

CONSERVATION AREA

The Silverton Conservation Area was reviewed in 2015 It covers the historic centre of the village and includes many listed buildings.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- The walks described in this leaflet cover a variety of surfaces and walkers are advised to wear sturdy comfortable boots
- When walking along country lanes keep an eye out for vehicles. Oversee children and dogs
- Cameras and binoculars are always useful for appreciating and recording the countryside and its wildlife
- Always follow the Countryside Code and avoid straying into private properties described along the route

**WHERE EVER YOU GO,
FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE**
Respect the local community and other people
Leave gates & property as you find them
Follow roads and paths
Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
Keep dogs under effective control
Enjoy the outdoors but plan ahead
Be prepared, follow advice and local signs

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bus – there is a regular bus service between Exeter and Tiverton seven days a week with the 55A & 55B service stopping in Silverton For bus times see the timetable by the bus shelter in the Square or www.stagecoachbus.com/southwest

VISITOR INFORMATION

Public Car Park in Wyndham Road EX5 4JZ

Be aware that there are no public WCs now but the two pubs provide facilities & refreshment, when open. The same applies to the Community Hall which holds a market on the first Saturday of each month.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND BRIDLEWAYS

The walks described in this leaflet were surveyed at the time of publication and should be clear, waymarked and walkable. The countryside is a changing place so there may be some variation from the text or map on occasion. The walks should be passable and if you experience any difficulty please contact the RoW Officer, DCC, County Hall

OS MAP

The parish of Silverton is shown on the OS Explorer Outdoor Leisure Map 114 1/25000

WALKS #1 & #2

OUT AND ABOUT FROM SILVERTON

Walk description

WALK #1 An easy to moderate walk of about 2 miles up through the village and out into the countryside

WALK #2 A longer moderate walk of about 4 miles to a ridge road with spectacular views of Devon and Somerset



© Silverton Local History Society 2016

INTRODUCTION TO

The Parish of Silverton

The village of Silverton lies tucked under a ridge of hills midway between Exeter and Tiverton. The A396 now runs to the west of the village which was bypassed in 1819. Barely visible from the Exe valley, the tower of the Parish Church becomes a prominent landmark



The village retains a variety of cob and thatch buildings dating from the 16th to 19th centuries despite some serious fires in 1837 and 1878

The village is believed to have Saxon origins being settled around 700AD. The place name Silverton is of Saxon origin, tun being the Saxon word for a fortified homestead. Sil is the word for plough, ver for ford suggesting plough-ford-town, a farm by a miry ford.

Its first church was probably built in wood on high ground to the west of the present building, which dates from around 1450 with later alterations and is dedicated to St Mary the Virgin. It contains a fine west gallery recording 17th C benefactions. The list of Rectors dates from 1272.

The open space to the south of the Church is known as the Berry or Bury, recalling the Saxon burh which was a place of refuge for livestock in time of danger from raiding Vikings.



Silverton was a Royal Manor, the property passing from Edward the Confessor to the Normans in 1066 and is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

It was held by English Kings until Edward III 1327-77 passed it to a series of Lords of the Manor until, in the 14th Century, the village began its long association with the Wyndham family of Silverton Park and Blackborough.

A thriving borough in the 1300s, Silverton had a weekly market and cattle fairs. The modern village is pleasant and lively with a population of 1875. Shops are now confined to The Square with two pubs located on Fore Street.

The walks take you out into the countryside.

WALK #1

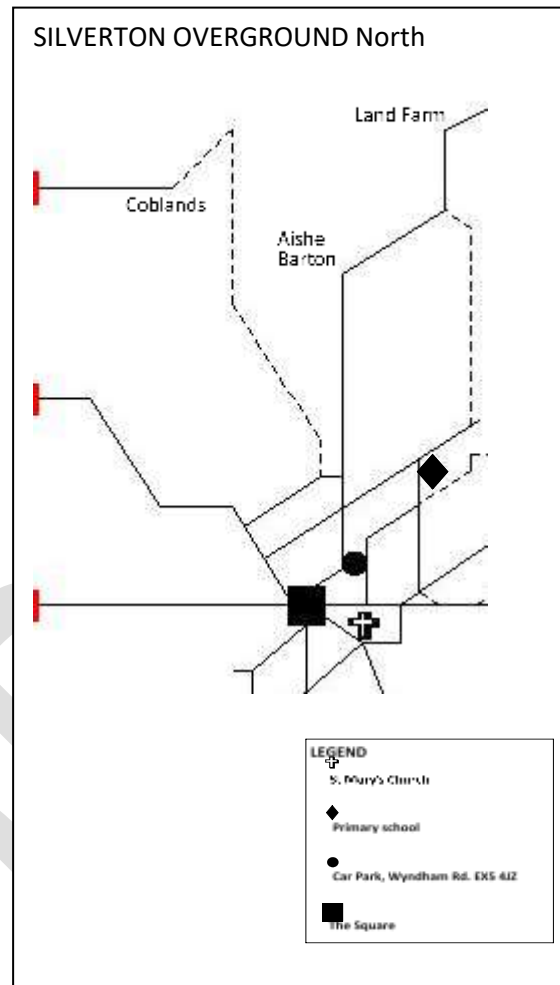
OS Map Ref: SS95720305 Post Code EX5 4JZ
Approx distance – 2 Miles (3.2 km)
Approx time guide – 1.5 hours
STARTING POINT – Public Car Park, Wyndham Road near Silverton Community Hall
Type of Walk – Easy to moderate but with a climb up a steep lane and a sharp descent on a footpath

Walk #1 is varied, climbing out of the village on a pleasant Devon lane and beside open fields giving splendid views of the Exe Valley.

From Wyndham Road the Church is visible to the south. Steps take you into the churchyard and from there the Church path opens into the Square, the village centre.

The Walk begins by heading to the far end of the Car Park and along the path to Fore Street Turn Right passing larger houses from the Georgian era. Go over the crossroads between The Lamb PH and the Methodist Church and on up High Street past the 12 Mill Cottages.

Higher Bullen (or Bull Ring) marks the upper market. Take the Old Butterleigh Road, once the main coaching route to Tiverton and beyond, into a typical Devon lane with its high hedgerows and scattered wild flowers.



The road now climbs steeply towards Butterleigh and although not busy, it is still used by local traffic, so please take care.

After about a quarter mile you will see Aishe Barton on your left. The farmhouse and its outbuildings are built of stone or cob under thatched roofs. On the hill above the farm the Romans had a signal station, it's thought.

Continue up the road until it bends left. Turn Right onto the public footpath. Go through the gate and follow the path along the hedge line, looking right to the views of Raddon Top with the tors of Dartmoor visible beyond. As you begin to descend you will see the Exe Valley ahead as far as Dawlish and the sea. And then the village appears spread out below, with St Marys Church prominent.

Continue downwards and through the gate onto Roach Lane. Turn Right and follow the lane down beside the CofE Primary School, built to replace earlier buildings in 1975.

Turn Left onto Coach Road and then Right into Wyndham Road which takes you back through housing estates to the Car Park.

A WALK AROUND SILVERTON is the title of a booklet published by the Silverton Local History Society with a more detailed description of the central area of the village and historical associations. Now out of print, copies may be available second-hand.

WALK #2

OS Map Ref: SS95720305 Post Code EX5 4JZ

Approx distance – 4 Miles (6.4 km)

Approx time guide – 2.5 hours

STARTING POINT – Public Car Park, Wyndham Road near Silverton Community Hall

Type of Walk – Moderate but with a 1.75 mile continuous climb up a steep lane and a long descent down a bridleway.



WALK #2 follows Walk #1 for the first mile continuing upwards to Christ Cross, a height of 850 ft (260m) and the ridge road with splendid views of Devon and Somerset.

Start Walk #2 from the Car Park turning right onto Fore Street and on up Old Butterleigh Road. Ignore the turn onto the footpath and proceed onwards past Land Farm on your left in the valley below. This is home to the Exe Valley Brewery whose ales are available at local hostelrys. It is not open to the public.

Keep walking upwards between steep banks on which wild orchids may be seen, until a gateway on your left gives spectacular views of the Exe Valley.

A further 200m brings you to the summit, Christ Cross. Turn Right onto the ridge road.

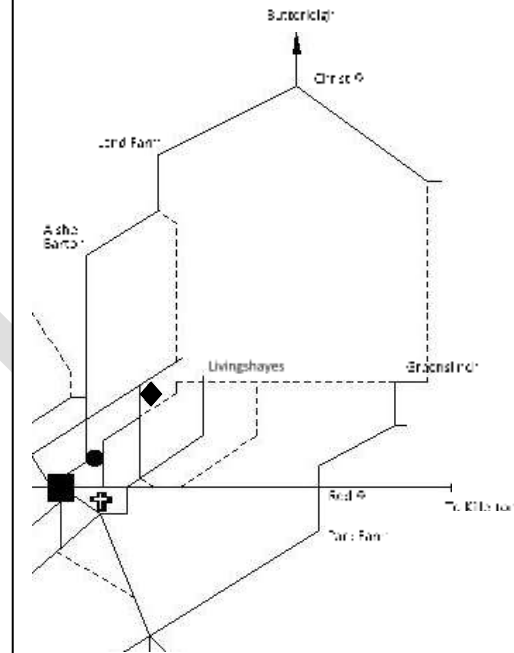
From a gateway on your right along the ridge road and from others further on there are extensive views.

These vantage points give views of the Blackdown Hills, Wellington's Monument, the Quantocks, Brendon Hills and Exmoor to the north with Raddon Top, Dartmoor, Exe Valley, Silverton, Sidmouth gap, Killerton Park, Culm Valley and the Exe Estuary (Exmouth) to the south.

Killerton Park, where the 18th C home of the Acland family stands in fine hillside gardens and grounds, is owned by the National Trust.

The Culm Valley contained many paper mills of which Silverton Mill was one. This closed in 1999.

SILVERTON OVERGROUND North East



After quarter mile on a rise turn right down a trackway, steep and muddy in places. At Greenslinch Barton bear right up a footpath and follow this through two gateways down to Livinghayes Lane. Cross the road and through a kissing gate, then diagonally up the field, through two more gates to a path beside the School. Down Wyndham Road to the Car Park.