



Devonport Heritage Trail - section by section

Mount Wise Section

Stonehouse

1. Elvira's - Start of Devonport Heritage Trail
2. Ha'penny Toll Bridge

Richmond Walk & Mount Wise

3. Defences -Tunnels & Cold War Bunker
4. Charles Darwin lodged near here
5. Steps to the Admiral's Boathouse - now a ruin
6. *Scott of the Antarctic, born Devonport*
7. *Defences - Fort, Signal Station & Time Ball*
- 7a. *Admiralty (formerly Governor's) House*
- 7b. *Gun Shed & former military presence*
- 7c. *Mount Wise House*
8. Swimming Pools - built on site of small dock
9. Insect drawings by two local sisters, 1850s
10. Celebrating the Royal Navy & Naval Heritage

Mutton Cove

11. Working harbour, ferry boats & community
12. Over the Dockyard Wall - King Billy
13. Over the Dockyard Wall - Covered Slipway
14. Over the Dockyard Wall - King's Hill Gazebo
15. Site of former Royal Laboratory, circa 1803

James Street

16. Over the Dockyard Wall - Rope Making
17. Dockyard Wall & Mutton Cove Gate
18. Sir William White, naval architect, born near here

Mount Wise:

Stonehouse Bridge - Mount Wise - Mutton Cove

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

Walking alongside 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.

Mount Wise Park was opened in 1893. (Look out for off-route way-markers in this area). It offers great views to the Royal William Yard, built 1827-34, 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 Yorkshire artist Michael Disley, carved with the help of local schools, 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.

Central Section

Ker Street

19. Site of John Wesley sermon & Wesleyan Chapel
20. Devonport Guildhall, originally the Town Hall
21. Devonport Column - change of name, 1824
22. Site of Chapel designed in the *hindoo* style
23. Egyptian House - once the Oddfellows Hall
- 23a. *Celebrating the Pembroke Street Community*
- 23b. *Curtis Street - Philip Curtis VC, born Devonport*

Cumberland Gardens

24. Army barracks & officers' houses
25. The Shakespeare PH on Theatre Ope

Chapel Street

26. Former Crown Hotel, built 1880
27. St Aubyn Manor - former house & office
28. St Aubyn Church & War Memorial

28a. *Blitz - ARP Warden Mabel Sheard*

28b. *Blitz - bombed and burning building*

28c. *Former Midland Bank, Fore Street*

28d. *Actor Samuel Phelps, born near here*

28e. *Devonport Market, built 1852*

Granby Way

29. Trail route marker
30. Trail route marker

Central Devonport:

Mutton Cove - Cumberland Gardens - Fore Street

Aim for Devonport Column, which stood at the civic heart of the prosperous Georgian town of Plymouth Dock; erected to celebrate the change of name to Devonport in 1824.

The Ker Street area was developed between 1821-4; the buildings designed by John Foulston. Here stand the Town Hall (later known as the Guildhall), the Devonport Classical & Mathematical School (better known as the Egyptian House) and the commemorative Column. The group was completed by the long demolished Mount Zion Chapel, in the *hindoo* style. The street was originally fronted by an elegant, classical, residential terrace.

The former Devonport Market Hall building of 1852, and its landmark tower, is one of the most distinctive Devonport buildings to have survived the Blitz and several post War redevelopments. On Duke Street you will pass the Devonport Mechanics Institute and former library buildings, built in the 1840s, and the short-lived 'Old Chapel' of 1790.

Cumberland Gardens mark the site of the Dock Theatre of 1762, with Theatre Ope, a narrow lane or 'cut', to the rear. A fine cluster of 19th century buildings can be seen from here, notably the elegant Regency terrace fronting Cumberland Street and the small row of officer's houses associated with nearby army barracks. There are still a few 18th century houses on George Street.

The Trail runs past the Crown Hotel of 1880 and follows Chapel Street to Fore Street. St Aubyn's Church of 1771-2 is now also home to Devonport Library. The land to the east was largely occupied by military barracks, with the 'Dock Line' defences of the 1760s backing onto Brickfields. The 18th century barrack blocks were replaced by Raglan Barracks in the 1850s.

On the west side of Chapel Street, the *Vision* development is on the site of the former Dockyard Enclave - some 7 hectares (18 acres) of central Devonport 'taken over' for Naval use in the 1950s. (Look out for off-route way-markers in this area). The move to 'bring down the wall' - and re-unite Devonport - was one of the many community-led regeneration projects initiated between 2001 and 2011.

'The Forum', a cinema building of 1939, stands on Fore Street. This was once Devonport's finest thoroughfare - linking directly to the main Dockyard gate. The surrounding area suffered heavily during the Second World War 'Blitz', and even fewer buildings survived the various post War re-developments.

The Trail continues via the west end of Granby Way, Albany Street and Cornwall Street, to the waterfront at North Corner.

North Corner Section

Cornwall Street

31. Trail route marker

North Corner

32. Site of first houses in Dock-Devonport
33. Steam Packet PH - visiting steam boats
34. Piermaster's House & landing stage
35. Gun Wharf - wall around Morice Yard

Queen Street & Morice Square

36. Gun Wharf - Morice Yard Gate
37. Former Royal Fleet Club & Hotel
38. Blitz - site of Air Raid Shelter

St Aubyn Road & New Passage Hill

39. Site of Royal Albert Hospital
40. Drawbridge - on new access road to town

Pottery Quay: Trail-spur

- 40a. *Gun Warf & Dockyard Gate*
- 40b. *Chain Ferry - Links to Cornwall*

In each section - You will need to go off-route to find the way-marker Plaques that are listed in italics

North Corner:

Fore Street - North Corner - New Passage Hill

North Corner is sandwiched between the dock walls of the South Yard and the Morice Yard. This area was the birthplace of the town of Plymouth Dock; officially re-named Devonport in 1824. A new town grew around the Naval Dockyard, established in 1690. Some of the first workers lived aboard hulks moored nearby on the river. In less than one hundred years, and from nothing, the town of 'Dock' had outgrown Plymouth, its older neighbour.

The North Corner 'Hero's Stone' is a reminder that this was once a unique and distinctive waterfront community. The market boat and other local ferries called regularly with passengers, produce and other goods. It is said that convicts for Australia were embarked here. The landing stage and steps at Cornwall Beach, the Steam Packet pub and the Devonport Corporation Piermaster's House survive as evidence of these busier times.

There have been many changes. In 1855-6 a tunnel was built under Cornwall Street, linking the South Yard to the, then, newly built Steam Yard at Keyham. The Dockyard fly-over road bridge that dominates the waterfront was completed in the early 1960s. The last major redevelopment of North Corner took place in 2005.

Heading inland up Cannon Street, turn left on to Queen Street and continue to Ordnance Street. You will pass the Morice Yard gate, capped with Victorian mortars. This military complex, with its fine officers' terrace, was built between 1719 and 1724. The Yard was originally a Gun Wharf operated by the Board of Ordnance - hence the nearby street names.

Ahead is Morice Square, dominated by the former Royal Fleet Club building of 1901-2. Some of the original large terraced houses that stood here are incorporated into the façade. Devonport's Royal Albert Hospital of 1862-3 stood alongside modern day St Aubyn Street. The Hospital closed in 1981, but its landmark limestone towers survive within the housing development on the site.

Take a detour along Marlborough Street to see several more interesting older buildings. This is a shopping centre that survived the Blitz and has continued to serve a much changed post War Devonport.

The Trail continues down New Passage Hill and into Devonport Park. In 1788-9 this was a new road, cut through the 'Dock Line' defences to serve the growing town. New Passage Hill also provided a connection to the Torpoint Ferry, established in 1791. A Trail-spur detour takes in Pottery Quay and an artwork by David Harbott. The floating bridge ferries cross regularly to Torpoint and Cornwall.

Devonport Park

41. Park Entrance & Commemorative Stone, 1858
42. Defences - 18th & 19th Century 'Dock Lines'
43. Naval Brigades & Boer War
44. Former Higher Lodge Park Pavilion, built 1894-5
45. Bandstand & Military Band Concerts
46. *Blitz - gas de-contamination & mask testing*
- 46a. *Welcome to Devonport Park - Milne Place*
47. *Great War Memorial - unveiled by Lord Methuen*
48. *D-Day Invasion 1944 - US Army Camp*
49. *Blitz - Air Raid Shelters in the Park*
50. Thanking the Friends of Devonport Park
51. Celebrating historic British heroes & victories
52. Park Lodge - Park Keeper's residence
53. Admiral Sir Charles Napier - 'Sailor's Champion'
54. Duke of Edinburgh commands HMS *Galatea*, 1867-71

Fore Street

55. Drawbridge - on main road into Dock-Devonport
- 55a. *Welcome Hall - Devonport Youth*

Raglan Road

56. A fanfare for the Plymouth Music Zone
57. Army barracks - Raglan Barracks Gatehouse

Cumberland Road & Devonport Hill

58. Guardhouse on Devonport Hill
59. Drawbridge - on road from Stonehouse

Devonport Park:

New Passage Hill - Devonport Park - Brickfields

Guarded draw-bridges once controlled access to the town of Plymouth Dock - Devonport, and the security of the Naval Dockyard. These were located on Fore Street, Devonport Hill and at New Passage Hill. This section of the Trail links all three sites.

At New Passage Hill, there is a stepped entrance to Devonport Park dating from 1857-8. To avoid the steps carry on down to Ferry Road, climbing uphill towards Park Avenue. The Lower Park, which slopes steeply down to the River Tamar, was left isolated by the construction of Park Avenue in the 1950s.

Devonport Park is 'Registered' by English Heritage as a Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest. It is the oldest formal public park in the City. Restoration work and major improvements carried out between 2008 and 2011 have created a 'People's Park' for today. The fascinating history of the Park is told on separate 'Park Panels' displayed on route.

By following the Trail way-markers you will get to see many of the Park's unique historic buildings, monuments and memorials. Look carefully, and you will even discover the earth mounds that mark the sites of underground air raid shelters built during the Second World War.

However, feel free to detour off the Trail route and enjoy all the Park has to offer. (Look out for off-route way-markers). Make sure to visit the new Park Pavilion building and café. Here you will see a glass and textile artwork by Carole Waller and another photo-montage by David Harbott. The Devonport Memorial to the soldiers, sailors and airmen who lost their lives in the Great War of 1914-18, stands close by. Alongside are two stone benches by artist Michael Disley, carved by the Friends of the Park and City College students.

Leave the Park via the main Fore Street gates, passing the Swiss style Lower Park Lodge, dating from 1858. Make sure to visit the three Victorian memorials nearby.

To complete the Trail, follow the old military road, now Raglan Road and Madden Road, past the Gatehouse to Raglan Barracks, built in the 1850s. On descending Devonport Hill - the Napoleonic Guardhouse of 1811, the drawbridge 'cutting' and Bluff Battery, built 1779-80 to guard Stonehouse Bridge, are further reminders of Devonport's heritage and historic defences.



Devonport Heritage Trail

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; starting at Admiral's Hard in Stonehouse to connect with the Plymouth Waterfront Walkway and the Cremyll Ferry - linking Devon and Cornwall.

Crossing into Devonport via the 18th century Stonehouse Creek Bridge, the route 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 then 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. The Trail itself continues through Devonport Park and returns towards Stonehouse by way of the Brickfields and Devonport Hill.



'The Town-Hall, Column & Library', c.1829 Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery

Following the Trail

The Heritage Trail is way-marked by over 70 numbered and themed Devonport Plaques, designed by Cornish artists Gary and Thomas Thrussell.

On route, there are four Heritage Trail Panels - each focussing on a different part of the route. These Panels can be found at Mount Wise, Cumberland Gardens, North Corner and in Devonport Park. Look out too for the specially commissioned art works by local and national artists who worked in the area during 2009/10.

If you venture off-trail, there are additional way-markers to be discovered - some already in place and some planned. Look out for these around Mount Wise, at Pembroke Street, within the central Vision Development and in Devonport Park.

The Devonport Heritage Trail is about 7.5km (4miles) long, but it can be easily explored bit by bit. 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 mostly fully accessible to all - with just a short detour to avoid steps into Devonport Park at New Passage Hill. Stay safe, and enjoy discovering Devonport.

Look overleaf to find a section by section description of the Trail route, and a full list of the way-markers.

The list also includes the off-route Plaques. They are shown in sequence and are identified in *italics*, but you will have to detour to discover them.

The four main Trail sections are colour coded to correspond with the Trail Map.



The Artists

Michael Disley - stone carving artist, Huddersfield

The "School Of Rock" gave the opportunity to first time stone carvers of all ages to create a bench for the heritage trail. Michael worked with 5 groups on 5 large stones over 5 months. With a little encouragement, each group produced a design, picked up their chisels and carved. Michael was genuinely amazed at the commitment and the real quality of the benches produced. They will hopefully be enjoyed for years to come.



David Harbott - artist, based in Torbay

His twelve works are found alongside the scenes they depict. Using digital collage techniques, David's compositions of past and present make visible the presence of change both within the locations and for the people that, over time and to this day, have lived and worked in the local area.



Thrussell and Thrussell - artists metalsmiths, from Bodmin Moor

Gary and Thomas produced the distinctive Heritage Trail way-markers. "Creating community heritage artwork is a passion for us. After researching the town's history and meeting the community, we were astonished by the amount of history in Devonport. It was a great pleasure creating the heritage trail 'Plaques'. We will forever have a great respect for the town of Devonport - with its rich history, its astonishing contributions to the county and the world beyond".



Carole Waller - painter, working just outside Bath

Carole makes large scale paintings which are connected to specific locations through ideas and images. Her installation at Devonport Pavilion is a painting on cloth - laminated in glass and lit from behind. "I hope the installation will inspire happiness in the present tense - in the pleasure of moving through this lovely park with its light, its growth, renovation, the loving care with which its friends and volunteers develop it, in the Park's history and its present - in its dog and people friendly loveliness."



Devonport - detail from a 'Three Towns' Map, c.1825 Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery



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

Parks Services 01752 606034 or Arts Services on 01752 307315 www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/creativityandculture/artdevelopment/publicarts.htm

Design and text by Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery cover image: 'Devonport and the Hamoaze from Mount Edgcumbe', c.1850 Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery

Devonport Heritage Trail

