

Plotting Plymouth's Past

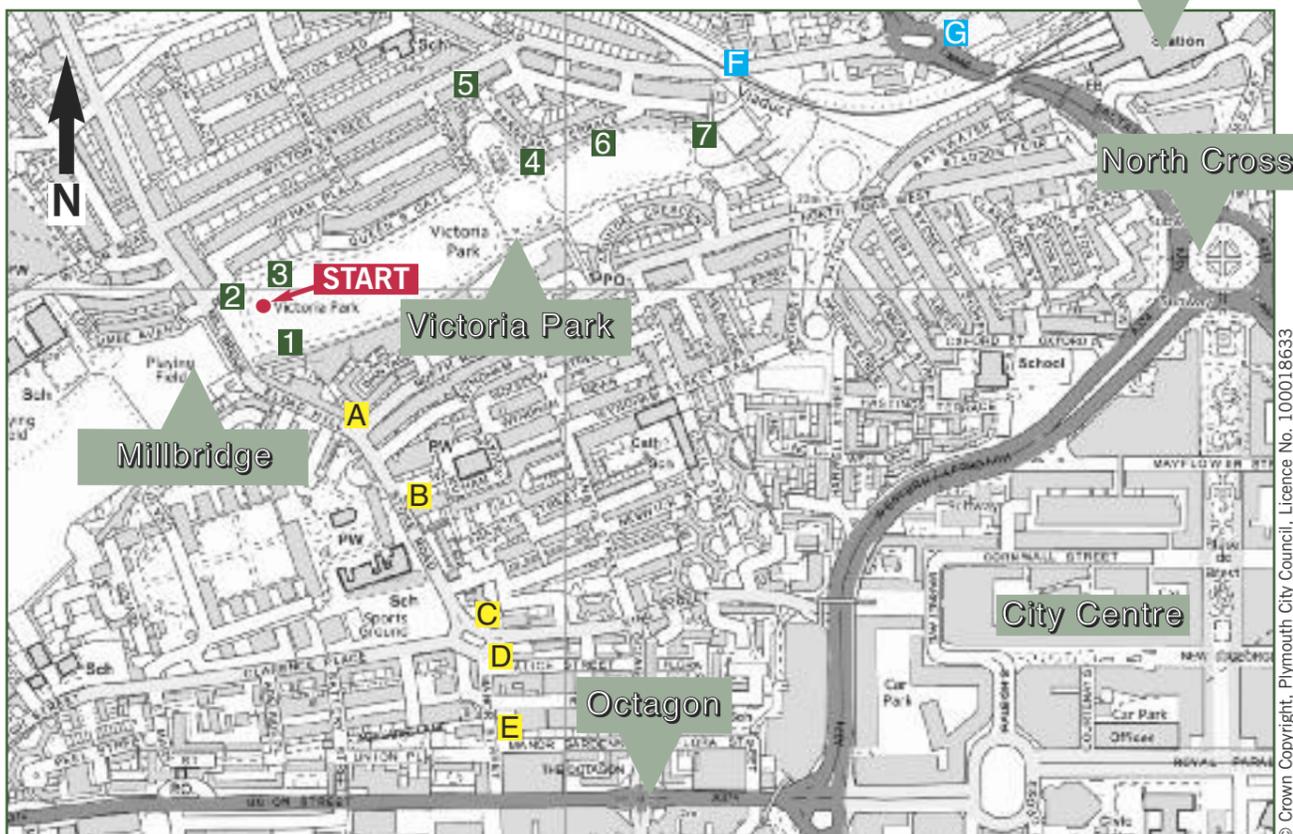
Victoria Park and Environs Three Towns Boundary Stone Trail

Railway Station

Victoria Park sits at the head of a tidal creek, once stretching inland from the town quay at East Stonehouse to Pennycomequick. In about 1525, the eastern end of the creek was dammed and a tide mill built on the causeway - still known as Millbridge. The site of Victoria Park was the mill pond; also known as the 'Deadlake'.

When Victoria Park was first opened, on 8 October 1902, it was something of a unique enterprise; involving Plymouth County Borough, Devonport County Borough and East Stonehouse Urban District.

The Three Towns Amalgamation Centenary Stone, unveiled on 1 November 2014, stands near the Millbridge end of Victoria Park. It marks the only place where the boundaries of all Three Towns met. Victoria Park is also the best place in Plymouth to find municipal boundary stones. This short trail will help you discover the 10 boundary stones still to be found in the Park. A short detour will lead you to another two. If you feel more ambitious, read on for two extended trails from Victoria Park - one to Pennycomequick, one to Union Street.



Victoria Park Three Towns Boundary Stone Trail

1. Nr. Polruan Terrace - SW Millbridge corner of Park (BS ES 29 & BS PC 11): Keep the SW Park entrance piers and the red brick houses of Polruan Terrace on the right. Opposite No.1, the last house in the terrace, is a pair of boundary stones. One stone is inscribed **East Stonehouse / 1883**, erected by Stonehouse Local Board to mark the boundary of the once separate town of Stonehouse. Its partner marks the Plymouth boundary and, like all Plymouth stones, features the Plymouth coat of arms; the cross of St Andrew and the four towers of Plymouth's medieval castle. Below is the name of the mayor and the year of his mayoralty, also the date of the stone's erection - in this case **F A Morrish / 1881**.

2. Exit to Hotham Place - NW Millbridge corner of Park (BS DB 17; BS PC 12 & BS PC 13): An entrance path runs alongside a flat roofed building. Look left of the decorative brick gate piers to find a Devonport County Borough (DCB) boundary stone, bearing the coat of arms of Devonport and inscribed **D C B / St Levan / Mayor / 1891**. Alongside is a Plymouth boundary stone, inscribed **J C C / 1840 / V**. The initials stand for Joseph C. Cookworthy. The Roman numeral 'V' may indicate this was the fifth in a series of stones that originally marked out the medieval boundary of Plymouth.

Start at the Three Towns Amalgamation Centenary Stone

Another Plymouth stone stands just a few metres away, across the path, up against a wall and part hidden by shrubs. It is inscribed **W Law / 1893**.

3. Boundary wall - to back gardens off Hotham Place (BS PC 14): Against the wall, behind a row of trees, is a full height Plymouth stone inscribed **W Law / 1893 / 6 FEET NORTH**. In this case, the stone could not be erected on the actual line of the boundary. Instead, it gives the distance to the boundary - located in the gardens of the nearby houses.

4. Park Lodge, nr. St Barnabas Terrace (BS PC 18 & BS PC 19): In the middle of the Park is the distinctive Park Lodge, dated 1901. On the north side is the entrance into what was once a small tidal creek. Look immediately right. Close to the boundary wall is a Plymouth stone - **E James / 1879**. Follow the wall right for a short distance to another Plymouth boundary stone, partly hidden by ivy - **W Law / 1893**.

Option to exit the Park near here - taking a short, slightly uphill walk along St Barnabas Terrace, turning left onto the cobbled lane behind the houses fronting Wilton Street.

5. Off St Barnabas Terrace - back lane to Wilton Street (BS DB 16 & BS PC 17): A pair of municipal stones will be found on the right-hand side - near the back of No.46. A Devonport stone - **D C B / St Levan / Mayor / 1891** is partnered by an older Plymouth stone - **VII / J C C / 1840**.

Return to the Park via the St Barnabas Terrace entrance.

6. In front of St Barnabas Terrace (BS PC 20): Off the main path, just beyond the row of trees and in line with No.21 St Barnabas Terrace. A Plymouth stone inscribed **W Law / 1893**.

At the east end of the Park is a large steel sculpture, mounted on the piers of a railway viaduct that once crossed the head of the Stonehouse Creek. The sculpture is 'Moor' (1990), by the Turner Prize winning artist Richard Deacon.

7. NE Corner of Park (BS PC 22): A narrow path connects the Park to Stuart Road. At the Park end of this footpath is a Plymouth boundary stone inscribed **J W S Godding / 1913**.

Option here to head out of the Park, via Stuart Road, to Pennycomequick and discover two more municipal stones.

To Union Street

Leave Victoria Park via the SW entrance at Millbridge and head south up Eldad Hill. Just outside the Park gate, beneath the shop window, is the street sign for Carlton Terrace - a reminder that this was originally in 'East Stonehouse'.

A. Eldad Hill, nr. junction with North Road West (BS PC 10): On the north side of junction, by the Compton Terrace sign, is a Plymouth stone inscribed **J C C / 1840 / IVA** - Mayor Joseph Cookworthy.

The unusual building glimpsed on the other side of the road, above the limestone wall, is a water tower associated with the former Royal Naval Hospital, opened in 1762. Continuing south along Stoke Road, the brick built sewer-vent chimney down Wyndham Lane is worth a short detour.

B. Stoke Road / Wyndham Square (BS PC 9): On the corner, on the south side of the road junction is a Plymouth stone with an unusual pyramidal top. This reads **C N / IV 1864** - Mayor Charles Norrington.

C. Stoke Road / King Street, on roundabout (BS ES 25 & BS ES 26): Keep on the footpath as it curves in front of Stoke Road Flats. By the entrance gate, in the grounds of the flats, is a pair of Stonehouse stones. The right hand stone is inscribed **Manor / of / Stonehouse**. It marked the boundary of Stonehouse Manor, also the boundary to the town. Next to it is **East / Stonehouse / 1883**, a stone

erected by Stonehouse Local Board.

D. King Street to Manor Street, nr. roundabout (BS PC 5 & BS PC 7): On entering Manor Street and before crossing Alice Street there is a grassed area, left. Alongside the end wall of the nearby flats are two Plymouth boundary stones, relocated together after road improvements. One is inscribed **III / A / 1860 / J B** - the JB for John Burnell. The other is inscribed **H J Waring / 1890**.

The east side of Manor Street was in Plymouth, the west side in Stonehouse.

E. Manor Gardens, off Manor Street (BS ES 23): Immediately on the left is an early Stonehouse stone - **Manor / of / Stonehouse / 26 F. 10 I. / Eastward** - showing the distance and direction of the actual boundary.

Step back onto Manor Street and continue towards the former Palace Theatre on Union Street. As the name suggests, Union Street was constructed by John Foulston to better connect the Three Towns. If you look west along Union Street, Foulston's Devonport Column stands straight ahead.

Follow Union Street eastward to the City centre.

To Pennycomequick

Leave Victoria Park via the footpath in the north east corner.

F. Stuart Road Railway Bridge (PMM GWR 4): Not all Plymouth's boundary stones are municipal. On the east side of the bridge arch, in proximity to the pedestrian steps, is a cast iron Great Western Railway (GWR) 'bobbin' type boundary post, dated **1904**. This marks the edge of the strip of land first acquired by the Cornwall Railway and later owned and operated by the GWR.

G. Saltash Road, Pennycomequick (BS DB 13 & BS PC 30): On the Station side, near the pedestrian crossing lights. Behind the fence are two more boundary stones. The Devonport stone is inscribed **D C B / St Levan / Mayor / 1891**. Its partner is a Plymouth stone - **T S / 1855 / 12** - the TS for Mayor Thomas Stephens. Although the boundary was in this location, both stones have been relocated together here.

Head south, under the railway bridge, for the City centre.



Plotting Plymouth's Past



The City's surviving boundary stones, mileposts and other markers add great interest to the local landscape. There were once over 1000 stones and markers across the wider City of Plymouth area, but many have been lost through redevelopment. The 'Plotting Plymouth's Past' project aims to raise awareness and interest in the surviving stones, helping to safeguard them into the future.



Stoke Damerel Manor (PPP-BSDB 21)



Plympton St Mary (PPP-BS PSM 1)



War Department, Crownhill (PPP-WD SB 18)



Admiralty, Devonport (PPP-Ad DSY 7)



Stonehouse Leat & Banks (PPP-LSES 1)



Robert Liscombe, Hartley (PPP-PMM RL 3)

Three Towns

The City of Plymouth provides a unique assemblage of boundary stones. The historic Three Towns of Plymouth, Devonport and East Stonehouse were quite separate until the amalgamation in 1914. Surrounding parishes were steadily absorbed into the growing towns, and neighbouring villages and towns now form part of the modern City. These towns and parishes all erected boundary stones.



left: Plymouth Corporation (PPP-BSPC 9)



middle: Devonport County Borough (PPP-BSDB 10)



right: East Stonehouse (PPP-BSES 29)

What Else Makes Plymouth Unique?

There has long been a military presence and the military erected their own boundary stones. Plymouth remains home to the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and the Army. For over 70 years there was also a Royal Air Force establishment. The sites of barracks, bases, depots, dockyards, fortifications and other facilities, past and present, are dotted across the City.



War Department, Stonehouse (PPP-WD EKR 8)



left: Nazareth House, Stonehouse (PPP-PMM NH 3)



middle: Great Western Railway (PPP-PMM GWR 12)



right: Post Office Telegraph (PPP-PMM TM 16)

Some larger private property owners also marked their boundaries, including the Great Western Railway. There is also a series of stones marking the course of the Stonehouse Leat.

Finally, there are milestones, each survivor still unique to its location.

You can help

Many surviving stones no longer mark an original boundary. Often, the original owner no longer has an interest. Few stones or markers are 'listed' or have any protection. 'Plotting Plymouth's Past' aims to raise awareness. The more people that take an interest, the better the chance of trying to keep surviving stones in situ.

Do you know of a stone or marker at risk from road works or redevelopment? Are you aware of a stone that has been uprooted or damaged?

We need you to help keep watch. Maybe you, or your local school, or a local group to which you belong, could informally 'adopt' a stone down your street - or several stones in your neighbourhood? If you feel a stone is under threat, please let us know.



Fallen War Department Stone (PPP-WD PFN 20)

Do you know of any stones or markers that we have not yet recorded?

Some stones are now on private land, even in people's gardens. Some are lost in undergrowth or buried. Please let us know if you discover a stone that we have yet to find and record.

How to Contact Us

Old Plymouth Society:

www.oldplymouthsociety.net for Society contacts.

Email: museum@plymouth.gov.uk

Head the email OPS / Plotting Plymouth's Past.

If urgent, please phone: 01752 304774 and explain it's about boundary stones.

Plotting Plymouth's Past (PPP)

Between 2012 and 2014, an up to date survey of surviving boundary stones, mileposts and markers was completed across the City of Plymouth. Over 550 stones have been surveyed. Basic details and much additional information is available at www.plymouth.gov.uk/boundarystones

Taking the Boundary Stone Trail

Follow the map overleaf to find the boundary stones. Look at the key notes for additional help in locating each stone and for further information, including the PPP database reference number.

Choose to look for a few stones - or see if you can find them all!

When looking for stones, please take care near roads and traffic or when walking around parked cars.

A Plymouth Hoe and Environs Military & Municipal Boundary Stone Trail is also available on line.

Thanks

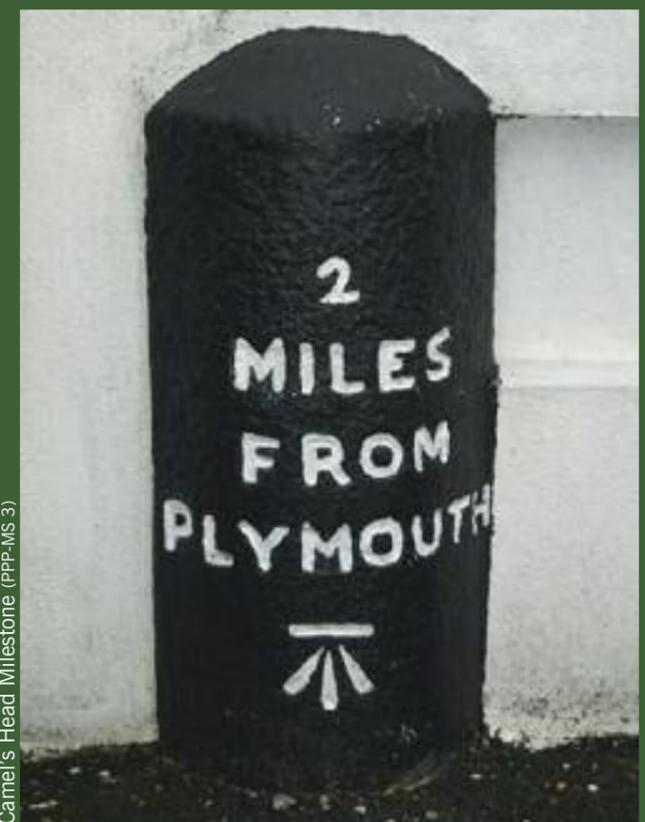
To the small team of volunteers involved and all of those who have helped along the way.

The Old Plymouth Society's 'Plotting Plymouth's Past' project was grant aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, supported by The Milestone Society and Plymouth City Council Arts and Heritage.



Plotting Plymouth's Past

Discovering Plymouth's boundary stones, mileposts and other markers



Camel's Head Milestone (PPP-MS 3)

Featuring the Victoria Park Three Towns Boundary Stone Trail