



Templer Way

A scenic and historic waymarked route for walkers linking Dartmoor and the south coast of Devon

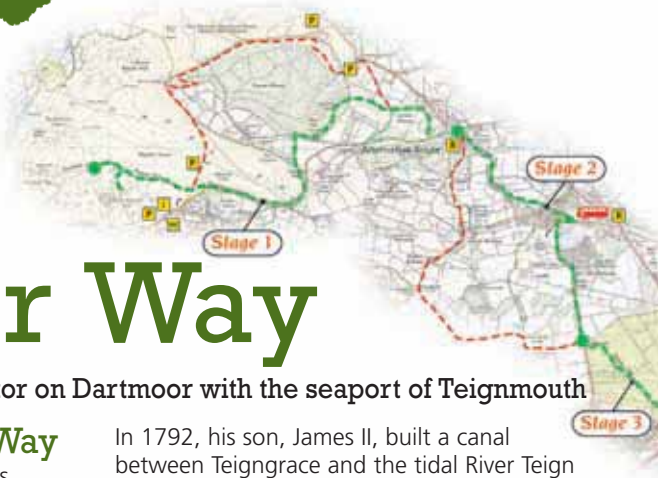
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Templer Way

A route for walkers linking Haytor on Dartmoor with the seaport of Teignmouth

History of the Templer Way

The Templer Way is a route for walkers linking Haytor on Dartmoor with the seaport of Teignmouth. It has a length of 18 miles (29 km) and covers a wide range of scenery - open moorland, woodland, meadow, historical tracks, urban land and estuary foreshore.



Barges on the Whitelake, near Newton Abbot, early twentieth century

The story of the route begins in 1722 when James Templer was born in Exeter. He was brought up as an orphan and then, when still quite young, he ran away to sea. He eventually made his fortune in India, apparently through the building of the Madras docks, and returned to England. In 1765 he purchased the run-down Stover Estate, near Newton Abbot, built the new Stover House and set about renovating his estate.

In 1792, his son, James II, built a canal between Teigngrace and the tidal River Teign at Newton Abbot. This, the Stover Canal, was built to carry clay for export from workings on his land via Teignmouth Docks.

In 1820 James II's son, George, built a granite tramway from Haytor to link with the canal in order to export the granite being extracted from his Dartmoor quarries.

Once the granite quarries became uneconomic during the 1850's the tramway was no longer used. The branch line to Moretonhampstead later followed the lower part of its route. Clay continued to be exported along the lower end of the canal until the mid 20th century. It ceased to be maintained in 1942.

OS Maps which cover the Templer Way:

Explorer No. 110

Majority of the route (1:25,000)

Explorer No. OL28

Dartmoor end (1:25,000)



Haytor Quarry, early nineteenth century

Sustainable Travel Links

Frequent and regular bus services operate near to the route between Stages 1 and 6 providing an opportunity to plan 'Ride and Stride' options. Newton Abbot is very accessible with a main line train station.

For up to date bus times call TraveLine on **0871 200 22 33** or visit www.traveLine.org.uk

At A Glance

- 18 miles (29km) in total
- Divided into 6 easy stages
- Easy to follow, waymarked trail
- Largely flat and level surface

Key to Map

- Start/end of Stage
- Templar Way
- Return Loop
- P Car Park
- R Refreshments
- I Information Board
- WC Toilets
- Bus Stop
- Bus Stop (limited services)



Templar Way Waymarkers

Introduction to the Walk

Using a mixture of rights of way, permissive routes and minor roads, the Templar Way follows as closely as possible the route of the Templers' ventures - the Haytor Granite Tramway and the Stover Canal - between Haytor and Newton Abbot. It then follows the old exporting route down the Teign Estuary to the Templers' New Quay at Teignmouth.

Except on the open moorland at Haytor Down, where the granite rails of the tramway can be followed, the route is waymarked in both directions, and may be tackled in short stretches or in one go. Circular walks have been developed for most sections, including the Heritage Trail, a circuit around the Templar Estate at Stover.

The waymarks are made up of the Templar Way logo which is composed of a tramway wheel and the tiller and rudder of a barge,

representing the tramway and the canal. There is also a series of information boards located along the route. Anyone wishing to complete the Templar Way in one day should allow up to 10 hours and should check tide tables before setting out.

Much of this route follows permissive paths where landowners have given permission for use by walkers only. It cannot, therefore, be recommended for cyclists.

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Walk North, or South - in stages....

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| Stage 1 | 4 miles/6.4km |
| Haytor to Edgemoor Hotel | |
| Stage 2 | 2 miles/3.2km |
| Edgemoor Hotel to Great Plantation | |
| Stage 3 | 4 miles/6.5km |
| Great Plantation to Locks Bridge, Teigngrace | |
| Stage 4 | 2 miles/3.5km |
| Locks Bridge, Teigngrace to Newton Abbot Town Quay | |
| Stage 5 | 2.5 miles/3.8km |
| Newton Abbot Town Quay to Coombe Cellars | |
| Stage 6 | 3 miles/4.5km |
| Coombe Cellars to Teignmouth | |

Stage 1

Haytor to Edgemoor Hotel

Distance: 4 miles (6.3km)

The route starts from outside the Haytor Visitor Centre and heads across the road bearing right around the bottom of Haytor Rocks. This section of the route passes over the open moorland of Haytor Down before winding downhill through enclosed farmland to Yarner Wood which is part of the East Dartmoor Woods and Heaths National Nature Reserve. Here the beautiful beech avenue lining the tramway was probably planted when the rails were laid down in about 1820. The granite rails are still visible in many places both here and higher up the route, look out also for the milestones which show the number of miles to the Stover Canal. On leaving the woodland the route continues onwards along a permissive path through fields and apple orchards which opened in 2007 as part of a Natural England Environmental Stewardship agreement. It joins the main road close to the Edgemoor Hotel. The orchards were planted in the 1950s and contain local Devon apple varieties. As part of the Stewardship scheme the trees are undergoing careful restorative pruning to enhance their productivity and increase wildlife.

From the open moorland section there are stunning views out over the whole route to the coast at Teignmouth. The area also supports a rich diversity of wildlife – look out for buzzards, ravens and a range of mosses and ferns as you drop down into Yarner Wood and for lichens in the orchards below. To explore Yarner Wood further, follow the nature trail signs.

Facilities

There is a Dartmoor National Park Information Centre and toilets close to the start of the route, a pub in nearby Haytor Vale and a hotel at the lower end of this section. A leaflet on the East Dartmoor Woods and Heaths nature trails is available in Yarner Wood car park. The seasonal Haytor Hoppa Saturday bus service links Haytor with Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot and beyond.

Route information

Please be aware that paths in this area can become muddy in wet weather and wear suitable footwear.

Yarner Wood Loop 6.8 miles (11km)

This loop includes quiet road and bridleway sections as well as woodland tracks. It offers stunning views out across the East Dartmoor Woods and Heaths National Nature Reserve as well as a chance to explore a range of habitats including western oak woodland and moorland.

Directions

From Haytor Information Centre follow the Templer Way as far as the first road. Leave the Templer Way here, turning left along the road until you come to the top of Yarner Wood on your right. Turn right down into the wood just before the house and follow the track until the first side track comes in from your left. Turn sharp back left and follow this track as it contours around the top of the valley. Cross the stream and continue to follow the track downhill along the edge of the wood. When the nature trail comes in from your right (look for the arrows and numbered posts), turn right along it, bearing left at the bottom of the first slope, and follow it down to the main Yarner Wood car park. Walk through the car park and follow the drive out to the road. Turn right and then right again up the bridleway leading to the Haytor Road. Look out for the Templer Way where it crosses the track and turn right uphill along it. Follow the Templer Way through the top of Yarner Wood and out through a gate, across a drive and back up to Haytor.



Haytor Quarry



The top of the Templer Way - Haytor and the Down

On leaving Pottery Pond the route follows minor roads to the edge of Great Plantation which was once part of the Templers' Stover Estate and is now owned by the Forestry Commission.

Stage 2

Edgemoor Hotel to Great Plantation

2 miles (3.2km)

This section of the route starts along a stretch of the original tramway through a small deciduous woodland before following minor roads and bridleways through Brimley on the edge of Bovey Tracey. In some places the granite rails are still visible along with an original milestone which gives the distance to the Stover Canal.

Near Chapple the tramway crosses the Bovey Pottery Leat, at its only surviving bridge. A short distance afterwards the route passes close to Pottery Pond. The pond was constructed in the eighteenth century as a holding reservoir for the water supply that powered machinery in the nearby Bovey Tracey potteries. It is now a small and peaceful tree-fringed wildlife haven. Kingfishers, mallards, coot, moorhen, and various dragonflies are often seen here.



Templer Way milestones along the route

Facilities

There is a hotel at the start of this section and a number of places to eat close to the Pottery Road length of the route. Bovey Tracey also has a range of shops, pubs, cafes and a TIC. A regular bus service connects Brimley with Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot and Exeter.



Pottery Pond Circular Walk 5 miles (8km)

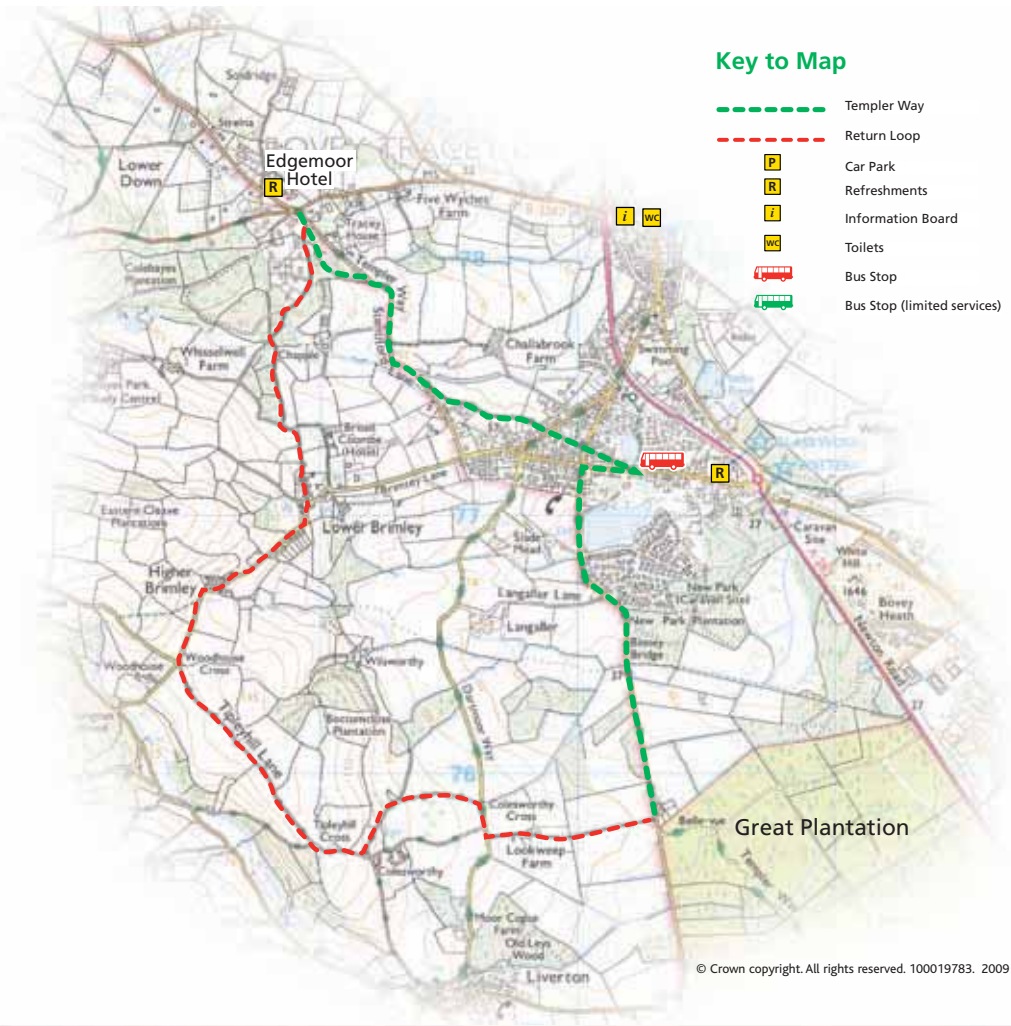
This circular route follows quiet roads, bridleways and green lanes close to the outskirts of Bovey Tracey. From the highest point there are stunning views out over the Teign Estuary. It starts at Pottery Pond which was constructed in the eighteenth century as a holding reservoir for water that powered machinery in the local potteries. It is now a popular small wildlife haven.

Directions

From Pottery Pond follow the Templer Way south along a minor road until you reach the edge of the Great Plantation. Turn right along the bridleway through Lookweep Farm and walk through to the next road. Turn right and then after a short distance take the second left up an unsurfaced track. Where the track divides keep right and then right again until you reach a minor road. Turn right and walk along and then down into Brimley. Where the road bends to the right turn left along a bridleway between two houses. Follow this bridleway until you reach another minor road and pick up the Templer Way again. Turn right and follow the Templer Way through a woodland and out onto the minor road again. Look out for exposed sections of the tramway both in the woodland and alongside the road. Continue to follow the Templer Way back to your starting point at Pottery Pond.

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Pottery Pond

Stage 3

Great Plantation to Locks Bridge, Teigngrace

4 miles (6.5km)

This section of the Templer Way passes by a conifer plantation, meadow, woodland, lake and river and rejoins the tramway at Ventiford Basin. This is where the Templers' Stover Canal and Haytor Granite Tramway met. Granite was transferred onto barges to be taken down the Canal and on to Teignmouth.

Stover Country Park sits in the middle of this section and formed part of James Templer's Stover Estate. The lake was constructed and grounds landscaped in the late 1700's. Historical features include the granite gatehouse situated on the north side of the park, carriage drives and Teigngrace Church. There has been continued development of clay extraction into the 21st century with many clay pits in this area.

The ground is fairly flat and runs along off-road tracks (some unsurfaced), woodland paths and fields. There is a short road section along quiet lanes at Ventiford. Care must be



Stover Lake

taken when crossing the busy Drumbridges roundabout which divides the Great Plantation from Stover Country Park; follow the Templer Way signs along the pavement circumnavigating the roundabout. Access on this section is through gates.

There is much to tempt the wildlife enthusiast with a variety of wildfowl and summer dragonflies at Stover Lake, along with kingfishers, herons and sand martins on the River Teign. Shy roe deer may be spotted in the Great Plantation and woodlands surrounding Stover, along with woodland birds such as great-spotted woodpecker and nuthatch. Butterflies grace the woodland glades and meadows during the summer months.

Facilities

The petrol station and small shop at Heathfield are open 7 days a week for drinks and snacks. At Liverton there is a small shop and post office along with a pub which serves meals. Toilets can be found at Stover Country Park. There are several caravan and camping sites close to this stretch of the route. Two free car parking points with limited spaces accessing Great Plantation can be found at Belle Vue, Liverton and on the A382 opposite the petrol station. A Pay and Display car park is situated at Stover Country Park with a small car park at Teign Bridge. Refreshments also available at Sampson's Farm, Preston.

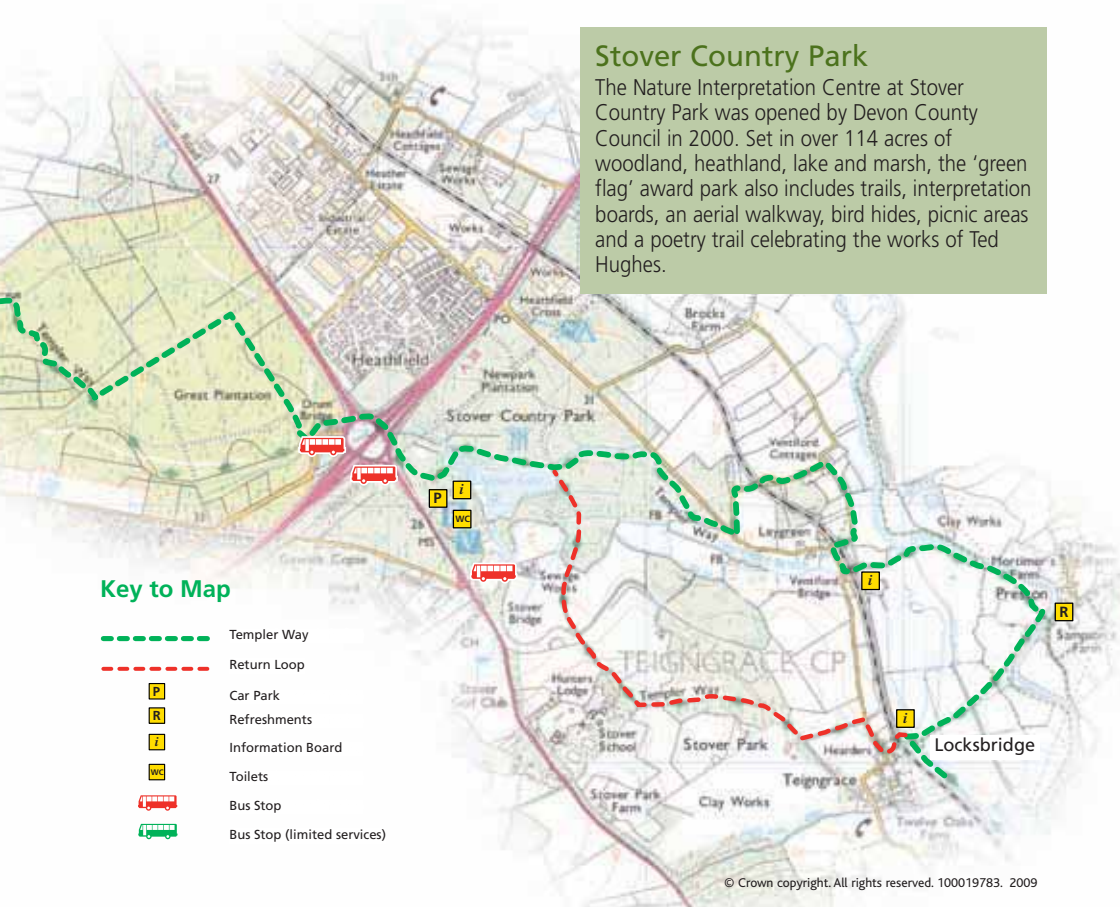
Heritage Trail Circular Walk 4 miles (6.5km)

The start of a 4-mile circular walk, the Heritage Trail, can be found in Stover Country Park. This circuit forms the middle part of the Templer Way and through walkers can take either route to arrive at Locks Bridge, Teigngrace. Leaflets are available from the Country Park.

No cycling along this section; the Newton Abbot to Bovey Tracey Cycle Route runs along quiet lanes past Teigngrace and cuts through the north end of the Park. Many surfaced tracks suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs can be found in Stover, including the majority of the Ted Hughes Poetry trail. Part of the Heritage Trail can also be accessed with sturdier models.

Stover Country Park

The Nature Interpretation Centre at Stover Country Park was opened by Devon County Council in 2000. Set in over 114 acres of woodland, heathland, lake and marsh, the 'green flag' award park also includes trails, interpretation boards, an aerial walkway, bird hides, picnic areas and a poetry trail celebrating the works of Ted Hughes.



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Teignrace Church, built by the Templars

Stage 4

Locks Bridge, Teigngrace to Newton Abbot Town Quay

2 miles (2.3km)

The top of this section of the Templer Way follows the Stover Canal past two old locks. Much of these upper stretches of the canal no longer hold water but form areas of damp woodland. Further downstream the canal emerges into the Jetty Marsh Canal Basin - the end of the Canal. Barges then followed the Whitelake Channel through what is now Jetty Marsh Local Nature Reserve, until the Channel merged with the River Lemon and then the River Teign just upstream of Newton Town Quay. Ball clay from Decoy mines and pits was loaded onto barges there until the 1940s.

This stretch is great for spotting birds - a kingfisher swooping under the railway into the Canal Basin, a heron stealthily hunting near the reeds, or the loud and cheerful whistle of the tiny Cetti's warbler. Otters use these waterways for night-time fishing, leaving footprints and spraint in secret places!

This section is fairly level and even, and there is a safe crossing over the busy B3195 to Wharf Road Sidings. However, there is then a stepped bridge over the River Lemon, which can be avoided by following the cycle route along the Avenue, turning left into Templers Road and quickly left again along a footpath to rejoin the main route. If you do cross the bridge, look down into the Lemon for a passing school of large grey mullet.

Please note that there is no cycling allowed through Jetty Marsh Local Nature Reserve. The reserve has a narrow section along the canal basin, curving paths with blind bends and is regularly used by wheelchair users. You are welcome to push your bike through the reserve and you can then follow the cycle route along the Avenue, as above.

Facilities

Newton Abbot has a wide range of eating and other facilities. Close to Newton Town Quay is Tuckers Maltings, where, between Good Friday and the end of October, you can see malted barley being prepared for local breweries - and buy local beers, light refreshments and sandwiches. There is a public car park off Osborne Street, close to the Maltings.

Jetty Marsh








Jetty Marsh is a County Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve containing varied wildlife habitats. It has great value as a wildlife corridor between the Lower River Teign and the Bovey Basin. The site has large reedbeds which are a scarce habitat in Devon, together with blackthorn and bramble scrub, mature oak trees and herb-rich grassland.

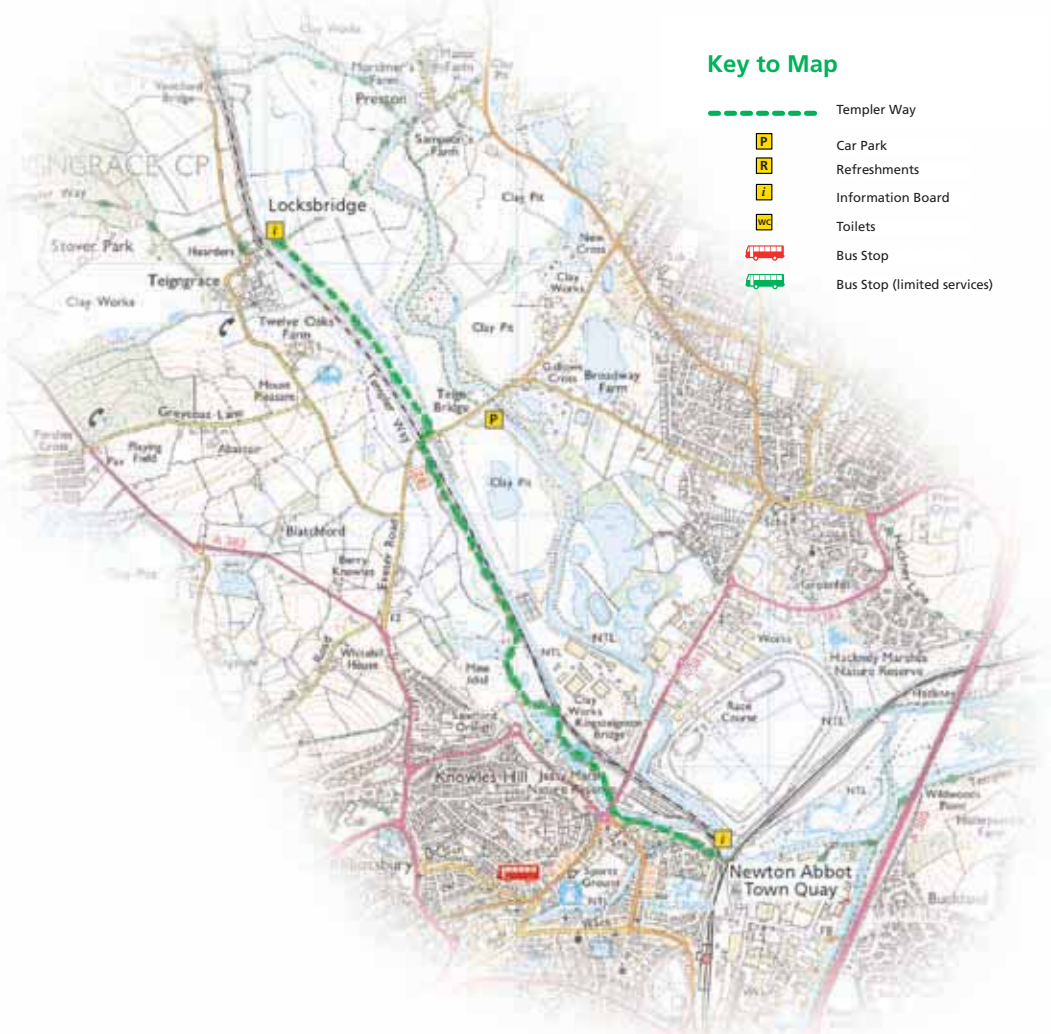
Jetty Marsh Lock was rebuilt in the 1820s. Look out for the engraved stone to George Templer at the end of the lock.

Newton Abbot

Although a long-established market town, Newton Abbot really came to prominence with the arrival of the railway. During the 1800's it became an important railway town, with marshalling yards and repair facilities. The area around the Whitelake and River Lemon was used as railway sidings until the relatively recent past, difficult to imagine now!

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Stage 5

Newton Abbot Town Quay to Coombe Cellars

2.5 miles (3.8km)

This section follows the Teign Estuary shore and should only be walked within 2 hours of low tide. It is uneven and can be slippery after heavy rain or high tides - never leave the path or you may get stuck in the estuary mud! It is not suitable for cycles.

Have your binoculars ready for good views of waders, ducks and pure white little egrets as you walk this route. At Netherton Point there is a heronry in the top of pine trees, and a beautiful, but fragile, salt marsh with sea pinks and sea lavender.

Optional High Tide Routes

The Netherton Coombe walks offer a variety of waymarked circular routes, passing through fields and along traditional Devon lanes with farms, orchards and lovely estuary views. Netherton once had an on-farm cider factory and its own special variety of cider apple. If the tide is high, you can follow the Buckland Circle past Honeysuckle Farm. The South of the Teign Estuary Circular walks leaflet shows a variety of walks in this scenic area; for a copy, ask a local TIC or ring 01626 215 751. (To check tide times please visit www.easytide.ukho.gov.uk.)

Facilities

There is a full range of facilities in Newton Abbot; refreshments can be bought at Coombe Cellars pub during opening hours.

The River Teign was once one of the most important shellfish production areas in the UK. The shellfish beds were downgraded in 1998 causing the cessation of shellfish production, at that time many of the shellfishermen left the industry. Recent projects along the Teign have been trying to help restore the shellfish industry.

Lower Netherton Circular Walk 3 miles (5km)

Leave the Templer Way by crossing the stile into the field a little way upstream of the Coombe Cellars. Cross the field diagonally to the far top corner and continue alongside the hedge. At the end bear left and arrive at a surfaced lane. Go ahead to a cross roads and turn right, down the hill and through the hamlet of Lower Netherton. Continue up the other side to another junction and go left. Take the next right which descends and then climbs to arrive at a residential area. Go right at the next junction (Drake Road) and follow this almost to the main A380 road. Just before the A380, follow the footpath on the right next to the main road and on to descend steps to rejoin the Templer Way adjacent to the road bridge.



George Templer memorial stone, Jetty Marsh Lock



Newton Abbot
Town Quay

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Little Egret on the Teign Estuary



Mussels collected from the River Teign



Coombe Cellars on the Teign Estuary

Stage 6

Coombe Cellars to Teignmouth

3 miles (4.5km)

This section follows the Teign Estuary shore and should only be walked within 2 hours of low tide. It is uneven and can be slippery after heavy rain or high tides - never leave the path or you may get stuck in the estuary mud! It is not suitable for cycles. (To check tide times visit www.easytide.ukho.gov.uk.)

The estuary shore is full of interest, with a shellfish farm, an old lime kiln and lots of watercraft to watch. You can imagine the old, square-sailed barges running before the wind, or, if it was calm, drifting down the estuary with the tide, or even being poled by the bargees. In the late 1800s - early 1900s a steam tug, the *Kestrel*, was used to tow a string of barges up and down the estuary. Later still, a motor tug, the *Heron*, took over; it seems that the *Heron* was laid off in 1939, when the canal stopped being used commercially, but crossed the Channel to Dunkirk in 1940, rescuing British soldiers - before being scrapped.

At Ringmore Strand the Templer Way leaves the shore and passes through the village of Shaldon to the ferry crossing (fairly frequent crossings, even in winter, ring 07760240927 or visit www.teignferry.com for more information). The ferry trip across the mouth of this busy estuary is a high point of the walk! Walk northwards along Teignmouth 'back beach', and you will find the historic and picturesque 'New' Quay - built in 1821 by the Templer family. Here clay was transhipped to the potteries and granite to London.

Facilities

Refreshments can be bought at Coombe Cellars pub. There is a small car park and picnic site at Arch Brook. There are several cafes and pubs in both Shaldon and Teignmouth. If you follow the Stokeinteignhead loop, there are Inns at Combeinteignhead and at Stokeinteignhead, where there is also a village shop.











New Quay, Teignmouth 1827, with a large crane and blocks of granite ready for transhipment

Stokeinteignhead Circular Walk 5 miles (8km)

Leave the Templer Way opposite Ringmore Towers, climbing Salty Lane. At the fork bear right and follow the lane ahead and down to the right. At a junction go ahead, steeply uphill, and keep following the lane until it arrives at Stokeinteignhead. Turn right, out of the village and then turn left at the next junction (along a lane, not the narrower track). Keep ahead as far as Rocombe House and Orchard Farm then turn right. Follow the track to the right and steeply uphill and keep climbing to arrive at a lane. Turn right and follow this lane. Just before reaching the Newton Abbot - Shaldon road turn left along a track, then turn right at a junction to reach the road. Almost opposite is a public footpath across a field. Follow this and on past a cottage to a lane. Turn right, up the hill, to a junction and go left here. At the end follow the footpath to the right alongside a hedge and at the next field go diagonally left to the far bottom corner. Cross the stile to arrive on the Templer Way near the Coombe Cellars.



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Teignmouth - the end of the Templer Way

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TRAVELWISE