

COUNTRYSIDE TEAM
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Discover Devon Differently....

Devon has the most fantastic natural environment and we all want it to stay that way.

Why not leave the car behind for the day and explore Devon by foot, by bike or even by canoe! You can visit places 'off the beaten track' and experience the heart and beauty of Devon at a different pace of life.

Much of Devon's coast and countryside is accessible by public transport and it can be great fun! Why not see the Jurassic Coast, England's first natural World Heritage Site, from the top of a double-decker or enjoy the spectacular birdlife on the Exe Estuary from a ride on the Avocet Line?

10 reasons why you should leave your car behind and *Discover Devon Differently*:

- A bus or train ride can be part of your day-out experience
 - Save money – petrol and parking are expensive
 - Save even more money – many attractions offer discounted tickets for visitors arriving by sustainable modes of transport
 - Nobody enjoys sitting in a hot car in a traffic jam
 - Walking, cycling and other sustainable activities are great fun and can help to keep us healthy
 - Car parking can be hard to find and often stressful
 - Walking, cycling or horse riding allows you to travel at a more leisurely pace of life allowing you to take in the scenery.
 - High volumes of traffic on rural roads discourages other users such as cyclists, walkers and horse-riders
 - Enjoy the fresh air, improved by less congestion
- And most importantly...
- You are reducing your impact on the environment. This is especially important in Devon with its special and sensitive areas such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Why not download a Discover Devon Differently Itinerary from www.discoverdevondifferently.com and enjoy a car-free day out in Devon.

For visitor information including holiday accommodation availability visit www.discoverdevon.com or call the Discover Devon Holiday Line **0870 608 5531**

For up-to-date information on bus and train times call the Traveline on **0870 608 2 608** or visit www.traveline.org.uk



Ride & Stride

...By train to Okehampton, with a gentle Dartmoor walk inspired by Ernest Bassett.

A great half-day walk on the northern slopes of Dartmoor. This walk is based on a train ride into Okehampton and a circular stride over beautiful moorland.



118032 Devon Design & Print: 01392 383276



Ernest Basset was an Okehampton man and a lover of Dartmoor. He appreciated it in all its moods, but also realised that it had its dangers. As a result, in 1971 he became a founder member of the Dartmoor Rescue Group, a body of volunteers for whom many have had cause to give thanks.

He also encouraged people to visit and appreciate the moor and its surroundings and as such devised three fairly easy walks based on Okehampton as an introduction to the area's attractions. He was an active member of the Okehampton Rotary Club and, when he died, the Club dedicated the walks to him as a memorial, naming them the Ernest Bassett Walks. The walks are 2.5, 3 and 4 miles in length; this is the 3 mile walk starting from the train station.

Getting there: On summer Sundays Okehampton may be reached by train from Exeter. For timetable details call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 or visit www.traveline.org.uk

Walk Length: 5.5km/3.5 miles. One steady climb; 2 stiles.

Facilities: Okehampton Station - refreshments, toilets and information.

The Walk

The Walk starts at Okehampton Station. Go to the entrance gate then walk down the hill.

Approximately 100m down the hill turn right down the footpath signposted "Town Centre via Simmons Park". At the junction go down the steps, signposted "Town Centre via Riverside". At the next junction go right again, still signposted "via Riverside". On reaching the bottom turn sharp left, alongside the river and keeping it to your right.

This is Simmons Park. It was given to the town by local man Sidney Simmons in 1907. Much of the park was formerly semi-moorland and some of the modern landscape reflects this.

Continuing along the river, notice the Swiss-style Chalet Treloar, named after the Lord Mayor of London who conducted the park opening.

Continue on the tarmac path parallel to the East Okement River until it leaves the park. Outside the park turn left to return to the town centre.

Follow the road round to the left past the entrance to the school, then take the footpath on the right next to the waterwheel.

The waterwheel helped to power Town Mills. The mills were grist mills, for the grinding of corn, and were also used as a woollen mill when Okehampton was important as a wool centre.

At the top of the steps turn right, then take the right hand of the roads ahead, past the blue school sign. Go through the wooden gate at the end and onto the footpath. Keep on this path ahead, over a field and then through pleasant woodland.

The stream alongside the path is the leat used to power Town Mills. It flows out of the East Okement River, which is reached at the end of the woodland path.

Go through the gate at the end and turn right at the junction.

Note the pawprint waymark on the post. This is the waymark for the Tarka Trail, which this part of the walk follows. This Trail follows the journey through Devon of Tarka the Otter in the book of that name.

Continue underneath the viaduct then over the bridge across the East Okement River.

This is Fatherford. The stone viaduct carried the main line of the London and South Western Railway between Waterloo and Plymouth. It now only carries trains taking stone from the quarries at Meldon, the Dartmoor Railway runs between Okehampton and Samford Courtney and a

summer Sunday service between Exeter and Okehampton. Next to it is the modern viaduct carrying the A30 Okehampton by-pass, built in the late 1980's.

Over the bridge turn left alongside the East Okement and continue on the path ahead, parallel to the river.

The East Okement rises high on Dartmoor and joins the West Okement in Okehampton before flowing north to meet the River Torridge.

This is a very attractive valley with its fast flowing river lined by trees. The path uses some large stepping stones alongside the river to keep walkers dry shod at times of high water, then reaches a footbridge. Do not cross the bridge but take the path on the right, next to the stream.

This is Moor Brook, a tributary of the East Okement. The path climbs alongside the brook, small waterfalls alternating with still pools.

The path rises through woodland next to the brook, then climbs away and bears right across more open, bracken-covered land. It emerges on open moorland next to a fence. Follow this fence round to the left.

Stunning views are obtained from here to the right, across the centre of Devon. On a clear day the edge of Exmoor can be seen.

Now bear away from the fence to the right, heading for the obvious high point ahead.

This is East Hill. The stone pillar marks the height of 1152 feet/349m, although the very highest point is one metre higher. Okehampton is now visible to the right almost as an aerial view. Ahead and left is the Okehampton Army Camp and, on the skyline beyond, Yes Tor and High Willhays. These are the highest points in England south of the Peak District.



Walk Route
Train Route

Continue ahead off the hill to descend to a track and follow this over a cattle grid to a road. Turn right; when the road turns left go straight ahead, through the left hand of two gates. Follow the wall, then keep to the grassy track which continues ahead and left.

If you walk this path in the spring there will be a carpet of bluebells over this field.

Turn right at the bottom, then go left on the footbridge over the A30. Cross the stile on the far side. At the bottom of the hill turn left through the woods. Continue to the road then turn right. Walk under the railway bridge to the entrance to Okehampton Station on the right.

For further information on the wider network of walking routes in Devon, obtain a free brochure 'Discover Devon Walking' from local Tourist Information Centres or visit the website www.discoverdevon.com which has lots of walking information plus brochure request page.

OS maps for this walk:

- Explorer No.113 Okehampton or No.OL28 Dartmoor (1:25,000)
- Landranger No.191 Okehampton and North Dartmoor (1:50,000)

Do you enjoy the fresh air out in the countryside?

Have you ever been walking, horse riding or cycling in Devon? If so, where do you turn for information?

Information about the best places and times to walk, ride or cycle in Devon is very important for everyone. Devon County Council is constantly looking to improve the information provided to the public and we would like you to tell us how we can do this... By answering the 6 questions below you will be entered into the **FREE PRIZE DRAW** with an opportunity of winning a **Luxury Devon Food Hamper worth £100.** (See Terms & Conditions below)

1. How satisfied are you with current information about using countryside paths, bridleways and cycle tracks, e.g. leaflets and guides.	very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/>	satisfied <input type="checkbox"/>	dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/>	very dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/>
2. How satisfied are you with information about these routes from our website www.devon.gov.uk and www.discoverdevon.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. How satisfied are you with information on regional walking and cycling routes e.g. Erme Plym Trail, Tarka Trail, East Devon Way.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. What information do you find useful in walking, cycling or horse riding literature?
 Maps Local history Local wildlife Photographs
 Detailed description of the route (e.g. turn left after the stile)
 Other (please detail)

5. How do you normally access the Devon countryside?
 Public transport Private vehicle From home on foot/horse/bike/other
 Other (please detail)

6. How frequently do you visit the Devon countryside for recreation?
 Daily Weekly Monthly
 Other (please detail)

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Please complete the following section with your details.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Address

Postcode Email address

Recreational interests (please detail)

Age: Under 16 16-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+

What ethnic group do you belong to?

Do you have a disability? Physical Sensory None

We may wish to contact you again to monitor your satisfaction with new countryside information. Please indicate if you are happy for us to contact you. Yes No

Terms and Conditions: The draw closes on 20/09/06. The prize winners will be selected at random within five days of the closing date. The decision of the promoter (Devon County Council) is final. The £100 Hamper is subject to availability. The prizes are non-transferable, and no cash alternative is available. By entering into the promotion all participants are deemed to have accepted and agree to be bound by these terms and conditions. Winners may be required to participate in publicity. The prize on offer is not open to negotiation and is subject to availability. Entries limited to one per household. Promoter: Devon County Council, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD