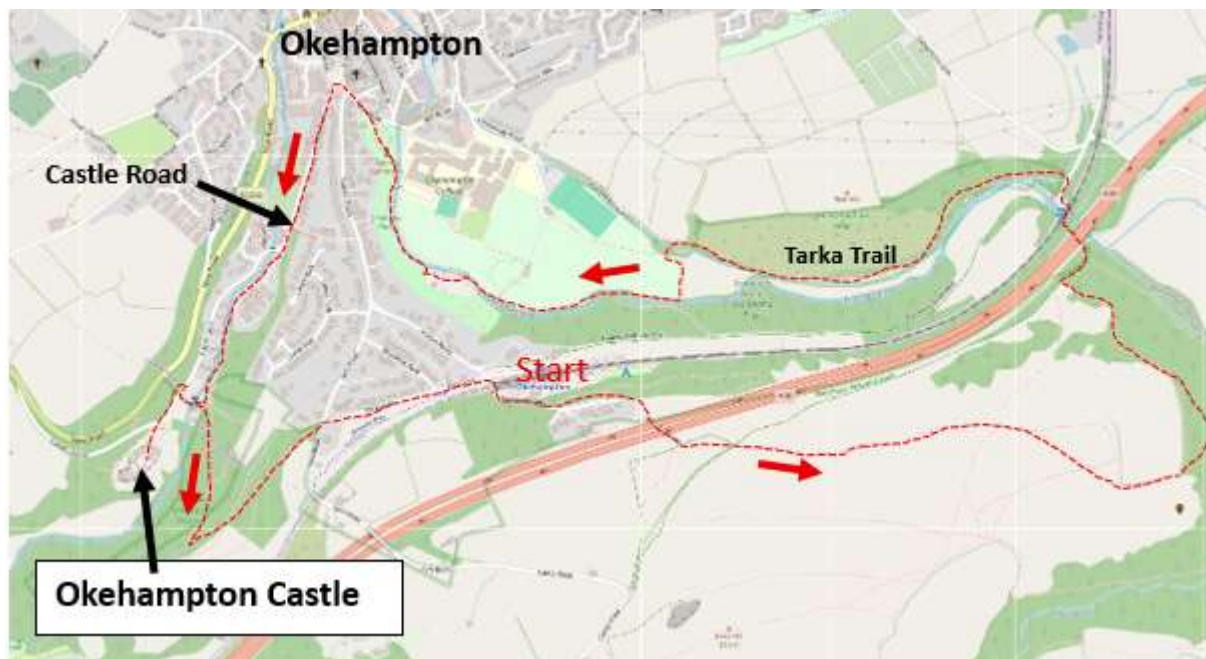


Okehampton Castle and the Tarka Trail



This 4.2 mile walk starts in the Dartmoor car park next to the Granite Way Café (EX20 1EW) which is located at Okehampton Station on the other side of the railway lines. To reach it drive past the entrance to the station go under the bridge and take the first left turn.

The walk will take you high up above Okehampton where you will have a panoramic view of the Mid Devon Countryside. You will walk through an Iron Age Hill fort and visit a Norman castle and perhaps stop for a coffee in Okehampton.



Walk back out to the road and turn left and walk up the hill until you reach a gate on your left.



Go through the gate.



Keep right at the fork in the path



Quite quickly you will reach a junction. Here turn right walk up the hill past the bench and up to the motorway bridge.



Go over the bridge and turn left



Go through the gate and keep straight on and stay on this path all the way to the top of the hill without turning left or right.



Most of the way it's a very wide well walked path. Remember to keep straight on even when it looks too narrow.



When you reach the way marker post fork right.



You have now reached the end of footpath 13 and need to walk through the hill fort to reach footpath 27 about 150yards away on the next corner of the enclosure on your left. To get to it you could push through the gorse and walk along the fence line but it is less scratchy if you make a minor detour. Go around the fence and fork right.



When the track you are on opens out to a cross road of tracks go sharply left and walk down the hill. You are walking through a promontory hill fort or defended settlement of likely Iron Age date.



Follow the path down hill through the bracken and gorse to a fence on your left. Then follow the fence line to a stile.



Go over the stile and walk steeply down hill and go over another stile.



When you reach a wide track turn right



When you reach the next wide track go left and walk under the motorway bridge. You are now on the Tarka Trail.



Go through the gate and turn right to go over Charlotte's bridge and follow the path/road around two bends.



Then turn left into Ball Hill Footpath Woodland Route West and follow the riverside path (Tarka Trail) for half a mile.



When you reach the next pedestrian gate ignore it and turn left instead.



Go over the bridge and keep going with the playing field on your right until you reach the river. Then with the river on your left walk on through the woodland.



Ignore the next bridge and keep going through Platts Meadow.



When you reach the play park turn left to go over the bridge into Simmonds Park. Turn right and with the river on your left walk through the park...



..and out of the gate and keep going along the pavement.



Take the second left and walk to the end of Castle road but not over the bridge.



Go through the entrance to Castle Ham Lodge and bear right to walk next to the river.



Now is your opportunity to visit Okehampton Castle. Turn right over the bridge walk up to the road.



Turn left and you will see the castle in front of you. Having explored the castle, and it is free for you to walk around, retrace your steps back over the bridge.



Turn right then fork left to walk up through the wood to a road.



Turn left and walk along the road for less than 100m until you reach a bench.



**Just past the bench fork
right and follow the path all
the way to a road.**



**When you reach the road go
straight across into a private road
and walk all the way to the end.**



**Turn right go under the bridge
and back to your car.**