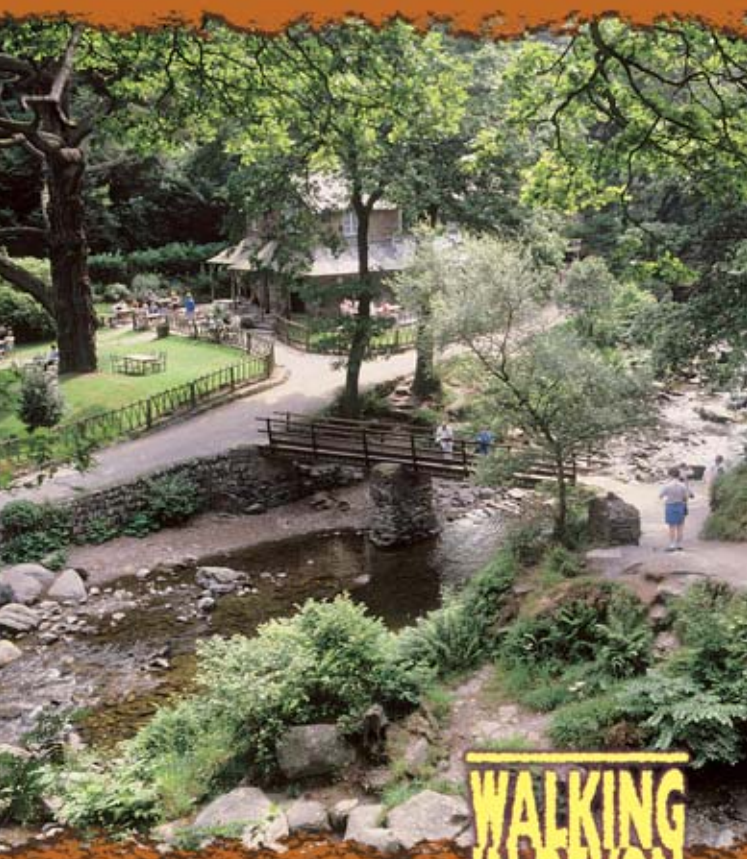


Templer Way Heritage Trail

Devon's Little Switzerland

Forts & castles  
of Plymouth Sound



**WALKING  
IN DEVON**



# Introduction

Devon is well-known for its unspoilt beauty and tranquillity. Walking in the County offers the ideal way to appreciate its quality, giving the opportunity to get into the heart of the landscape and really feel part of the environment.

There are walks to suit all tastes through a variety of superb scenery. Choose whether you want coastal cliffs and sandy bays, moorland, wooded valleys or quiet and remote countryside - or a combination of any of them - and you will be able to pick a walk to match your requirements. In addition, some Trails have historic or literary links to give further interest.

Many of the Trails have convenient parallel public transport routes - bus or train - which means you can walk shorter sections to the next pick-up point, and some can be used in conjunction with linking paths to form circuits.

This leaflet gives three suggested walks based on some of the Trails; one based on the Templer Way, one on the Two Moors Way and Tarka Trail and one on the South West Coast Path and the Erme-Plym Trail. All these Trails are part of Devon's network of inter-related long-distance walks.

## Templer Way

An 18 mile/22km walk tracing the route of granite transported from Haytor on Dartmoor to the docks at Teignmouth. An explanatory leaflet is available.

## Two Moors Way

The major North to South walking route in Devon, 100 miles/160 km across Dartmoor and Exmoor and the country between. The suggested walk here uses the most northerly part of the route. An introductory leaflet and a detailed route guide are available.

## Tarka Trail

This is a 180 mile/290 km figure of eight following the route of Tarka the Otter from the book of that name. An introductory leaflet and detailed guide book are available.

## South West Coast Path

This has a total length of over 600 miles/960km around the whole peninsula between Minehead and Poole. The Forts and Castles of Plymouth Sound walk follows part of the Coast Path in South Devon. There is a comprehensive guide and accommodation list.

## Erme- Plym Trail

A walk of 10 miles/16km between Plymouth and the Erme Valley, where it meets another walk linking to Ivybridge. A route guide leaflet pack is available.

# Templer Way Heritage Trail

The Templer Way is a walk tracing the historic line of granite being taken from the quarries at Haytor to the docks at Teignmouth.

The route gets its name from the Templer family. James Templer purchased the Stover Estate, near Newton Abbot, in 1765 after making his fortune at sea. His son, also James, built the Stover Canal in 1792 between Teigngrace and Newton Abbot, originally to carry clay. In turn his son, George, built the Granite Tramway to link Haytor with the Canal to help move the granite. It was 'exported' from Teignmouth and helped to build the old London Bridge (now in Arizona) and the National Gallery.

The Heritage Trail is a circuit in the centre of the Templer Way, based on the Templers' Stover Estate; it starts and finishes in Stover Country Park. Most of the route is signposted or waymarked. Look out for brown arrows.

## The Walk

**From the bus stop at Drum Bridges take the Newton Abbot road A382, turning left at the first gate. Follow the track ahead, bearing right at the fork. Bear left after the information board, at the rear of the Interpretation Centre, to Stover Lake.**

**If starting at the Stover Country Park car park, walk past the Interpretation Centre to the lake.**

Stover Lake was built James Templer as a landscape feature when he took over the Estate. It is an important ecological site, particularly important for its dragonflies.

**Pass the information board at the lake and after the footbridge at the far end turn right, still alongside the lake. At the far end of the lake turn right, over the bridge. Turn left immediately after the bridge, alongside the stream,**

## Fact File

Stover Country Park is adjacent to Drum Bridges roundabout, at the junction of the A38 Exeter - Plymouth and A382 Newton Abbot - Bovey Tracey roads.

Drum Bridges is served by Exeter - Plymouth buses X38 and 39/X39. It is also served by the hourly Newton Abbot - Bovey Tracey bus (72) and less frequent services 170 (Totnes, Widecombe, Exeter), 172 (Totnes, Torquay, Tavistock), 173 (Moretonhampstead, Exeter), 179 (Moretonhampstead, Okehampton), 180 (Widecombe, Okehampton). All these routes also serve Newton Abbot. Some operate Sundays and Bank Holidays only - for details contact Travel line on 0870 608 2 608.

**Walk Length:** 7km/4.5 miles. Almost all flat.

**OS Maps:** Explorer (1: 25,000) no 31 Torquay and Dawlish

Landranger (1: 50,000) no 191 Okehampton and North Dartmoor

**Facilities:** Stover Country Park (toilets and interpretation centre): no refreshments on route.



Stover Lake

**signposted Heritage Trail to Ventiford.**

This is an artificial watercourse, constructed in association with the lake as a landscape feature.

**At the "cascades" near the far end, where the watercourse narrows, turn right along a narrow path through bushes. Continue ahead where the path widens before entering coniferous woodland.**

The Heritage Trail is now outside the Country Park, in an area of commercial forestry.

**The path arrives at a road at a kissing gate. Go through, turn right then immediately left along the narrow lane next to the "Teigngrace" sign. In a while the lane rises to cross a railway line.**

This is the old branch line between Newton Abbot and Moretonhampstead, built partly on the line of the Granite Tramway. You are therefore crossing the line of the Tramway here.

**At the end of the lane are Ventiford Cottages. Turn right at the junction.**

These are old clay quarry workers' cottages. Clay working dates back many centuries in this area, and is the reason for the original building of the Stover Canal.

**After re-passing underneath the railway turn left at the road junction. Shortly afterwards turn left again along a track, under the railway again.**

Just past the bridge is the site of Ventiford Basin on the right of the track. This was the junction between Tramway and Canal, and in the early 1800s would have been a hive of activity of transferring granite from tramway trucks to canal barges.

**Go through the gate ahead and walk along the left side of the field to reach the River Teign. Go through the kissing gate and follow the bank of the Teign.**

**Pass two footbridges over the Teign (do not cross) and keep alongside the river.**

**At a point where the river bends sharply to the left, and the field narrows considerably, turn right, away from the river across the field to a kissing gate (signposted Heritage Trail). Continue across two more fields to the Stover Canal.**

Notice a discarded block of granite by the side of the track.

**Turn right here (the Templer Way on to Teignmouth goes left here). At the bridge over the canal turn left, by an information board.**

This is Teigngrace Lock, the highest lock on the canal. Nearby are some old canal buildings, some now renovated.

**Cross the railway and walk up the track to the road. Turn right, then, after about 200m turn left through some old parkland gates and then a kissing gate to cross a field.**

Good views over Teigngrace village are obtained from here. The church was completely rebuilt by the Templers when they acquired Stover.

**On reaching the track on the far side of the field turn right.**

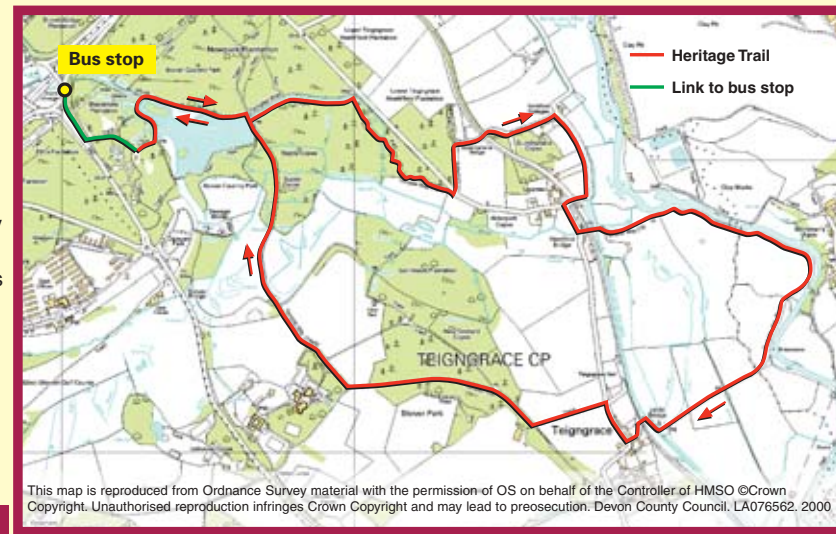
This is the old carriage drive from Stover House to Teigngrace church.

**At the top follow the track round to the right.**

Templer's Stover House, now a private school, is in the private land beyond the trees. There is no public access.

As the track, which is another carriage drive, descends, look out for the outline of Haytor on the horizon. This is the start of the complete Templer Way route.

**The track re-enters the woodland of Stover Country Park. Back at the lake cross the footbridge ahead then turn immediately left, alongside the lake. At the end of the lake turn left over another footbridge and continue ahead to the Interpretation Centre and completion of the walk.**



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# Devon's Little Switzerland

This walk is based on the scenic little town of Lynmouth, on Devon's Exmoor coast. A walk of contrasts, its outward leg follows the valley of the East Lyn River while the return, on the route of the Two Moors Way and Tarka Trail, is a high, airy walk along the valley top.

## The Walk

**From the little tower at Lynmouth Harbour walk inland, alongside the harbour.**

Lynmouth was "discovered" as a scenic and romantic location in the early 19th century. The poet Southey and the Shelleys were among the early visitors who praised the area, calling it "England's Little Switzerland". The tower at the harbour, known as the Rhenish Tower, was built at this time in imitation of similar towers on the Rhine.

**Continue walking inland, past the footbridge, alongside the rocky River Lyn.**

**At the bridge at the road junction cross the road and walk along the path alongside the river.**

Note the commemorative plaque on the bridge. At this point the East and West Lyn rivers meet. The route now follows the valley of the East Lyn, a deep and wooded valley, or "cleave".

**Cross the next footbridge over the river, at the end of the car park, then turn right along the lane and continue alongside the river. At the end of the lane continue on the footpath ahead into East Lyn Cleave.**

**At the next footbridge keep to the riverside path, signposted to Watersmeet.**

The cleave is important as an area of ancient oak woodland, one of the largest remaining areas of semi-natural ancient woodland in the South West.

**Continue following the signs to Watersmeet, re-crossing the river at another footbridge.**

**After a while, the National Trust seasonal café at Watersmeet comes into view. Keep on the path to climb, then descend to two footbridges.**

There are two rivers which meet here, to give the location its name. The second of the two footbridges crosses the East Lyn, while the first crosses its tributary, the Hoar Oak Water.

The Watersmeet café and shop, open April - October, was built in the 19th century as a fishing lodge when the area was becoming fashionable.

## Fact File

Lynmouth is accessible by bus:  
Exmoor Coastlink service 300 - one service a day from Taunton or Barnstaple, 3 services a day from Minehead and Ilfracombe, 7 days a week.

Services 309/310 link Barnstaple and Lynton approximately hourly  
Mondays - Saturdays: first bus 7.50 from Barnstaple, last bus 17.35 from Lynton. (Cliff lift between Lynton and Lynmouth). Some 309/310 buses serve Lynmouth directly. For detailed enquires call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608.

**Walk Length:** 8km/5 miles

One long steady climb of 100m/330ft

One short sharp climb of 60m/200ft

**OS Maps:** Outdoor Leisure (1:25000) no 9 Exmoor

Landranger (1:50000) no 180 Barnstaple and Ilfracombe

**Refreshments:** Lynmouth (all facilities); Watersmeet (café and toilets - seasonal, April - October).

**The route now follows the Hoar Oak Water. Take the steps which climb on the right immediately after the first footbridge, signed to Hillsford Bridge, then continue ahead parallel to this fast - flowing river.**

A little way along the path a short diversion on the right goes to a waterfall viewpoint.

These valley bottom paths are characterised by the sound of running water and birdsong. Keep an eye open on the river for dippers on stones or the river bed.

**The path continues to climb steadily until it reaches Hillsford Bridge, where the road from the Simonsbath direction crosses the Hoar Oak Water.**

Go through the gate and turn right over the bridge.

At the road junction ahead the walk joins the route of the Two Moors Way and the Tarka Trail, two of Devon's network of long - distance walking routes. The Two Moors Way is the major north-south route, crossing Dartmoor and Exmoor and the quiet country between, while the Tarka Trail follows the wanderings of Tarka the Otter in the book of that name.

**After the bridge cross the main road ahead to the grass verge with the "steep hill" and "road bend" signs; walk up this to the sharp bend at the top. At the top follow the path ahead signed to Lynmouth, with a MW symbol on the post (the symbol of the Two Moors Way).**

The path climbs through woodland to emerge at Myrtleberry, an Iron Age settlement site. It is one of a number in the area, chosen for their defensive strength and views of potential attackers.

From here on there are spectacular views over the East Lyn Cleave, other side cleaves, the moorland fringe and the sea.

**Keep following the MW marked path, signed to Lynmouth.**

Very soon the distinctive wooded dome of Hollerday Hill comes into view ahead with the town of Lynton sheltering below. Then Lynmouth and its harbour become visible, at the foot of the hill below.



Lynmouth

**The path follows a series of steep zigzags down to cross a stream, then another series back up again, even higher.**

Views into the East Lyn Cleave, river and road, are superb from here.

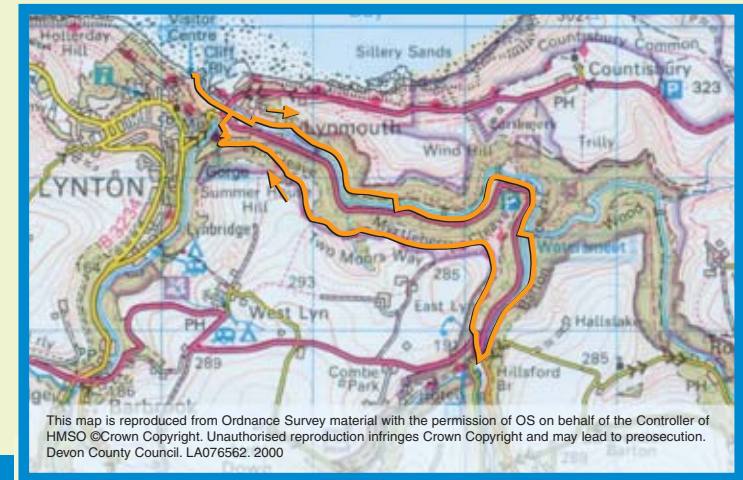
**As the sea gets closer, look out for the signpost indicating Lynmouth and MW on the slightly fainter path to the right. Go down here.**

Superb views over Lynton and Lynmouth open out from this path.

**Keep to the path as it descends, sometimes quite steeply, and with the aid of some more zigzags. It eventually enters Lynmouth on a narrow enclosed path. After a gate the tarmac path is steep and often very slippery - take special care here.**

At the road at the bottom, notice the stone erected for the Two Moors Way opening in 1976.

**For the town centre and harbour turn left at the road, then right and immediately left at the road junction.**



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# Forts & Castles of Plymouth Sound

Plymouth has been an important naval port for many centuries, which has led to the building of a variety of defences to protect the port. This walk passes a number of these defences as it circles around the eastern side of Plymouth Sound; it also offers superb views over the Sound and its shipping.

## The Walk

**From the bus stop and car park at Jennycliff cross to the grassy area by the Jennycliff Café.**

From here there is a superb view over Plymouth Sound.

**Walk along the grass on the top of the low cliff in the direction of Plymouth, heading towards a large white stone. Pass this, head for another large white stone waymarker, then to the path in the bottom corner of the field, signposted Breakwater.**

The stones are part of Plymouth's Waterfront Walkway project to enhance the Coast Path through the city.

The hill ahead is Mount Batten, a defensive site dating back to the Bronze Age. More recently it became a seaplane base. It ceased to be used by the RAF in 1992.

**Keep to the path signed to the Breakwater, climbing the hill to Mount Batten.**

The defensive tower on the summit dates to the 1650's and the Dutch wars.

**Now go down the steps towards the Breakwater.**

Mount Batten Breakwater stretches out into the Sound, giving splendid views, especially of the Citadel opposite. Another defensive work, the Citadel dates to the 1660's.

**Continue on the waterside path next to the black railings. This leads to the Ferry from Plymouth Barbican. (The route could be started from here if arriving by ferry).**

**Continue on the waterside path, heading now alongside the Cattewater, the estuary of the River Plym.**

**Carefully follow the marked Coast Path for Turnchapel through the Yacht Haven area. At the top of the steps go left and left again. This leads into Turnchapel.**

Turnchapel has an olde-worlde feel, reminiscent of its past as a village in its own right and a favourite retirement place for sea captains.

**Go through Turnchapel, turning right at the end just before the MOD gates. At the end of the next lane turn right.**

The water here is Hooe Lake, a tidal creek off the Plym Estuary. Note the piers over the water, which carried the old railway branch from Plymouth to Turnchapel.

**Turn left at the end, along the head of Hooe Lake, then bear left uphill through the old village of Hooe.**

You can get a bus from here back to Jennycliff or into Plymouth.

**Reaching the top of the hill follow the left path then fork almost immediately right. At the junction at the end, go left downhill. The path leads to Radford Castle.**

Radford Castle and Causeway were built in the mid-19th century. It is not a defensive site but was built as accommodation for the estate's "keeper". The estate was the home of the Harris family, local landowners and friends in their time of Sir Walter Raleigh.

**Turn right alongside Radford Lake, signposted Erme-Plym Trail.**

## Fact File

The walk is described as starting at Jennycliff, but could as easily be started from Bovisand. Both locations are on the eastern coast of Plymouth Sound and both are accessible by bus from Plymouth Royal Parade (service no 17, operated by Target Travel; Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer until the end of September, daily from 26th July until 2nd September).

For detailed enquiries call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608.

The walk is also accessible by ferry from Plymouth Barbican. This operates 7 days a week yearly. For details call 01752 480727.

**Walk Length:** 11km/6.5 miles

One long steady climb of 60m/200ft

Some flights of steps on Coast Path section.

3 stiles, all on inland section.

**OS Maps:** Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) no. 20 South Devon

Explorer (1:25,000) no.108 Lower Tamar Valley

Landranger (1:50,000) no. 201 Plymouth and Launceston

**Refreshments:** Jennycliff (café and toilets); Mount Batten (pub and toilets); Turnchapel (pub); Hooe (all facilities); Bovisand (seasonal café)

Most of the walk follows the South West Coast Path or the Erme - Plym Trail, and is therefore well waymarked.

Radford Lake is the inland extension of Hooe Lake; the causeway means it is now brackish water rather than fully tidal.

**When the path emerges into open parkland, leave the surfaced path and bear right onto another path which skirts Radford Lake. Now keep on the path ahead to arrive at a main road. Cross this at the central reservation and take the path on the opposite side signposted Erme-Plym Trail.**

**At the grassy area bear left. Follow the path past some houses then into woodland. Bear right at the first fork in the woods. Keep climbing through the woodland, bearing generally to the right.**

**After a stile, take the uphill path opposite. At the top turn left along the field-side track - still signposted Erme-Plym Trail. Continue along three fields, bear right to cross a stone stile, along another field then down some steps to arrive at a road.**

The route has now arrived on the edge of the old village of Staddiscombe. (Turn left and follow the lane for the village shop and buses to Plymouth).

**We now leave the Erme-Plym Trail and return to the coast. At the foot of the steps turn right then bear almost immediately left along the minor lane. At the bottom go straight ahead over a stile next to a gate onto a stony track.**

This quiet and peaceful track was once the main access road into Bovisand.

**At the drive at the bottom bear left along the path behind the metal gate. This leads to the**

**Coast Path at Bovisand. Turn right up the steps and continue ahead past the small car park, seasonal café and bus stop.**

Fort Bovisand, along the road ahead, was one of the ring of forts built to defend Plymouth by Lord Palmerston in the 19th century. It is now a diving centre.

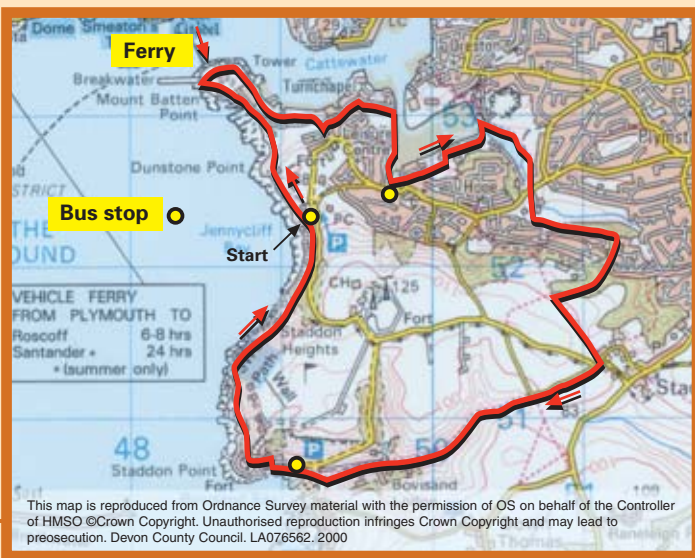
**From Bovisand, follow the Coast Path back to Jennycliff. Bear right at the cottages then turn right up a flight of narrow steps before the second terrace of cottages. At the top the path crosses a bridge.**

The bridge crosses a man-made cutting used for lowering supplies to Fort Bovisand.

**Keep to the Coast Path, making sure you bear left through the wooden gate when the path approaches the road. A series of steps down then up leads to a field (wipe your feet on the mat!) and on to Jennycliff.**



Bovisand



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# Information

There is a free leaflet on Devon's network of walking trails - *'Making Tracks - Walking Trails in Devon'*. It is available from local Tourist Information Centres and also from:

Devon Tourist Information Service  
PO BOX 55  
Barnstaple EX32 8YR

Devon Holiday Line  
0870 60 85 531

*Quote publication reference number DP04*

Information is also available on the other trails on which these walks are based, and may be obtained from the address above.

**Templer Way Guide Leaflet** £0.25 (including p&p)  
*Quote Reference Number DP 38*

**Two Moors Way Introductory Leaflet**  
*Quote Reference Number DP 34* £0.25 (including p&p)

**Two Moors Way Guide Book and Accommodation List**  
*Quote Reference Number DP 15* £3.50 (including p&p)

**Tarka Trail Walkers Guide Book** £4.25 (including p&p)  
*Quote Reference Number DP 32*

**Tarka Trail Leaflet** £0.25 (including p&p)  
*Quote Reference Number DP 06*

**South West Coast Path Guide Book**  
*Quote Reference Number DP 33* £5.99 (including p&p)

**Erme-Plym Trail Guide Pack** £1.40 (including p&p)  
*Quote Reference Number DP 40*

An information booklet *'Plymouth's Waterfront Walkway'* is available from local Tourist Information Centres £2.50.

Updated information on footpaths in Devon is found on the Devon County Council website at:

**[www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk)**

or on the Devon Tourism site at:  
**[www.devon4allseasons.co.uk](http://www.devon4allseasons.co.uk)**



For information on the South West Coast Path visit: **[www.swcp.org.uk](http://www.swcp.org.uk)**

**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**

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