Jacobs Pool, where you turn left. When closed, walk up George Street, to the left of the White Hart Hotel.

Follow George Street and turn right into Castle Road. Where the road bends right across the West Okement river, continue straight ahead on the path alongside the left bank of the river.

**2** Pass through an iron kissing gate into Old Town Park Local Nature Reserve, bearing left to climb the middle path through the woods, keeping left at two path junctions. Turn right along a surfaced bridleway shared with traffic.

**3** On reaching the golf course, take the path ahead across the golf course, taking care as you proceed. After 200m, as the gravel track turns sharply to the right, continue straight ahead along the path. Leave the golf course at a metal gate, and follow the right edge of the field ahead.

Follow the 'path' signs through a metal gate and through a farmyard, to join a surfaced lane beyond the farm. When you reach the road turn left across the A30 road bridge.



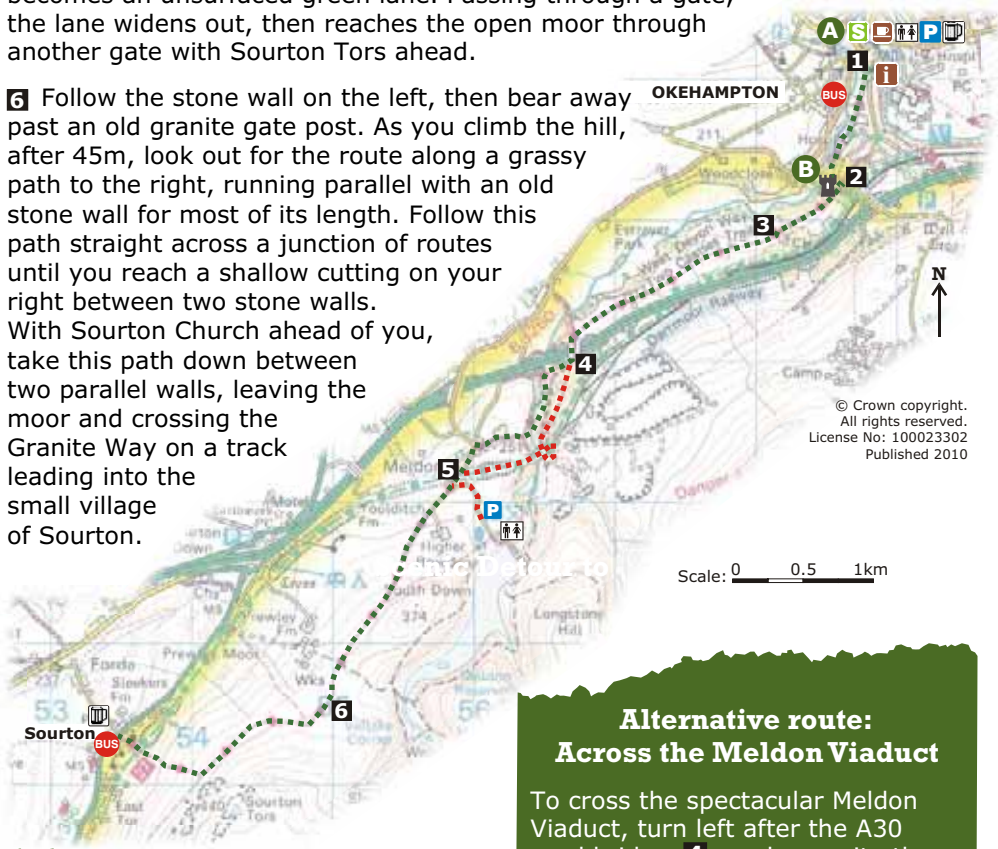
**A** **Okehampton** has a varied history including production of woollen cloth from the middle ages to the 1700s, tin and copper mining, quarrying and farming. Today, Okehampton is establishing itself as the walking centre for northern Dartmoor, with links to Meldon along the Dartmoor railway.

**B** **Okehampton Castle** was built shortly after the Norman conquest, and has stood in ruins since 1538 when Henry VIII ordered it to be demolished as a punishment for its owner's treason. Today, English Heritage open the grounds to the public over the summer months.

**4** Take the path to the rear of the parking area on the right, beside the A30. At a junction where a path goes to your right under the A30, keep straight ahead on the path towards the river. Continue alongside the West Okement, cross the footbridge and climb the hill on the path bearing left. Pass through a gate, turn right onto a track past Meldon Farm, and turn left when you reach the road.

**5** Pass under the railway bridge and continue ahead, as the road soon becomes an unsurfaced green lane. Passing through a gate, the lane widens out, then reaches the open moor through another gate with Sourton Tors ahead.

**6** Follow the stone wall on the left, then bear away past an old granite gate post. As you climb the hill, after 45m, look out for the route along a grassy path to the right, running parallel with an old stone wall for most of its length. Follow this path straight across a junction of routes until you reach a shallow cutting on your right between two stone walls. With Sourton Church ahead of you, take this path down between two parallel walls, leaving the moor and crossing the Granite Way on a track leading into the small village of Sourton.



## Meldon Reservoir

For a scenic detour from the West Devon Way route, follow the road on your left signed to Meldon Reservoir at point **5**. The reservoir was created by damming the West Okement River, and opened in 1972. From the car park and public toilets you can access a range of local walks leading around the reservoir, into the surrounding hills, or towards Meldon Viaduct.

## Alternative route: Across the Meldon Viaduct

To cross the spectacular Meldon Viaduct, turn left after the A30 road bridge, **4**, and opposite the parking area onto a bridleway through woods.

Follow the path straight ahead at any path junctions, walk under the viaduct and climb the steps. At the top, turn sharp left across the viaduct, and follow the Granite Way along the old railway path to a point where it crosses a road.

Turn left here to rejoin the West Devon Way, **5**, with the route heading up the lane to the right.



## Stage 2:

### Sourton to Lydford

Distance: 4.5 miles (7.25 km)

**Surfaces:** Can be muddy in field section south of Sourton, especially at gates. Generally, grassy fields from Sourton, and gravel/rocky tracks towards Lydford.

**Gradients:** Short steep descent north of Lydford, and a steep climb below Lake Viaduct on the alternative route. Otherwise fairly level.

**Obstacles:** High number of stiles on main route south of Sourton (can be avoided using the alternative route). A variety of gates, and two footbridges (on alternative route).

**1** From Sourton, follow the footpath alongside the main road heading south towards Tavistock. At the end of the village, 30m past the bus stop, cross the road carefully and take the path next to the tall house, between two stone barns. Follow the track round to the left and through a gate into a field. Follow the track with the hedge on your right through two fields to a small barn. Cross the stile and continue ahead with the hedge to your left for two more fields. Cross the stile, and head straight across the next two fields to another stile before continuing with the hedge on your left for another three fields to arrive at a lane. Turn left onto the lane, then right at the next junction.

**2** After 35m, turn right and descend along a track, eventually crossing a footbridge. Shortly after cross another footbridge, before continuing on the track and climbing past some former mining buildings to arrive at a road.

#### © **Wheal Fanny Copper Mine**

Lead was discovered here in 1827, although the mine had to be closed due to the inflow of water. Abandoned in 1868, the ruins of the engine house are still visible.

**3** Continue on the track ahead, and follow it along the edge of the open land of Fernworthy Down, and then as it descends to cross a stream.

**4** Cross the footbridge at the stream, go through the gate, and 30m beyond turn left up a path to reach a lane by houses. Alternatively, for a drier route, continue along the track from the stream and climb direct to the lane. Either way, turn left at the lane and straight on at the first junction to the war memorial. Turn right to follow the route into the village of Lydford.

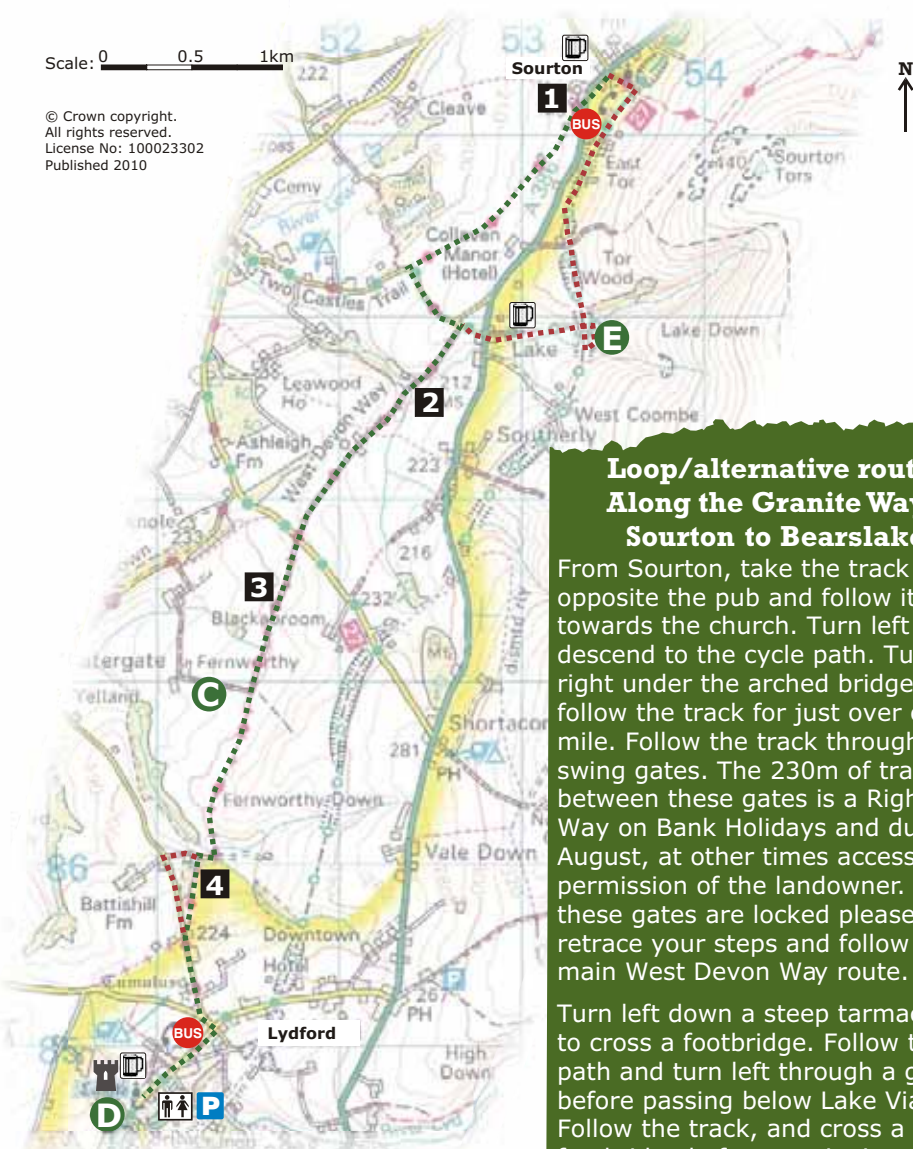


Lydford Castle

**© Lydford** has two Norman castles - a stone tower built as a court and a prison, and an earlier earthwork castle to the south. The present day village occupies only a fraction of the Saxon walled town, which was attacked and burnt by the Danes in 997.

Scale: 0 0.5 1km

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### Loop/alternative route: Along the Granite Way - Sourton to Bearslake

From Sourton, take the track opposite the pub and follow it uphill towards the church. Turn left and descend to the cycle path. Turn right under the arched bridge and follow the track for just over one mile. Follow the track through two swing gates. The 230m of track between these gates is a Right of Way on Bank Holidays and during August, at other times access is by permission of the landowner. If these gates are locked please retrace your steps and follow the main West Devon Way route.

Turn left down a steep tarmac track to cross a footbridge. Follow the path and turn left through a gate before passing below Lake Viaduct. Follow the track, and cross a footbridge before continuing along the track to the main road. To rejoin the West Devon Way, cross the main road, and ascend the lane opposite for some 200m before turning left to descend along a track at point **2**.

**E Lake Viaduct** carried the former Southern Railway line, has 9 arches and is built of granite. The steep, narrow valley coming down to it from the northeast, known as "Deep Valley", was once a copper mine.



## Stage 3:

### Lydford to Mary Tavy

Distance: 4.5 miles (7.25 km)

**Surfaces:** Road for approx 1 mile from Lydford. Otherwise uneven tracks over open moorland (grass followed by gravel).

**Gradients:** Short steep road descent and climb by Lydford Bridge. Some gradual climbs and descents.

**Obstacles:** One gate when joining moor at Black Down.

**1** Leave the village in a southerly direction towards Tavistock, past the medieval prison and courtroom (Lydford Castle) and the church.

#### Trips to Lydford Gorge

If taking a trip to Lydford Gorge (there is an admission charge for the Gorge), this can be accessed on your right just after Lydford Bridge.

At the far end of the Gorge, to return to the West Devon Way, go through the car park to the road, turn left, cross the bridge and take the track on your right.

**F Lydford Gorge** is the deepest gorge in the southwest and has some spectacular sights, including a 30m waterfall, and the 'Devil's Cauldron' whirlpools. The path through the Gorge is rugged, uneven and slippery with steep drops, so care should be taken at all times. The National Trust owns Lydford Gorge and an admission charge is payable. There are toilets and tea rooms at both entrances.

**2** Keep to the road for approximately one mile, then take the track on the left immediately before the bridge with metal parapets.

**3** On the track bear left and go through a wooden gate leading onto the moor. Turn right, next to the fence, and follow the most obvious track as it continues roughly parallel to the fence, then alongside a stone wall, then ahead to join a clearer path. This in turn leads to a surfaced lane.

**4** Continue ahead on the lane for 150m and where a track goes off to the right, leave the lane on a path that bears left over the moorland, going gently uphill.

**5** Keep on the path as it climbs past a small cairn, then descends to join a road. Cross the cattle grid and follow the road to reach the A386 in the village of Mary Tavy.

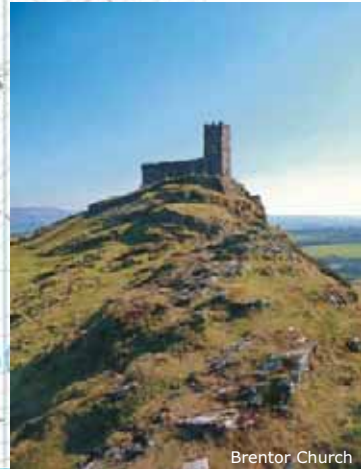
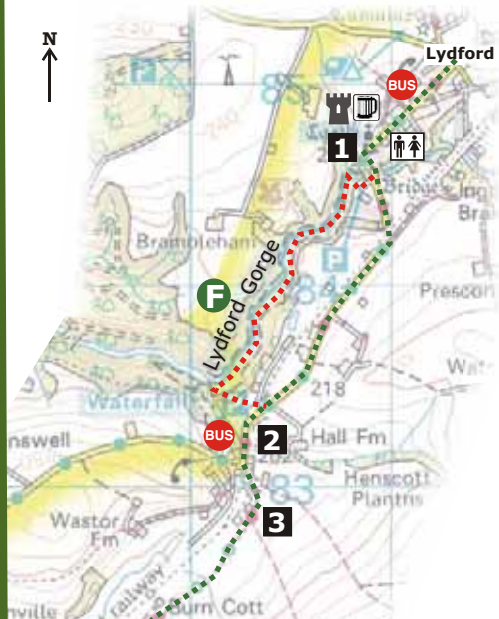
#### G Brentor Church

The Church of St Michael de Rupe (St Michael of the Rock), built 335m above sea level, is an iconic feature of the West Devon skyline. Two legends are told about how the church came to be built here. The first is that a wealthy merchant vowed to build a church on the first land he saw if he survived a violent storm at sea, and this was Brentor. The second claims that while the church was being built at the foot of the hill, the Devil would move the stones that had been laid to the top - maybe to deter worshippers from the hard climb. Another version of events is that the church was built in 1155 by the lord of Lamerton and Whitchurch.

## Loop route: Brentor

At **4** continue on the lane turning right on meeting another road, following it to North Brentor. Turn left at the T-junction (by the war memorial) and as the road bears right, take the cul-de-sac to the left, which turns into a public footpath signed to South Brentor. Continue to follow across a number of fields. On reaching an unsurfaced unclassified country road, turn right to reach a lane. Bear left and follow for around 600m until you see a signed public bridleway at a metal gate on your right. Leave the road here to climb Brent Tor.

To return to the West Devon Way retrace your steps to the unsurfaced unclassified country road (signed not suitable for motors). Stay on this track crossing Wortha Mill Bridge, and turn right on meeting a road to rejoin the West Devon Way at the cattle grid described in **5**.



Brentor Church

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## Stage 4:

### Mary Tavy to Tavistock

Distance: 4.5 miles (7.25 km)

**Surfaces:** Tarmac roads, gravel and uneven rocky paths. Fields between Mary Tavy and Harford Bridge. Wet and muddy in winter around field entrances and stiles.

**Gradients:** A number of short climbs and descents near Mary and Peter Tavy. Very steep road sections at Violet Bank and Green Hill.

**Obstacles:** A number of stiles and gates on section between Mary Tavy and Harford Bridge.

**1** From the main road in Mary Tavy (the A386) take the track opposite Brentor Road. Follow this down to a lane and bear right. Keep ahead at the first road junction.

**2** Pass the school and at the next junction bear left. Pass Mary Tavy church and at the end of the road, take the footpath which goes down the track to the right.

**H Mary Tavy** The leats and water courses which were once used to work local copper, silver and lead mining machinery are now utilised by a hydro-electricity power station at Mary Tavy.

**3** Take the track downhill and cross the footbridge then climb steeply to the right-hand bend. Climb the stile on the left then follow the wall on your right uphill to a gate. Continue with the hedge and a wire fence on your right through a gate to another gate and stile.

Climb the stile and continue ahead, hedge still to the right, and descend to a gate. Pass through and now with



Remains of Tavistock Abbey

the hedge on your left continue straight ahead across the field to a gap in the wall, then on to a stone stile. Continue across the next field to an obvious gap in the hedge, and then head for the gate next to a prominent tree to the right of the buildings. Go through the gate and down the track to reach a lane.

**4** At the lane turn left and cross Harford Bridge and the River Tavy and take the right fork at the junction. Climb the hill and at the small crossroads after 300m take the narrow lane to the right.

**I Harford Bridge** This Grade II Listed Building is probably of 16<sup>th</sup> Century origin. Built of local granite and metamorphic stone it was rebuilt in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The location marks where stags crossed the Tavy in Saxon times, the name deriving from "hart ford."

**5** Eventually the lane descends to meet a main road. Be very careful over the next 70m. This is a busy road with no footway. Turn right and keep to the nearside. After 70m carefully cross to the footpath. At the junction opposite the school entrance turn left up Violet Lane then, near the top, turn right, down the hill.

**7** At the bottom carefully cross the road to the footpath and turn left. At the next junction carefully cross the main road and bear left. Bear left again at the next junction (Dolvin Road) and follow to the bridge above Tavistock Weir.

**J Tavistock** A small Saxon community existed here in the early 8<sup>th</sup> Century beside the River Tavy. A Benedictine Abbey was founded around the year 974, and the town developed around the abbey. By the early 12<sup>th</sup> Century Tavistock had a market and a fair, and in 1305 become one of the four Devon stannary towns. Its prosperity came firstly from medieval tin mining, then from the cloth trade and, in the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> Century, from the copper boom, which eventually collapsed in the 1870s. Today, Tavistock is a busy town, with markets and a number of specialist shops and cafés attracting visitors.

Scale: 0 0.5 1km

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**7** Turn right across the bridge, and immediately cross the road when opposite the Post Office. After crossing, turn left and then immediately right following the riverside path on the right bank of the River Tavy.

**8** This path follows the riverbank into the Tavistock Meadows.



## Stage 5:

### Tavistock to Yelverton

Distance: 7 miles (11.25 km)

**Surfaces:** Road, gravel, grass, uneven in the Walkham Valley. Some sections can be muddy and wet.

**Gradients:** Some steep climbs and descents in the River Walkham area.

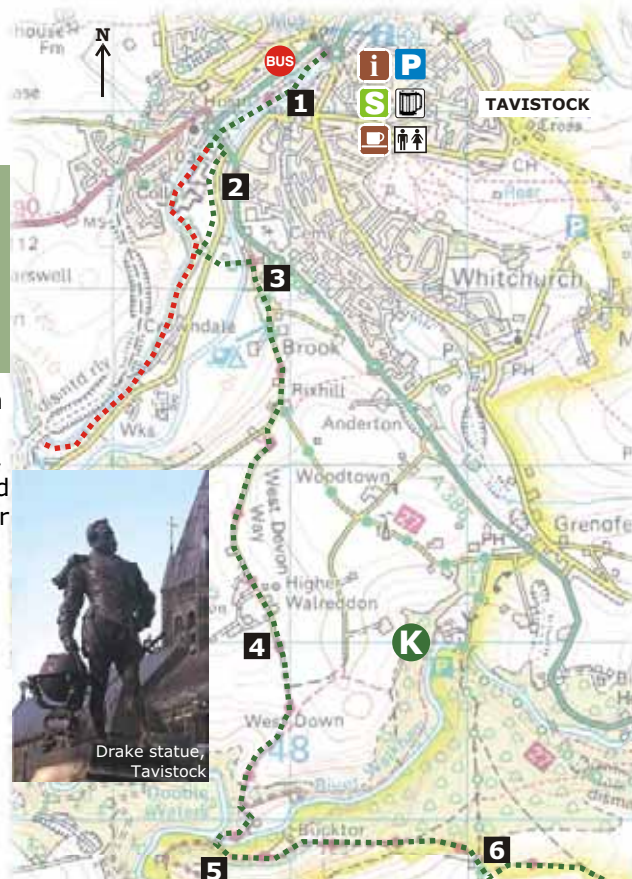
**Obstacles:** Steps and a narrow footbridge.

**1** From Abbey Bridge follow the path on the right bank of the River Tavy. Pass a pedestrian bridge on your left, and after a further 50m fork right and follow a path through a subway under the A386. Double back on your right (using the steps or slope) to reach the road and turn right alongside it.

**2** Follow the main road for a short distance and follow the pavement into the first road on your right. Follow the path past the school playing fields. Cross the minor road and continue along the cycle path, crossing the River Tavy bridge to reach Brook Lane.

**3** Turn right towards Walreddon and continue straight on, ignoring all side turnings.

**4** At the cattle grid go straight on, following the track downhill across open moorland and then into woodland. Where the brideways meet, take the right fork steeply downhill to the river. Turn right alongside the river, following the path up and round a rocky knoll to reach a footbridge at Double Waters, a picturesque spot where the Rivers Tavy and Walkham meet as they descend from Dartmoor, and flow on to the River Tamar.



Drake statue, Tavistock



Footbridge at Double Waters

**5** Cross the bridge and walk up to the track. Turn left and follow the track as it turns into a tarmac road and climbs uphill.

**6** Just before you reach a cattle grid turn left alongside a bank. Follow the bank for approximately 550m until you reach a right-angled corner then follow the grassy path diagonally to your left.

#### **K Grenofen Wood and West**

**Down SSSI:** Over 80 lichen species have been recorded in Grenofen Woods including some rare and uncommon species. The woodland valley slopes are dominated by oak, while West Down is a south facing slope of acid grassland.

**7** At the next corner of the wall, head diagonally to your left to a minor road. Turn left and follow it until you reach a T junction.

**8** Cross the road and follow the grassy track, where it divides bear left. Pass a bench and bear left again. Pass a second bench, keep straight ahead on the level path until you reach the surfaced cycleway. Turn right along it.

**9** Follow the cycleway to the minor road at Leg O' Mutton. Cross the road and continue to follow the cycleway around the edge of the car park and past the play area to the roundabout at Yelverton.

#### **L Yelverton and Roborough**

**Down:** Near the main road are the remains of RAF Harrowbeer, a WWII airfield - for more information, see [www.rafharrowbeer.co.uk](http://www.rafharrowbeer.co.uk) Shops in Yelverton were reduced to single storey for the safety of aircraft using the airfield. Grass-banked Spitfire shelters remain around its edges.



Roborough Down

#### **Linear Walk:**

##### **From Tavistock to Crowndale**

This linear walk follows a pleasant, level path alongside Tavistock Canal to Crowndale Farm - reputed to be the birthplace of Sir Francis Drake in around 1540.

After passing through the subway **1** and climbing the steps immediately on your right, leave the West Devon Way by passing through the gap in the hedge from the lower paved path to the narrower path alongside the Tavistock Canal, and turn left. Follow this path past the school and college. After around 600m the path enters Crowndale woods. Continue for another 600m until you reach Crowndale Farm on your left, at which point you can continue following the path alongside the Canal for another mile to Shillamill Viaduct, or retrace your steps back to the West Devon Way.



## Stage 6:

### Yelverton to Bickleigh

Distance: 4.5 miles (7.25 km)

**Surfaces:** Tarmac, gravel and grass. Some muddy and stony sections.

**Gradients:** Generally fairly level, with a couple of short steep sections.

**Obstacles:** Some stiles and narrow kissing gates.

**1** From the church at the roundabout follow the tarmac road parallel to the A386 and continue alongside Drake's Leat. Cross a bridge and continue along the cycleway.

**2** Turn left over a bridge and then immediately right on the track alongside the leat. After 200m take the public footpath to Hoo Meavy on your left, follow over a bridge and descend to pass through a gate. Follow the track downhill and at the next T junction turn right.

#### **M Leats:**

The leats here were built to provide a water supply. Sir Francis Drake primarily initiated and directed the construction of The Drake's (or Plymouth) Leat, which was originally dug in 1591 to take water to Plymouth and is granite lined. The Devonport Leat is wide and deep and, higher on Dartmoor, still carries water to the Burrator Reservoir. The West Devon Way passes by both of these leats south of Yelverton.

**3** Follow the track as it turns left under the railway and turn immediately right through a kissing gate.

Follow the path, as it passes through another kissing gate and continues through a gate to the right of a house. Follow the track to reach the road below Clearbrook.



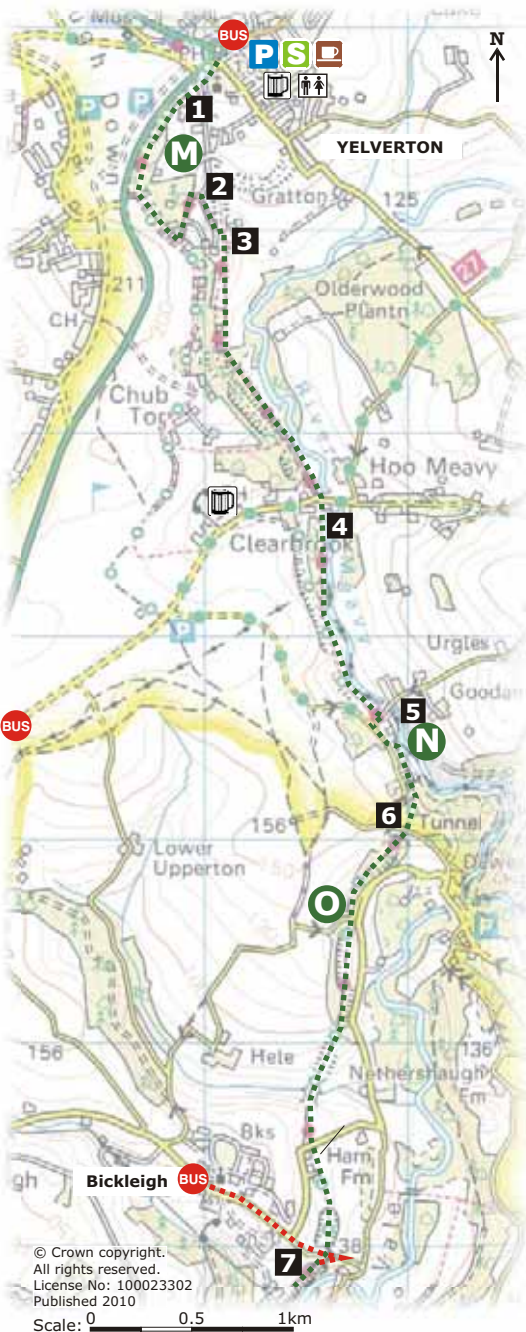
**4** Turn left along the road and then immediately before the road bridge turn right over a stile onto a riverside public footpath through fields, woodland and gates to another road at Goodameavy.

#### **N Goodameavy:**

This is where the West Devon Way joins the old GWR line between Plymouth and Princetown or Tavistock. This stretch of line follows the course of the River Plym and crosses a number of imposing viaducts.

**5** At the road turn right, go under the railway bridge, then turn left and shortly afterwards left again onto the railway path and cycleway. Turn right along the cycleway.

**6** Follow the cycle way through the 300m Shaugh Tunnel. An atmospheric experience, a torch is recommended! Pass the old station at Shaugh Halt and cross over the Ham Green Viaduct.



**7** If leaving the walk here to catch a bus at Bickleigh, pass under a bridge then turn sharp left off of the cycleway (shown in red on the map).

Follow the path to the road and turn left crossing over the old railway bridge. Continue on the road to Bickleigh village where you will be able to catch a bus.

### Loop Routes:

There are 3 circular walking routes in the Yelverton area ranging from easy 4.5 mile walks to difficult 9 mile walks - further information about these can be found at [www.drakestrail.co.uk](http://www.drakestrail.co.uk) or by picking up a Drake's Trail route pack from the Tourist Information Centre at Tavistock.



### ⓪ National Cycle Route 27:

As well as being the West Devon Way, the old railway path also carries the Devon Coast to Coast cycle route. The Plym Valley Cycle Way between Plymouth and Clearbrook becomes the Drake's Trail between Clearbrook and Tavistock.

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Scale: 0 0.5 1km



## Stage 7:

### Bickleigh to Marsh Mills

Distance: 4 miles (6.5 km)

**Gradients:** Generally level along the course of an old railway line. One quite steep slope from the Bickleigh Camp lane onto the cycle way.

**Obstacles:** There are no stiles, gates or other barriers, this route is suitable for wheelchairs and buggies.

If starting your walk from the bus stop at Bickleigh Camp, walk downhill away from the village, ignoring the turning on the left hand side sign-posted to Shaugh Prior. Instead cross over the old railway and turn right straight away on to the path which joins the cycle way and then left along the route of the old railway line.

**1** The walk now follows the cycle way all the way to Plym Bridge, crossing spectacular viaducts over deep wooded valleys along the course of the River Plym. In early times, the Plym Valley was not as peaceful as it is now. The Plymouth-Tavistock Railway and the earlier horse drawn Princetown Railway both passed this way.

**2** The route passes over the Bickleigh and Riverford Viaducts, high over the Plym.

**3** At Plym Bridge, follow the path on the left that takes you down to the car park, cross over to the gap in the fence on the other side and bear right on the path that will take you to Coypool, near Marsh Mills.



### **P** Peregrines at Plymbridge Woods:

It is thought that peregrines have nested on and off at this former slate quarry (Cann Quarry) for fifty years or more. More recently records show them to be present every year since at least 1995. The RSPB have around 50 volunteers that watch and protect the birds, and there are around 25,000 visits each year to the Viaduct from which they can be observed. You can see nesting peregrines on the web cam at [www.plym-peregrines.co.uk](http://www.plym-peregrines.co.uk)

**4** After a while you will see a railway line on your left where the volunteers of the Plym Valley Railway Association are aiming to restore and operate a mile and a half of the old line between Marsh Mills and Plym Bridge. The line used to run from Tavistock Junction, just outside of Plymouth, to Launceston. The Association is preserving steam and diesel locomotives, carriages and wagons.

See [www.plymrail.co.uk](http://www.plymrail.co.uk) for details and a timetable of public passenger rides on the line from the station at Marsh Mills to Lee Moor Crossing, a distance of 1,200m.

**5** When you reach Coypool, the Park and Ride is on the right hand side, from where, on Mondays-Saturdays a bus will take you back into the centre of Plymouth.

If walking this route on a Sunday, continue on to Marsh Mills East on Plymouth Road to catch a bus into Plymouth.

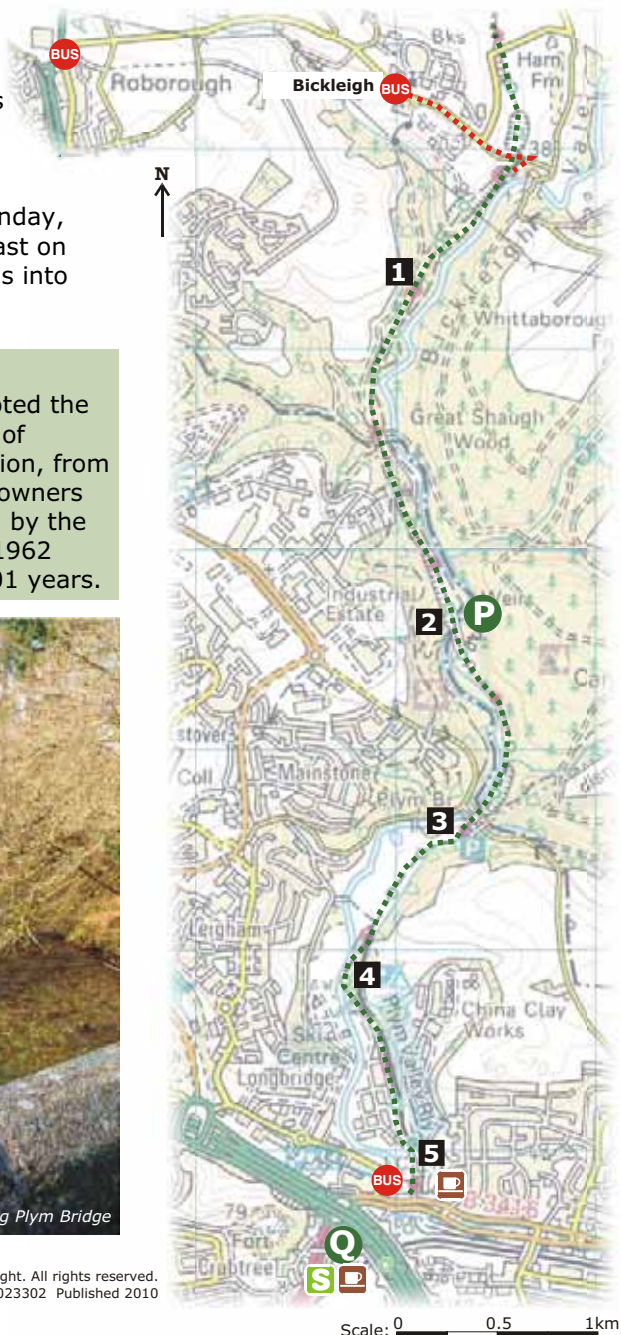
**Q Marsh Mills:**

The name 'Marsh Mills' denoted the former large flour mill, east of Longbridge. Marsh Mills station, from where the 19<sup>th</sup> Century mill owners sent their flour to be carried by the rail network, was closed in 1962 after serving the area for 101 years.



*Crossing Plym Bridge*

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Scale: 0 0.5 1km



## Stage 8:

# Marsh Mills to Hooe Lake

Distance: 3 miles (5 km)

**Surfaces:** Mainly tarmac.

**Gradients:** Almost flat.

**Obstacles:** Busy roads.

**1** Starting from the Coypool Park and Ride site follow the signs to the City Centre, then bear left past an old railway platform (signposted Saltram and Laira Bridge). Go under the elevated A38 dual carriageway.

**2** The path now keeps to the River Plym alongside Saltram House grounds, then next to a tarmac road on to a main road next to Laira Bridge.

### **U** Saltram:

Saltram House, above the River Plym, is a Georgian Mansion owned by The National Trust. Saltram House is filled with a notable collection of paintings and furniture, many of which can be seen today. Visitors can enjoy the gallery, tea room, restaurant and walks in the gardens and park. The parkland offers a good location from which to watch wading birds in the estuary.

**3** Cross the main road very carefully and turn left to the roundabout. Turn right here, cross a road and head towards Oreston. Cross another road to a path which soon becomes a disused railway line.

**4** After the road bridge, bear left onto the path towards the water visible ahead (Hooe Lake).

**5** Carry on to Radford Castle on the dam between Hooe Lake and Radford Lake.

### **V** Radford Castle:

This was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as an embellishment to the grounds of Radford Park, the home of the Harris family of Plymstock.



This is the southern end of the West Devon Way. We hope you enjoyed your walk, be it just one or all eight stages!

From here you can connect with the **South West Coast Path** or, via the **Erme-Plym Trail** with the **Two Moors Way**.

For a scenic trip back to Plymouth, join the Coast Path through Turnchapel to Mount Batten and catch a passenger ferry back to the Barbican and city centre.

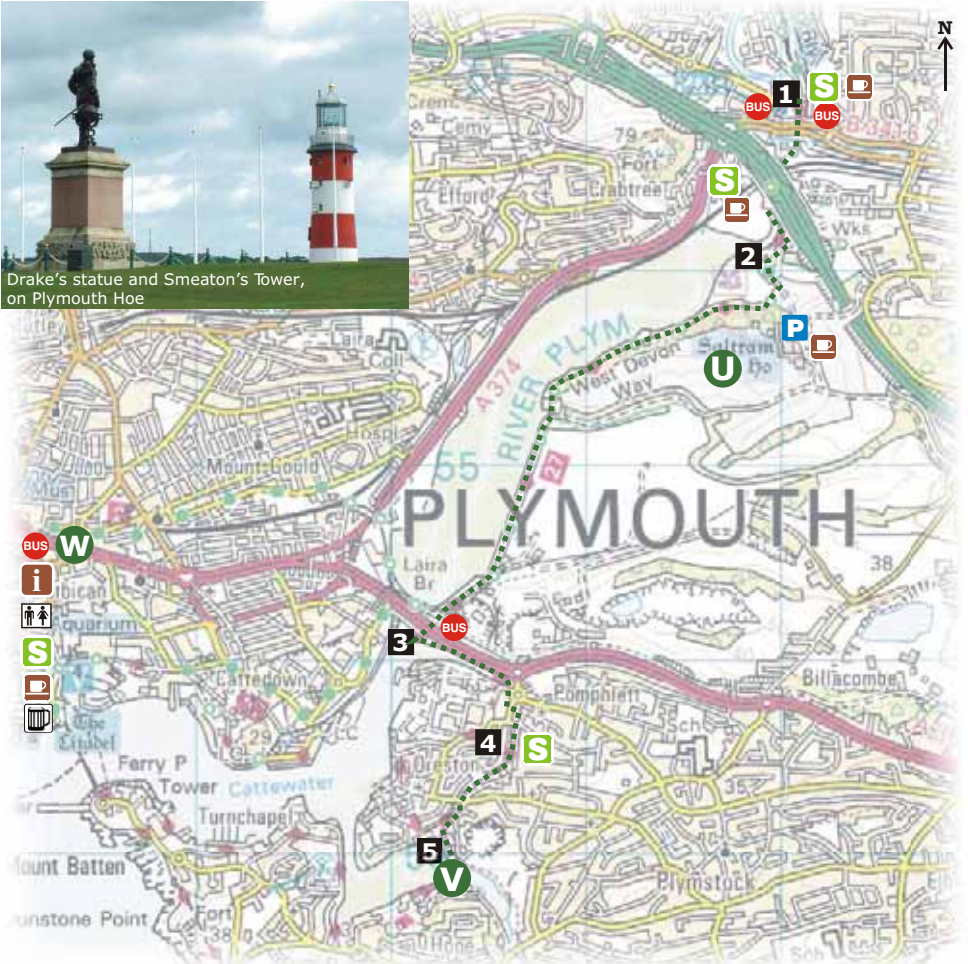
### **W** Plymouth:

The maritime city of Plymouth has much to offer visitors. The Barbican area is the historic heart of Plymouth, the quay is still used by local fisherman, and boat trips to the naval dockyards depart regularly from the harbour.

On Plymouth Hoe, where Drake is said to have been bowling prior to setting sail to battle the Armada, is Smeaton's Tower. The red and white lighthouse spent 123 years on the Eddystone Rocks before being re-erected here in 1884.



Drake's statue and Smeaton's Tower, on Plymouth Hoe



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Scale: 0 0.5 1km



Hooe Lake



## Other Walking and Cycling Routes in the Area

The West Devon Way is just one of several walks and circuits that make the most of the impressive scenery in Devon and Cornwall.

The local Tourist Information Centres have guides and information about other local walks, and more information about walks, accessibility and accommodation can be found on the [www.visitdevon.co.uk](http://www.visitdevon.co.uk) or [www.dartmoor.co.uk](http://www.dartmoor.co.uk) websites.

It runs for 34 miles from Launceston to Tamerton Foliot on the northern outskirts of Plymouth. The river crossing at Calstock can be made by train, and there may be a ferry service during the summer months.



### The Two Castles Trail

This 24 mile route links the medieval castles of Okehampton and Launceston, passing through a variety of landscapes, including moorland in the east, woodland and river valleys.

In addition to the two castles themselves, it also gives insights into a wealth of historic interest along the way including a wooded hilltop Iron Age fort, and the site of a Dark Age battle.

### The West Devon Triangle

The West Devon Way, the Tamar Valley Discovery Trail and the Two Castles Trail can be linked together to form a 90 mile triangle of walks through West Devon, taking in a National Park and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



### The South West Coast Path

This renowned and stunning 630 mile route follows the coastline of the entire Devon and Cornwall peninsula, from Poole in south Dorset to Minehead in north Somerset, passing through the Lizard, Land's End and Tintagel, among a variety of attractions. It is accessible from the West Devon Way at Plymouth.



### The Tamar Valley Discovery Trail

This is an exciting and varied route, straddling two counties, crossing two rivers and taking in the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



## The Two Moors Way

The Two Moors Way is a 102 mile route between Ivybridge in the south and Lynmouth in the north, making it an ideal week's walk.

The route links the only two National Parks in southern England, and crosses both of them north-south. It passes through exceptionally scenic landscapes, including the high and remote moorland of some of the Dartmoor and Exmoor sections, and the deep and wooded valleys of the moorland edges and between the moors, unspoilt rural scenery with a remote and tranquil character that is difficult to match.



## The Erme-Plym Trail

The Erme-Plym trail connects the Two Moors Way to the South West Coast Path, creating a spectacular coast to coast walk. The 15 mile, generally easy path takes in the Erme Valley south of Ivybridge as well as following a cross-country route through attractive pastoral landscape.

## TamarValley

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

### Tamar Trails

There are numerous walking, cycling, and horse riding opportunities in the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These short routes take in dramatic riverside and woodland scenery, and as part of the Cornwall & West Devon Mining World Heritage Site, you are never far away from some history! Find out more at [www.tamarvalley.org.uk](http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk)



## Drake's Trail

Drake's Trail, running between Tavistock and Clearbrook, is part of Sustrans National Cycle Route 27, which links Devon's north and south coasts. Once completed, the Trail will link to the Plym Valley Trail and Plymouth to the south, and the Granite Way and Okehampton in the north. A network of cycling and walking routes radiates from the Trail, of varying difficulty and scenery, ranging from 3 to 16 miles.

Check the Drake's Trail website at [www.drakestrail.co.uk](http://www.drakestrail.co.uk) for more details, including access to downloadable maps, podcasts and event information.



## Dartmoor National Park

To find out more about walking in the National Park including events and guided walks, visit

[www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk)



## Dartmoor Railway

Passenger trains run from Mid Devon through Okehampton Station to Meldon Viaduct, with aspirations to link to the National Rail Network. The railway provides a fantastic car free way to access the walking and cycling opportunities of Dartmoor. Visit [www.dartmoor-railway.co.uk](http://www.dartmoor-railway.co.uk) for more information.



## Useful information for Visitors

Local Tourist Information Centres are able to provide details of accommodation, events, recreational activities, places to eat and drink, and visitor attractions in the area and near to the route - everything that's needed to make your visit enjoyable!

### **Okehampton Tourist Information Centre**

3 West Street  
Okehampton  
Devon EX20 1JZ  
01837 53020

### **Tavistock Tourist Information Centre**

The Archway,  
Bedford Square  
Tavistock  
Devon, PL19 0AE  
Tel: 01822 612938

### **Plymouth Tourist Information Centre**

Plymouth Mayflower  
3 - 5 The Barbican  
Plymouth PL1 2TR  
Tel: 01752 306330

Visitor information about the Dartmoor area can be found at [www.dartmoor.co.uk](http://www.dartmoor.co.uk) This site includes information about where to stay, things to do, eating and drinking, and events. The site also has an online booking facility for accommodation and includes special offers!

To plan your visit or holiday to Devon, including booking accommodation, food and drink, events and activities (including walking!), you will find a wealth of information at [www.visitdevon.co.uk](http://www.visitdevon.co.uk)

For in-depth information about accommodation, things to do and eating out in the Tamar Valley area, visit the Tamar Valley Tourism Association website at [www.tamarvalleytourism.co.uk](http://www.tamarvalleytourism.co.uk)

Free booklets about Devon's coast and countryside including walking trails, cycling, horse riding and wildlife can be ordered through the Devon County Council website at [www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk)



## Transport information

Why not leave your car at home when exploring the West Devon Way? The route gives good opportunities for using public transport to walk parts, or the entire route.

**BUS** Bus connections / bus stops are identified on the individual stage maps throughout this booklet.

The southern part of the West Devon Way is served by frequent services between Plymouth and Tavistock. These can be caught at Tavistock or Yelverton, or by diverting from the walk by a mile or two, from Bickleigh or Clearbrook. Frequent Plymouth Citybuses serve Marsh Mills and the City Centre. Most of these routes operate daily, including evenings and Sundays.

Bus services also run parallel to the West Devon Way between Tavistock and Okehampton with stops at Mary Tavy, Brentor, Lydford and Sourton. Operating year round, there are extra services on summer Sundays.

For up-to-date information on timetables call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit

[www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

## Be a Green Visitor

- Do not disturb any livestock, keep your dog under close control and leave all gates as you find them.
- Take your litter home with you and recycle if possible.
- Do not disturb wild animals, birds or flowers.
- Whether you are walking, cycling or driving, take special care on country roads.
- If possible, leave your car at home and take the bus or train.
- Buy locally produced goods, including food and souvenirs.
- Support local shops, garages and other local services.





# West Devon Way

Explore the western edge of Dartmoor along this 37-mile waymarked walking route, linking to local buses

**The West Devon Way is a recreational route for walkers of 37 miles, running from Okehampton in the north to Plymouth at its southern end.**

The walk is relatively easy, crossing a range of terrains and following a waymarked route with directions described in this booklet. The West Devon Way has been divided into eight sections, all accessible at each end by public transport.

The route follows the western edge of Dartmoor passing a variety of historic settlements, over moorland and along green lanes to the market town of Tavistock, before woodland and riverside paths lead east to Yelverton.

South of Yelverton, the route meanders close to the River Meavy, through the 300m Shaugh Tunnel, and along the old Plymouth to Launceston railway line as it descends into Plymouth.

The area has an interesting history, and many local relics relating to its medieval tin mining prosperity. Sir Francis Drake was born less than a mile from Tavistock at Crowndale, and the route crosses one of his legacies - the Drake's (or Plymouth) Leat, constructed in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century to tap the river Meavy to supply Plymouth with water.



West Devon  
Borough  
Council



South Hams  
District Council



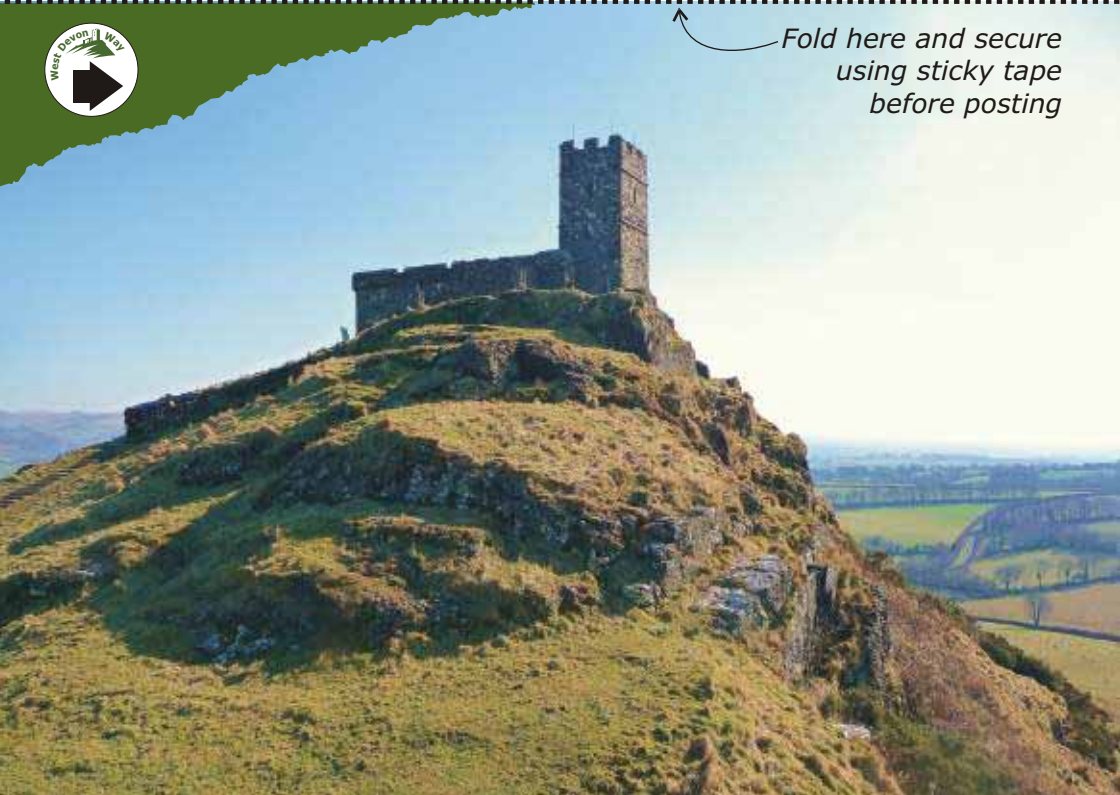
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**COUNTRYSIDE TEAM  
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL  
LUCOMBE HOUSE  
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EX2 4QW**



*Fold here and secure  
using sticky tape  
before posting*



# Please tell us what you think of this booklet

In order to ensure that we are providing you with the best possible information, it would be greatly appreciated if you could answer the following simple questions, and return this detachable reply-paid slip to us.

1. Where did you get this leaflet from? .....

2. Were you looking specifically for this leaflet? *(Please tick one box)* Yes  No

3. What appealed to you about this leaflet and walk? .....

4. Can you suggest ways in which we can improve the booklet in the future? .....

5. Will you walk the West Devon Way as a result of picking up this booklet?  
*(Please tick one box)* Yes  No  Have walked already

6. Are you likely to walk the whole route or just specific day stages?  
*(Please tick one box)* Whole route  Day stages

7. If you have already followed the whole or stages of the route, did you feel the directions and waymarking were sufficient? .....

8. If you are a visitor to the area, was availability of walking / cycling routes a significant factor in choosing to visit the area? *(Please tick one box)*  
Yes  No

9. If you are a visitor to the area, would you stay in overnight accommodation while following the route? *(Please tick one box)* Yes  No

If you would like to receive further information on walking in Devon please tick here

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email address: .....

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please detach the slip, fold along the middle, tape the edges and post it to us, no stamp required.**

The details on this form will not be passed on to any third parties, and contact details can be removed from Devon County Council records on request.  
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