

Walking the West Devon Way

Walk 1 Radford Castle to Saltram

We start with a 6.5 mile walk to quickly exit the urban part of the West Devon Way. Its not a particularly difficult walk there are no steep hills or muddy paths but there is a bit of pavement and some minor road walking. The walk will take you all the way up to the National Trust Saltram Estate in fact passing the main entrance to the house where you can pause and make use of the café and picnic tables at approximately the half way mark.

You could park and start at Radford Castle but the Radford Dip car park is a free public car park off Mayers Way and a better place to leave your car for the day. The nearest post code is PL9 9DF. The grid reference is SX 506 525



Setting off, come out of the car park and turn left and walk on down to the metal gate.



Go through the gate and follow the well used dog walkers path keeping the stream on your right. You will quickly arrive at a bridge over the stream but don't be tempted to cross it, keep going through the woodland.



When you reach the edge of Radford Lake. Cross over a little bridge (the second one.)



Then keeping the lake on your left walk around it towards Radford Castle on the other side.



It isn't really a castle just a gate house built as a folly with castle features. It was built in about 1800 when the lake was created by the then owner John Harris. It's now (2022) somewhat derelict looking.



**Radford Castle is the start of the
West Devon Way.**

**Turn right and walk away from the castle with the
foreshore on your left along a partly un-made up road
called Kingfisher way.**



**After passing a couple of houses fork left on to a
tarmac footpath.**



Very soon you will reach a footpath cross roads with some steps in front of you. Here turn right and walk along the path, that was once a railway line, for about half a mile.



At the end of the path when you reach the road turn right and you will see a large roundabout in front of you. Walk on down to join the path/cycle track which is on the left of the roundabout hidden behind a hedge.



Go past a rhinoceros and some interesting facts about the ice age and then turn left to walk along a pavement bordering the dual carriage way (Billacombe Road).



Passing poetry on the wall



On reaching the traffic lights cross over the dual carriageway and go under the metal girder bridge.



Keep left and follow the footpath that runs next to the Plym Estuary all the way to the edge of the National Trust Saltram Estate.



On reaching the small beach and with the estuary still on your left bear left slightly and continue on the wide estate track all the way around the edge of the Saltram house estate with the river Plym still on your left



Passing an Amphitheatre



and a bird hide.



When you reach the Y junction this is as far as we go on West Devon Way. We will meet it again at the Marsh Mills Flyover.

(If you want to see all of the West Devon Way then fork left to walk up to the flyover it's less than a mile there and back. If you are not planning on doing Walk 2 then take this opportunity to go and see the concrete art (Graffiti) on the flyover (see Walk 2).

To return to the start fork right at the Y junction and follow the signs to Saltram House the Welcome Centre, café and shop.



This is the National Trust picture of Saltram house which has a Robert Adams neoclassical saloon as well as lovely gardens and parkland and is well worth a visit.



Keep going through the car park ...



...and up the concrete estate road. Be aware of cars as this is an exit road.



Eventually walking out of the estate via Stag Lodge



On exiting through the gates turn right along Colesdown Hill signposted to Wixenford.

You may have a car pass you but it's generally a quiet no-through-road that was once a busy rat run.



In about half a mile as the road bend sharply right keep straight on up the hill passing through the metal barrier.



Stay on the road which soon goes downhill all the way to the A379 dual carriageway that you walked next to an hour or so ago. Cross over using the traffic island and walk up Stentaway Road with Fairway Furniture on your right. There are bits of Stentaway road that don't have a pavement so take care.



At the top of the hill fork left and head towards Plymstock Church



that soon comes into view above the roof tops, crossing over Stanborough Road on your way.



Walk past the church.



Stay on this road passing through some bollards to walk on up to the next road. When you reach it



turn right and then immediately left up Barrow Hill which does have a Neolithic barrow on top.



In about 50m fork right off the road and into the park where you will have a magnificent view of the city.



Stay parallel with the road to go past the memorial and on reaching the white posts step back out onto Barrow hill and keep going downhill.



At the junction with Lippit road turn left and then immediately right.



Now simply keep walking down hill and soon Radford Dip carpark will come into view.



On the next walk you will meet the eye.