

Route Description:

This walk starts at Hartland Point, a prominent and dramatic headland in North Devon. It soon passes a delightful thatched farmhouse given to the National Trust in 1943. The walk then follows the coast path with excellent views of the Hartland Point lighthouse. One then reaches Smoothlands which is geographically most interesting. This valley was once part of the Titchberry Water but the sea has eroded away the northern section allowing the stream to reach the sea more directly. This is called a sea-capture, creating a sea-dissected valley through which you walk. The walk soon heads inland and passes through an ancient settlement, following old green lanes before eventually returning to the start.

Directions to start:

Go to the A39 between Clovelly and Kilkhampton. From Clovelly Cross roundabout go towards Kilkhampton and as the main road swings to the left, turn right on to the B3248. Now follow the signs to Hartland Point lighthouse along small country lanes before reaching Hartland Point car park.

Route Directions:

1, SS 235 274

From the lighthouse car park, walk back along the road that you came in on, bearing left to pass the car park ticket hut. Now follow the road, passing West Titchberry Farm on your right before reaching the small car park for East Titchberry Farm.

2, SS 244 270, 0.8 miles

Just past this small car park, turn left down a lane to pass by East Titchberry Farm on the concrete road. At the set of three gates take the central one up the hedged track.

3, SS 244 272, 1.0 miles

At the coast bear left on to the coast path signed to Hartland Point. Cross the stile and follow the field edge to the next stile in the corner. Continue ahead to the next stile and again to the next stile. Cross the next stile and bear down to the right to the next stile by a gate. Follow the fenced path towards the radar 'football' and round it to reach the Hartland Point car park and kiosk.



Hartland Point lighthouse

4, SS 235 275, 1.8 mile

Continue ahead along the old lighthouse road towards the radio mast. At the lighthouse gates bear up to the left signed Coast Path. At the radio station turn hard left on the coast path to follow the edge of the field to the next stile.

5, SS 231 275, 2.1 miles

Continue ahead to pass the memorial stone to the Glenart Castle hospital ship to then go right and left along the coast path. Soon you round a bay's cliff edge crossing a stile at the top. Soon drop down into a valley to follow the coast path inland to pass a caravan, cross a bridge and up steps the other side.

6, SS 230 266, 2.9 miles

At the top bear right through a gate and back towards the coast. At the corner of this field continue ahead on the coast path to pass a stile. Follow along the bottom of the valley and at the other end the cliff edge forces you to the left up the point. Be careful here in high winds.

7, SS 225 261, 3.5 miles

At the top continue along the cliff edge.

8, SS 226 260, 3.6 miles

Before dropping down into the next valley, there is a shortcut on the left to Blegberry.

Continuing along the coast path, drop down into this valley to cross the bridge at the bottom. Follow the path up the other side to a stile.

9, SS 226 258, 3.8 miles

Cross over this stile and now turn left inland along a Public Footpath, leaving the coast path behind. Follow what becomes a track round to the right alongside an old Devon bank on your left. Near the top pass through a gate and continue along this track.

10, SS 234 254, 4.4 miles

On reaching the road, ignore the road and take the second gate on the left down a hedged track signed 'Unsuitable for motor vehicles'. Follow it into



Damehole Point



Smoothlands

the valley and up the other side to reach Blegberry. Follow the track round to the right and up to the tarmac road by buildings. Continue ahead up the farm road.

11, SS 232 262, 5.0 miles

The shortcut footpath comes in on the left.

Turn right to follow the level road away from the farm. Shortly you come to a track bearing off left with three gates. Take the first one on the left signed Public Bridleway, down another hedged track. Follow this down into the valley, roughly towards the radar 'football'. Cross the stream bridge to follow the stream to a bridle gate.

12, SS 233 268, 5.6 miles

Now follow the track to the right signed to Blagdon. Pass through the gate and follow the top edge of this field to a gate in the top corner. Continue along the track to the farm, bearing left at the farmhouse up the farm road.

13, SS 235 273, 5.9 miles

On reaching the swinging bend in the road ahead, continue ahead back to the Hartland Point lighthouse car park.

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

Walks on The Hartland Peninsula

Hartland Point via Blegberry

6.0 miles, circular



Fact file:

Highlights: East Titchberry Farm (NT), Hartland Point lighthouse, Smoothlands, South West Coast Path

Start Grid ref: SS 235 274

Distance: 6.0 miles, circular, or shorter version, 4.2 miles starting at direction 4.

Height gained/lost: 414 metres, moderate with some steep ascents and descents

Highest Point: 100 metres

Lowest Point: 10 metres

Toilets: none

Eating Places: Kiosk at Hartland Point

Time required: 3hr 45 min, plus stops

Mileages shown are cumulative

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