

Coastal Round Walk 30 – Fowey, Bodinnick, Hall Walk, Lantic Bay, Polruan 5.16 miles

Route Directions – Non GPS Version

Caffa Mill, Fowey to Pont – 1.42 miles

Start by taking the Bodinnick Ferry from the landing at Caffa Mill, Fowey. In Bodinnick, go straight uphill steeply on road for 200 yards, passing St. John's Church on R, to Hall Walk Cottage on R. Go R on well made path (*FP sign Hall Walk, Pont and Polruan*) up through a gate on to NT Hall Walk land, in light woodland. Continue up to War Memorial viewpoint (*Fowey, Polruan, Estuary, Gribbin Head*). Now the path undulates gently and, at 0.45 miles, you come to a NT shelter with Richard Carew plaque. (*Carew's 1602 Survey of Cornwall says of Hall Walk "a place of diversified pleatings." 17 Aug 1644, Charles I narrowly escaped death when a bullet killed a poor fisherman who was standing at a place where the king had stood but a short while before*). 10 yards on is the massive granite Q Memorial (*more superb views*). You can see Q's home across the river in Fowey.

Path continues, now above Pont Pill creek, still in woodland, most of the way to Pont. It undulates, then climbs steeply, up to 220 feet then undulates up to 255 feet. It continues to undulate then descends gently down to duckboards at 1.12 miles. Continue up to a wooden stile at 1.16 miles, leaving NT Hall Walk. Continue over a wet area and up to kissing gate to a field at 1.18 miles. Now follow RH hedge for a short distance up to wooden gate on R, back into woodland, at 1.24 miles. (*No WM, blocked coffin stile to L of gate*) It's now downhill on a good path, occasionally steep and rocky, down to 1.36 miles. Here the path continues but you should go sharp R (*sign Polruan*) down on a wide rocky path to a lime kiln on R at 1.39 miles. Continue down and across grass to wooden FB at Pont at 1.42 miles. On other side is the NT former Pont Farmhouse (*toll board, grain 1d qtr, timber 3d load, manure 3d ton, sand 2d, coal 3d, 10 May 1894*), cottages, and another lime kiln.

Pont to Lantic Bay – 1.26 miles

By Pont Creek Cottage at 1.45 miles ignore FP sign (*Polruan*) and go L on lane up to minor road at 1.50 miles. Go R on road up fairly steeply to about 70 feet. Then, at end of terrace of cottages, where road bears R, go straight ahead to a gate (*FP to church*) to a wide sunken track uphill fairly steeply through woodland. After 12 steps up, go through gate to St. Wyllow churchyard. Bear R to south porch, at 200 feet at 1.75 miles, then L through gate to lane at Churchtown.

Go L steeply downhill, passing on R handsome old buildings of Churchtown Farm, down to 180 feet, up fairly steeply, bears R at track to Carne Farm on L, continues easy, and bends R again to NT Pencarrow CP on L. On 50 yards to a road. Cross road to gate to field at 360 feet at 2.17 miles. (*No WM but NT Lantic Bay sign*). Go R to a hunting gate to next field at 2.27 miles. Now follow Lantic Bay sign uphill, following LH hedge, up to 390 feet. Down easy to end of field to a hunting gate at 2.45 miles. Coast Path E goes through gate but go R downhill very steeply, following Coast Path sign (*Polruan 1¾*) along LH fence, passing on your L a hunting gate leading to Pencarrow Head and Little Lantic beach. Continue down along LH fence to hunting gate at end of field at 2.68 miles.

Lantic Beach to Fowey Bodinnick Ferry – 2.48 miles

You are now on the Coast Path for the rest of the route to Polruan so few directions are needed. You climb gradually up to Blackbottle, from 130 feet to 390 feet at 3.32 miles, with mostly good grassy footing. *At Blackbottle there is a bench with great views, east to Rame Head, west to Black Head, inland to Clay Country*. Path now undulates to duckboards at 160 feet at 3.86 miles. After a while you come to a field on the NT's Furze Park estate and then to open grass at 3.98 miles. Here you continue to a black wooden gate at far R corner of field at 4.10 miles. Go forward on the lane for 20 yards to the road, then L on St. Saviours Hill, passing on R St. Saviours Tower and Primary School. Immediately after the school, where road jinks R and L, bear L into a car park. *Here, head up R, for a good view over Polruan and river*.

A Coast Path sign (*harbour and ferry ¼ mile*) directs you past a Coast Watch station and the remains of St. Saviours Chapel on R, bearing L to pass a tarmac CP on R. Waymarks now guide you into NT St. Saviour's Point (*Point worth detour for views*) and onto a gap to a track at 4.31 miles. Go forward to turn R downhill (*Coast Path sign, harbour and ferry 500 yards*) on Battery Lane, passing entrance to Headland Garden. At a T at 4.45 miles, sign L to Blockhouse but go R on West Street (*sign village and harbour*) for 250 yards. Just before the Russell Inn, at 4.59 miles, go L down Garrett Steps to The Quay, Lugger Inn on L. Ferry landing is at 4.69 miles. *View here across mouth of Pont Pill to Q Memorial on Hall Walk*. The ferry lands at Whitehouse Steps in summer, Town Quay in winter. From either, follow streets NE as close to the water as possible, back to Caffa Mill at 5.16 miles. (*Distance calculated from Town Quay*).

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.