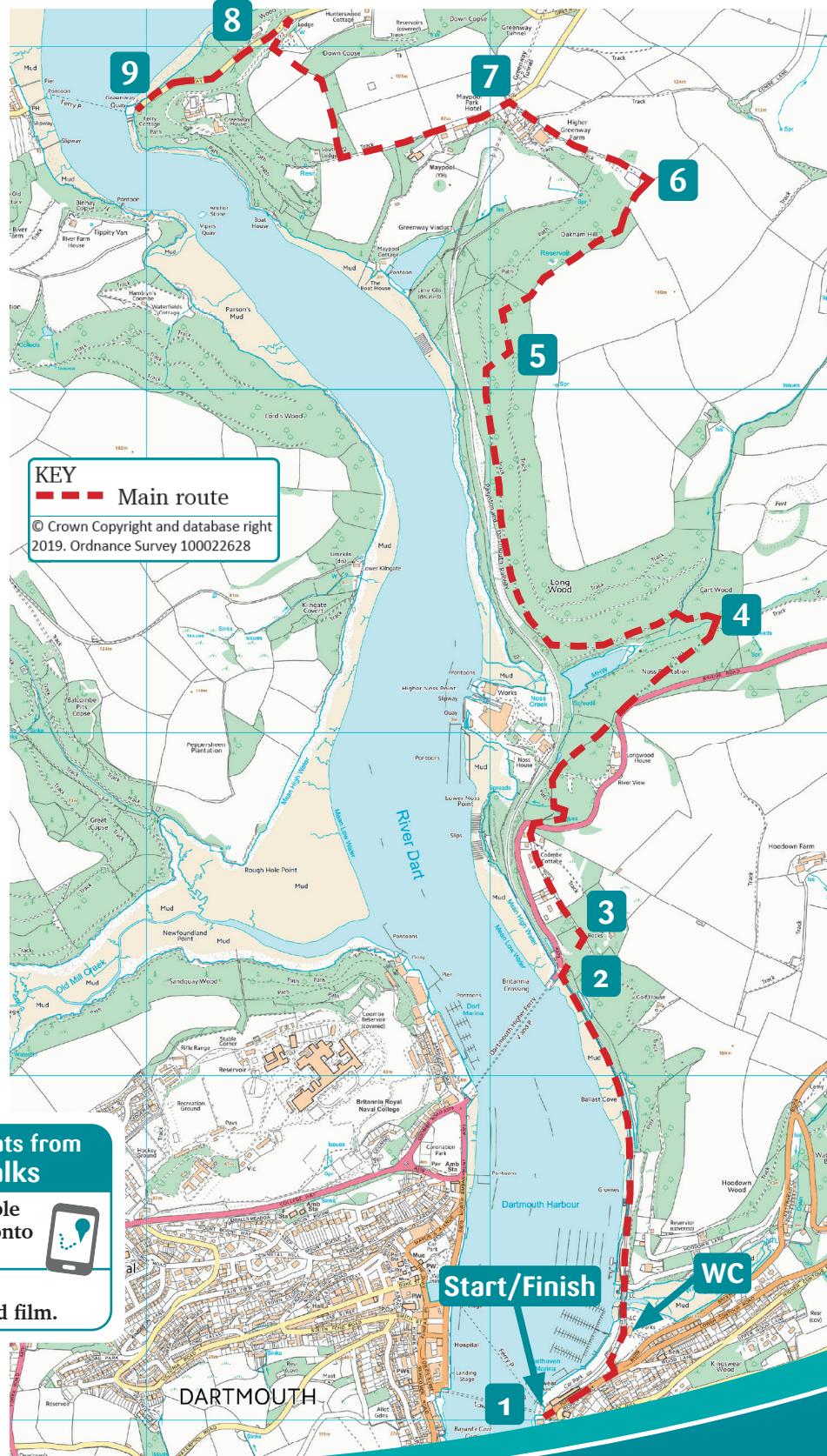


Kingswear to Greenway



- Start:** | Kingswear train station
- Distance:** | 4.5 miles
- Difficulty:** | Moderate; 5 stiles; 2 flights of steps; 2 steep climbs
- Terrain:** | Footpaths, fairly even, occasionally muddy in wet weather; surfaced roads.
- Parking:** | Dartmouth Marina car park, Kingswear. TQ6 0SG
- OS map:** | Explorer OL20
- Grid Ref:** | SX 878515
- Public transport:** | Buses to Kingswear and Dartmouth, see www.travelinesw.com. Ferry details on www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/walks. Steam train from Paignton www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk
- Refreshments:** | In Dartmouth and Kingswear

Toilets: | Public toilets in Dartmouth and Kingswear.



This walk is available in the following formats from www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/walks

online walk	downloadable PDF	downloadable route map onto your device
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South West Coast Path walking app – enhanced content with photos, audio and film.

Directions

- 1** From station at Kingswear turn left up road. Turn left opposite village stores over railway footbridge and follow yellow- marked footpath alongside railway line.
- 2** At the Higher Ferry slipway, turn right over the level crossing and up road. Just beyond public toilets, bear right up ramp and steps to climb through woods.
- 3** At t- junction, turn left along drive, signed 'Greenway Ferry and Maypool'. Then at main road take footpath opposite and to left down steps and through woods. At the tarmac drive take footpath opposite and to right, leading into Long Wood.
- 4** At t- junction in woods, turn left and follow track through woods above river. Track eventually curves to right and uphill. Turn left along terrace path.
- 5** After steep climb, turn left and follow path. Part way down hill, cross into field to right over stile and continue down along hedge line.
- 6** At field exit turn left, signed 'Greenway Gardens ¾m'. Pass through gate and down track past houses. Turn left at road. If you would like to catch the steam train back to Kingswear, turn right at the road and follow the the footpath signed to Greenway Halt. Details of train times www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk
- 7** Continue along the lane and through gate. By Greenway Estate information panel turn right through gate. Once over brow of hill bear left down field edge path. At the bottom turn right along Greenway Drive.
- 8** By the lodge house turn left down road to quay
- 9** To return to Kingswear. From here you can take a ferry to Dittisham and continue, following the Dart Valley Trail, back to Dartmouth. Alternatively you can take the ferry back to Dartmouth from Dittisham, or retrace your steps on this side of the estuary. Ferry details can be found on www.southdevonaonb.org.uk

Further Interest

Heritage

Greenway House and its 300- acre estate, given to the National Trust in 2000, has a long and illustrious history. Best known as the home of Agatha Christie, Greenway was also the birthplace of the Elizabethan explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and a haunt of his half- brother Sir Walter Raleigh.

Gilbert founded the colony of Newfoundland while searching for the North West Passage. He was the father of the famous cod industry of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland – a place where the waters were at that time said to be so teeming with fish that you could walk across the surface of the sea on their backs. Many local men were shipped across the Atlantic to work catching, salting and drying the cod.

Further downstream from Greenway, and visible from the Estate and several other points on the walk, are the old shipyards sited on both sides of the river. Dartmouth's biggest employer for over 100 years, the yards built all kinds of vessels, including the steel yacht in which Chay Blyth sailed around the world from East to West.

From Greenway Quay, you can see Gurrrow Point, across the water and a little upstream. From this low promontory in 1894, early aviator Albert Liwentaal flew a plane he had designed and built himself. The plane got off the ground successfully, but unfortunately 'landed' again in the river.

On the top of the hill beyond Dittisham, you will see the basket of a fire beacon. The original beacon was sited up here to raise the alarm on the sighting of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Landscape

'Dart' is an old English word for 'oak'. You can see where the name came from on this walk, as the river is fringed with oak trees for much of its length. Oaks support more other organisms – birds, animals, plants, ferns, mosses, lichens, and especially insects – than any other kind of tree in this country.



There are **audio clips** telling you about the hidden and past world within the estuary - look out for audio posts **around the route** or see the webpage www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/walks

South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Walks

Until around a hundred years ago, the oaks in Long Wood were harvested by cutting them periodically and then allowing them to re-grow – a practise known as coppicing. This produced bark for use in tanning leather, and wood for charcoal making. Old charcoal burning sites can still be found in the wood.

The National trust now manages Long Wood for conservation, access and landscape. For more information on the National trust visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The wooded National Trust gardens at Greenway are planted with many native wildflowers, and have ‘an atmosphere of wildness and timelessness’. Originally landscaped using prisoners from the Spanish Armada, the gardens also contain rare trees, shrubs, particularly magnolias and rhododendrons, and many exotic southern hemisphere plants. They are open to the public from March to October

Wildlife

Seals follow the salty waters of the river upstream and are not an uncommon sight. Look out for their long- muzzled, whiskered heads bobbing just above the surface as they ‘hang’ in the water between dives.

The river is rich in birdlife. Herons nest in the riverside trees on the Greenway Estate. You can see these tall birds standing motionless by the water’s edge, or flying overhead with ponderous grace on long slow wing beats, their necks tucked back in on themselves.

Wading birds feed on the shore, following the tide out. You may see small flocks of white- breasted, brownish- backed dunlin, along with orange- billed oystercatcher. Turnstones have short bills, short orange legs, black breasts and white undersides. Flocks of them ferret around in the seaweed and debris on the shore. Curlews, whose name comes

from the sound of their piping call, can also be seen here, as can ringed plovers, with their orange bills, black and white heads, and a distinctive black ring around the neck.

Woodland birds include buzzard, sparrowhawk, and the bounding flight of the red, black and white great spotted woodpecker.

The National Trust estate at Greenway is managed particularly for farmland birds. These include yellowhammers, with their unmistakable brilliant yellow heads, and the rare ciril bunting, a small green and brown bird with a black and yellow striped face. You may also hear the airborne skylark’s liquid song from high above these fields.

Long Wood is home to the silver- washed fritillary butterfly. This large and handsome fritillary has deep orange wings with black markings.

Roe deer also find shelter in Long Wood. The roe is a fairly small and delicate deer, with short antlers. It is a rich brown in colour, with a white patch at the rump, and a large black nose.

As you walk up the hill from the Greenway Estate, butcher’s broom can be seen growing in the woodland edge to the right. This spiky, spiny little shrub has small oval leaves clustered up its stems, and bright red berries. Bundles of it were once used to scour butchers’ blocks, and were made into prickly ‘tents’ around meat to keep the mice off.

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online walk



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Working in partnership



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas has supported Explore South Devon to promote circular walks within the South Devon AONB using the South West Coast Path National Trail.

