

## Please follow the Countryside Code

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

## Saltash Walk Two: Railways, Rivers and Castles

**Length of Route:** 8km (5 miles)

**Details:** Part circular – Starting at St. Stephen’s Church, or Cecil Arms: this walk takes in footpaths and Cornish lanes through meadows, woodland and alongside creek and estuary; via Forder, Shillingham, Wivelscombe, Elm Gate, Wivelscombe, Shillingham, Antony Passage, Forder and return to St Stephen’s Church / Cecil Arms.



Did you enjoy this walk?

Why not share your  
experience with us?

Contact Us....

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12 Lower Fore Street  
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Website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)  
Social Media: @SaltashTownCouncilOfficial

Please take due care when following these walks and any care is taken at your own risk. No liability is accepted by Saltash Town Council.  
This leaflet was correct as of November 2020.



SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL



# Countryside Walks in Saltash

NUMBER 2 OF 6 IN A  
SERIES OF WALKS  
EXPLORING THE  
GATEWAY TO CORNWALL





## Railways, Rivers and Castles

From St. Stephen's Church go down St. Stephens Hill, past the Cecil Arms public house, to Forder. At the foot of St. Stephens Hill, turn left. (To the right is Apple Tree Cott: now a private house this was a well-renowned tea garden to which generations of Plymouthians in the early twentieth century used to walk along the lanes from the ferries at Antony Passage and Saltash.)

(Dominating the skyline is the Norman keep of Trematon Castle. It has a rich history which includes playing a role in the Cornish Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549 and being used by Sir Francis Drake to house Spanish Gold en route to London.)

Continue straight through Forder just past a former chapel building to a stile leading onto a Public Footpath, up the steep path to a stile into a field, up and over the brow of the hill to a stile. The footpath, well-marked by posts, opens out fine views down Forder Creek over the railway viaduct, then over the Lynher and Tamar estuaries across Plymouth and Staddon Heights beyond.

What appears to be an ancient standing stone at the summit is probably an old gatepost! On to a track over a railway bridge and out onto the road.

Turn right and go along the road, passing the private road leading to Shillingham Manor, to Shillingham Railway Bridge. Use the steps over the gate to the Public Footpath. Follow the well-defined, yellow arrow 'waymarked' path to Wivelscombe. This attractive fully waymarked path fringes railway, woodland, meadow and creek, there is a small stream to jump (quite easy) before climbing through more woods, crossing an ancient stone footbridge and climbing to Wivelscombe.

The Public Footpath continues left through the Field Gate just to the right of Wivelscombe's private entrance. (To confirm you are following the Public Footpath look for and follow the yellow arrow 'waymarks').

From the Field Gate continue through two more Field Gates: at the second of those two more gates turn right through another gate and follow a line of young beech trees: go along the right hand edge of the field to another Field Gate then across a field to another Field Gate and onto a track.

Just before the property at Greeps go through a Field Gate to the left and follow the path around the side of the property and out through a gate onto the road. To the left is a private road leading to Ince Castle. (Ince Castle is unique in being Cornwall's only 17th. Century brick built castle restored then after a battering in the Civil War.) Turn right and go uphill along the road to Elm Gate.

By the attractive old cottages of Elmgate turn right along the bridleway that passes a farm then continues as a Public Right of Way along the private drive between rows of trees to the gates of Wivelscombe.

Go along the road, past the private road to Shillingham Manor, to a stile to your right leading onto a Public Footpath. The path across the fields is clearly marked by stock proof fencing and commands fine river views. From the path you can glimpse Shillingham to the right, now a farm but formerly home to the de Ferrers and later Buller families. The ruins of its medieval chapel, licensed in 1318, can still be seen. Go across the field to a stile leading to steps down to a tunnel under Brunel's original wide-gauge, abandoned railway.

The short foot tunnel passes under Brunel's original broad gauge railway of 1859. The route was realigned along its present route in 1904 – 08.)

Turn left and continue along the defined Public Footpath to steps down to Antony Passage Quay.

(A ferry ran from here across the Lynher to Antony for centuries until the 1950's, the former 'Ferry Inn' is now a private house.)

From the Quay follow the road through Antony Passage, alongside Forder Creek, (look out for the ancient tidal mill alongside the lane, which used the falling tide to power its grindstone, and note the date on the building.) to Forder and turning right up St. Stephen's Hill return to St. Stephen's Church.