

Plymouth's Waterfront Walkway

This section of the South West Coast Path takes us through parts of the largest city on the South Coast of England - Plymouth. This modern yet historically significant maritime city is an accumulation of several once very separate towns - Plymouth, Stonehouse, Devonport and Plympton as well as numerous villages, including Cattedown, Oreston, Hooe and Turnchapel, each of which this walk passes through.

This walkway begins at Admiral's Hard, and assumes that you have crossed from Cornwall into Devon on the Cremyll Ferry. This crossing from Cremyll into Plymouth's Georgian Stonehouse area is a very ancient and pleasant one and offers fine views of the entrance to the Tamar - the Hamoaze - and the lower reaches of Devonport, as well as Drake's Island and Plymouth Sound.

As you then begin to follow in the footsteps of famous explorers, pioneers and artists, you will encounter iconic naval buildings, breath-taking views over the natural harbour of Plymouth Sound and the intriguing characteristics of the former towns and villages that make up this original marine city.

If you are open to small detours from the path, you will discover further delights of vibrant marinas, charming cobbled streets and plenty of friendly places for refreshments.

Those visiting Plymouth Hoe for the first time will doubtless marvel at how close this attractive public open space is to one of the world's finest natural harbours so why not explore some of the city's rich heritage or experience Plymouth from the water.

Copies of this booklet can be obtained from Public Rights of Way, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth PL1 3BJ. Tel: 01752 304233, email: pro@plymouth.gov.uk or Tourist Information Centre, 3 to 5 The Barbican, Plymouth PL1 2LR. Tel: 01752 306330



The text and contemporary line drawings in this booklet are by Plymouth artist and historian Chris Robinson who has a shop in a 400 year old building just up from the Elizabethan House in New Street. Chris has written over 20 books on the city and most of the photographs here are also taken from his publications.

For more information see www.chrisrobinson.co.uk
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The South West Coast Path from Admiral's Hard to Jennycliff.

Look out for the SWCP Acorn on lampposts which mark the route.

Admiral's Hard	4-5
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Hooe Lake	26-27
Mount Batten	28-29
Jennycliff	30-31

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- S F Start and finish points
- 1 Points of interest
- Outstanding views
- European Marine Site

A guide to Plymouth's Waterfront Walkway

Covering 630 miles of coast from Minehead to Poole, the South West Coast Path National Trail leads you through diverse landscapes, all with their own unique story to tell. You can find out more and download hundreds of short and long walks from www.southwestcoastpath.com

Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries

The diverse shores and coastal waters of Plymouth Sound and estuaries are of European importance for the special range of plants and animals they support. Designated as a **European Marine Site** under the Natura 2000 initiative, Plymouth Sound and estuaries form part of a vital network of important sites that go right round Europe and have the highest protection.

There were numerous Viking raids on the Tamar Valley in the first millennium AD, the last of which was in 997. A Scandinavian memorial on Plymouth Hoe marked the 1,000th anniversary.



Admiral's Hard

1Km/0.6 Miles



Edgcombe, Elviras - Beryl Cook



1 Admiral's Hard

For 200 years the Cremyll Ferry has run between South East Cornwall and South West Devon, although for centuries Cremyll and the whole of the Rame Peninsula was in Devon (it was ceded to better protect the entrance to the important route to the trading ports of the Tamar which today separates the two counties). The ancient ferry route was moved to this point in the 1820s following the start of the Admiralty works on the Royal William Victualling Yard. The new sloping, stone landing place was given the name Admiral's Hard and it has stuck.

3 The Vine

It is likely that the Vine was built soon after the new jetty was completed. The pub advertises itself as the first pub in Devon, which it is, but only if you enter the county via Admiral's Hard. The name harks back to a time when a picture of a grape vine or a bunch of grapes would inform those who could not read that this was a drinking establishment.



4 Strand Street

Strand Street was built on the strand – that is the land at the water's edge – and as you progress along it and into Cremyll Street you pass another nineteenth century pub – the Victualling Office Tavern, which owes its name to the neighbouring Royal William Victualling Yard.

2 Elviras Café

There has been a café here for as long as anyone can remember and was once run by Beryl Cook's son, John and his wife Teresa. Seen here, according to the artist herself, "enjoying the view she had of one of the many handsome marines who frequent the café, for they are stationed in barracks just around the corner. In the summer they sometimes arrive in sporting gear, like this vest and tiny shorts."



Off the end of Devils' Point all the water flowing in and out of the massive Tamar estuary gets squeezed through a very narrow and deep channel with depths of over 40m. Underwater the land falls away as a steep vertical underwater limestone cliff with many caves, crevices, scree slopes and ledges. This supports some particularly interesting wildlife such as the delicate feather star *Antedon bifida*.

Cricket Ground



Codeword Pavement

In the early 20th century seafarers far from home communicated with family and friends by telegraph. However messages were charged by the word and long or complicated messages could become very expensive so Captain D. H. Bernard devised 'The Nautical Telegraph Code Book'. In it, one word stood for a particular message. Look out for them as you walk as they are scattered about the path.

Ferry to the Barbican

Mayflower Marina

Mayflower Marina

Royal William Yard

Devil's Point

Firestone Bay

Stonehouse

EMMA PL

BARACK PLACE

CREMYLL ST

STRAND ST

DURNFORD STREET

POUND ST

ADMIRALTY STREET

Cremyll Ferry Terminal (Passenger)

PW

PW

P WC

P

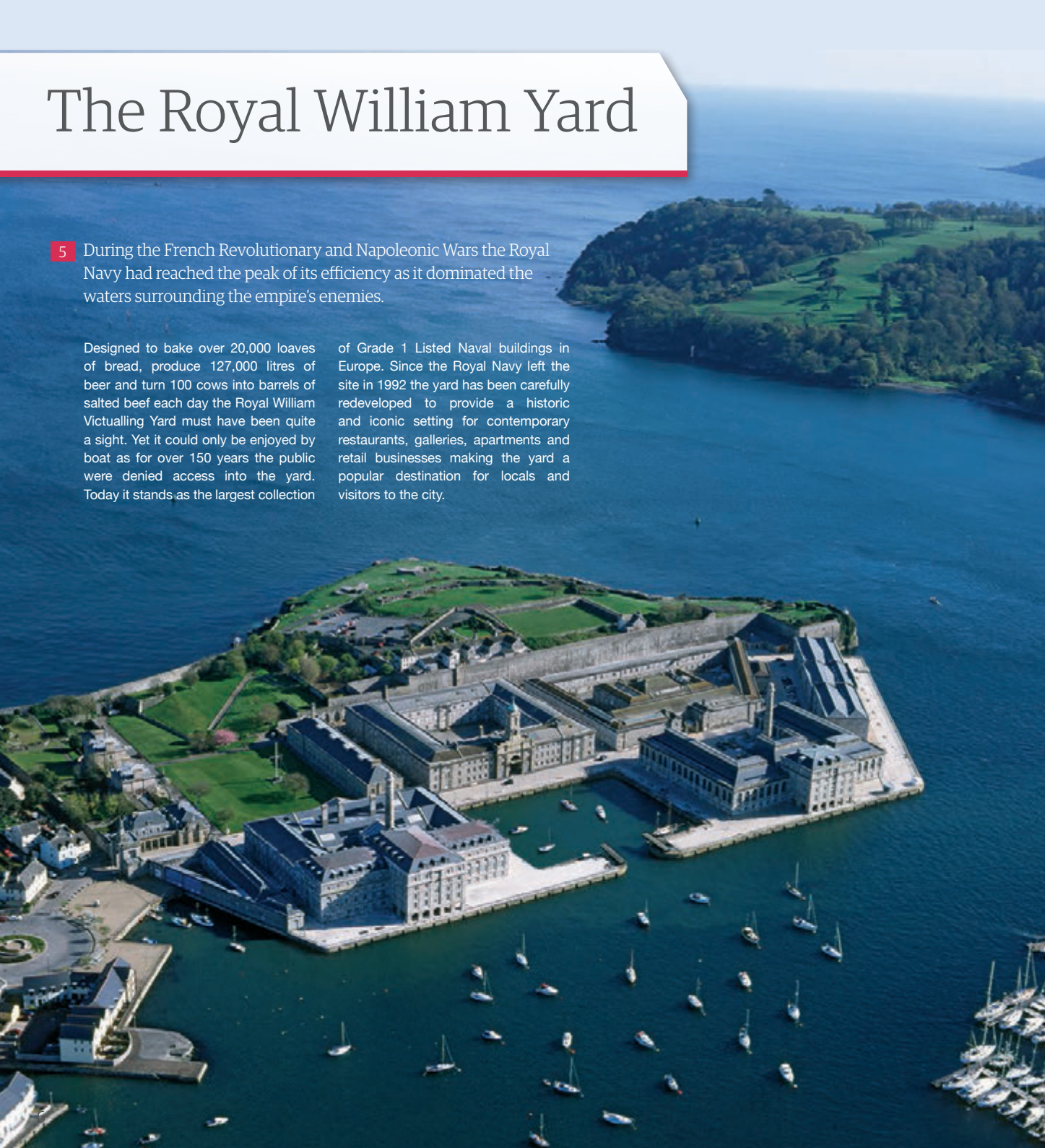
ADMIRALTY ROAD

The Royal William Yard

5 During the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars the Royal Navy had reached the peak of its efficiency as it dominated the waters surrounding the empire's enemies.

Designed to bake over 20,000 loaves of bread, produce 127,000 litres of beer and turn 100 cows into barrels of salted beef each day the Royal William Victualling Yard must have been quite a sight. Yet it could only be enjoyed by boat as for over 150 years the public were denied access into the yard. Today it stands as the largest collection

of Grade 1 Listed Naval buildings in Europe. Since the Royal Navy left the site in 1992 the yard has been carefully redeveloped to provide a historic and iconic setting for contemporary restaurants, galleries, apartments and retail businesses making the yard a popular destination for locals and visitors to the city.



6 RWY Steps

These fantastic steps were opened in June 2013 and enabled a much needed link between the Royal William Yard and Devils Point Park by overcoming the 12 metre defensive wall that surrounds the yard.

Designed by Gillespie Yunnie Architects these steps provide stunning views over the Tamar Estuary by day, whilst at night they are lit by ribbons of colour-changing LED lighting. The steps were opened by the wife of the late Eric Wallis MBE who was secretary of the South West Coast Path Association and they are dedicated to his memory in recognition of his work to protect and promote this important national trail.



Credit: Photos by Richard Downer

7 Devils Point Park

Devils Point Park is a great place to look out over the water and you are not the first to enjoy this view, after all this is a stretch of water which has hosted some big names. Had you been standing here in 1815 you might have been sharing the same view Napoleon would have enjoyed from onboard HMS Bellerophon as he waited to hear of his fate and in 1837 you might have seen Darwin pacing the decks of The Beagle as he set out on his famous voyage.

Durnford Street and Millbay Road

(distance: 0.8km/0.5 Miles)



c1780

1 Durnford Street

Here you can either head straight down Durnford Street – the 200 year old backbone of the peninsula – or you can turn right at the church and head down to Admiralty Street which will take you past the west gate to Millbay Docks. If you look south into the extension to the Royal Marine base at Stonehouse you will glimpse one of the oldest buildings on the peninsula – the Long Room: here it was in the late-eighteenth century that the local gentry and visiting royalty would venture for grand balls and other social occasions.



2 Arthur Conan Doyle

In 1882 medical student Arthur Conan Doyle, having received his Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery qualifications from Edinburgh, came to Stonehouse to join fellow ex-Edinburgh student, George Budd, in his practice in Durnford Street. Dr James Cullingworth, who makes an appearance in two of Conan Doyle's later Sherlock Holmes stories, is said to have been modelled on Budd. Quotations from the world-famous detective stories are mounted in the pavement along Durnford Street and the plaque on the steps of No. 93 commemorates this link. The practice itself was located at No. 1 Durnford Street although the original property has long since gone.

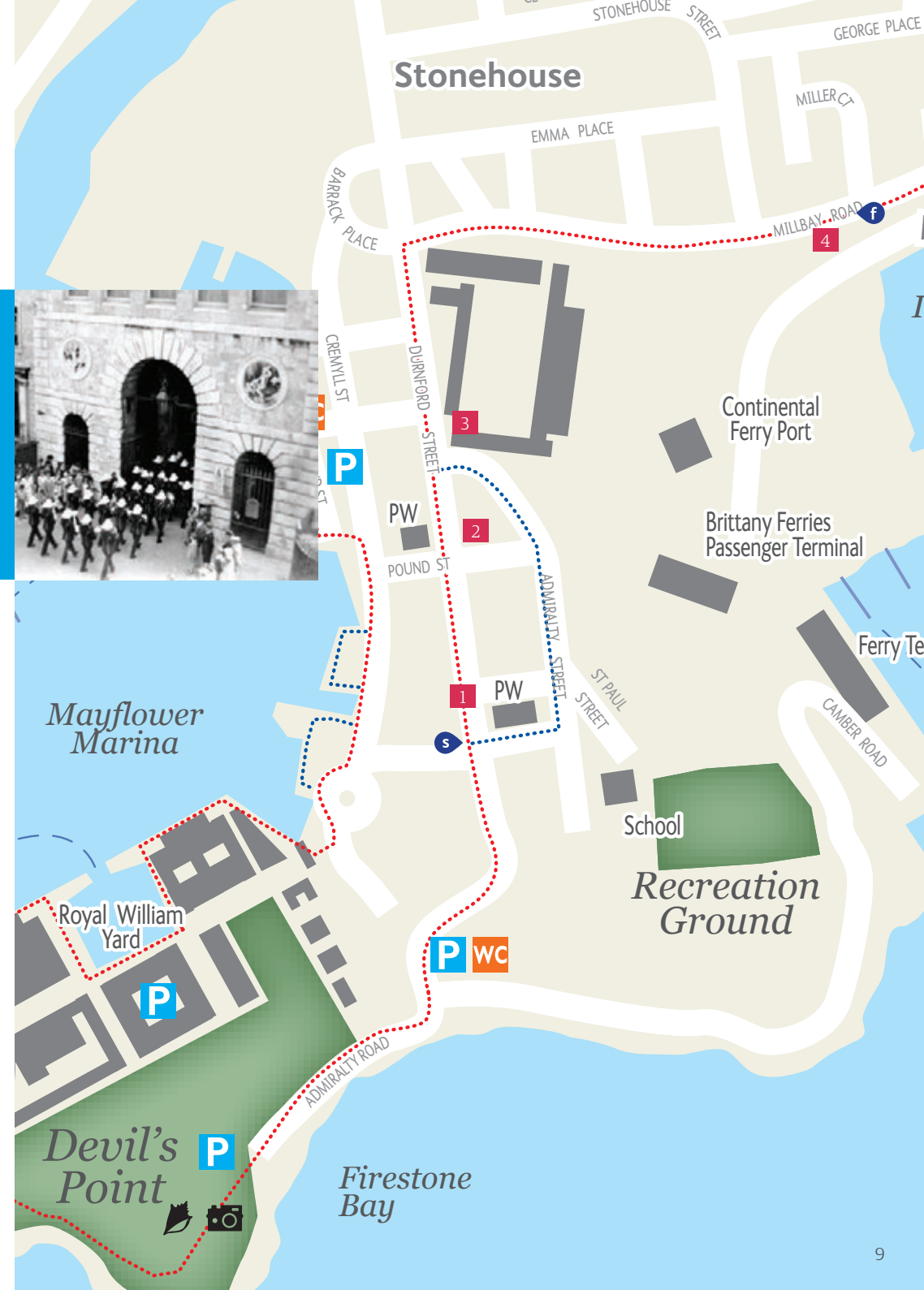
3 The Royal Marine Barracks

The first contingent of the Plymouth Division of the Royal Marines moved into their newly-built barracks here in December 1783. At that time the front elevation was some distance to the east of Durnford Street and a narrow thoroughfare, Barrack Street, densely-packed with pubs, stood between the two. In the 1860s however, most of Barrack Street was removed and the fine new imposing entrance was created.



4 Millbay Docks

At this point the view from Millbay Road looks down some distance to sea level. 200 years ago the distance was much greater however, as Stonehouse Hill, or 'Bunker's Hill' has gradually been levelled. Today the area is undergoing massive redevelopment, the first truly major overhaul since the docks were laid out in the 1840s. Isambard Kingdom Brunel was engaged as the Great Western Dock Company's engineer to plan the new dock development. Brunel was responsible for much of the Great Western, South Devon and Cornwall Railways. His wonderful ocean-going screw-steamer, the world's first, SS Great Britain pulled alongside Millbay Pier on its maiden voyage in 1845.



Millbay Docks

(distance: 0.5 km/0.3 Miles)



Race Haven

The luxury liners no longer visit the port in great numbers. However over the last 50 years Millbay has become a significant host to racing yachts as various competitions have used the harbour as a race base. Indeed, in 2011, the celebrated America's Cup competition used Plymouth, and Millbay, as their first ever British base.



"Serve God daily,
love one another,
preserve your victuals,
beware of fire and
keep good company"

1 Mill Bay

Looking over the wall here gives a good view of Millbay Docks. For centuries Millbay had been little more than a small, natural, inner harbour, deemed to be of little consequence. A substantial mill (hence the name Mill Bay) occupied a site between the main inlet and a 'sour', marshy pool that filled up at high tide. A couple of factories and a prison had appeared on the eastern side of the bay by the beginning of the nineteenth century, but it wasn't until the 1840s that the area really started to come into its own. Written on the blue railings here (when viewed from the right angle) is a famous order given by Sir John Hawkins to the fleet off northern Spain in 1564.



2 Wall of Stars

When the railway arrived here in 1849 Millbay became a key part of the local economy and was a significant factor in the sixfold increase in the population of Plymouth in the nineteenth century. Passengers making the transatlantic crossing between America and London could shave hours off their journey by swapping sea for rail here and this wall highlights some of those Hollywood stars who did exactly that.



4 Eddystone Lighthouse Pavement

On the floor here you will see how John Smeaton's Eddystone Lighthouse was put together using his revolutionary technique of interlocking stone. His lighthouse in fact stood for 123 years and was only replaced because the sea undermined its rock base! The lead nugget within the pattern tells a grizzly tale which is worth a read. To the north you will see Plymouth Pavilions, home of the Plymouth Raiders basketball team and the largest seated concert venue west of Bristol whilst to the east is the Duke of Cornwall hotel, described by John Betjeman as his favourite Victorian building.

3 Gold Bullion

All manner of imports and exports passed through Millbay the most exciting being gold bullion. It was almost an everyday occurrence to see stacks of gold bars awaiting shipment to Fort Knox guarded by a single unarmed policeman!



West Hoe

(distance: 0.8km/0.5 Miles)



1931 D32 Rodney Rusty Anchor



1 Millbay Park

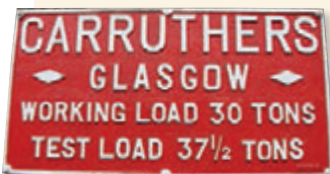
The recreation ground here occupies the site of the former Millbay Barracks, which in turn superseded the old Mill Prison where over 1,500 American sailors were held in captivity during the War for American Independence (1775-83). The park was opened for public use on 22 June 1911 and a First World War Mark IV tank was sited at the entrance to Millbay Park for a number of years between the wars which was one of 264 presented to towns and cities across the country.

2 West Hoe Road

The wall here is decorated with replica and relocated signage echoing the industrial heritage of the docks. There were two foundries at Millbay at one time, Bickle and Willoughby. Long gone now, their legacy can be seen in many drain and man-hole covers to be found in the streets of Plymouth.

3 Plymouth Lifeboat

For over 150 years the Plymouth Lifeboat has been based at Millbay Docks. A boat house and slipway were created on the western side in 1852 and in 1880 a new home was found at the entrance to the docks. Since 1926, when Plymouth's first motor vessel arrived, the lifeboat has been maintained afloat. The lifeboat station itself is housed in the harbour's oldest building, the quirky and octagonal limestone building that formerly served as a Custom's building. In April 1912 the surviving crew members of the Titanic were brought by boat to Millbay where they kept a press silence before being escorted upcountry.



4 Rusty Anchor

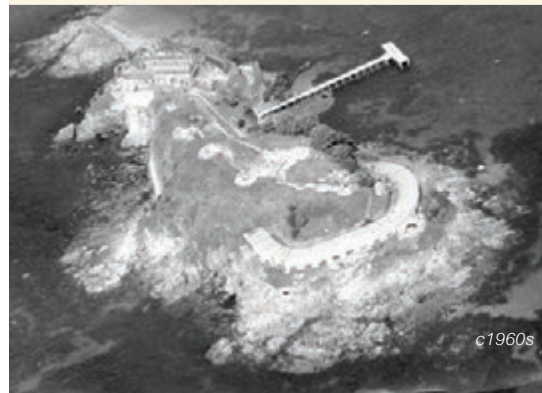
The grand terrace at Rusty Anchor was erected in the 1850s and for many years stood alone. Built for senior naval officers, the imposing central property was intended for the port admiral and has been a favourite spot to watch Royal Naval vessels on their way in and out of Devonport Dockyard. The Brittany Ferry and one or two very expensive yachts, made by Princess Yachts at Stonehouse and in the dockyard, are among the other regular attractions. Along the wall here you'll see representations of some of the Royal Navy's ships and submarines. HMS Drake, which is located upstream of Admiral's Hard, is the UK's premier naval base and the biggest in western Europe. It plays a vital role in amphibious warfare and supports the Royal Navy's fleet of nuclear submarines. For two days every two years the base is opened to the public and has enthralled huge numbers of people with such activities as allowing access onto serving ships including the nuclear submarine HMS Courageous which was used during the Falklands War.



H.M.S Norfolk



H.M.S York



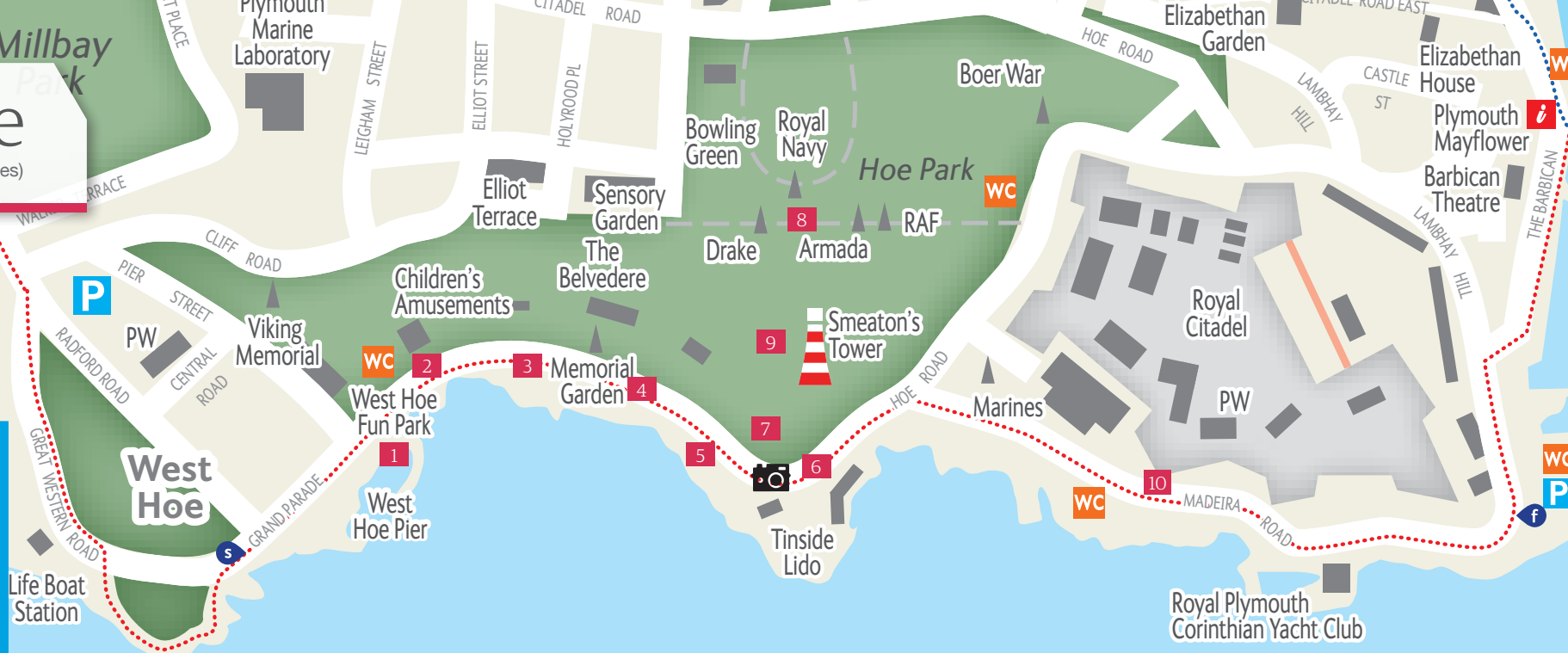
c1960s

📷 🏝️ Drake's Island

Looking south from point 4 you get a good view of Drake's Island. Originally called St Michael's Island after the chapel that once stood on its summit, it was rededicated to St Nicholas in the late middle ages. The chapel was pulled down in 1548 and before the century was out the island had been rechristened Drake's Island, after the famous Elizabethan seafarer who was made governor of the island and who served as Mayor of Plymouth in 1593. In military occupation until comparatively recently, the island which served for many years as an adventure centre, is currently in private hands.

The Hoe

(distance: 1km/0.6 Miles)



1 Drake And Chichester

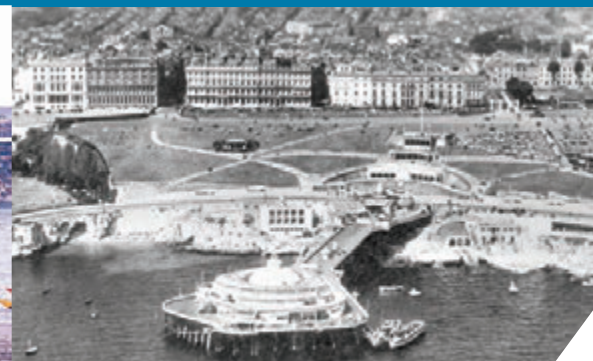
In 1580 Francis Drake sailed unheralded into Plymouth Sound aboard the Golden Hind and became the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world. Almost 400 years later, in May 1967, Francis Chichester, in his Gypsy Moth IV, eased past the Breakwater and became the first Englishman to sail solo around the world and the first person ever to achieve the feat with only one stop. It was estimated that over 100,000 people lined the Hoe to witness the event. Both men were knighted by their respective Queens – Elizabeth I and II – using the same ceremonial sword.



2 Drake and Co.

1967

Sir Francis Drake was playing bowls on Plymouth Hoe when the Spanish Armada was sighted in the English Channel in 1588. Knowing the tides, Drake decided to complete his game before setting sail. Centuries later Lady Nancy Astor invoked the spirit of Drake as she led the dancing upon the Hoe Promenade during the Second World War. King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II and the Beatles have all visited Plymouth Hoe.



c1930

3 Plymouth Pier

Designed by Eugenius Birch, Plymouth Promenade Pier was one of the first buildings in Plymouth to be 'lighted by electricity'. Opened in 1884, a pavilion was added seven years later and was popular with all those who used it. A well-frequented venue for concerts, wrestling and boxing bouts, it was also the starting point for many day trippers on pleasure steamers. In 1922 the pier company sold its fleet and after that survival became even more difficult. In 1938 the company went into receivership and three years later, in March 1941 the fate of the pier was sealed by German bombers and 'the bulbous spoon in the Sound' was wrecked beyond repair.

4 Bullring

The colonnaded belvedere was originally built in 1891 and the small area in front of it is now used as a memorial garden. Previously however it was a grassy area used as a bull ring. Here bulls were secured by a rope and baited by dogs. The dogs were frequently thrown into the air by the bulls, sometimes being caught by their owners.... sometimes not. Whilst no doubt unpleasant for the bulls it was a fate few escaped as butchers could be fined if they slaughtered a bull without it having been baited. No doubt a few bulls, mad with pain, would have broken free and caused havoc along the Hoe, pursued by the mob. This practice was outlawed in 1835.

5 Plymothian Heart

Based on a sailor's tattoo, the Plymothian Heart carries a stirring poem from the Waterfront Writers.



The Hoe



Hoe Pool, Beryl Cook

6 Tinside Lido

Formal bathing facilities were first provided on the waterfront of Plymouth Hoe in 1913 and over the next 22 years further terraces and dressing rooms were added, culminating in 1935 with the opening of the glorious Art Deco Tinside Lido. Recently restored by Plymouth City Council, it is one of the finest pre-war lidos left in England and is set in what must surely be one of the most spectacular locations in the world.



7 Octagonal Lookout

This curious little limestone edifice was built for the benefit of shipping companies who, in the days before radio communications, could watch from here for mail steamers making their way into Plymouth Sound. Arrangements could then be made as soon as possible for tenders to be made ready to meet the boats and speed the postbags and important passengers to waiting trains at Millbay Station.

8 Hoe War Memorials

There are many war memorials on the Hoe, the most impressive being the First and Second World War Naval Memorial. The original WWI obelisk has identical counterparts in Portsmouth and Chatham, although Sir Edward Maufe's WWII extension, while similar to the Portsmouth memorial, accommodates the natural slope. Other Hoe memorials commemorate the Spanish Armada, the Boer War, the Soldiers of the First World War, the Royal Marines and the Airmen of the Second World War.



British Fireworks Championship

For many years now Plymouth Sound has been the location of choice for the National Fireworks Competition. This hugely popular annual event draws tens of thousands of spectators who take full advantage of the slopes that surround the Sound – on the Hoe, around the Cattewater, Mount Batten and Jennycliff – to enjoy the spectacular displays every August.

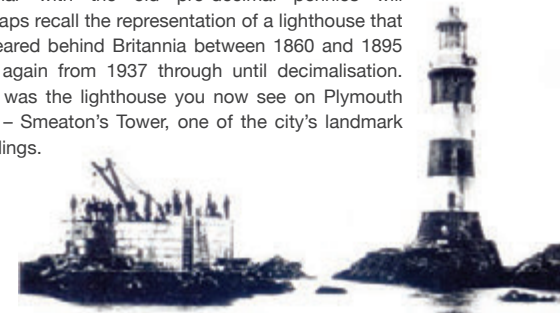
The Hoe and Drake's Island

At low water there are many rockpools to explore which contain the seaweeds serrated wrack and bladderwrack as well as common rockpool species such as shore crab, beadlet anemone and shanny. In the waters below the Hoe, you can find the "Millbay Blue Holes" where cold freshwater discharges through underwater springs in the limestone into the sea.



9 Smeaton's Tower

Erected on the Eddystone Reef between 1756-59, Smeaton's lighthouse was replaced in the 1880s by James Douglas's structure that still stands there today. Coin collectors familiar with the old pre-decimal pennies will perhaps recall the representation of a lighthouse that appeared behind Britannia between 1860 and 1895 and again from 1937 through until decimalisation. This was the lighthouse you now see on Plymouth Hoe – Smeaton's Tower, one of the city's landmark buildings.



10 The Royal Citadel

In the wake of the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, King Charles II, whose father's forces had been thwarted by Roundhead resistance in Plymouth throughout the Civil War, determined that such an eventuality should not happen again. In 1666, John, Earl of Bath and recently-appointed Governor of Plymouth, laid the foundation stone for what has since been described as the most impressive seventeenth century fortification in the whole of Britain. The story goes that every person then living in the town, whatever their age, carried at least one stone to the site. The fort has been in continuous military occupation.

Hoe comes from 'Hawe' meaning a 'high ridge' – Mount Batten used to be Hawe Stert, the end of a high ridge on the other side of the Plym. The name of the village of Hooe comes from the same root word.

The Barbican

(distance: 0.5km/0.3 Miles)

A Barbican is a fortified entrance and here it refers to the waterside gateway of Plymouth's medieval castle (long-gone) that stood on Lambhay Hill. Today the whole of the old part of the town is referred to as 'The Barbican' and the area, which still has a street pattern that Drake, Hawkins and Raleigh would recognise, boasts the largest concentration of cobbled streets in England. It also houses over 100 listed buildings, a good number of them dating back to Tudor and Jacobean times.

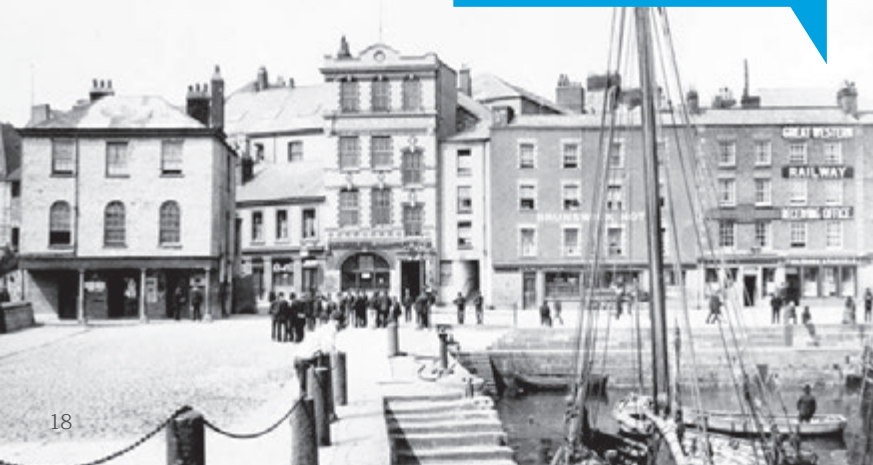
Old Pubs

There are many pubs on the Barbican and as it is the oldest part of the town it comes as no surprise to find that most are more than 200 years old – the oldest being the early seventeenth century King's Head at Bretonside. The quirky little Minerva in Looe Street is actually in an older building, but it hasn't always been a pub. Another early pub is Beryl Cook's favourite haunt, the Dolphin, where the Tolpuddle Martyrs were entertained on their return from exile in Australia in 1838. Further around the harbour, the seventeenth century China House (a former pottery store and prison, converted into a pub in the 1990s) is one of the last warehouses in England with water lapping on three sides.



1 St. James' Scallop

This carved marble scallop marks Plymouth's status as one of only two ports licensed by the Crown for the embarkation of pilgrims making their way to Santiago de Compostella in northern Spain. It was there that the bones of St. James The Great were discovered in the 9th Century and from then until the 16th century hundreds of thousands of Christians made the journey to worship. Many wore a scallop shell to indicate their destination and so it became a general symbol of pilgrimage.



Bretonside harks back to the time when this was the east end of the town, back in the fourteenth century, when Plymouth, or Sutton as it was then, was regularly raided by Bretons from the other side of the English Channel. The last raid was in 1403 when hundreds of homes were burnt.

Short Cut

For those looking to cut a couple of hours off this stretch of coast path there is a ferry service between the Barbican and Mount Batten that leaves the Plymouth side at 15 minutes to and past the hour and on the hour and half hour from Mount Batten. However by taking this ferry you will miss out much of the Plymouth section of the coast path including the villages of Oreston, Hooe and Turnchapel, each of which is well worth a visit. It's worth noting that there is an attractive route around the ancient harbour (Sutton Pool) and this is recommended if time is not an issue or if the route via the lock gates is for any reason not available. Installed in the late 1990s the lock gates are open at the discretion of the Sutton Harbour Company.

The Barbican



2 Stella Maris

The Virgin, Star of the Sea, patron saint of all mariners. She must have been much in the minds of seafarers as they left the safety of Plymouth for an uncertain future. This sea-worn Madonna was salvaged from a lost cargo of marble, and now stands in her own shrine with the Pole Star shining over.



4 Elizabethan House

Open to the public May - September each year, this historic property at No.32 New Street is in one of the oldest streets in the City. At one time a medieval monastery (Greyfriars) stood here, but after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1535 it was developed for private housing. No.32 was restored in 1929 and the street contains many other fine Tudor and Jacobean properties as well as the delightful Elizabethan Gardens which is owned and administered by the Plymouth Barbican Trust, a charitable organisation that saved much of the Barbican from demolition in the late 1950s.



3 Mayflower Steps

The first attempt to recognise this area as a potential tourist attraction was in 1890 when a stone bearing the inscription 'Mayflower 1620' was set in the ground. Fifty years later a small portico was erected here symbolising the departure of the Pilgrim Fathers bound for the New World. Their stay in Plymouth was more by accident than design, the Mayflower's companion ship, Speedwell, became unseaworthy and so the adventurers sought temporary refuge here. They were well received and it was a happy coincidence for them when they arrived at the new 'Plimmoth' on the other side of the Atlantic a couple of months later.



5 Jacka's Bakery

Although only a retail outlet, Jacka's Bakery was, until recently, the oldest continuously-working bakery in England. It was here long before the Pilgrim Fathers visited the town in 1620.



6 Plymouth Gin

Supplied to countries all over the world, all Plymouth Gin is produced at their distillery in Southside Street. The Still here has been in continuous production since 1793, although the building is much older and may have been operating as a distillery before that.

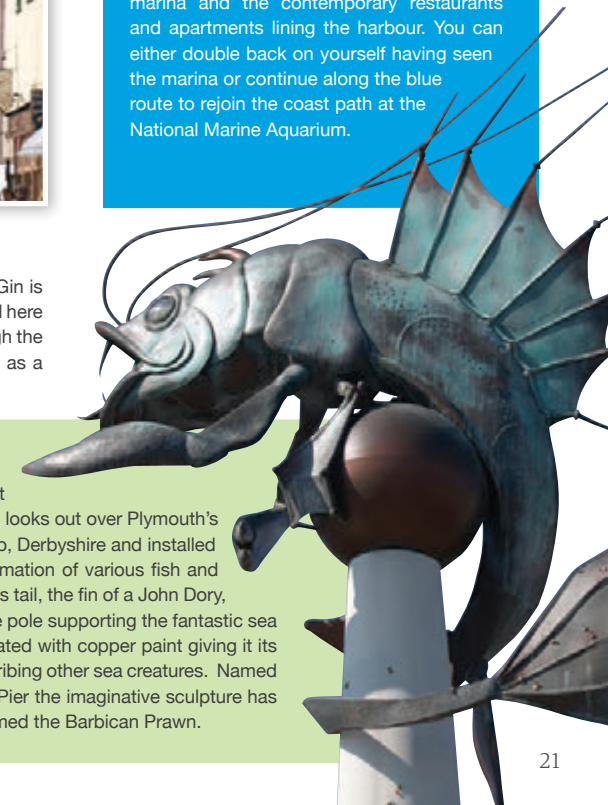
The Leviathan

Many people, locals and tourists alike, wonder about the meaning behind this strange sea creature which looks out over Plymouth's famous Barbican. Designed by Brian Fell of Glossop, Derbyshire and installed as part of an Arts Council initiative it is an amalgamation of various fish and marine life. It has a cormorant's feet, a plesiosaurus's tail, the fin of a John Dory, a lobster's claws and the head of an angler fish. The pole supporting the fantastic sea creature, which is manufactured from mild steel coated with copper paint giving it its attractive colouring, is decorated with plaques describing other sea creatures. Named "The Leviathan" and sitting 33 feet above the West Pier the imaginative sculpture has become an icon of Plymouth, affectionately nicknamed the Barbican Prawn.



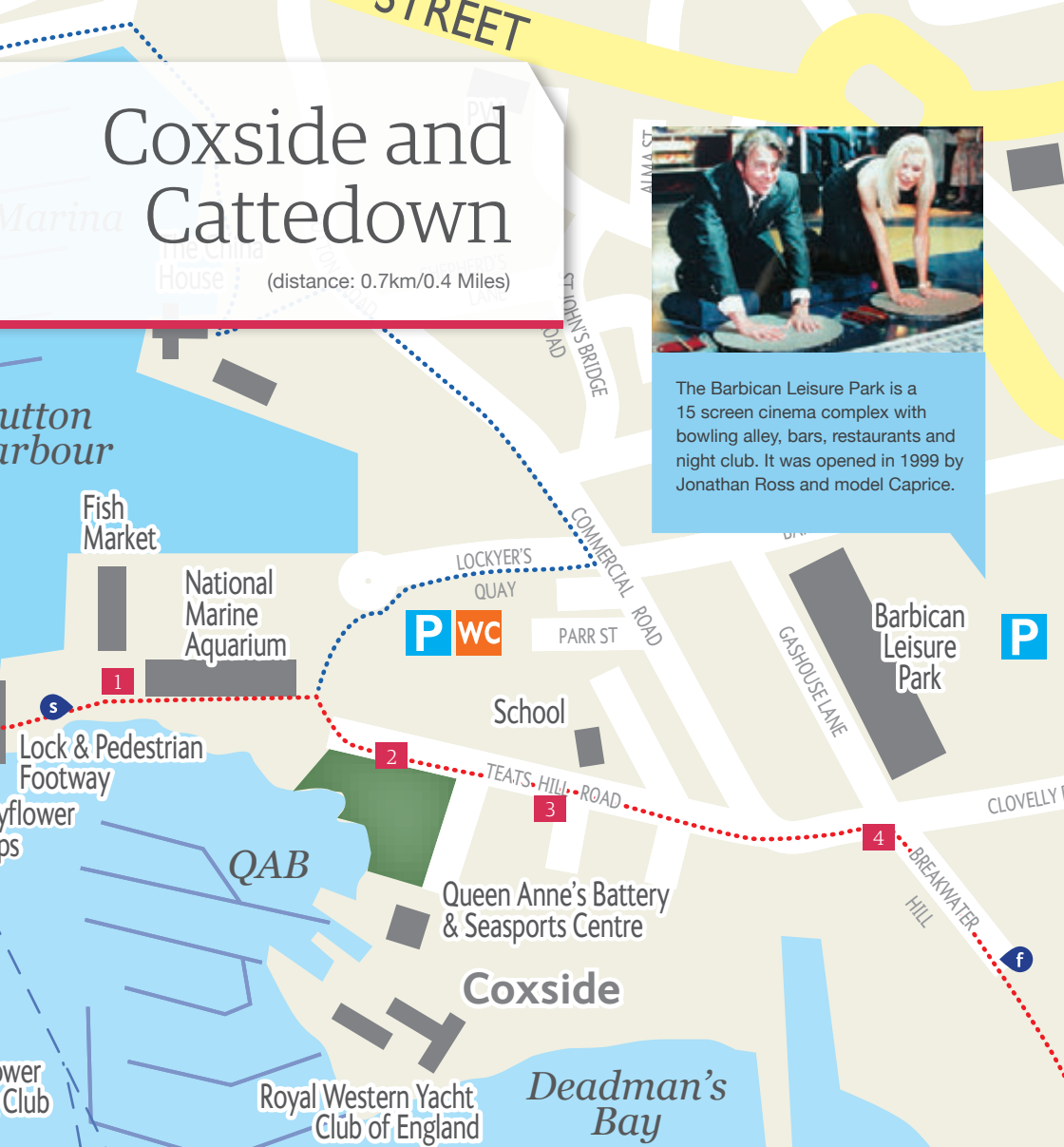
7 Sutton Harbour

In 1845, before Millbay was developed, Brunel had drawn up plans for Sutton Pool to become a gated harbour. The Admiralty rejected the plan however and it was another 150 years before lock gates were installed across the entrance to Sutton Harbour as it is now known. However, a branch of the railway did reach the northern shores of the harbour and today it is still possible to see what is believed to be the only stretch of Brunel's broad gauge railway in England that is still in its original location. From here you can follow a detour along the cobbled walkway, which is an interesting contrast to the sleek form of the yachts berthed in the marina and the contemporary restaurants and apartments lining the harbour. You can either double back on yourself having seen the marina or continue along the blue route to rejoin the coast path at the National Marine Aquarium.



Coxside and Cattedown

(distance: 0.7km/0.4 Miles)



The Barbican Leisure Park is a 15 screen cinema complex with bowling alley, bars, restaurants and night club. It was opened in 1999 by Jonathan Ross and model Caprice.



1 National Marine Aquarium

Opened in 1998, the National Marine Aquarium is a very significant attraction and it succeeded the previous Plymouth Aquarium on the Hoe which was one of the first of its kind to be established in the world. The most visited attraction in the area, the NMA has everything from familiar fresh water fish to exotic ocean creatures, from stunning tiny sea-horses to full size sharks. Alongside it is Plymouth Fish Market, one of the largest of its kind in the country.

3 Coxside

For many years prior to the extensive quarrying in the early nineteenth century, this was a wide, open, and undeveloped expanse of greenery. The quarrying created level areas that were quickly pressed into service, the waterside location lending itself to the increased trade at the port that followed in the wake of the Industrial Revolution.

2 Queen Anne's Battery

Developed in the 1980s as a centre for commerce and ocean going sailing vessels, Queen Anne's Battery is the current home of the Royal Western Yacht Club. It hosts many transatlantic and international competitions and is the city's oldest sailing club having been established in 1827. Curiously enough there was a gun battery here some 300 years ago but it wasn't until some time after the reign of Queen Anne had ended in 1714 that it acquired its present name. As well as being a busy centre for the local and visiting sailing community, Queen Anne's Battery Marina is open to the public and has a fine bar/restaurant offering interesting and very different views of the city.

4 Breakwater Hill

Named on account of its being a hill that was greatly quarried to provide some of the millions of tons of stonework that forms the Breakwater in Plymouth Sound, all that now remains is essentially this road, which links Coxside to Cattedown. For many years the building just below the entrance to this stretch of the coast path was the Breakwater Hotel, built to quench the thirsts of the quarrymen. The views from the hill offer a very different perspective on the city and on Plymouth Sound.



Deadman's Bay

Since the construction of the Breakwater in the Sound and the subsequent building of the smaller breakwater off Mount Batten (in the 1880s) this is something of a safe haven these days, but it was not always so and there are numerous wrecks lying on the bottom of the Cattewater. Indeed after the ferocious storm of 1824 when 48 ships and 144 men were lost it earned the unfortunate name of Deadman's Bay.



c1824

Oreston and Cattewater

(distance: 3.7km/2.3 Miles)



1 The Green Man

The Green Man here sits atop an old gaslight and symbolises the regenerating power of spring. The strategically placed port holes in the wall below him allow you to enjoy the comings and goings in the Cattewater.

Dave Westcott, Exeter



Dave Westcott, Exeter

2 Cattedown Caves

A cave was discovered in the local limestone at Stonehouse in 1776. As fate would have it Joseph Banks, the naturalist, was here at the time with Captain Cook, before their setting sail for the South Seas. Years later Banks wrote to the Superintendent of the Breakwater Quarries requesting that he keep a look out for caves and bones. Within a few years of the quarrying beginning in 1812 remains were found, which together with other pre-historic finds here at Cattedown suggest that this was where the earliest settlement was in the Plymouth area. As well as human remains there have been traces of rhinoceros, lion, hyena and other extinct British animals. The rhino at point 2b is in recognition of the interesting remains found between Cattedown and quarries north of Billacombe Road.

3 Passage House Inn

The original Passage House Inn here was said to date back to the fifteenth century and for hundreds of years the crossing from here to Oreston, on the other side of the river, was a key part of the principal link between Cornwall, the Three Towns and routes to London via Oreston, Plymstock and Elburton. In 1902 the old pub was demolished and a new Passage House was erected on its site. However even by that time the route had surrendered its significance to the improved road routes and bridges.



c1830



4 Laura Bridge

On 1st June 1961 – just two months after the opening of the Tamar Road Bridge – the new road bridge over the Laura was opened. Built to replace the fine, early iron bridge, designed by the engineer, James Meadows Rendel over 130 years earlier, the old bridge end still stands, just to the south of the redundant railway bridge. Happily though there are aspirations to reopen the latter for pedestrians and cyclists.



5 The King's Arms

There have been half a dozen or so pubs in Oreston over the years – among them the Foresters, the Old Inn, the Foxhound and the Ferryboat. One of them – possibly the Old Inn, achieved a degree of notoriety as it was kept at one time by Frances Candish, who, in December 1720, married Alexander Selkirk, the likely inspiration for Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe character (Selkirk had spent over four years alone on Juan Fernandez Island in the South Pacific between 1704-09). The proliferation of early inns was undoubtedly due to Oreston's position as a quayside ferry point. That link is long gone, however, and the quay was in-filled in the late-sixties. Today only the much-extended King's Arms – itself thought to be around 200 years old – survives.

Cattewater Hooe Lake

(distance: 2.5km/1.6 Miles)

Clovelly Bay Marina

Yacht Haven Marina

Clovelly Bay Inn

Boringdon Arms

Turnchapel

Lime Kiln

Railway Remnants

Site of old quarry

Royal Oak

Hooe Lake

Radford Castle

Oreston



Oreston 1959



1 Radford Castle

Prior to the construction of the weir here, and the mid-nineteenth century folly (known locally as Radford Castle) Radford Lake was a tidal salt-water inlet. The name Radford is thought to come from red ford, a ford where the reddish colour of the mud gave the crossing a distinctive appearance. At the head of the inlet sat the substantial Radford House (demolished many years ago) and it is said that Drake, Hawkins, Howard, Raleigh and other Armada captains, were entertained here by the then owner Christopher Harris. The remains of an ancient boathouse can still be seen on the edge of Radford Lake.

2 Hooe Lake

Long used as a safe haven, Hooe Lake is landlocked but for a narrow entrance and evidence of its antiquity can be seen in the ancient Hooe barn that sits at what was, until 1963, the head of the creek. Favoured by timber merchants and other industrialists over the years, the perimeter of the lake is gradually giving way to modern housing. Meanwhile an interesting array of rotting hulks provides a number of graphic photo opportunities on the muddy, intertidal expanses. The Royal Oak pub, incidentally, occupies a site that has been licensed since the early part of the nineteenth century.

3 Quarryman's Arms

In the mid-nineteenth century, when the area around here was still being extensively quarried, there was a small pub in a group of cottages here that served as the Quarryman's Arms. An intriguing grade II listed lime kiln still stands at the entrance to the old quarry site, which is now in the process of being redeveloped. Our route also takes us past the Royal Marine base of 539 Assault Squadron. The name Turnchapel, curiously enough, is a corruption of St Anne's Chapel, which refers to a small building that formerly stood at the head of Hooe Lake.

4 Turnchapel

Turnchapel currently boasts two pubs, the Boringdon Arms (named, like the Morley Arms, in honour of the local landowning Parker family – John Parker was created 1st Earl of Morley in 1815 having already been dubbed Baron Boringdon of North Molton) and the Clovelly Bay Inn (formerly the New Inn). Clovelly Bay is the name of the bay that sits in front of the village and in centuries past, this was a thriving hub of shipbuilding and repair, hence a third pub that could be found here – the Shipwrights – at the end of Boringdon Road.



Mount Batten

(distance: 1.6km/1 Mile)

A prominent headland protected by a narrow isthmus, the Mount Batten headland or Howe Stert - 'the end of a high ridge' - as it was known prior to the Civil War, has yielded some of the oldest man-made artefacts to be found in the area, making it a prime contender for being the first true local settlement. There was a thriving community here from at least 1,000BC until the Roman era. Many Bronze and Iron Age artefacts have been found here, including weapons and jewelry and there is good evidence that Roman ships based here traded with the continent.

1 Telegraph Codes

The telegraphic code words embedded in the pathway are reminders of Captain Bernard's cryptic and economical means of communicating via telegraphy over 100 years ago.

Mount Batten - Barbican ferry

Mount Batten Watersports Centre

Mount Batten Peninsula

Cattewater

Mount Batten Tower

SHAW ROAD



Mount Batten flying boat and men

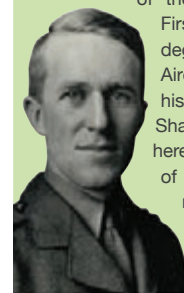
2 RAF Mount Batten

A replica of the propeller of a mighty Sunderland flying-boat introduces the importance of RAF Mount Batten. The Cattewater had been used for seaplane trials in the very earliest days of the Royal Naval Air Service, back in 1913, with plans agreed to establish a seaplane station here in 1916. Two years later and following the creation of the Royal Air Force, this became RAF Cattewater and later, in 1928, after extensive rebuilding, RAF Mount Batten. Over the years, Catalinas, Sunderlands, and

Supermarine Southamptons were regularly seen here, and an Australian Squadron was based here during the war. When the RAF flying boat era formally ended in 1960, this became the RAF School of Combat Survival. In 1992 the RAF left Mount Batten and a gradual redevelopment of the headland followed. Today Mount Batten is enjoyed by thousands every year as one of the finest watersport centres in England.

3 Lawrence Of Arabia

Another person remembered in the street names here is the headland's most celebrated resident, Colonel Thomas Edward (TE) Lawrence, aka Lawrence of Arabia. A guiding light in the Arab revolt that was protecting the right flank of the British advance into Syria during the First World War, Lawrence tried to secure a degree of anonymity after the war, firstly as Aircraftsman John Hume Ross, and then after his cover was exposed, as Aircraftsman T.E. Shaw. In the early 1930s Shaw was stationed here and while here improved the performance of the RAF's rescue launches. He died in a motorbike accident in 1935, aged 47, after skidding to avoid two young cyclists in Dorset.



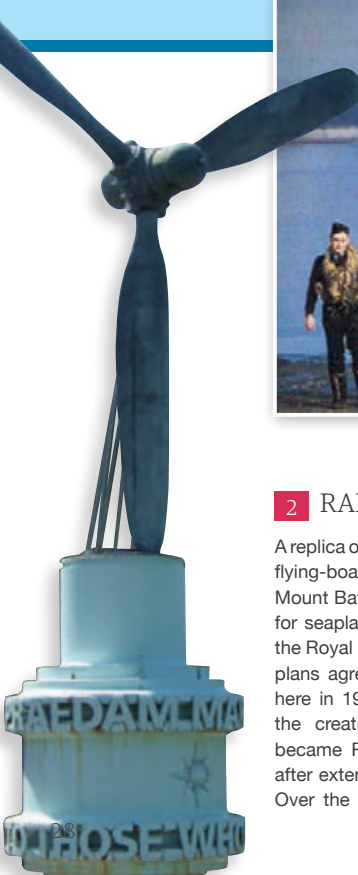
View of Mount Batten from the Hoe

5 Mount Batten Tower

Erected around the same time as the Royal Citadel on the Hoe, the tower commemorates the Parliamentarian, Captain Batten, who fought so hard to defend this headland during the English Civil War. Quarrying of the headland almost led to the tower's loss in the early 1960s but happily the structure still stands and is, occasionally, open to the public. The mound itself is open all year round and the views from the top are well worth a brief diversion.

4 Fireworks

The Mount Batten Pier makes the perfect launch area for the firework companies who come here for the National Firework Competition every August. Easily policed and a safe distance from all the major vantage points it greatly enhances the enjoyment of one of the country's most spectacular annual events.



Jennycliff

(distance: 1.6km/1 Miles)

1 Fort Stamford

The ring of forts surrounding the Three Towns were the brain child of Henry Temple, the 3rd Viscount Palmerston, who was 75 years old when he became Prime Minister for the second time in 1859. The forts were built because he was convinced that the French were planning a British invasion and similar chains were constructed around the country. The much feared french invasion failed to materialise and by the time the forts were completed the gun technology used was wildly out of date. This national network of Palmerston Forts were the most expensive fixed base peace time defense system ever built in Britain yet few were ever manned securing forever their affectionate title as Palmerston's follies.

Marine Status

The area around Jennycliff is one of the richest and most diverse sections of the coast within Plymouth Sound with the rocks here providing shelter for a wide range of species.

Gooseberry sea-squirts are to be found under the rock overhangs whilst further out the delicate pink sea fan *eunicella verrucosa* can be found.

Jennycliff Bay also has a bed of eelgrass. These beds are important because they support populations of many marine animals and plants and act as nursery areas for juvenile fish as well as homes for the two native species of seahorses.

There are also many birds to be seen as you walk round the coast path including cormorant as it dives and fishes for its food and the smaller dunlin which is known to roost in the area.



2 Jennycliff beach

The closest 'proper' beach to Plymouth, Jennycliff became a popular destination for day trippers after the Oreston and Turnchapel Steamboat Company secured landing rights at Mount Batten in 1881. The landlord of the Castle Inn at Mount Batten decided to lay on all sorts of outdoor attractions and, to give some idea of the popularity of the excursion, one bank holiday in 1905 some 10,000 passengers travelled to and from Mount Batten by ferry. These activities were somewhat curtailed when Mount Batten first became an air base.



The Breakwater

Deceptively simple, both structurally and visually, the massive undertaking is a mile long and what you see above the water line represents but a fraction of the millions of tons of stonework that were deposited in the Sound between 1811 and 1841. Making the port a much safer haven, the Breakwater is just over 20 metres wide at the top and was designed by John Rennie and completed after his death by his sons, John and George.

Jennycliff Bay

There have been literally dozens of ships of varying sizes that have been wrecked off the shores of Jennycliff over the last 200 years or so: from wooden warships, like the Amethyst (1811) and the Pallas (1788), through schooners and brigs, like Fortuna (1888) and the Emmanuel (1863), to twentieth century vessels like the steam coaster Jellicoe Rose (1938) and the cargo carrier Fylrix (1984). Reminders of Mount Batten's days as a flying boat base are marked by the sad losses of a Blackburn Iris in 1931 and a Sunderland DD852, in 1944, both of which came to grief in the bay.



Venus at Jennycliff Bay

Donkeys

Jennycliff is said to be the cliff of the donkeys: jenny being a word used to describe the female of a number of species, including birds, but in this instance, the jenny-ass or donkey.

Jennycliff Bay

The welcome mat here marks the end of the urban area and your return to the countryside, although the Plymouth section of the coast path continues for a short distance beyond this point. If you're finishing here you can look back over the coast and view the city you have just walked through taking comfort in the knowledge you only have another 175 miles to go until you reach Poole, the end of this national trail. If you are entering Plymouth here it welcomes you to the delights that are to come but please, wipe your feet.

