

THE OKEHAMPTON LINE

The first plans to build a rail connection to Okehampton in 1863. Through a couple of subsidiary companies, the London and South Western Railway Company eventually commenced the rather erratic construction of the line. From Coleford to North Tawton was reached in 1865 but the final three miles to Okehampton were not opened until 1871 with an extension to Exeter following in 1874. The line was built to a standard gauge of 4 ft 8 1/2 in, but then the line curves and climbs steadily until it crosses the Dartmoor at the edge of Dartmoor. The station at Okehampton looks down on the town, with the line continuing on past Meldon to its highest point of 950 feet before descending to a series of gradual curves across the moor. The line is a single track with a single line, all other viaducts on the line were of local stone. The appearance of maintaining the Meldon Viaduct was one of the reasons for placing the Okehampton to Plymouth line. There is still track on the viaduct and over 350,000 tonnes of ballast stone is removed from British Rail's quarry there. And closed the Okehampton to Barnstaple section of the line in 1968. A passenger shuttle service to Exeter operated for a further four years until it too was withdrawn on 5th June 1972.

In the heyday of steam, Okehampton was a busy station for connections and for arriving large trains, such as the Atlantic Coast Express, according to intended final destinations in the West Country.



SATURDAY EXCURSIONS TO OKEHAMPTON 1986

WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL TOGETHER
WITH BRITISH RAIL BRING YOU

FOUR SPECIAL SATURDAY EXCURSIONS THIS SUMMER

EXETER TO OKEHAMPTON

SATURDAY JULY 26th & AUGUST 2nd 16th & 23rd 1986

TIMES & FARES

LEAVING	AT	RETURN FARE
EXETER CENTRAL dep	9.23 ^{ch} 16:15	£ 2.50 Adult or unaccompanied child (5-16)
Exeter St Davids	9.36 16:20	
Crediton	9.46 16:30	
OKEHAMPTON arr	10.15 17.00	
OKEHAMPTON dep	10.35 17.25	£ 1.25 Accompanied child (5-16)
Crediton	11.05 17.55	
Exeter St Davids	11.17 18.05	
EXETER CENTRAL arr	11.22 18.20 ^{ch}	

ch = Change at
Exeter St Davids

BOOKING

IN ADVANCE

For travel from
EXETER or CREDITON

In person from
EXETER CENTRAL Travel Shop.

In person from
EXETER ST DAVIDS Travel Centre.

For travel from
OKEHAMPTON

In person from West Devon Borough
Council, Oaklands Drive, Okehampton.

By post West Devon Borough Council.

ON THE DAY

For travel from
EXETER

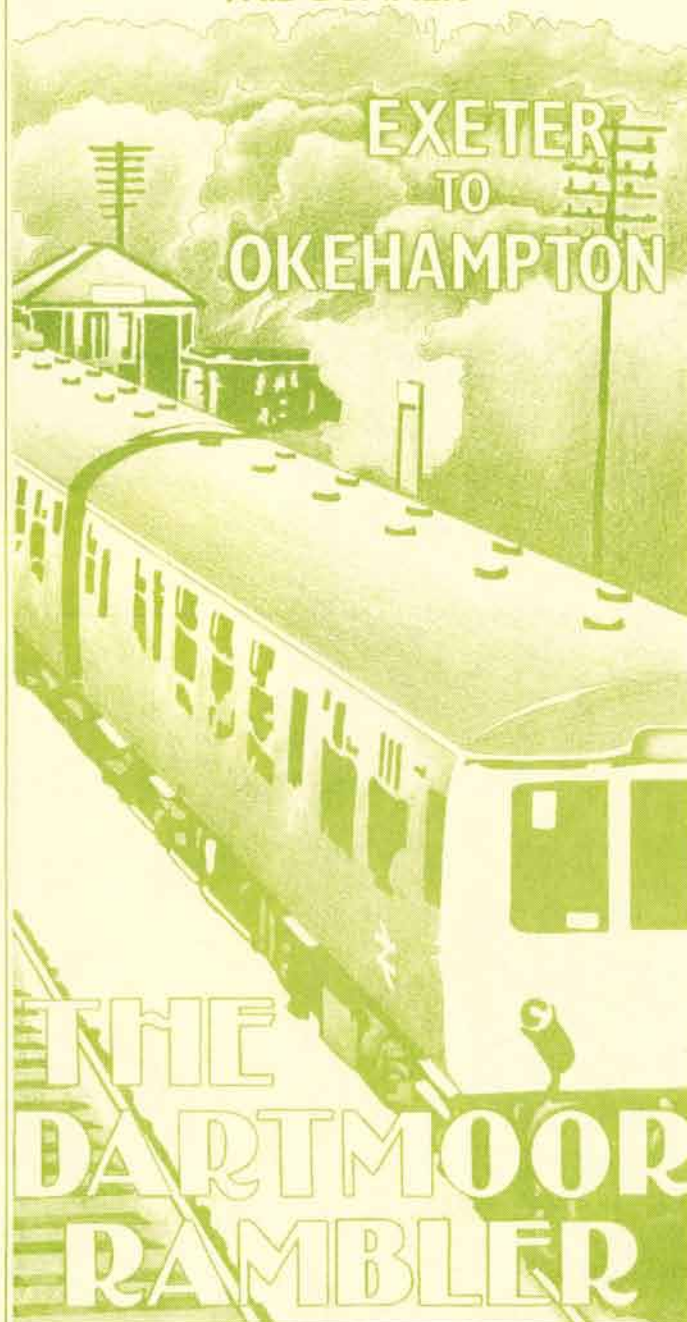
EXETER ST DAVIDS or
EXETER CENTRAL Booking Offices

NOTE: All seats unreserved. Tickets are not transferable. Passengers make their own way between Okehampton Station and the Town (about fifteen minutes walk). Taxis are available in the town. Any further information may be obtained from West Devon Borough Council (Tel: Okehampton 2901) or Exeter St Davids Travel Centre. Tel: Exeter 333551

The Dartmoor Rambler is NOT a Steam Train

West Devon Borough Council, Oaklands Drive, Okehampton, Devon.
(Tel: Okehampton 2901)

WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENTS SPECIAL SATURDAY EXCURSIONS THIS SUMMER



26 JULY 2.16.23 AUGUST

≡ CHARTERED THROUGH BRITISH RAIL ≡

WELCOME TO OKEHAMPTON

"Gateway to Dartmoor"

Come to the Town

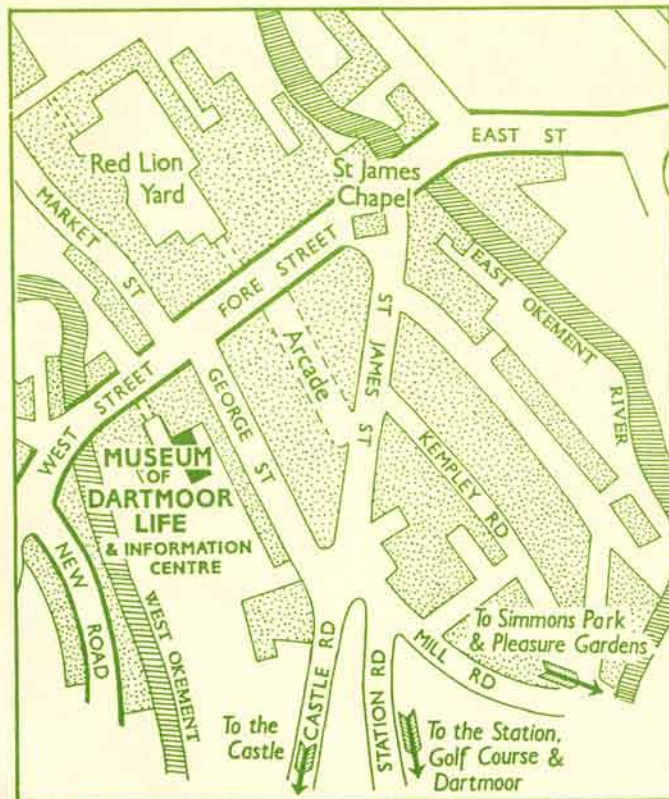
The market town of Okehampton lies below the northern tip of Dartmoor, approximately 25 miles from Exeter. Ten to fifteen minutes walk downhill from the Station and you arrive at the town centre.

Okehampton has a varied selection of shops, the Red Lion yard pedestrian shopping precinct provides a delightfully peaceful area. The town also offers an abundance of pubs, restaurants and cafes.

The Museum of Dartmoor Life

An attraction not to be missed is the Museum of Dartmoor Life, found next to the White Hart Hotel. The visitor will discover a fascinating insight into the bygone social and industrial life of the region as well as displays of arts and crafts.

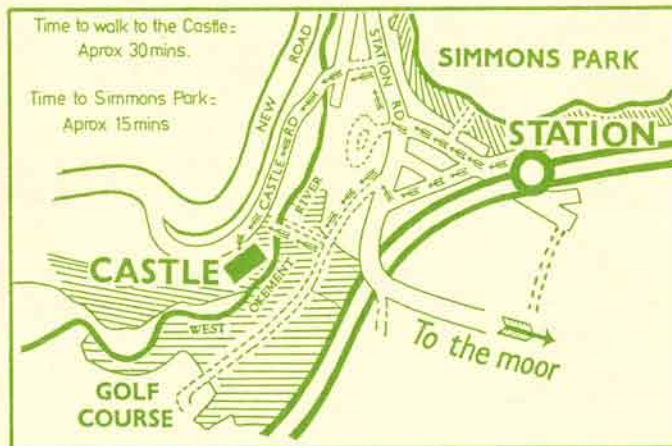
A few minutes walk from the town centre are the pleasure grounds at Simmons Park. There is a bowling green, tennis courts and swimming pool.



Okehampton Castle

Beside the West Okement river is Okehampton Castle. The Norman Baron Baldwin de Brionne, sheriff of Devon, established a castle here soon after the Conquest, and it remained a powerful fortification until the sixteenth century, since when it gradually decayed until presented to the town in 1911. The Castle is reached by either walking to the bottom of Station Road and turning left into Castle Road or by taking a number of shorter routes, via the footpaths shown on the maps.

A leaflet describing walks around Okehampton is available from the Information Centre.



Walking on Dartmoor

One of the best ways to appreciate the towns superb setting is to follow the road to Dartmoor.

From Okehampton Station, the simplest way is to follow Tors Road, straight up to the Okehampton Camp. This road is very steep but offers dramatic views across the town and castle.

The road leads to the Moor Gate and high Dartmoor, with the two highest summits on the moor, High Willhays (2,039 ft.) and Yes Tor (2,030 ft.).

This part of the moor is used by the military for live firing, however there will be no firing during the period of these train journeys.

Visitors are warned not to pick up any metal objects on the moor. It must be emphasised that there are no amenities on the moor and anyone walking there should be equipped with the correct clothing and footwear, as well as bringing their own food and refreshment.

It is not advisable to stray from the road unless you have a map and compass.

Remember to follow the country code, details can be obtained from your nearest Tourist Information Centre and take any litter home with you.

