

## **Coastal Round Walk 01 – Northcott Mth, Stowe Barton, Coombe, Duckpool – 6.67 miles**

### **Route Directions – Non GPS Version**

#### **Northcott Mouth to Stowe Barton - all on well made bridleway tracks – 2.11 miles**

A path leads down from the car park to the beach. A track, signed as a Public Footpath but actually a Public Bridleway, then climbs gently heading overall NNE. At 837 yards, ignore a track goes R but continue ahead through a gap L & R into a very large field. The track undulates, following the RH hedge to a gap into the first of two massive open fields. At 1.06 miles go through a gap into second enormous field. The track continues up to a fork at 1.19 miles. Keep R and continue downhill to a gate and pedestrian gate at 1.26 miles, where a track comes in from the R. Bear slightly L, uphill to the tarmac lane from Stibb to Sandy Mouth.

Cross the lane to a hunting gate at 1.39 miles. Go through the gate and follow the NT insignia and a bridleway WM (*Stowe Barton*) and then the RH hedge on a clear rough track to continue N. At 1.54 miles go through a gap (*NT WM*) and continue on a well made track undulating to 1.77 miles. Ignore the bridleway heading R and continue, following a bridleway WM (*Stowe Barton*) through a gap into next field uphill to a crossing track at 1.86 miles at a sign (*L Sandy Mouth, R bridleway Stowe Barton*). Go R on the track, and at the end of field on L go through a gate and fork L for 80 yards to the road to Coombe at 2.11 miles. Cross the road diagonally L to a yellow WM (*Stowe Woods 0.6 miles*).

#### **Stowe Barton to Coombe and Duckpool – 2.16 miles**

Go through the gate into a field. Stowe Barton is ahead with GCHQ seen behind on its left. Follow the footpath WM along a swathe across the grass. At a yellow WM on a stone, go R on a track and through a gate at 2.31 miles, passing Driftwood Cottage on your L. Immediately, go R through a kissing gate and follow Stowe Woods sign E (*another FP heads SE to Stibb*) along the LH fence on an obvious path across grass. After a low farm building and old wall to your L continue across the grass, downhill on sunken track through middle of field, to enter Stowe Woods on a clear narrow footpath at 2.55 miles. Continue to a kissing gate at 2.63 miles and continue to a cross track at 2.79 miles. Bear R for 40 yards to cross a track in a clearing. Then go L on a cross track, ignore immediate R fork and continue downhill on a wide track which bears R and then L. Cross a bridge over a stream at 2.91 miles into Lee Wood.

The track continues uphill for 60 yards to a cross track and FP sign (*Canal and Coast walk, R Kilkhampton 2, L Coombe and Duckpool 1*). Go L on the track downhill, with marshy ground below on L, to a gate at 3.46 miles. The track ends; a good path continues through woods, passing abandoned buildings below on your L. The path continues down easily to pass the back of Coombe Mill and on down to a tarmac lane at Coombe at 3.64 miles. Go forward on the lane, cross the ford or the wooden footbridge and continue uphill to a road at 3.77 miles. Go L downhill on the road for 60 yards then R on a narrow tarmac lane on R, signed Duckpool, at 3.8 miles. Follow the lane to Duckpool, passing toilets and car park on R. Here you could go through the kissing gate on L (*Coast Path WM*) and follow the RH fence to cross a wooden footbridge but I prefer the beach route, except at high tides or when the river is in spate. Continue, passing the Coast Path entering from the R, to the beach at 4.27 miles.

#### **Duckpool to Northcott Mouth – on the Coast Path – 2.20 miles.**

Cross the stream on stepping stones and bear L to a wooden stile. Bear L over the stile and then R uphill steeply on the Coast Path, to wooden stile. The path continues up to 280 feet at Warren Point. It then descends steeply, over some loose stone, to three sets of duckboards at Warren Gutter at 155 feet. The climb out of Warren Gutter is steep, with 63 steps up to a hunting gate, and continues up to above Warren Little Beach at 315 feet. The path now descends on grass to a kissing gate at 200 feet where a path goes L to Stowe Barton.

Climb again, now fairly steeply, to 260 feet before descending through bracken to a wooden footbridge over a miniature ravine. I suggest going R after the footbridge to follow the mini-ravine for its wild flowers. Continue round and through a kissing gate to a cross track at Sandy Mouth (*R to beach, L up to CP, toilets, café*) at 85 feet at 5.52 miles. Continue forward following the Coast Path (*FP sign Duckpool 1, Northcott Mouth 1*) steeply on grass and go through a kissing gate (*Reg's Gate*) and on up to 175 feet. Now the path undulates easily, mostly on grass, before a final steep descent down 105 steps to Northcott Mouth at 6.67 miles.

**Distances in the directions text are cumulative.**

**A fuller version of these route directions, complete with GPS data including 10 figure grid references, spot heights and detailed distances, is also available. Return to the walk page and click for it.**