



DEVONPORT HERITAGE TRAIL

Mount Wise



The Heritage Trail links historic and cultural points of interest in Devonport. It is a great way to explore the local area, once an important town in its own right.

The Trail also offers a way-marked detour from the popular South West Coastal Footpath. It can be followed from Admiral's Hard in Stonehouse, where it connects with the Plymouth Waterfront Walkway and the Cremyll Ferry - the link between Devon and Cornwall.

Crossing into Devonport via Stonehouse Creek Bridge, the Trail first follows Richmond Walk, exploring Mount Wise and Mutton Cove. It then takes in Ker Street, the one time civic heart of the community - centred on the newly restored Guildhall, the Devonport Column and the 'Egyptian House'. The Heritage Trail returns to the waterfront at North Corner, the birthplace of the original town of 'Dock'.

At New Passage Hill, there is a link-spur to the Torpoint Ferry and the chance to cross back to Cornwall. However, the Trail itself continues through the historic Devonport Park, returning to Stonehouse by way of the Brickfields and Devonport Hill.

Following the Trail

The Heritage Trail is way-marked by over 70 distinctive, numbered and themed 'Devonport Discs', designed by Cornish artists Gary and Thomas Thrussell. Pick-up a Trail leaflet or go on-line to get a route map and find out more.

On route, there are four Trail Panels like this - each focussing on a different section of the Trail. The others can be found at Cumberland Gardens, North Corner and Devonport Park. Look out too for the specially commissioned art works.

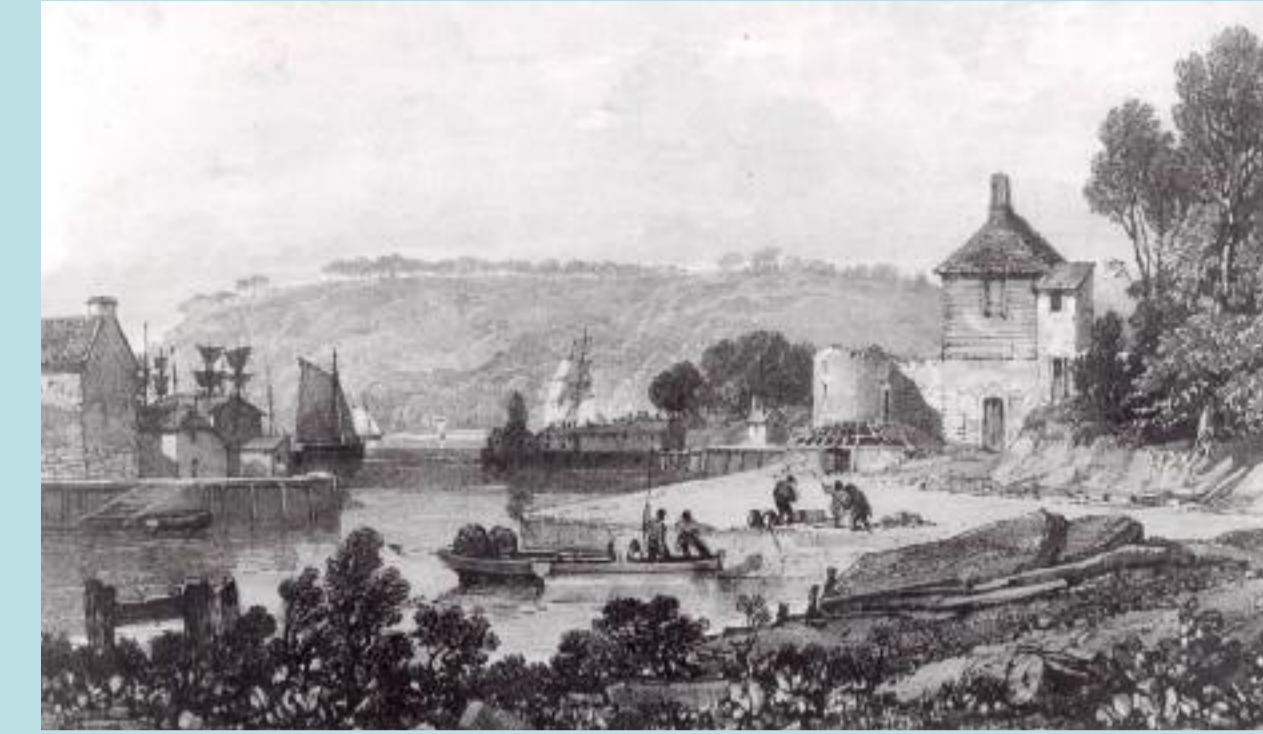
The full Heritage Trail is about 7.5 km (over 4 miles) long, but it can be explored just one section at a time. The way-marked route follows public highways and byways and involves walking alongside and crossing several busy roads - so please take great care. The Trail is fully accessible, with just a short marked detour to avoid steps into Devonport Park at New Passage Hill.

Stay safe, and enjoy discovering Devonport.

Web: www.plymouth.gov.uk/creativityandculture/artsdevelopment
Contacts: Parks Services 01752 606034 & Arts Services on 01752 307315
email: parks.services@plymouth.gov.uk

Devonport Heritage Trail was created by Plymouth City Council working in partnership with the Devonport Regeneration Community Partnership and the local community. Thanks must go to the professional artists and local historians who have contributed 'along the way'. With special thanks to Lizzy Cook.

Design and text by Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery



Stonehouse Pool, Richmond Walk, Ferry House and limekiln, 1829
Plymouth Library Services



Mount Wise foreshore, with the park and redoubt beyond, c.1905
Private Collection

Stonehouse Bridge - Mount Wise - Mutton Cove

East Stonehouse and Devonport were once separate towns; Stonehouse Bridge, designed by John Smeaton and fully open by 1773, better connected the two. Displayed near the Bridge, a photo artwork by David Harbott is a reminder that the tidal waters of Stonehouse Creek originally ran much further inland.

Walking along the Devonport shore, there are glimpses of the large boat building sheds across the water in Stonehouse. This shoreline was once a working quarry. Stone and timber wharves, boat yards, builder's yards and light industry followed, and the waterfront is still busy with boats. There are still a few traces of the old railway to Ocean Quay.

The Trail follows Richmond Walk. This was built in the 1790s and early 1800s to give local people continued access to the waterfront. This was at a time when the military were taking over much of Mount Wise.

Beyond Mayflower Marina and 'Poor Man's Corner' is a small beach area. By 1825 this was the site of the Royal Clarence Baths. Close by, on the site of Blagdon's Boatyard, were Victoria Cottages. This was where Charles Darwin lodged before embarking on HMS Beagle in 1831. The Dockyard defences and the military have shaped the shoreline landscape, - with a network of Second World War tunnels and a Cold War nuclear bunker cut into the rock and under Mount Wise.



Mutton Cove and view across the Tamar, c.1830
Plymouth Library Services



Ferry boats and steamers alongside Mutton Cove pier, c.1900
Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery

Mount Wise Park was opened in 1893, providing great views to the Royal William Yard, built 1827-1834, and across the River Tamar to Cremyll and Mount Edgcumbe. The remains of Mount Wise Redoubt, an 18th century fort, dominate. Nearby stand the national memorial to the Devonport born explorer 'Scott of the Antarctic', the Governor's House (now Admiralty House), built 1789-93, and the Admiral's House (now Hamoaze House), dating from 1808-11. Look out for the stone benches by Michael Disley, carved with the help of local schools and City College students, and more artwork by David Harbott.

Mount Wise Pools, built in 1924 and updated in 2000, stand on the site of a small commercial dock. Mutton Cove too was once a bustling harbour, with a small community living and working around the shore. Over the Dockyard wall there are glimpses of the historic Naval Base - including the famous 'King Billy' figurehead, Covered Building Slip No.1 of 1775 & 1816, the King's Hill Gazebo of 1822 and the large Ropery complex of 1766-73.

When leaving Mutton Cove for James Street, make sure to look out for the entrance arch to the Royal Laboratory, once home to a Napoleonic gunpowder works, and the old cannon bollard nearby.