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Godolphin Large Print

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This guide is intended to be used with an A3 map. Please ask at reception if you do not have the A3 map.

Godolphin House and Gardens Large Print Guide

Hello and welcome! This booklet will provide information about the Godolphin Estate for visitors who prefer to use Large Print.

Godolphin House and Garden is owned and run by the National Trust. In 2000 the National Trust bought the wider estate and then bought the house, gardens and farm-yard in 2007. A conservation programme to prevent further decay to the house was completed in July 2011.

Today, as well as the House and Garden, there are also four circular country walks around the estate. Godolphin estate has over 6 miles of footpaths where visitors can find the Leeds engine house and stack - the remains of one of the Godolphin family mines. The country walks also take visitors along the River Hayle and through the woodlands to Godolphin Hill.

Please return this guide and the separate map before you leave. Thank you.

1. The Piggery Tea-Room

The Piggery Tea-Room serves refreshments, sandwiches and homemade cakes.

In the 18th century, this building was part of a water-powered grist mill. In the 19th century this was remodeled as a piggery

with 6 pig pens, a swill kitchen and a fireplace.

The Piggery also sells locally produced gifts, postcards and walking booklets.

The Piggery tea room is also the visitor reception for Godolphin House. Please note that tickets for Godolphin House are purchased at the Welcome hut.

There is an accessible toilet in The Piggery.

2. A brief History

There are interesting archaeological remains all over the Godolphin estate dating from the Bronze Age up to the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Bronze Age

The earliest datable features on the estate go back to the Bronze Age and are found at its highest point. At the top of Godolphin Hill is a rough circular enclosure. It is unsure whether these stones formed part of a settlement or were of ceremonial and ritual importance.

As grazing on the hill continues, the remains of a prehistoric field system is emerging. Excavations in 1878 uncovered an ancient Cornish village but unfortunately this was immediately covered as mining works were improved lower on the hill.

Iron Age

Changes to the landscape started at around the period of the Iron Age. During the mining period many 'palstaves' or bronze age axes were found on the site in a coffin.

This is the earliest evidence of mining at Godolphin.

1100 – 400 AD

In the medieval period Godolphin Hill, possibly known as Trescowe, with its high density of furze, blackberries, turf, bilberries and small game, was probably common land to several hamlets within the area. Evidence of surface mining and streaming have been found across the estate dating to this time. Surface mining involves mining from shallow pits and streaming involves finding ore in river beds.

It was at this time that the Godolphin estate, as we know it today, started to form. A rising powerful family called Godolghan acquired the land around the 12th century and around the late 13th - early 14th

century built a defended house on the land. At this time England saw a great number of these types of houses being built, usually moated, in order to protect stock and portable wealth from common thieves.

Evidence for a defended house at Godolghan comes principally from two sources.

- In 1478 William Worcestre included 'ruined' Castle Godollan in the settlement of Lodollan (Godolghan), in his list of Cornish Castles.**
- John Leland, writing in the late 1530s, tells of a ditch, and a pile of principal habitation of the 'Godolcans'. The ditch was still visible and many stones had been taken from it, presumably for building the later house.**

The main period of change, late 15th, 16th and 17th centuries

It was at this time that the family name changed from Godolghan to Godolphin, a more agreeable name to the English elite with whom the family had increasing ties. Mining intensified in the Great Work area as the exploitation of the tin lodes led to a great increase in the Godolphin family's wealth.

Subsequently, much improvement work was carried out on the estate. The hill and many fields were given over to a deer park and warren, major roads and minor tracks were diverted, the house was rebuilt and an ambitious garden laid out.

Napoleonic boundaries

Some of the boundaries surrounding the estate are particularly interesting as they

were built by prisoners of the Napoleonic war. The Duke of Leeds, whose family gained the house in 1786, had connections with prisoner of war camps and so it was easy for him to source cheap labour on the land.

These boundary styles are very rare and, outside of the Godolphin estate, they can only be found at Movah and around Dartmoor prison, where of course other prisoners were held captive.

3. The House

Godolphin House is a Grade 1 listed 15th century house and was the seat of the Earls of Godolphin and the Dukes of Leeds. The stables date from approximately 1600. The current house is a small part of what was once a larger mansion. By 1689 it boasted over one hundred rooms added by

successive generations of the Godolphin family.

In the first half of the 17th Century, Sir Francis Godolphin had the house redesigned in neoclassical Italianate style. He used local craftsmen unfamiliar with Italian style and so the frontage is topped with a battlement that seems out of place.

During the English Civil War work on the house stopped very suddenly. Graffiti from the 1630s has remained in the plasterwork to the present day.

In 1786 the Godolphin Estate, including Godolphin House, passed to the Dukes of Leeds, who never lived there and owned Godolphin House until 1920. During this time, in 1805, the Dukes of Leeds demolished much of the house, reducing it to the size of a farmhouse.

4. The Gardens

The gardens at Godolphin are diverse, and parts of the 16th century gardens have been restored to their Tudor design.

Godolphin's side garden is believed to be largely unchanged since the 16th century. The three remaining visible compartments of the original nine compartment Tudor design provide a wealth of traditional, seasonal planting.

The herbaceous borders come to life during summer full of height, colour and scent. There is a real buzz about the garden and the gardeners have carefully selected plants to benefit bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Taking a seat on one of the bespoke-made benches under the shelter of some trees is perhaps the best way to enjoy the side garden.

The side garden paddock holds Godolphin's history in its archaeology, but today the paddock is the home of native black bee hives. There may be bee keepers inspecting the hives during your visit.

The orchard has been newly replanted with Cornish varieties of apples and other fruits. September and October are the perfect time to experience the trees in the orchard all in fruit.

5. The King's Room and Garden

The King's Garden is the 16th century walled privy garden to Godolphin's state room, the King's Room. The King's Garden is a private space for relaxing and absorbing Godolphin's tranquil atmosphere. Cloud-like box hedges follow neat paths sheltering the flowering primroses below. In summer the King's

Garden becomes a sheltered suntrap with the perfume of the highly scented roses and lavender wafting through.

The King's Garden leads you in to the King's Room, open for you to visit throughout the year. On most days a volunteer room guide can be found in the King's Room to answer any questions about Godolphin.

The King's Room and Garden are named for Charles II, who is rumored to have stayed at Godolphin House when he was the Prince of Wales. In 1645-6, during the English Civil War, the then Prince Charles fled to France via Cornwall, quite probably staying at Godolphin House on the way.

6. Mining and the Great Work Mine

Some of the earliest tin and copper mining sites in Cornwall lie within the boundaries of the Godolphin estate.

The Godolphin estate made its early proprietor, Sidney Godolphin, first Earl of Godolphin, incredibly rich. Although mining continued up to the 20th century on the estate, it flourished most around the late 18th century, much earlier than other sites.

There are at least 175 places, across six continents, where Cornish mine workers took their skills, technology and traditions. A truly global heritage.

Cornwall and west Devon's mining landscape, shaped during a period of intense industrial activity, is testimony to one of the greatest periods of economic, technological and social development Britain has ever known.

From 1700 to 1914, the metal mining industry played a vital role in transforming our way of life. It provided essential raw materials to feed the Industrial Revolution in Britain, and pioneered technological developments that helped shape the society we live in today. For example, Richard Trevithick's advances in steam engine technology – originally motivated by the need to pump water out of mines – ultimately enabled the development of steam trains, changing the world forever through the mass movement of people and goods.

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