

Where is the Drake link?

This route takes in the splendour of Buckland Abbey, the former home of Sir Francis Drake.

Drake returned from circumnavigating the globe in 1580, aboard his ship the *Golden Hinde*. In his capacity as a 'privateer' to 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 ride starts at the edge of the former RAF Harrowbeer airfield. Built as a response to the severe bombing of Plymouth in 1941, Harrowbeer housed fighter aircraft until the end of the war.

Lopwell Weir and Dam is now a tranquil nature reserve and collection of sleepy buildings, but some 700 years ago it was a busy port and market gardening area.

Still want to know more?

Buckland Abbey visitor information:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/buckland

Drake's Trail website for more recreation routes:

www.drakestrail.co.uk

RAF Harrowbeer history and guided walk information:

www.rafharrowbeer.co.uk



find out more through the **Drake's Trail podcasts** available at:
www.drakestrail.co.uk or
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

www.dartmoor.co.uk

Or contact the
Tavistock Tourist Information Centre
01822 612938

email: 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

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

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



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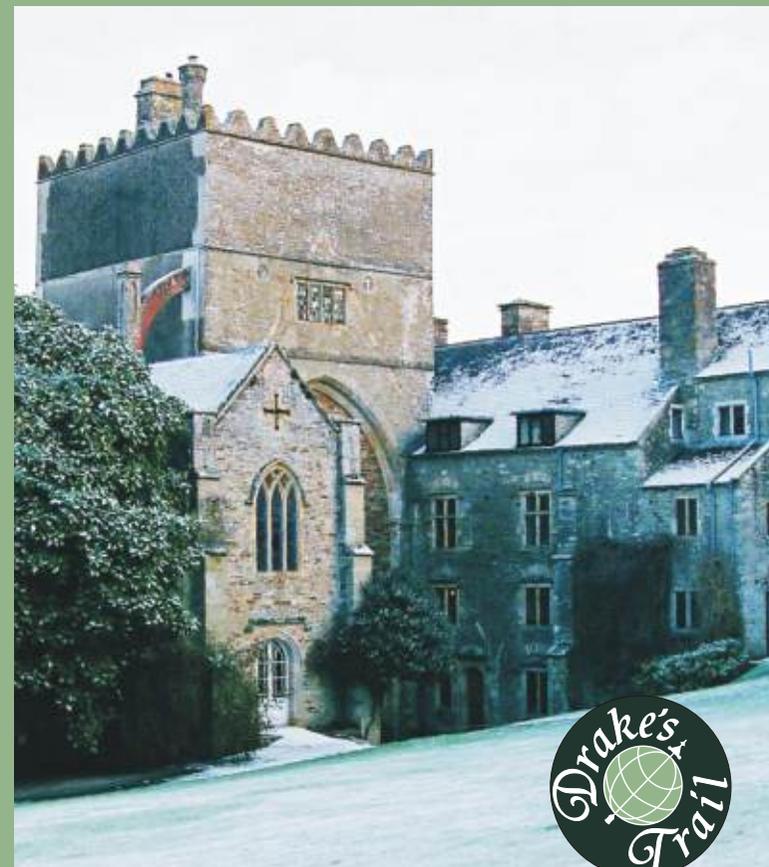
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Drake's Trail Cycling Spur 2

Yelverton to Lopwell and Buckland Abbey



Start: Eastern edge of RAF Harrowbeer

Duration: 2½ - 3 hours

Distance: 15.1 miles / 25.3 kilometres

Grade: DIFFICULT

Surface: On minor roads and cycle trail.
Some very steep hills.

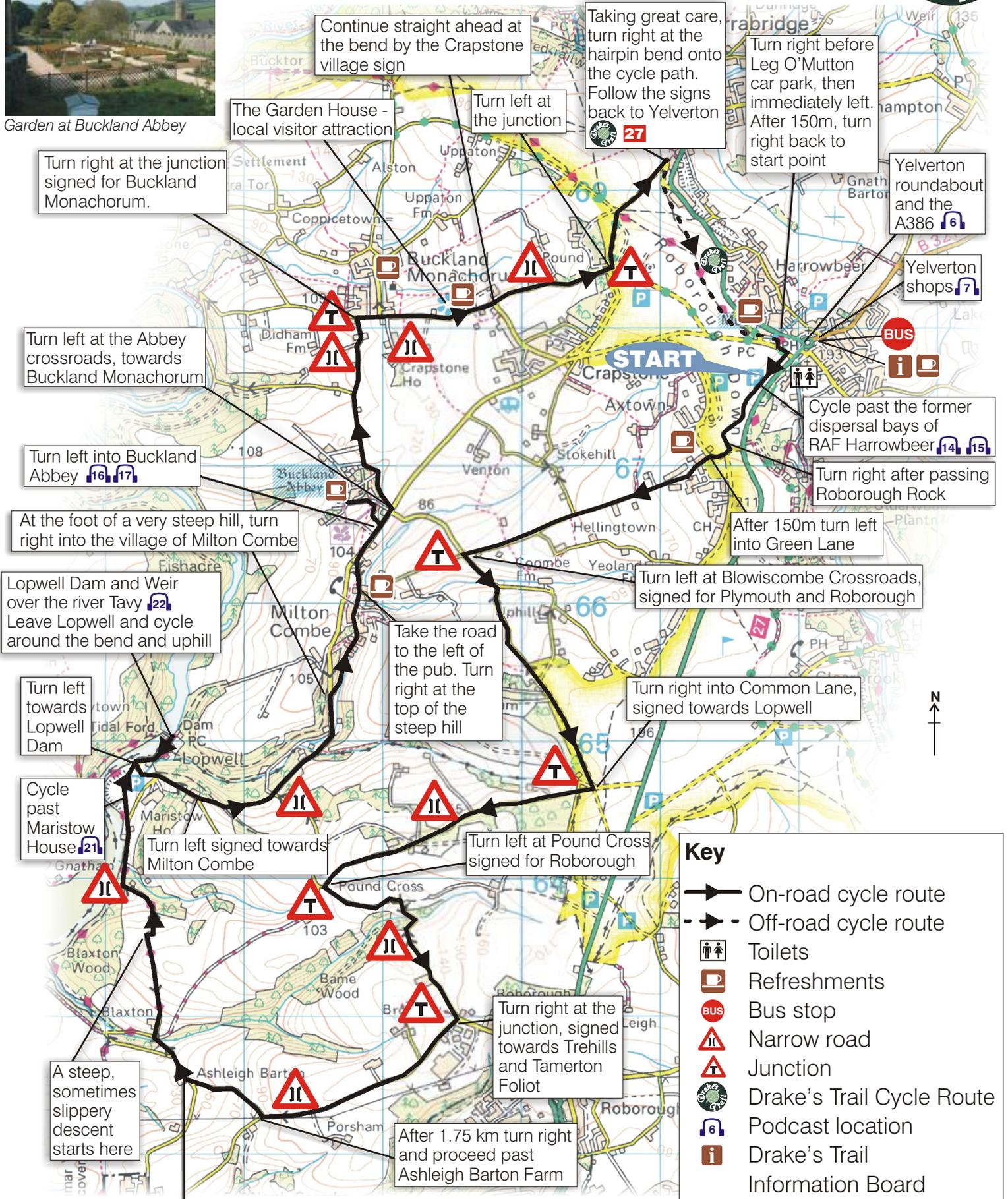
Also see OS Explorer maps 108 and OL28

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

Cycling Spur 2 - Yelverton to Lopwell and Buckland Abbey



Garden at Buckland Abbey



Continue straight ahead at the bend by the Crapstone village sign

Taking great care, turn right at the hairpin bend onto the cycle path. Follow the signs back to Yelverton

Turn right before Leg O'Mutton car park, then immediately left. After 150m, turn right back to start point

The Garden House - local visitor attraction

Turn left at the junction

Turn right at the junction signed for Buckland Monachorum.

Yelverton roundabout and the A386

Yelverton shops

Turn left at the Abbey crossroads, towards Buckland Monachorum

Turn left into Buckland Abbey

At the foot of a very steep hill, turn right into the village of Milton Combe

Lopwell Dam and Weir over the river Tavy. Leave Lopwell and cycle around the bend and uphill

Turn left towards Lopwell Dam

Take the road to the left of the pub. Turn right at the top of the steep hill

Turn left at Blowiscombe Crossroads, signed for Plymouth and Roborough

Turn right into Common Lane, signed towards Lopwell

Cycle past Maristow House

Turn left signed towards Milton Combe

Turn left at Pound Cross signed for Roborough

A steep, sometimes slippery descent starts here

Turn right at the junction, signed towards Trehills and Tamerton Foliot

After 1.75 km turn right and proceed past Ashleigh Barton Farm

Follow the road around the bend and continue uphill

