



Blow away the cobwebs at Battery Point



Walk information

Distance: about 2.3 miles

Difficulty: medium – some rocky, uneven, uphill paths in Eastwood. A couple of sets of steps, going both up and down. Wear suitable footwear

Duration: about 1.5 hours at a leisurely pace

Map: OS 154 Explorer

How to get there

Start at map ref: ST 463770

By car: Free parking is available at the Lake Grounds

Refreshments: The Lake Grounds café is open daily 10am-4pm, except in very bad weather. Toilets available next door (20p charge)

Café Lido at Portishead Open Air Pool is run by volunteers. Opening times for 2019 were still to be confirmed at the time of *Life* going to print

Battery Point is the blustery headland in Portishead at the northern end of the Esplanade.

Last year, the historic site was one of 100 areas across the country to be named a Centenary Field, giving it protection in perpetuity as a site of remembrance.

The Centenary Fields programme, run by the Fields in Trust charity, protects valuable green space as a living remembrance to those who fought and lost their lives in World War 1.



Start the walk at Portishead's Lake Grounds, a popular park and lake situated right next to the Esplanade.

The beach and surrounding shoreline is an important area of geographical and biological interest, with its inter-tidal mudflats and saltmarsh habitats.

The limestone rocks of Battery Point and Woodhill Bay near the pool are part of the Portishead Pier to Black Nore Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Head north on the Esplanade towards Battery Point and the open air pool, and go up the steps next to the café.

Once you've reached the top of the headland, there are plenty of benches to sit on and enjoy the spectacular panoramic views.

The area has a long history as a 'look out' and area of defence.

There are remains of an Iron Age hillfort in Eastwood and beacons were erected during Elizabethan times to warn of invasion from the Spanish Armada.



The first fortifications were built in the 17th century, during the Civil War. Army barracks were then built during the Edwardian period, which were manned by Devon and Cornwall Fire Command during the First World War.

The original lighthouse was built in 1931 and after it came to the end of its life, this near-replica was installed in 1999. The bell from the original lighthouse can now be seen on Wyndham Way.

Searchlights and guns were put in place during the Second World War and these were manned by the Home Guard.

The site was acquired by the local council in 1949 and people have been able to enjoy unrestricted access since then.



Walk back across the headland and join the path that runs behind the pool to the woods.

Enter the woods, a local nature reserve, and take the steps up on the right-hand side.

Cross the road and continue up the steps opposite. This is a gentle uphill climb but watch out for rocks.

Keep going forwards, keeping to the main path. You'll have views out across the marina through the trees.

At the end of the path, follow the steps downhill onto Pier Road. Turn left, then continue downhill past the Royal Inn.



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Take the steps downhill in front of you, signposted to the RNLI shop. These steps lead to the northern tip of Port Marine, with views across the Severn estuary.

Walk south along the marina's edge, once the site of power stations but now terraces of attractive, individual homes and luxury apartments.

Continue down the lock side until you reach the sculpture of the woman, part of the public art trail.

Turn right here and head towards Jubilee Park and the Arc of Angels. These five female figures commemorate the masts of Portishead Radio which stood above

the town and controlled shipping movements around the world.

Exit the park in the far left corner, going up the steps. Turn left at the top, exiting onto Burlington Road. Go to the end and cross straight over onto South Road.

At the roundabout, cross straight over then take the first right, Beach Road East. Continue straight on at the crossroads to join Beach Road West.

Turn left into Rodmoor Road, and this will lead you back to the Lake Grounds. Take time to pop into the Britain in Bloom award-winning Rodmoor Gardens first, though, maintained by Portishead in Bloom.

