



# British Walking Federation

## PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL TRAIL ORGANISED BY THAMES VALLEY WALKING CLUB

**CONTACT:** Di Renton, 10 Fernside Park, Tremar, Coombe, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 5HY

Tel: 01579 344281 Email: [k9r@btinternet.com](mailto:k9r@btinternet.com)

**DISTANCE:** 19km

**ENTRY FEE:** £1.00 per walker (Cheques made payable to Thames Valley Walking Club)

**AWARD:** Cloth badge at £2.50 each.

**START VENUE:** Life Centre, Milehouse Road, Plymouth, Devon PL2 3DG.

**DIRECTIONS TO START:** From the A38 take the A386 (Manadon) exit signed 'Plymouth Argyle Football Club'. Follow the signs for PAFC and Park & Ride signs (approx 1 mile from A38), then sign for Life Centre. You will see the football ground and large car park on your left. Take the next left (Mayflower Drive) and follow sign for parking.

**CAR PARKING:** At the Start (Free).

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Train: Plymouth train station is about a 15-minute walk from the Plymouth Life Centre site, via Alma Road or through Central Park. Alternatively there is a taxi rank just outside the station and a bus stop a few minutes' walk away on Saltash Road (over the footbridge).

Bus: Buses to Central Park

**TERRAIN:** Urban areas, roads and coastal paths

**REFRESHMENTS:** There are numerous pubs, cafes, shops etc along the route.

### ROUTE DESCRIPTION (Updated 29 December 19)

Make your way to the junction of Mayflower Drive & Outlands Road. Cross Outlands Road & turn left. At Scott Road junction *note plaque on wall.*

Continue straight on. At traffic lights go ahead into Milehouse Road, straight on uphill & continue ahead to reach traffic lights. Cross Ford Hill & continue straight on up Packington Street & ahead into park with Trig Pillar ahead. Take middle path and follow round to left, passing play ground on your right. (*The fort on your left is one of a series around Plymouth to protect the city from a possible French invasion.*) Follow around to reach the fort entrance.

#### Q.1 On the Information Board for Mount Pleasant Redoubt, Under Arms how many Cannons?

Take exit, turn left on road & at junction with Devonport Road turn left, then turn right into Church Street. Continue straight ahead at cross roads into Underhill Road. At T junction turn right over railway then immediately turn first left. (*Note the bullet & blast holes in the metal bridge where a German Me 109 shot at a train during WW2.*)

Follow road passing flats on the right to the bottom of hill. Turn left to traffic lights. Turn right into Molesworth Road, passing Mill Bridge pub on right. Go ahead & cross road at zebra crossing turn right to read plaque re Mill Bridge. (*This was the scene of two battles on the same day during the Civil War. The forces of King Charles twice stormed the Bridge but were twice repulsed.*) Re-cross road into Edgcombe Avenue.

(*At gate in corner of fence on left look across playing fields. The buildings were the Royal Naval Hospital, before being closed. The stone steps in front of you was a military hospital [now a school]. The fields between the two was a tidal creek that was crossed by Mill Bridge linked to the River Tamar. During Victorian wars, wounded servicemen would be brought from ships anchored in the river up the creek to their respective hospitals.*)

Follow around keeping fence on left to reach main road. Cross road, turn right & go into small park, follow path to the left & up steps passing Stoke Damerel church on left. From church grounds turn right &

go to old railway footbridge in left corner, turn left after bridge into Providence Place (sign at far end) then right onto Paradise Road passing PH on right. (*Below to the left is the site of what was Devonport's main railway station, note the original GWR railings which were left in situ during WW2 & not added to the war effort in case people fell off the edge. Just before traffic lights look over wall on the right to see tunnel entrance.*)

Go ahead to traffic lights cross junction & turn right into Devonport Park, follow left hand path uphill to junction by cafe [toilets at rear also dog friendly] turn left and ahead to Boer War memorial gun.

## **Q.2 On the notice board, The Doris Gun is a Memorial to how many Sailors?**

Take path behind Memorial towards houses go through fence, turn left with small park on right, keep on path & follow to road. Turn left into St Nazaire Approach (sign at far end) and onwards to main road, go straight ahead into Ragland Road using crossing. Continue ahead through bollards, passing gatehouse on right. (*This was the gatehouse of Raglan barracks*). Continue ahead on road to reach main road. Cross road & turn right.

At bus stop bear left into Theatre Ope. (*The imposing building ahead was Devonport's town hall until its amalgamation with Plymouth.*) Turn left into George Street. Continue ahead & turn right into Clowance Street. Continue ahead to T junction. (*On the other side of the high wall you can see the gable end of the old rope store. Just before the rope store there is also a last working gallows*).

Turn left & continue on path, Turn left signed cycle route to Stonehouse follow approx 90m At the viewing point (*To your right is a ship's wooden figurehead locally known as 'King Billy'. It was during the reign of King William that the large stone building across the water to your left, the Victualling Yard / William yard was completed, and named after him. The large shed behind Billy was used for the building and refitting of wooden warships.*) Ahead to reach steps on left, go up steps then gravel path straight on to reach Mount Wise 2001 info board. Go ahead up grassy track around to left. Turn right to go up Mount Wise Observation Tower to enjoy the views. Exit the Tower turn right to join tarmac path by seat, down hill turn left onto path and ahead to Scott of the Antarctic Memorial (a local hero).

## **Q.3 On the base is a plaque, when was the Memorial Re-Dedicated.?**

Go down steps to gate. Turn Left continue ahead along path to reach pavement & continue to reach roundabout, turn right. At next roundabout turn right into Durnford Street & uphill. (*The coat of arms on the wall is that of Stonehouse, which was once a separate town to both Plymouth & Devonport.*)

At the top of the hill bear right into Cremyll Road. Follow ignoring side turnings passing toilets on left and Cremyll passenger ferry to Cornwall on right. After passing old crane turn right keeping water on right as you pass back of buildings. Bear right keeping the water on your right. Go onto decking outside of Royal William Yard. Follow decking around corner, over swing bridge if in position. If not, walk around small basin & back to the other end of the swing bridge. Keeping water on your right walk towards long set of steps, up steps & follow path around to left. Between viewing stands on right is Plymouth Defences Board

## **Q.4 When was Fort Bovisand completed ?**

Keeping water on your right walk past gun emplacements & past a car park, then follow road to Artillery tower and continue on road past toilets. Take foot path on right. Continue past the blue gates of Nazareth House on right & straight on past St Paul's Church into Durnford Street. (*All the quotes on brass plates in the pavement are from Sherlock Homes, more info at No 93*).

Continue past Stonehouse Barracks & take next right into Barrack Place. Continue ahead along Millbay Road to roundabout & straight on to smaller roundabout. Bear right into Citadel Road. (*This was the site of Plymouth's old main railway station, note the two large hotels that used to serve the station. Read the plates on the gate post on your right about Millbay prison*).

Go up Citadel Road. Take first right into Prospect Place (no sign). As road narrows continue ahead past concrete bollard on what becomes a footpath. At road continue ahead & at Elliot Street turn right onto Plymouth Hoe.

Go straight on to reach Beatles Board opposite lamp post

#### **Q.5 What date was the photo taken ?**

On your left ( *is Smeaton tower, the old Eddystone light house*). Continue ahead down steps to road turn left ahead passing Tinside lido on right then at pedestrian crossing cross road turn left on pavement. At roundabout bear right along Madeira Road. The road bends left passing Duttons on right, in approx 120m go down steps signed Plymouth Boat Trips. Passing Plymouth & Devon Schools Sailing Assn & Boat House to emerge opposite Admiral MacBride PH (dog friendly). Passing the Mayflower steps on right, ahead to 'mine'. Cross road & turn right then left into Castle Street, then right into New Street, Plymouth's oldest street. Just past the Liberty Tudor House, take alleyway on right (White Lane). Turn left on Southside Street, then turn right to the quay. Turn left along the quayside, then just through black bollards turn left into Parade Ope, to T junction. Turn right on Southside Street.

#### **Q.6 On the left is Plymouth Gin Distillery. To the left of the arch on the plaque In which century was this building part of the monastery?**

Continue to T junction. Cross road & turn left on pavement, turn first right into St Andrews Street. At right bend turn left down the side of the Merchants House then turn right towards church. At the top of Finewell Street turn right and then left up St Andrews Street (*you have just walked around the Magistrates court*) & straight ahead. At top of the road bear right to pass in front of the RBS Clock Tower and into Exeter Street. Using the crossing in front of the Jurys Inn cross the road and ahead uphill passing the Alms houses on your right. Turn right into Ebrington Street.

Ahead to take fourth left into Gasking Street Go uphill round right bend and continue uphill to traffic lights. Straight on along Lipson Road 400m. Opposite Greenbank Avenue go up ramp on left into park. Take left fork, then right fork, straight on to left of shelter then bear left to memorial. (*You are now at Plymouth's Civil War Memorial at Freedom Fields, the site of a civil war battle*).

#### **Q.7 Who was the General to the King?**

Behind the memorial go towards house with sign 'Queens Gate Villas' & continue past it to main road. Turn left on Queens Road. Continue along Kensington Road around left bend & turn left past telephone box. (*The square stone building you pass on your right was a Victorian prison.*) At road junction, turn right passing fire station on right . At traffic lights follow pavement around to right and cross the road (Alexandra Road) using the crossing. Ahead to almost immediately turn left to cross main road. Turn Right, and continue straight ahead at traffic lights past Mutley Baptist Church on your left to reach Hyde Park public house on your right.

Bear left & continue ahead on Hyde Park Road. At Gabriel's Church, turn left down Peverell Terrace. At T-junction turn right and at bottom of hill turn left between stone pillars into park. From the stone gate posts of Central Park opposite Barn Park Road, go straight on up the tarmac avenue. At the end turn left with car park on your right, pass Plymouth Argyle football ground on your left to reach the Life Centre and the end of the walk.

When you have completed this trail please use the [Permanent Trail Entry Form](#)

The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

This trail is registered until 31 December 2020