
This is an alternative version of Coastal Round Walk 8. Where that starts inland, heading first up to Tehidy Country Park, through the park to Coombe, across fields to North Cliffs and back along the Coast Path to Portreath, this walk begins on the Coast Path and returns through Tehidy. Walk 08 has the most difficult feature, the “double-dip” at Carvannel, towards the end of the walk. This version, in the reverse direction, has the difficult parts – the climb up Western Hill and the “double-dip” - near the start. You can relax after that along easy Coast Path and on the easy Tehidy Trail.

Portreath to North Cliffs – 2.66 miles

Start from seating area at the NW extremity of the Public Car Park at 65415/45288. Go down steps and cross a small stream to the beach. Follow the beach round, bearing left, to a concrete ramp up to small open area and a wooden Coast Path sign. Follow a sunken path to a kissing gate at 65038/45264 to the foot of Western Hill. The path divides here; L is the easy route to climb Western Hill, R is the difficult official Coast Path route with 61 steep steps up, then a steepish grassy climb. You climb 200 feet in the first 200 yards and finally up to 270 feet. Once at the top the views open out SW as far as Godrevy Light and beyond to the first hills of West Penwith.

You now follow the Coast Path for 2¼ miles to the first North Cliffs car park. Going is generally very easy with just one major exception. Less than halfway along Carvannel Downs, at 0.80 miles, you come to the first valley and to a serious “double-dip” dropping down towards Porthcadjack Cove from 280 feet. Fortunately the path zig-zags, otherwise the descent would be very steep. From 0.96 miles the really steep starts with 37 steps on the way down to a wooden FB at 64247/44777 at 80 feet at 1.04 miles. There are then 51 steps up to the top at 230 feet at 1.14 miles. Immediately the path starts to descend again with 42 steps down to another wooden FB at 62140/44566 at 160 feet. The ascent on the other side is very steep again but, if you wish you can avoid it by a zig-zag R & L.

At the top at 275 feet at 1.37 miles, on Carvannel Downs, you can look back to St. Agnes Beacon, left to Carn Brea and ahead to Godrevy Light. You pass a car park at 1.63 miles and continue up gently on to a plateau at 280 feet and eventually to 300 feet. Continue through double hunting gates to the first North Cliffs car park at 62576/43165 at 285 feet at 2.66 miles. The inland return part of the walk starts here.

North Cliffs to South Lodge Café – 1.72 miles

Go L on a track to the road (Gwithian-Portreath) and cross to a filled-in coffin stile (FP sign) at 62574/43064 to a field. Follow the LH hedge downhill, crossing 2 wooden-gated cow tracks, to a path between high hedges leading to a wooden gate to the road at 62813/42470. Go L on the road downhill, through the attractive hamlet of Coombe to a track on the L at 62984/42476 at 90 feet at 3.22 miles.

Go L on the Tehidy Trail (sign) on a well-made track, passing immediately on your L Polcrowjy Café (*no longer recommended*) then a new (2013) mounting block. The track climbs very gently through woodland. Ignore paths going off left or right until, at 64209/43235 at 3.91 miles, you come to a cross track. L is main route to East Lodge CP, signed Portreath 2½ miles. Ignore it and go R downhill easy. At the bottom note a wood carving of a pair of otters on L then at 64223/43204 at 145 feet at 3.94 miles cross a wide clapper (Otter Bridge) .

Go L on well a made track, signed Lake VC and Café, with a stream on your L. At 64418/43188 at 4.05 miles the track divides; both lead to Café. Main track bears R but I suggest the minor track, still following the stream on the L. At 64562/43187 at 4.15 miles you come to a cross track. R goes to join the main track to the café, L heads to the main track to East Lodge. Continue forward, still alongside the stream, after a while passing a series of mini-weirs and a clapper bridge at 64702/43175 at 4.21 miles. Go L crossing the clapper bridge. Follow the track and then at 64845/43285 at 4.31 miles you can go either R/L or forward/R to the Café. The café entrance is at 64955/43306 at 4.38 miles.

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South Lodge Café to Portreath – 2.19 miles

Leave from the back of the Café on a well-made track through woods roughly NNE, passing a sign East Lodge ¾. At a tarmac lane, where hard L is in to a private estate and R is to South Lodge CP, bear L, roughly N, with a golf course on the R, to where the lane turns L in to the private estate at 64958/43526 at 4.55 miles. Go forward through a wide kissing gate (sign FP to Tehidy Country Park) and gently uphill on a wide well-made permissive track. At the top go through gate posts at 4.61 miles and continue for about 40 yards to junction of tracks (signed L Coombe ¼, R East Lodge ¾, Portreath 1¼). Go forward on the main track, gently uphill, soon bearing R, roughly E.

Pass tracks heading L and continue forward following a blue bridleway Mining Trail WM and at 4.85 miles enter Pine Avenue and start passing the golf course on your R. Leave the golf course at 5.14 miles and continue through woods. At 65667/43865 at 5.17 miles, the track divides (R East Lodge 220 yards, Illogan 1 mile, L East Lodge Car Park and Portreath 1¼). Take L fork, pass the car park on L and at 65790/44022 at 5.29 miles come to the Illogan to Portreath road. Cross it with care and continue on well-made Tehidy Trail gently uphill between wooded hedges. After a while the track narrows.

At around 5½ miles the track begins to descend gently towards Feadon Farm. At 65932/44585 at 5.70 miles you come to a cross track. L is signed Mining Trail Portreath 1 mile but would amount to a detour without purpose. R is Portreath Branchline Trail, heading for Illogan, Tuckingmill, Brea Village and the Great Flat Lode Trail. Go forward (sign Public FP) on a tarmac track downhill. The sea soon comes into view over the outskirts of Portreath. At 5.86 miles go L on the tarmac lane, tennis courts on your R, for about 60 yards. At 5.89 miles go R, still gently downhill, on a concrete track through Feadon Farm, passing goats, donkeys, chickens and reindeer on your L.

At 5.94 miles the track becomes a well-made path, signed Public FP. It bears L, R, L, R downhill through a wooded valley, moderately steeply. At 6.12 miles you join a tarmac lane downhill, passing an odd mini-castle cottage called Glenfeadon Castle. At the bottom, at a T at 6.14 miles, go L on tarmac lane, signed Mining Trail. This passes some handsome buildings, Glenfeadon House and Basset's Acre, and then becomes Glenfeadon Terrace and passes under the Inclined Plane bridge at 6.30 miles and becomes Railway Terrace. At 6.32 miles, where the road bears R to join the main Beach Road, go straight ahead on a track (no through road sign) as far as you can before joining the road to reach your start point in the CP at 6.57 miles.