4. Follow the road past the Anchor Inn and the Harbour before turning left along Church Road.

Cockwood is a charming olde-worlde waterfront community, separated from the River Exe Estuary the South Devon Rivera train line. The village with some 17th century character cottages is built up and around a small tidal harbour (known as Cockwood Sod). The Sod, being tidal, is fed from the Exe under two historic railway arches, built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. More character housing is located further back along the road which comes out in Cofton.

The Anchor Inn is over 450 years old and was originally opened as a Seaman's Mission. It was a haven for seamen and smugglers and is said to be haunted by a friendly ghost and his dog. The first Village Hall was built in 1894 for the sum of £279 and sited next to the Anchor Inn. When Cockwood Chapel, a Plymouth Brethren Meeting House, became available, the brewery bought the old village hall and Cockwood Chapel became Cofton Parish Hall.

5. Follow Church Road back to Cofton.

The Ship Inn is a family run pub with pleasant views over the village green from the bar and a magnificent view of the Exe Estuary from their large garden. As you pass The Ship Inn, look to the right across the marsh. Below the left hand modern house can be seen what looks like a ruined castle gate house. These are in fact Grade 2 listed lime kilns. The lime kiln shows exposed stonework with no rendering. As you continue along Church Road the two roads on your left contain first the settlement of Middlewood and then Westwood. Each has a narrow road climbing uphill with a mixture of character housing. The older buildings were often built using local rubble stone and cobb and then given a protective coating of render and limewash. At each road's end a track continues, joining together and leading up to the summit of Cofton Hill.

6. St Mary's Church is on the left just before arriving back at Cofton Holidays Reception.

A tablet on the outside of St Mary's Church beneath the west window states that the chapel was founded in the 14th century. Having lain in a ruinous state for over 70 years, The Earl of Devon restored the church and reopened it it in 1839. St Mary's Church is part of the Holidays Coast Mission Community, along with the churches in Dawlish, Starcross and Holcombe.

Tucked away in 80 acres of woods, meadows and parkland with its own fishing lakes. **Cofton Holidays** is a friendly and independent, family run park. Equipped with all the modern facilities, we offer all you need to make your holiday an unforgettable experience. Relax in the superb indoor pool complex or when the sun is shining laze outside by the outdoor pool which boasts picturesque views over the nearby woodland. For the more energetic why not take a bike ride or stroll through the woodland, head to the gym for a bustling workout or try a spot of fishing at one of the numerous lakes on the park. In the evening you can indulge in a meal at the restaurant enjoy the varied entertainment offered by the in-house team or just simply sit back and relax in the comfort of your well presented holiday home.



Tourist Information:
Dawlish Tourist Information Centre, The Lawn
Dawlish, Devon, EX7 9PW. Tel: 01626 215665

Exe Estuary Management Partnership:
www.exe-estuary.org

Exe Extuary On-Line Map:
www.devon.gov.uk/exeexplorer07.pdf

COFTON HOLIDAYS

An Evening Stroll

Capture the variety of your immediate surroundings with this gentle circular walk passing through Eastdon Woods. Walk along a section of the Exe Estuary Trail before lingering by Cockwood Harbour and strolling back along a quiet country lane.



Distance:	2¾ miles (4½ km)
Estimated Time:	1¼ hours
Difficulty:	Easy
Starting point:	Cofton Holidays
OS Explorer map:	110 Torquay & Dawlish

COFTON HOLIDAYS

This is one of many walks
that can be found at www.southwestcoastpath.com

Cofton Holidays, Starcross Nr Dawlish
South Devon, EX6 8RP. Tel: 01626 890111
www.coftonholidays.co.uk

Directions

1. Coming out of Reception, turn left and walk through Cofton Holidays Park until you reach Orchard Lane.

2. At Orchard Lane, turn left and then almost immediately turn right taking the path through Eastdon wood before coming out in the grounds of Eastdon House.

The Eastdon Estate covers fifty acres of landscaped gardens and mature Devonshire woodland. The Dawlish Local History group have many historic finds from in and around the Eastdon Woods and Estate such as Victorian and modern glassware as well as ceramic fragments of medieval, post-medieval and Westerwald ware (grey stoneware from Germany), Totnes ware (unglazed earthenware produced around Totnes between the 13th and 18th centuries) and Saintonge ware (medieval pottery from the French Atlantic Coast). The village of Eastdon was known as Est Doune (middle English for hill) and then as Estdown in 1529.

Eastdon House is a grade 2 listed building built in the late eighteenth century enjoying views over the Exe Estuary, Dawlish Warren and Exmouth. Eastdon House is privately owned by Cofton Holidays and has been converted into five individual luxury holiday apartments. You can find details of these on our website at www.coftonholidays.co.uk/cosy-cottages-by-the-sea

3. Keep straight ahead towards the Dawlish Warren road. At the road turn left and follow the Exe Estuary Trail to Cockwood.

The Exe Estuary Trail is a fantastic cycling and walking route. It stretches from Dawlish to Exeter and then (if you're brave) all the way to Exmouth. It's a flat, mostly traffic free route into the heart of Exeter that provides a fantastic family day out. The pathway has been developed and constructed by Devon County Council as part of the National Cycle Network Route

Currently, the route links Exmouth, Lympstone and Exton with further sections linking to Topsham due to be completed in the near future. Exeter is a level ride (approx 12 miles) and there are many pubs and restaurants along the way to stop for some refreshment, as well as the historic Powderham castle. When completed, the Exe Estuary Trail will be around 26 miles in length with many smaller circuits made possible by using one of the ferry services which operate around the Estuary.

The Exe Estuary has a rich riverbed of mud and sand, swept down from the source of the Exe high up on Exmoor. The mud and sand is a rich in nutrients for invertebrates such as cockles and lugworms, which in turn provide valuable food source for birds. The estuary is a traditional stop-off point for migratory birds, including Brent geese travelling from as far away as Siberia. In the middle of winter there may be as many as25,000 birds in the middle of the river, thousands of them having flown from Northern Europe to join the native wildfowl and waders roosting and feeding in this internationally important habitat. Birds to be seen in large numbers include the avocet, with its long spindly legs and its upward-curving black beak. It was once rare but is increasing in numbers and is now seen in its hundreds on the Exe Estuary. Other species regularly spotted include godwits, dunlins, black-tailed wigeons, long-legged curlews with their down-turned beaks and black-and-white lapwings with twitching legs designed to disturb the invertebrates in the soil.



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