



Templer Way

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

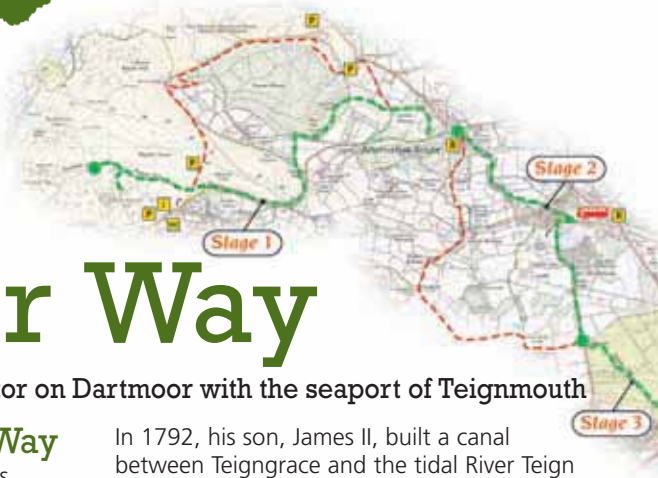
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Templer Way

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 Teignrace 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.