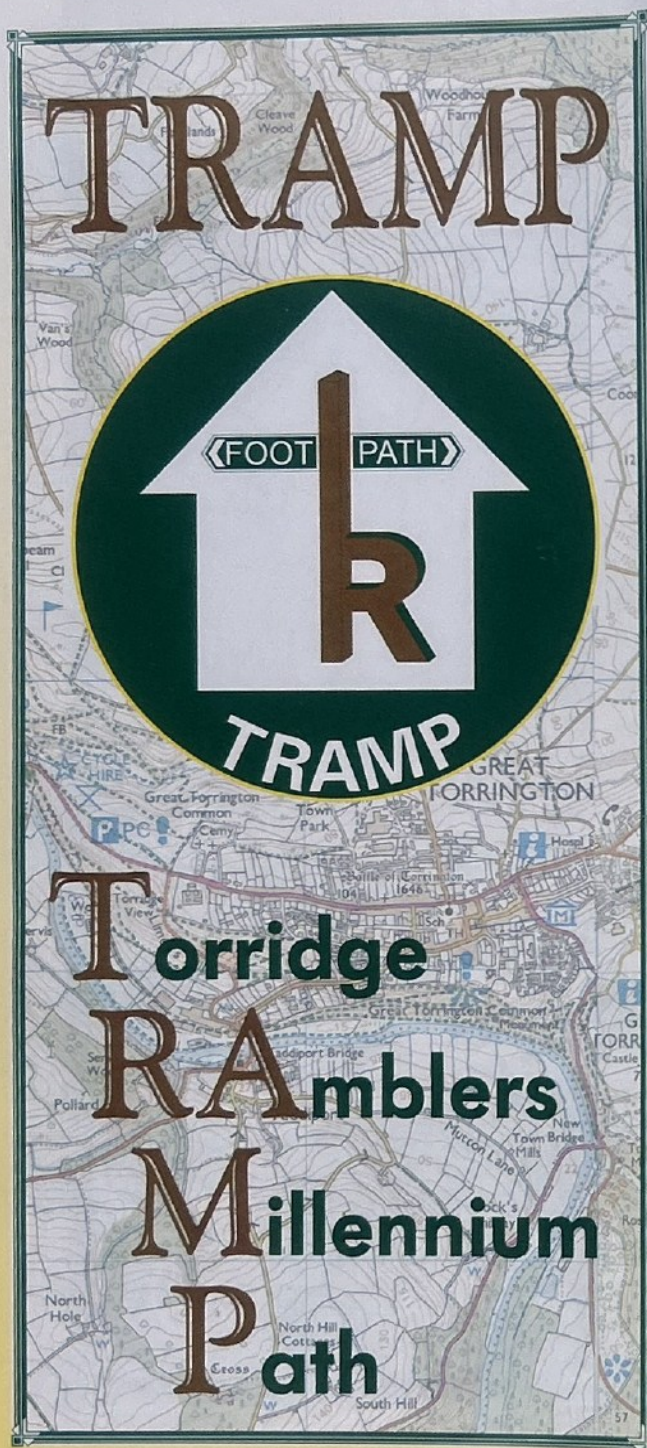




TORRIDGE RAMBLERS MILLENNIUM PATH

A circular walk of about 20 miles created by the Torrington Ramblers to celebrate the millennium, which encircles the town of Great Torrington, using existing rights of way and permissive paths. It passes through varied countryside, including riverside, woodland, farmland, part of the Commons and the Tarka Trail.



It is possible to complete the walk in a number of shorter loops. Car parking is indicated on the map for this purpose. The walk is designed and way-marked to be walked in both directions but this leaflet describes an anti-clockwise route.

The walk was planned in 2000 and is way-marked and maintained by the Torrington Ramblers www.torringtonramblers.co.uk

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Millennium Festival Awards for All
Clinton Devon Estates
South West Lakes Trust
Devon County Council

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Parish Paths Partnership - Working closely with Town and Parish Councils, landowners, and volunteers, Devon County Council is caring for 3,000 miles of footpaths, bridleways and byways.

Points of interest along the way:

Starting from **A** - 'Watergate Car Park'

A TO B

WATERGATE (TARKA TRAIL) TO PUFFING BILLY

The Tarka Trail here runs along the line of the old Bideford to Torrington Railway, opened in 1872, with a narrow gauge extension to the clay pits at Peters Marland and Meeth. A passenger service to Halwill ran until 1965 although clay continued to be carried until 1982 when the line was finally closed.



Look out for the railway sleeper sculptures by John Butler along this section of the Tarka Trail.



B to C to D PUFFING BILLY to TOWN MILLS via SOUTH STREET CAR PARK

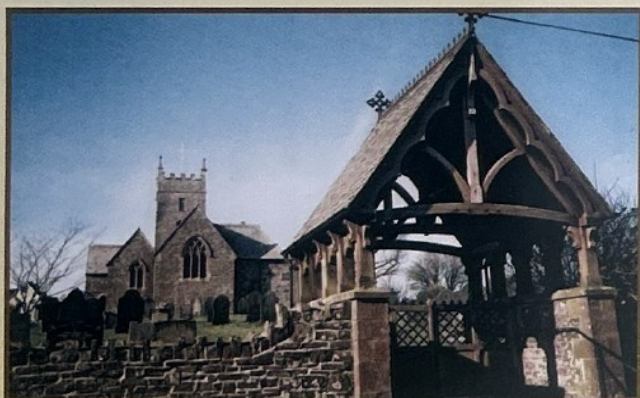
The Rolle Canal is 7 miles long and was built by Lord Rolle between 1820 and 1824 for the benefit of farmers and tenants. It connected with the tidal waters of the River Torridge at Landcross. The canal was abandoned upon the coming of the railway in 1870.

Torrington Commons were established in 1185 by William de Torrington for the benefit of the poor. Now covering 365 acres with over 20 miles of footpath it is governed by statute, The Great Torrington Act 1889.

Taddiport is the site of a leper colony. The remains of this can be seen in two narrow fields to your right across the river as you climb up to Torrington and South Street Car Park. C.

Refreshments are available in Torrington and you will find South Street car park a good central point for starting the walk.

The Waterloo Monument was erected in 1818 to commemorate the battle and can be seen to your right just before dropping down the hill to rejoin the Rolle Canal before Town Mills.



D to G to H SPUR to ST. GILES-IN-THE-WOOD and STEVENSTONE

Access beyond H has not been possible to arrange. It is possible to continue the walk by using the B3227 back to Torrington but this is a busy and

dangerous road and is not recommended. So, this section may be walked as a one-way or by retracing your steps to D.

The Healand Road beyond Shallowford Lodge was once the road to Exeter. The Lodge was used to stable horses for drawing coaches and carts on local hills.

Stevenstone House and estate was formerly the property of the Rolle family but the house is now mostly demolished. In the village of St. Giles you will see many attractive cottages built in the 19th century for staff employed at Stevenstone House.

D to E to F TOWN MILLS to DARRACOTT RESERVOIR to LOXDOW PICNIC SITE

Town Mills (formerly called Manor Mill) was a grist mill powered by a water wheel. The route then takes you via Shallowford Lodge (one of the lodges to the Stevenstone Estate) passing the east side of Torrington to Darracott Reservoir.

Berry Castle is an iron age fort in Huntshaw Wood. The wood is owned by Clinton Estates.



Weare Giffard

Weare Giffard is where Tarka was born (according to Henry Williamson). At 3.5 miles it is reputedly the longest village in Devon and second longest in England. It derives its name from Walter de Giffard, a knight of William the Conqueror. The Cyder Presse is the local inn.



Beam Weir

Beam Weir is magical in all seasons and in all states of the River Torridge. It is worth the short detour on reaching the junction between the Trail and the woodland path.

F to A LOXDOW to WATERGATE

In Monkleigh you pass St. George's Church. This is mainly 15th C with a Norman font, a variety of brasses and monuments including the tomb of Sir William Hankford, Lord Chief Justice of England at the time of the Battle of Agincourt. The Bell Inn is at the top of the village.

Frithelstock is worth the short detour off the route to Frithelstock Priory which was founded by the Augustinians in 1229 and is the only substantial monastic remains in Devon.

The Clinton Arms can be found in the village



Frithelstock Priory

After Frithelstock, other signs of monastic presence are Pryston a 'priest's farm' and the farmhouse at Priestacott, probably a priest's house.

KEY

— Route
 - - - - - Spur

A, B etc., convenient starting points
 Car Parking available at

A, B, C, D, F, G.

NO PARKING at E

Scale 1:25000

Anyone using any
 part of the route described in this
 leaflet does so entirely
 at their own risk.

