

Route Description:

This walk starts at Elmscott Farm YHA before dropping down into a valley where Docton Mill Gardens are located. The walk follows a valley down to the coast where you can see one of the highest waterfalls on the coast path. The walk then gently gains height to follow the cliffs before returning inland for an easy walk back to the start.

Directions to start:

Go to the A39 between Clovelly and Kilkhampton. From Clovelly go towards Kilkhampton, passing through several sharp bends. Once the road straightens you soon reach a sweeping bend to the left at Baxworthy Cross, signed to Hartland on the B3248. Turn right here towards Hartland. After 0.9 miles turn left at Gorrans Down. In 1.7 miles when the road forks at Liberty Stile fork left. In 0.7 miles at a small cross roads (Kernstone Cross) follow the road to the left into the valley. Cross the bridge continuing ahead out of the valley, soon ignoring the road to the right to Milford. Soon follow the road round the left bend and shortly the YHA is on the right. The walk starts here.

Car parking:

Park at Elmscott YHA. The owners have agreed to free parking if you could kindly not park before 10.00am and ensure you return before 5.00pm. If there is insufficient space in the hostel, there are two parking spaces opposite the hostel or go up to Elmscott Farm and ASK if you may park there.

Route Directions:

1, SS 231 216, 0 miles

From the YHA, leave it turning left along the road and as the road goes round to the right, ignore the footpath off to the left.

2, SS 231 218, 0.1 miles

This is where you would come out if you took the shortcut from the coast path to Elmscott. Now go ahead into the corner behind the Post Box Cottage, by its front door. Go up the steps to a gate and bear left up to the stile. From this stile go ahead keeping the hedge on your left to the gate in the corner.

3, SS 231 220, 0.3 miles

Cross the gate and bear left on to the road ahead.

4, SS 231 225, 0.6 miles

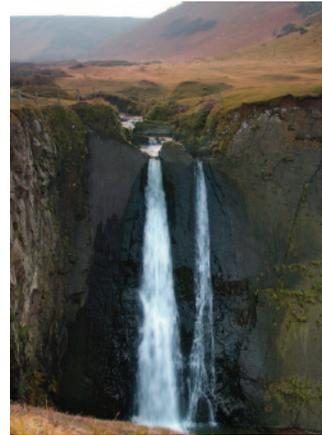
At Milford Farm ignore the footpath on the left, continuing down into the valley. Pass Docton Mill House and continue along the road to a track on the left signed Public Footpath.

5, SS 235 227, 0.9 miles

Turn left along this track. Ignore the stile soon on the left continuing ahead passing some cottages. Pass through the gate over the cattle grid. Continue ahead to the coast. On reaching the coast path signpost to Welcombe Mouth, go ahead to see Spekes Mill waterfall, one of the highest on the coast path.

6, SS 226 234, 1.6 miles

Return back to the sign to now follow the coast



Speke's Mill waterfall

path over the stream bridge. Pass through the gate and bear left to follow the Coast Path Valley Route.

7, SS 226 232, 1.8 miles

Soon bear right on the coast path, ignoring the path ahead along the valley. At the top of this valley, above a gate, follow the yellow waymark up to the right to the wire fence and over to the stile on the left.

8, SS 223 228, 2.2 miles

Now follow the coast path along the cliff edge, on the way crossing a stile and through a bridle gate.

9, SS 223 218, 2.9 miles

At the sign to Elmscott, ignore unless you want to shorten the walk (see comment in direction 2). Continue ahead over the bridge. At the next stile by a gate, continue ahead, ignoring the field on your right. On reaching the hedge turn left to a bridle gate through to a road.

10, SS 224 210, 3.4 miles



Coast Path near Speke's Mill



Coast Path near Longpeak

On the road leave the coast path behind, taking the road opposite to Hardisworthy.

11, SS 230 208, 3.8 miles

When this road turns right, cross the stile on the left by the signpost, into a field.

Now bear left to the stile in the hedge ahead. Cross this double stile and now bear slightly ahead/right, across the field to a telegraph pole in line with the stile in the hedge. Cross this double stile and again bear right to pass by the telegraph pole to the corner of the field where there is a slightly hidden stile. Now bear right/ahead again to the gate in the far corner.

12, SS 232 213, 4.1 miles

Pass through this gate on to the road, bearing left to follow the road. Pass Elmscott Farm and continue ahead ignoring the roads to the left and right, back to the YHA. We hope you enjoyed this walk.

*Walk written by: Bryan Cath of West Country Walks
Photographs by: Bryan Cath*

Walks on The Hartland Peninsula

Elmscott via Docton Mill and Speke's Mill waterfall

4.3 miles, circular



Fact file:

Highlights: Docton Mill Gardens, Spekes Mill waterfall, South West Coast Path

Start Grid ref: SS 231 216

Distance: 4.3 miles, circular

Height gained/lost: 225 metres, moderate to easy walk

Highest Point: 164 metres

Lowest Point: 44 metres

Toilets: none

Eating Places: Docton Mill

Time required: 2hr 30 min, plus stops

Car Parking: See directions inside leaflet

Mileages shown are cumulative

The route directions will take you around this walk without using the OS grid references, if preferred.