



1. With your back to the shops, cross the road to enter Wonford Road, opposite the newsagents. (For information on the Magdalen Road shops see the 'Figure of Eight Stroll' on the SLNA website.)

The first stretch of Wonford Road consists of houses dating from 1831 onwards built on land that had formed part of the Baring Estate. Many of these houses were built by the Hooper family, major builders in the development of St Leonards as a residential area. To the left is Radnor Place, site of a small glass factory until the 1980s. A short detour down this road reveals the 1980 houses built on the old factory site. Returning to Wonford Road, no. 3/5 and 30/32 are listed buildings dating from the 1830s. Although no. 30/32 look like a pair of 19th century houses, no. 30 was destroyed down to basement level during the wartime bombing raids. It was rebuilt to its pre-war appearance in the early 1950s to provide continuity with 32.



2. Turn right into Radford Crescent and walk around the crescent.

The crescent originally consisted of 6 large houses around the shared private garden. No 1-5 are all listed buildings. A nursery and a language school currently occupy 3 of the houses. A block of flats (**Crescent Mansions**) built in the 1950s replaces the demolished sixth house, although its small **coach house** remains on the left-hand side of the block.

3. Return to The Quadrant and Wonford Road.

The Grade II listed **Quadrant** (circa 1835) consists of 6 detached houses connected by recessed links containing the front doors. The terrace of houses Nos 34-40 & No:7 opposite are also Grade II listed and have many gothic details including 'elegant porches with clustered shafts'. The converted **coach house** (no. 48), just visible through the large **original gateposts** was coach house to a large Georgian house now replaced by the two 1950s houses on the corner.



4. Cross over the junction of Wonford Road and St Leonards Road and continue along Wonford Road.

This stretch of Wonford Road is an interesting example of how residential roads can evolve, containing as it does a wide variety of buildings dating from 17th to the 21st century. On the lefthand side you pass **St Petrock's Close**, houses built by The St Petrock's and Heavitree Lands Charity in 1949. No 54 **Wonford Road** is an award winning* example of housing built this century. Constructed 2004-2006, and designed by the SW architect David Sheppard, it replaces a 1950s house built on the site of a 19th century house destroyed by bombing. The facade is clad with Siberian larch. The remaining 1950s house is followed by the terrace of Grade II listed houses no.58-66.



The large house on the junction of Wonford Road and Lyndhurst Road was, until recently, the **Mount St Mary's Convent** with the **Cardinal Newman Conference Centre** next to it. The conference centre is currently empty and the site is to be redeveloped. Further along you pass **Mardon House**, built in 1993 as a neurological rehabilitation centre. After this, on the righthand side, is **Old Matford House**, built circa 1600 by Sir George Smyth, three times Mayor of Exeter and an MP. Over time the house fell into disrepair and in 1952 was described as 'derelict'. It was bought by Richard Gorman who spent many years restoring it. A fascinating account of this, written by his daughter, can be found on the *Exeter Memories* website.

Mr Gorman added the coat arms of Elizabeth 1 and installed the fine pair of gates that came from a property in Heavitree. After his death in 1971 the property was initially bought by the **Mormons** who built their **church** (1973) on the orchard and sold on the remaining grounds and house. Next to the church is the recently created **NHS staff car park**. This is located on the site of the demolished **Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital**. Facing it is the **Nuffield Hospital** built in 1963.



5. After the NHS staff car park, turn left into Lister Close. Continue straight ahead to the brick archway.

This road and footpath leads through the Wellingtonia Park Estate - built by Bovis Homes in 2003 and named after the large Wellingtonia tree in the grounds. An information page about Wellingtonia Park can be found on SLNA website.



6. Go through the arch and carry straight on past the grey stone building -The Grange

The Grange (Grade II listed, originally called **Gras Lawn** and now split into flats) was built by James Veitch and completed in 1837. James was part of the Veitch family, famous Victorian nurserymen and plant hunters. The yew tree avenue (now a narrow pathway) was part of the garden of **Gras Lawn**.

7. Go through the yew tree tunnel (can be muddy) to emerge onto the cycle path that runs through the **Gras Lawn Estate**. Turn right onto the cycle path/footway and continue straight ahead. Cross over **Fleming Way** and pass **Veitch Close** to enter the car park and grounds of **County Hall**. Carry straight ahead, through the grounds of **County Hall**, to reach **Matford Lane**.

County Hall occupies a site in what were the grounds of **Bellair House**, a mansion rebuilt around 1700 by the merchant John Vowler (and now a listed building), and an adjoining early Victorian house, known as **Coaver** (now the **Coaver Club**, a social club for **County Hall** employees and which can be joined by local residents). The new building was designed by Donald McMorrnan in the neo-classical style. The foundation stone was laid in October 1958 and the building was officially opened in July 1964. Note the **weather vane** on the clock tower – a golden ship, the symbol of Devon County. The **sculpture** outside **Bellair House** -Loving Care by Barbara Pearson commemorates the centenary of Devon County Council in 1988.



8. Turn left to make a slight detour to just past the gates of **St Leonard's Primary School**

Across the road is a small brick archway set into the boundary wall of **County Hall**. This is the site of **Parker's Well**, the waters of which were believed to cure eye problems. A ward in the West of England Eye Unit at the RDE is named after this well. **St Leonard's Primary School** is built on the site of **Parker's Well House**.

9. Go back up **Matford Lane** to its junction with **Wonford Road**. Turn left and retrace your steps to the junction of **Wonford Road** and **St Leonards Road**. Turn right up **St Leonards Road** to rejoin **Magdalen Road** at the traffic lights

On the left-hand side as you return along **Wonford Road** you pass **Fonthill Lodge**, the lodge of the former **Fonthill House**, demolished in 1960.

10. Turn right up **St Leonards Road** to rejoin **Magdalen Road** at the traffic lights