

Walking the West Devon Way

Walk 1 Radford Castle to Saltram



The West Devon Way begins at Radford Castle by Radford lake in Plymstock. You could park and start at Radford Castle but the Radford Dip car park is a free public car park off Mayers Way and much easier to get to and also gives you a walk by the lake to the starting point. The nearest post code is PL9 9DF.

Walk 1 is a 6.5 mile circular walk to quickly exit the urban part of the West Devon Way. It's 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 for lunch at approximately the half way mark, which makes a 6.5 mile walk much easier.



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



Go through the gate and follow the path through the woodland keeping the stream on your right and going past a small bridge.



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



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 (2026) and somewhat derelict looking but this is where the West Devon Way starts.



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.

The NT call it the Riverside Walk.



You will pass an Amphitheatre



and a bird hide.



When you reach the Y junction this is as far as we go on the West Devon Way. We will meet it again on Walk 2 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).

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 on the exit road ...



....and up the concrete estate road. Be aware of cars on this road.



Eventually walking out of the estate via Stag Lodge



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

Due to major works on Colesdown Hill this road is being used as a diversion and is much busier than usual.



In about half a mile as the road bend sharply right keep straight on up the hill. (The metal barrier has been temporarily removed).



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. Take care when passing the road works. 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 again 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.