



Devon's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

This leaflet is part of a series of themed trails in Devon's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); helping you get out there, enjoy, and learn more about the landscape around you.

Trail themes include

- Coast in Conflict,
- Man and the Landscape,
- Trade and Settlement and
- A Colourful Landscape.

Have a look at these websites for further leaflets in the series, and ideas for other ways of enjoying yourself out and about!

See www.southdevonaonb.org.uk,
www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk,
www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk and
www.discoverdevon.com

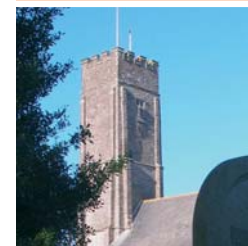
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is the Government's designation for Britain's finest landscapes; there are 40 in England and Wales. Together with Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks, Devon's 5 AONBs cover 35% of the County. AONBs share a common commitment to secure sustainable living landscapes. Each AONB has been designated for special attention because of the quality of their flora, fauna, cultural and historical heritage, as well as beautiful scenery.

Their care has been entrusted to local authorities, organisations, community groups, individuals who live and work in them and those who value them.

Please recycle this leaflet by passing it onto a friend when you have finished with it. Don't let Devon go to waste.

Stoke Fleming to Strete

- **Start/Finish:** Church Road parking area, Stoke Fleming
- **Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.5km)
- **Circular walk:** Yes ■ **Grade:** difficult
- **Terrain:** Country lanes, Coast Path, and green lanes. Mostly fairly even underfoot, occasional wet and slippery stretches in wet weather.
- **Obstacles and steep gradients:** 2 flights of steps; 8 stiles; 2 steep ascents; 2 steep descents
- **Accessibility:** This route is not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs
- **Public transport:** Bus service 93 to Stoke Fleming from Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, and Plymouth
- **Toilets:** Church Road parking area, Stoke Fleming; also Blackpool Sands
- **Parking:** Church Road parking area, Stoke Fleming. Free
- **Other Facilities:** Post office and village stores in Stoke Fleming and Strete. Public payphone at Blackpool Sands, and by post office, Strete
- **Accommodation:** Please contact Dartmouth Tourist Information Centre 01803 834224 or www.discoverdartmouth.com or www.discoverdevon.com/site/where-to-stay
- **OS map:** Explorer OL20 ■ **Grid ref:** SX 861483
- **Follow the Countryside Code:** for more information www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk





Trade and Settlement

In the early Stone Age, Devon was sparsely populated. Much has changed since then. Successive waves of human settlement have swept across the landscape, bringing Celtic tribes and Roman invaders; Viking warriors, Saxon settlers, and the Norman conquerors. All have come and gone – or stayed to build homes and lives here.

Through this succession of influence, and beyond, the Devon we see today has taken shape. Villages, hamlets and farms have evolved. Towns have grown up, and centres of trade and power have developed, faded, and shifted.

This rural county has always had agriculture at its heart. But other industries have made their mark.

Men have long burrowed deep into the Devon earth to extract valuable tin, copper, silver, lead, and arsenic. Boat-building, lime-burning, cloth-making, and the woollen trade all helped bring affluence. And Devon's stream-sides are dotted with the old mills that once ground grain, or made paper and textiles. Lastly, we cannot forget the contribution made by Devon's 'free traders' – the smugglers of old.

Meanwhile, Devon's coast has always provided the county with a portal to the wide world. For centuries, galleons, schooners, clippers and cutters have plied their trades in and out of the county's ports. There is even persuasive evidence that tin was being traded with visiting Phoenician and Greek galleys in the Bronze Age.

Today's Devon - home to three quarters of a million people – has roots sunk deep into a long and fascinating history.



Directions

Numbers in brackets refer to Points of Interest.

Please note that this walk includes a short (250m) section of busy main road without pavement.

1. From parking area turn right down hill. At the junction after 50m (1) bear right through the iron gates to the churchyard and church. After visiting the church (2), retrace your steps to the church gate, and turn sharp left to follow narrow lane, with the church to your left.
2. At the t-junction, cross with care to the pavement (3) and turn right down the hill. Branch left after 80m to follow coast path adjacent to road. Follow path down to beach at Blackpool Sands (4).
3. Retrace your steps back up the path away from the beach. 20m beyond the public conveniences, turn left signed 'Coast Path Strete 1 1/3m'.
4. At road, cross with care, and follow 'Coast Path' fingerpost through gate to left. After 100m path crosses lane to continue up steps. Follow yellow waymarker arrows, bearing right up steep field to stile (5).
5. Turn left up green lane. After 100m turn left following 'Coast Path' fingerpost, then immediately right over stile. Cross field to bottom corner, then follow waymarker arrow right over stile.
6. Cross at the road. (6) Drop steeply down into valley to right, cross stream, and climb up the far side, to follow waymarkers through scrubby clifftop fields (7).
7. Just after path veers a little inland to cross footbridge, follow concrete track up to right. Turn left at top along path. At road, bear left into Strete village (8).
8. Turn right by post office up Totnes Road (9). After 300m turn right along green lane signed 'Public Bridleway'.
9. Follow green lane, which crosses two residential streets. After two right hand bends in the lane you finally drop down tarmac drive to left to meet road.
10. Cross road and turn left. Walk with care and in single file along the side of this often busy stretch of road, following the long right hand bend. After 250m cross with care and turn left, signed for Southwood.



11. On left hand bend after 200m bear right signed 'Widewell Lane'. Where lane sweeps right onto a concrete driveway, go straight on down green lane (from here down to Blackpool, you are retracing your steps from earlier in the walk).
12. Follow 'Coast Path' fingerpost over stile to right, to drop back down steep field, and follow waymarkers.
13. Beyond the bridge over the stream, where the path meets the road, turn left and immediately left again (10) to follow narrow lane past front of thatched cottages.
14. After 500m, just before width restriction sign on road (11) turn right and follow public brideway up and along green lane (12)
15. At the end of the lane (13) turn right. Car parking is immediately on right.

Points of Interest

To hear Points of Interest information for this trail please download the audio podcast from our website.

Refreshments

The Green Dragon pub,
Church St, Stoke Fleming
01803 770238

www.green-dragon-pub.co.uk

Run by an avid sailor, this cosy pub, with beer garden, has a nautical theme. Real ales, wine including Sharpham White, and Luscombe organic drinks and juices, both grown and produced just down the road. Food includes locally caught fish, and meat from the immediate area, as well as vegetarian options.

Venus Café, Blackpool Sands

01803 770209

www.venuscompany.co.uk

Beachfront café serving breakfasts, snacks, meals, and drinks. Menu includes organic burgers, crab soup, and paninis, along with organic tea and coffee. Venus Café is strongly committed to sourcing local and organic produce wherever possible, and is a Green Tourism Business Scheme Gold Award holder

Kings Arms,

Dartmouth Road, Strete

01803 770377

www.kingsarms-dartmouth.co.uk

Excellent 'gastropub'. Speciality is local seafood, including oysters from the Dart, crab and lobster from Start Bay, and mussels from Brixham. The pub has a beer garden with lovely views along the coast.

Other Interest

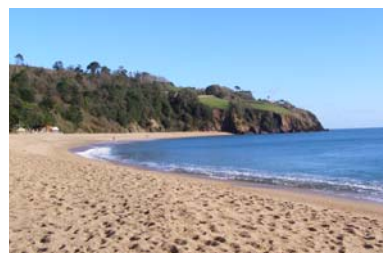
Venus Beach Shop,

Blackpool Sands

01803 770209

www.venuscompany.co.uk

Sells beach gear, from buckets and spades to inflatable boats.



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Key

- walk route
- suggested walk direction
- No. refers to directions
- No. refers to Points of Interest

