

## Where is the Drake link?

Sir Francis Drake returned from circumnavigating the globe in 1580, aboard his ship the *Golden Hinde*.

In his capacity as a 'privateer' licensed by Queen Elizabeth I, he plundered great riches from the Spanish merchant fleet, including gold, silver and jewels that would make him a very rich man.

With the proceeds of his adventures, Drake purchased Buckland Abbey for £3,400 in 1581 and with it a 500 acre estate stretching from the abbey down to the banks of the River Tavy at Lopwell. He lived at the Abbey until his death off the coast of Panama in 1596.

The Abbey is now run by the National Trust and is open to the public.

## Other local information...

This walk starts with a section across the former airfield of RAF Harrowbeer. The second world war had a large impact on Yelverton, changing the shape of the village and adding thousands of people to the population.

The airfield was built after large parts of Plymouth had been destroyed as a result of countless air raids in early 1941. Some of the rubble from the bombings was brought to Yelverton as a base for the new runways, and also to re-route the A386 to Tavistock.

## Still want to know more?

Buckland Abbey visitor information:

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/buckland](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/buckland)

RAF Harrowbeer history and guided walk info:

[www.rafharrowbeer.co.uk](http://www.rafharrowbeer.co.uk)

Drake's Trail website for more recreation routes

[www.drakestrail.co.uk](http://www.drakestrail.co.uk)



find out more through the **Drake's Trail podcasts** available at:  
[www.drakestrail.co.uk](http://www.drakestrail.co.uk) or  
[www.drakestrailpodcasts.info](http://www.drakestrailpodcasts.info)

## Accommodation & local services

There are numerous places to stay in and around Yelverton, from campsites to hotels catering to your every whim. Check the following websites for details and booking information:

[www.drakesdartmoor.co.uk](http://www.drakesdartmoor.co.uk)

[www.dartmoor.co.uk](http://www.dartmoor.co.uk)

Or contact the  
Tavistock Tourist Information Centre  
01822 612938

email: [tavistocktic@westdevon.gov.uk](mailto:tavistocktic@westdevon.gov.uk)



## How to get here

A regular, daily bus service runs between Plymouth and Tavistock, stopping at Yelverton. Most frequent are the 83 and 84 services. Other local services link Yelverton with surrounding villages.

Timetables and more information are available from Traveline:  
0871 200 22 33

[www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

There is free parking at Yelverton along the edge of RAF Harrowbeer and also at designated places on the edge of Roborough Down.

There is short stay, pay and display parking by the village shops and also at the Leg O'Mutton corner.

Additional travel advice can be found at:

[www.travelwise.org.uk](http://www.travelwise.org.uk)

This document can be made available in large print, Braille, tape format, other languages or alternative format upon request. Please contact West Devon Borough Council on 01822 813600

Or email: [services@westdevon.gov.uk](mailto:services@westdevon.gov.uk)



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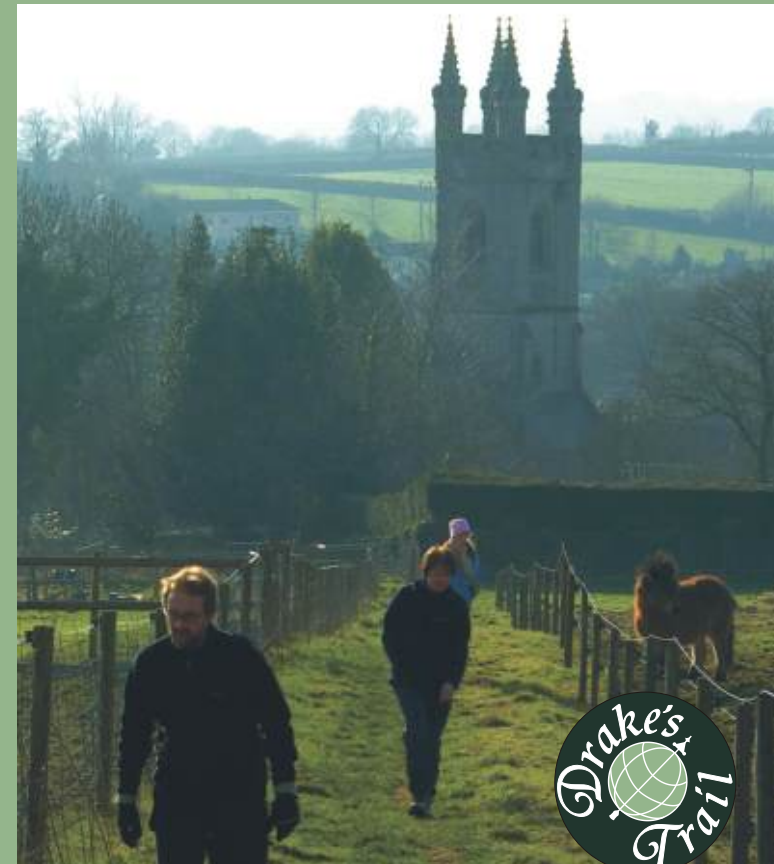
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## Drake's Trail Walking Spur 3

### Yelverton to Buckland Abbey



Start: Eastern edge of RAF Harrowbeer

Duration: 2 ½ - 3 ½ hours

Distance: 9 miles / 14.4 kilometres

Grade: DIFFICULT

Surface: Mainly firm off-road footpaths and some minor roads. Includes steep hills and frequent stiles.

Also see OS Explorer map OL28

Route directions and other advice / instructions are shown on the map inside.

# Walking Spur 3 - Yelverton to Buckland Abbey



**Key**

- on-road walking route
- off-road walking route
- bus stop
- toilets
- refreshments
- podcast location
- junction
- narrow road section
- Drake's Trail cycle route
- Drake's Trail information board

