

Accessible Trails in Devon

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www.visitdevon.co.uk

Devon
County Council 

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Accessible Trails in Devon

Devon is blessed with the most stunning countryside, a lot of which is accessible to people with mobility problems, people in wheelchairs, families with pushchairs, toddlers on scooters or people who simply prefer a flatter or more easy-going surface without having to clamber over stiles or climb steep slopes.

As the Highway Authority for Devon, the County Council is responsible for over 3,070 miles (4,940km) of public rights of way. All rights of way in Devon are mapped and available to see online at

www.devon.gov.uk/mylocalpaths

This website contains an interactive map where you can obtain information on any path in the County. You can zoom in and out at various scales by following the instructions displayed underneath the map and by using the 'Legend' and 'Layer' buttons you can view all of the public rights of way plus cycleways, Access Land, Common Land and DEFRA Stewardship sites with public access. Most importantly you can also find out if there are any stiles, gates or bridges on the paths and how steep or level a route is.

Several of the disused railway tracks around the county have been converted into leisure trails. These flat and well surfaced trails lend themselves well to a variety of users. Routes include sections of the Granite Way near Okehampton and the Tarka Trail between Braunton and Meeth in North Devon.

Remember that cycle routes in Devon are also intended for use by walkers too. Sections of the new Exe Estuary Trail are ideal for wheelchair users, especially between Exmouth and Lympstone where the path has superb views out across the estuary. Further information can be found at www.devon.gov.uk/exeestuarytrail or by picking up a copy of the Exe Explorer leaflet at local Tourist Information Centres.

Several websites contain detailed information about accessible walks in Devon.







- The **Devon County Council** walking pages contain information about accessible trails, visit www.devon.gov.uk/walking
- There is a selection of easy walks in and around the **North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**, specially selected to ensure everyone can experience the delights of the North Devon Landscape. For more information, please use the following link to visit the North Devon AONB website www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/walking

Other information is available on the following web pages:

- **Accessible South West** - www.accessiblesouthwest.co.uk – a directory designed to assist visitors with disabilities travelling to the South West of England find suitable places to stay and visit.
- **Dartmoor National Park** - Easy Going Dartmoor - www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk – search for ‘Easy Going Dartmoor’. Gradient and route difficulty information on routes across the moor.
- **The South West Coast Path National Trail** - www.southwestcoastpath.com – search for ‘short walks’ – this website has comprehensive gradient and suitability information.
- **Devon Wildlife Trust Easy Access Nature Reserves** - www.devonwildlifetrust.org – search for ‘Easy Access Nature Reserves’.
- **Walks with Wheelchairs** - www.walkswithwheelchairs.com - the only UK website totally dedicated to providing free information on routes that are suitable for wheelchair users throughout the UK.

The following pages contain a small selection of some of the walks around Devon which are suitable for a variety of users including people with disabilities, mobility problems, sensory impairments or families with buggies. Use the symbols alongside the descriptions to decide if the particular walk is suitable.

In each section a list of routes is described. Many paths are listed with a contact telephone number and details can be gained from these numbers or the local Tourist Information Centre. Those paths with a number alongside the name are Public Rights of Way and any queries should be addressed to Devon County Council.

- Key**
-  Suitable for those with visual impairment
 -  Suitable for the young family
 -  Suitable for the elderly or less mobile
 -  Suitable for wheelchair use
 -  Forestry Commission Land
 -  National Trust owned land

(FP41) Public Right of Way

Accessible Trails in Devon



North Devon

1. Baggy Point (Near Croyde)



An excellent path has been upgraded to allow all to see the sweeping views and cliff nesting seabirds that Baggy Point has to offer. Parking is best at the National Trust Car Park. The walk can be strenuous after the first 1/2 mile and you may wish to turn back before the steeper gradient. However most people feel it is definitely worth it!

Length: Approx 1 mile / 1.6 km

Tel: National Trust Warden
01271 870555

Visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk
www.southwestcoastpath.com

2. The Tarka Trail



The Tarka Trail follows the line of a disused railway between Meeth and Barnstaple.

It is surfaced throughout and is suitable for all users. Parking is available at many points along the way, but there is no wheelchair access at either Landcross or Loxdown. The trail is a haven for wildlife and offers outstanding views so vividly described in Henry Williamsen's 'Tarka the Otter'.

The route is also a cycle track so you will need to be on the lookout for the over enthusiastic cyclist.



Tarka Trail

Tarka Trail Cycle Hire based at Barnstaple Railway Station have 3-speed adult tricycles to hire, telephone 01271 324202.

Length: In total 23 miles / 36.8 km

Tel: Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service 01237 423655

Visit: www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk and click on 'enjoying'

3. Eggesford Forest (Near Chulmleigh)



Hilltown Wood is situated south of Eggesford station on the A377 and has a car park, picnic site, information and toilets (not accessible toilets). There are two attractive level circular walks from here.

Heywood Wood is nearer Bridge Reeve and has fabulous views and parking. Additional paths in this area are currently being upgraded.

Length: Approx 3 miles / 4.8 km

Tel: Forestry Commission 01409 221692

Visit: www.forestry.gov.uk

4. Northam Burrows Country Park (Near Bideford)



The estuary saltmarsh here is known as the Skern and is ideal for a bird watching family; many rare and interesting birds can be viewed from the fully accessible hide. There is also a fully accessible shop and activity centre.

Length: Approx 1 mile / 1.6 km

Tel: Torrridge District Council 01237 479708

Visit: www.torrridge.gov.uk



Northam Burrows



5. Roadford Reservoir



A truly stunning new reservoir just north west of Okehampton. It has impressive views, spotless toilets and masses of parking with an accessible path which follows the lake edge. The reservoir also has an accessible cafe and picnic area. Slight gradients may mean the wheelchair user need assistance in some areas. Many activities and guided walks are led from here. Specially adapted ramped boats for wheelchair users (known as Wheely Boats) are available to hire along with tuition.

Length: Approx 3 miles / 4.8 km

Tel: South West Lakes Trust 01409 211507

Visit: www.swlakestrust.org.uk

6. Rosemoor Gardens (Near Great Torrington)



For those who love gardens this is a must. It is very well designed for wheelchairs and guide dogs are welcome. There are various different types of garden from bog to rose gardens and raised beds allow close contact. There is also a shop and toilet which is fully accessible.

Length: Approx 2 miles / 3.2 km

Tel: HMS Rosemoor 01805 624067

Visit: www.rhs.org.uk/rosemoor

East Devon

7. Colyton



Footpath No. 11 is a scenic and level riverside walk, which starts at the Chantry Bridge. Parking is in Colyton itself. This path is several miles long so it's worth remembering as you walk that you also have to come back! OS Landranger 192, grid reference: 245 942.

Footpath No. 27 is also a pleasant walk alongside the river suitable for all but wheelchairs, as it is unsurfaced. There are no stiles or barriers as kissing gates have been used so as not to limit access.

Length: > 3 miles / 4.8 km

Tel: Devon County Council 0845 155 1004

Visit: www.devon.gov.uk/mylocalpaths

8. Culmstock



Bridleway No. 34 is an easy, level walk has outstanding views over the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty it is level but may not be suitable when wet. This route can be found a mile north of Culmstock up 'Hunters Hill'.

Length: Approx: 1 mile / 1.6 km

Tel: Devon County Council
0845 155 1004

Visit: www.devon.gov.uk/mylocalpaths

9. Exeter Canal Towpath



The beautiful and historic city of Exeter is well worth a visit in its own right, an extremely attractive and interesting city it also has many parks and walks. The most suitable of these is the old canal towpath which follows the canal all through the city. The towpath - a Public Right of Way - is flat and easy walking and a bird spotters paradise in certain places - you may need to watch out for the over enthusiastic cyclist. Access can be gained from many spots, one being the Double Locks pub near the Marsh Barton Industrial Estate. From here, you can also walk to the Turf Locks, another good pub some 3.5 miles / 5.6 km further along the canal.

Length: Approx 2 miles / 3.2 km

Tel: Canal Office 01392 274306

Visit: www.exeter.gov.uk

10. The Exe Estuary Trail: Exmouth to Lymptone



This new off-road cycle-walkway, developed by Devon County Council, provides fantastic views across the internationally important Exe Estuary. This wide, mainly level and well surfaced path is very accessible with the exception of one or two gentle but long climbs/descents.

Eventually, this route will provide an exciting opportunity for people to experience the entire Exe Estuary, appreciating the wildlife and passing through some beautiful riverside towns and villages steeped in maritime history. The connecting section, from Lymptone to Exton, is due to open in December 2009.

Exmouth Cycle Hire have 1 adult sized tricycle for hire, telephone 01395 225656 to book.

Length: Approx 2 miles / 3.2 km

Tel: Devon County Council 01392 382104

Visit: www.devon.gov.uk/exeestuarytrail



11. Kentisbeare



Bridleway No. 41 is a stunning ridge walk which starts at a car park and viewpoint off the Sheldon 'Broad Road' and progresses across the top of Downlands Plantation. The route is easy walking in fine weather, but may not be suitable in winter. Alternatively, park in the church car park at Blackborough to approach from a different angle.

Length: Approx 1 mile / 1.6 km

Tel: Devon County Council 0845 155 1004

Visit: www.devon.gov.uk/mylocalpaths

12. Otterton Mill



Parking is available at Otterton Mill for people who have used the shop/facilities. There is a delightful path from the Mill which follows the river for approx. 2 miles / 3.2 km until it meets White Bridge. Turn right over the bridge and then right again and you will find yourself back on the original path after about 1 mile / 1.6 km. The path is easy walking and has very pleasant scenery - herons and kingfishers are not an uncommon sight. Refreshments available at the Mill on your return.

Length: Approx 3 miles / 4.8 km in total

Tel: Otterton Mill 01395 568521

Visit: www.ottertonmill.com/access.asp

13. The Grand Western Canal Country Park



The Grand Western Canal stretches many miles along the mid Devon countryside and has become a stunning linear nature reserve for all to enjoy. Driving along the road from Tiverton to Halberton you will cross the canal, parking is available in a large lay-by after the bridge and ramps are provided for wheelchair access. Walking is good either way along the canal but you will need to turn back to get off again unless you walk all the way to Tiverton where there is access into the town near the police station.

For another stretch of the Grand Western Canal, access can be gained from the car park in Lower Town and once again the path can be followed as far as you choose! Access onto the canal is also available in Tiverton.

Mobility scooters are available to hire from Mid Devon Shopmobility, located 1km from the canal basin in Tiverton. Tel: 01884 242099 for booking and information. Abbotshood Cycle Hire along the canal has adult tricycles for hire, Tel: 01884 820728 or visit www.abbotshoodcyclehire.co.uk

Length: > 3 miles / 4.8 km

Tel: Grand Western Canal Rangers 01884 254072

Visit: www.devon.gov.uk/grand_western_canal



Grand Western Canal

South Devon

14. Bolberry Down



Bolberry Down is situated on the coast in South Devon and has a short tarmac path leading from the large car park to breath taking views of the coast. Wheelchair users may feel more comfortable with a helper as there is no cliff top fencing.

South Devon AONB has produced a useful leaflet entitled "Access to the Coast" detailing information centres, walks, view points and other attractions for all users.

Length: Approx. 1 mile / 1.6 km

Tel: National Trust in South Devon 01752 346585
South West Coast Path Team 01392 383560

Visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk and search for 'Bolberry Down'
www.southwestcoastpath.com and search for short walks.

15. Bovey Tracey Riverside Walk



Known locally as the Gateway to the Moor, Bovey Tracey is a small town very picturesquely surrounded by the hills of Dartmoor's southern edge. With many attractions such as arts and crafts it makes an excellent day out. Parking is available for free next to the mill and this is also a good spot to start your walk. The walk starts in the town's park and after crossing the road you can walk for several miles along the river bank. The river is shallow and clear and ideal for restful picnics on its sandy banks; eventually the river joins the old railway which will return you to the car park. One word of warning, pick an off peak time if you don't enjoy crowds as Bovey Tracey is very popular!

Length: > 2 miles / 3.2 km

Tel: Bovey Tracey TIC 01626 832047

Visit: www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk and search for Bovey Tracey

16. Dawlish to Dawlish Warren



Leading from the pretty town of Dawlish to the National Nature Reserve of Dawlish Warren, renowned for its unusual birds and stunning dunes, there is a concreted path which follows the sea edge. Parking is available in Dawlish but much care must be taken over tide times as the route is covered at high tide. Alternatively you could walk one way and bus back. Disabled parking is available at Dawlish Warren. There are amusements (ideal for children) and also toilets.

Length: Approx 2 miles / 3.2 km

Tel: Visitor Centre 01626 863980

Visit: www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk and search for Dawlish

17. Haldon Forest Park



An attractive Forestry Commission woodland with excellent walks for all. The car park has information, toilets, café and a picnic site and there is also a bird hide which is adapted for use by wheelchairs. The birds you are likely to see here are rather special - goshawks and sparrowhawks. It is well worth a visit. There is an excellent accessible Sensory Trail at Mamhead. The unusual obelisk at Mamhead dominates the site with stunning open views of the Devon countryside and the Exe Estuary.

Length: Sensory Trail 1.5 miles / 2.4 km plus several miles of accessible trails from the visitor centre

Tel: Haldon Forest Ranger's Office 01392 834251

Visit: www.forestry.gov.uk/haldonforestpark



Haldon Forest Park

18. Loddiswell



The scenic Footpath No. 19 follows the old mill leat alongside the River Avon for several miles. Once again it is worth remembering that the path is one-way and you have to walk back again!

Length: > 2 miles / 3.2 km

Tel: Devon County Council 0845 155 1004

Visit: www.devon.gov.uk/mylocalpaths

19. Newton Abbot Town and Country Walk

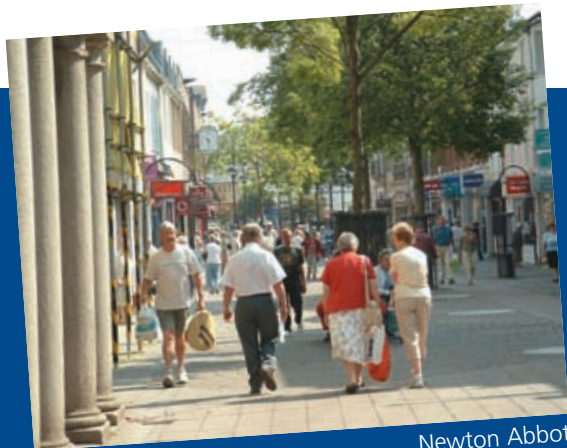


A real 'town and country' path, Footpath No. 89 runs for several miles, leaving Newton Abbot from the car park opposite the library and going on into the beautiful local countryside that surrounds the town. Level and well surfaced but with small gradients in places. This path is only wheelchair accessible for approximately 1 mile and about 2 miles on you will find a stile into some woodlands. Other than this, the path is not obstructed and is very scenic.

Length: Wheelchair accessible for 1 mile / 1.6 km, approx. 2 miles / 3.2 km in total

Tel: Devon County Council 0845 155 1004

Visit: www.devon.gov.uk/mylocalpaths



Newton Abbot



20. Noss Mayo along the South West Coast Path



A section of the South West Coast Path National Trail near Noss Mayo uses the Revelstoke Carriage Drive, a well-graded and surfaced track on the cliff tops. This gives incomparable sea views - keep an eye on the horizon on a clear day and see if you can spot Eddystone Lighthouse. Parking and access from Stoke Beach.

Length: Approx. 1 mile / 1.6 km of the drive is fully accessible

Tel: South West Coast Path Team 01392 383560

Visit: www.southwestcoastpath.com and search for short walks.

21. Stover Country Park



Stover Country Park is situated conveniently near the A38 and Newton Abbot. The Park has a large lake which is embraced by a good circular path; well surfaced and wide it has several wooden bridges which may mean disabled visitors need assistance. The park has an aerial walkway with excellent wildlife information and a network of surfaced and unsurfaced paths with several picnic areas. The park has several disabled parking spaces, accessible toilets and a fully accessible bird hide.

Length: > 2 miles / 3.2 km

Tel: Stover Country Park 01626 835236

Visit: www.devon.gov.uk/stover_country_park

22. Teignbridge Country Parks



Hackney Marshes

At the head of the Teign Estuary these flooded meadows, reed fringed ditches and hedgerows are a haven for wildlife. It is public open space with good paths through woodland and old orchards.

Combe Valley

Another area with a good path system, this runs through old woodland and alongside a stream, there is also a play area for the more active.

Decoy Country Park

A well maintained and popular park on the edge of Newton Abbot. About 100 acres of woodland provide a stunning backdrop to the 13 acre lake, home to some fascinating wildlife.

Tel: Teignbridge District Council Countryside Service 01626 61101

Visit: www.teignbridge.gov.uk and click on 'leisure and green spaces'

23. Totnes



A very attractive path runs from Totnes Railway Station to Shinner's Bridge at Dartington and has been upgraded to be suitable for all. If your wheelchair is especially wide you may need a 'RADAR' key. From Totnes Station the path runs alongside the River Dart with interesting wildlife habitats and on to Shinner's Bridge where you will find Dartington College of Arts and the Cider Press Crafts Centre with a cafe and toilets.

Length: 2 miles / 3.2 km

Tel: Dartington Estates Steward 01803 862271

Visit: www.devon.gov.uk/mylocalpaths

West Devon

24. Abbeyford Woods (Near Okehampton)



These stunning woods with spectacular walks have beautifully adapted paths for all. A beautiful mixed woodland with a crystal clear river, it is no wonder that wildlife flourishes in Abbeyford Woods, on the edge of Okehampton. A good car park and picnic area are also available.

Length: 2 miles / 3.2 km

Tel: Forestry Ranger 01409 221692

Visit: www.forestry.gov.uk

25. Higher Cadham Farm (Near Okehampton)



A 16th century farmhouse on a traditional Devon farm five miles from Okehampton and on the Tarka Trail, an ideal stop-over for country lovers. A path of 250 metres fully accessible for all runs from a good car park to a river. Picnics alongside the river are a pleasant way to enjoy the country wildlife. Wheelchairs, cups of tea and a friendly welcome are all available at the farm house.

Length: 250m with picnic areas

Tel: 01837 851647

26. Plym Valley Trail



Although built and designed as a cycleway, this route on the old GWR branch line from the edge of Plymouth towards Yelverton is also suitable for all users. The route goes through woodland, gives views of Dartmoor, passes a number of sites of industrial archaeological

importance and also crosses high above the river Plym on a number of viaducts. Parking and access is from Marsh Mills and Plym Bridge.

An extension south from Marsh Mills passes through the grounds of Saltram House and gives attractive views over the Plym Estuary, but is not completely surfaced so is not suitable for wheelchairs. Users should be aware of cyclists using the route.

Length: 7 miles / 11 km

Tel: Devon County Council 0845 155 1004

Visit: www.visitdevon.co.uk

27. Tavistock, Drakes Walk



A route purpose built by a special needs group to meet the requirements of the whole family group. Wide, flat and well surfaced it runs for approximately 1 mile alongside the Tavistock Canal through woodland and field and is equipped with ramps for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Parking and toilets are available in Bedford car park at Canal Road. This path was a 3rd prize winner of the Esso Community Footpath Award 1994.

Length: 1 mile / 1.6 km

Tel: Tavistock Tourist Information Centre 01822 612938

Visit: www.drakestrail.co.uk

Dartmoor National Park

All of the following reservoirs have wardens, many run organised guided walks where extra helpers may be available to assist with wheelchairs.

For details of events contact Dartmoor National Park.

Tel: 01626 832093

Visit: www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk.

Much of Dartmoor National Park is more accessible than is often thought. A booklet detailing information centres, walks, viewpoints and other attractions suitable for all users is produced by Dartmoor National Park, called 'Access for All'.

28. Avon Dam



Approximately 2 miles each way, this route is completely accessible. There is a slight incline but also many places to stop and rest next to the river. At peak times (e.g. Sundays) parking can be a little difficult, but there are toilets for the disabled and usually a refreshment van. The effort is well worth it to see the magnificent Dam from below.

29. Bellever



Forestry Commission woodland on East Dartmoor, this area has car parking, information and toilets for the disabled as well as several recently upgraded walks and picnic areas. For further details visit www.forestry.gov.uk or telephone 01822 880203.

30. Burrator Reservoir



Toilets are located near the Dam and refreshments are often available in the car parks. Around the reservoir there is a road used by all for walking which is extremely attractive. Wheelchair users may need assistance in places and it would be best to avoid peak days as Burrator is often very busy.



Burrator Reservoir
Photo Graham Bale

31. Fernworthy Reservoir



There is a good path around this reservoir but it has a little too much camber for wheelchair users. However there is a bird hide which is accessible if you drive beyond the main car park to an alternative grassed parking area with picnic tables.

32. Meldon Reservoir



A footpath follows the old leat and forms a circular path from the car park. The route is not surfaced but is easy walking for those with more mobility. Alternatively South West Water has an access road which is surfaced and so is suitable for wheelchair users. You will need to go out of the main car park entrance to avoid steps. The car park has toilets and refreshments on peak days.

33. Trenchford Reservoir



An attractive circular walk exists around the reservoir of approximately 1¾ miles, narrow in places and with a few wooden bridges and boardwalks it is easy walking but not wheelchair accessible. However there are toilets and a pleasant picnic spot for a peaceful break.

Exmoor National Park

34. The Exmoor Calvert Trust (Wistlandpound Farm - Blackmoor Gate)



An adventure centre fully adapted for day visits or short breaks for disabled people, family and friends. If you are brave and fancy canoeing, sailing, riding and much more then this place has the expertise to help you.

Tel: The Calvert Trust 01598 763221

Visit: www.calvert-trust.org.uk

35. Heddon Valley (Near Martinhoe)



A circular walk down a beautiful river valley through oak woods and water meadows, there are fine views of the Bristol Channel. Parking is at Hunters Inn and accessible toilets are located nearby.

Length: 2 miles / 3.2km

Tel: National Trust

Visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

36. Valley of the Rocks (Lynton)



Relatively flat car parking and accessible toilets lead to a section of coastal paths that is not ideal for vertigo sufferers! The path has regular stops to sit and enjoy the stunning views. Nearby in Lynton is the world famous Cliff Railway. This railway has connected Lynton with Lynmouth since 1890, and provides some spectacular views. It is possible for standard wheelchairs to be accommodated on the outside

platform but the ride can only be accessed at the bottom station - so visitors will ride up and down. Wheelchairs are available on free loan from the Exmoor National Park office near to Lynmouth Cliff Railway station.

Length: 1 mile / 1.6 km

Tel: Exmoor National Park Office 01398 323665

Visit: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk



Suggest a Route

If you know of any routes suitable for people with mobility problems that could be included in the County Council's Access Directory, please send us the details using the online enquiry form at www.devon.gov.uk/prow, email: prow@devon.gov.uk or send the information by post to:

**Public Rights of Way, Devon County Council, County Hall,
Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4QW**

Tel: 0845 155 1004

If you enjoy Devon's
coast and countryside...
Why not order one of our free booklets



For more information on walks which are accessible to all, visit
www.devon.gov.uk/accessforall

For visitor information including accommodation availability visit
www.visitdevon.co.uk

If you would like a summary of this in a different format such as large print, Braille or tape, or in a different language, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 1551 004 or email: customer@devon.gov.uk

Devon County Council has made every effort to ensure that the contents of this publication are accurate at the time of printing however walks and rides are undertaken at your own risk.

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with it please recycle and
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Devon
County Council 

TRAVELWISE