



# DEVONPORT HERITAGE TRAIL North Corner



**The Heritage Trail links historic and cultural points of interest in Devonport. It is a great way to explore the local area, once an important town in its own right.**

The Trail also offers a way-marked detour from the popular South West Coastal Footpath. It can be followed from Admiral's Hard in Stonehouse, where it connects with the Plymouth Waterfront Walkway and the Cremyll Ferry - the link between Devon and Cornwall.

Crossing into Devonport via Stonehouse Creek Bridge, the Trail first follows Richmond Walk, exploring Mount Wise and Mutton Cove. It then takes in Ker Street, the one time civic heart of the community - centred on the newly restored Guildhall, the Devonport Column and the 'Egyptian House'. The Heritage Trail returns to the waterfront at North Corner, the birthplace of the original town of 'Dock'.

At New Passage Hill, there is a link-spur to the Torpoint Ferry and the chance to cross back to Cornwall. However, the Trail itself continues through the historic Devonport Park, returning to Stonehouse by way of the Brickfields and Devonport Hill.

## Following the Trail

**The Heritage Trail is way-marked by over 70 distinctive, numbered and themed 'Devonport Discs', designed by Cornish artists Gary and Thomas Thrusell. Pick-up a Trail leaflet or go on-line to get a route map and find out more.**

On route, there are four Trail Panels like this - each focussing on a different section of the Trail. The others can be found at Mount Wise, Cumberland Gardens and Devonport Park. Look out too for the specially commissioned art works.

The full Heritage Trail is about 7.5 km (over 4 miles) long, but it can be explored just one section at a time. The way-marked route follows public highways and byways and involves walking alongside and crossing several busy roads - so please take great care. The Trail is fully accessible, with just a short marked detour to avoid steps into Devonport Park at New Passage Hill.

Stay safe, and enjoy discovering Devonport.

Web: [www.plymouth.gov.uk/creativityandculture/artsdevelopment](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/creativityandculture/artsdevelopment)  
Contacts: Parks Services 01752 606034 & Arts Services on 01752 307315  
email: [parks.services@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:parks.services@plymouth.gov.uk)

Devonport Heritage Trail was created by Plymouth City Council working in partnership with the Devonport Regeneration Community Partnership and the local community. Thanks must go to the professional artists and local historians who have contributed 'along the way'. With special thanks to Lizzy Cook.

Design and text by Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery



Cornwall Beach and North Corner, c.1905  
Lizzy Cook Collection



Morice Yard Gates, 2008

## Fore Street - North Corner - New Passage Hill

North Corner is sandwiched between the dock walls of the South Yard and the Morice Yard. This area was the birthplace of the town of Plymouth Dock; officially re-named Devonport in 1824. A new Town grew around the Naval Dockyard, established in 1690. Some of the first workers lived aboard hulks moored nearby on the river. In less than one hundred years, and from nothing, the town of Dock had outgrown Plymouth, its older neighbour.

The North Corner 'Hero's Stone' is a reminder that this was once a unique and distinctive waterfront community. The market boat and other local ferries called regularly with passengers, produce and other goods. It is said that convicts for Australia were embarked here. The landing stage and steps at Cornwall Beach, the Steam Packet pub and the Devonport Corporation Piermaster's House survive as evidence of these busier times.

There have been many changes. In 1855-6 a tunnel was built under Cornwall Street, linking the South Yard to the, then, newly built Steam Yard at Keyham. The Dockyard fly-over road bridge that now dominates the waterfront was completed in the early 1960s. The last major redevelopment of North Corner took place in 2005.

Heading inland up Cannon Street, turn left on to Queen Street and continue to Ordnance Street.

Here you will pass the Morice Yard gate, capped with Victorian mortars. This military complex, with its fine officer's terrace, was built between 1719 and 1724. The Yard was originally a Gun Wharf operated by the Board of Ordnance - hence the nearby street names.

Ahead is Morice Square, dominated by the former Royal Fleet Club building of 1901-2. Some of the original large terraced houses that stood here are incorporated into the façade. Devonport's Royal Albert Hospital of 1862-3 stood alongside modern day St Aubyn Street. The Hospital closed in 1981, but its landmark limestone towers survive within the housing development on the site.

Take a detour along Marlborough Street to see several more interesting older buildings. This is a shopping centre that survived the Blitz and has continued to serve a much changed post-War Devonport.

The Heritage Trail continues down New Passage Hill and into Devonport Park. In 1788-9 this was a new road, cut through the 'Dock Line' defences to serve the growing town. New Passage Hill also provided a connection to the Torpoint Ferry, established in 1791. A Trail-spur takes in Pottery Quay and an artwork by David Harbott. The floating bridge ferries cross regularly to Torpoint and Cornwall.



North Corner and Plymouth Dock, from Torpoint, 1736  
Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery