

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

Route Directions – Full 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 20393/09048 at 837 yards, ignore a track turning R and continue ahead through a gap L & R into a very large field. The track now undulates, following the RH hedge to a gap into the first of two massive open fields. At 20758/09822 at 1.06 miles go through a gap into second field. The track continues up to a fork at 20848/10019 at 1.19 miles. Keep R and continue downhill to a gate and pedestrian gate at 20935/10097 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 20957/10293 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 20946/10519 at 1.54 miles go through a gap (*NT bridleway WM*) and continue on well made track undulating to 20897/10888 at 1.77 miles. Ignore the bridleway heading R and continue, following bridleway WM (*Stowe Barton*) through a gap into the next field uphill to a crossing track at 20850/10999 at 1.86 miles at a signpost (*L Sandy Mouth, R bridleway Stowe Barton*). Go R on the track, and, at the end of the field on your L go through a gate and fork L for 80 yards to the road to Coombe at 21190/11155 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 21332/11257 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 LH fence on an obvious path across grass. After a low farm building and old wall on L continue across grass, downhill on a sunken track through the middle of the field, to enter Stowe Woods on a clear footpath at 21676/11297 at 2.55 miles. Continue to a kissing gate at 21784/11310 at 2.63 miles and continue to a cross track at 22006/11406 at 2.79 miles. Bear R for 40 yards to cross a track in a clearing at 22040/11437. 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 22113/11560 at 2.91 miles into Lee Wood.

The track continues for some 60 yards up to a cross track with a footpath sign (*Canal and Coast walk, R Kilkhampton 2, L Coombe and Duckpool 1*). Go L on this track downhill, with marshy ground below to the L, to a gate at 21281/11710 at 3.46 miles. The track ends and a good path continues through woods, passing abandoned buildings below on L at 21047/11704. The path continues down easy to pass the back of Coombe Mill and on down to a tarmac lane at Coombe at 20996/11734 at 3.64 miles. Go forward to cross the ford or the wooden footbridge and continue uphill to a road at 20857/11740 at 3.77 miles. Go L downhill on the road for 60 yards then go R on a narrow tarmac lane on R, signed Duckpool, at 20815/11714 at 3.8 miles. Go R on the lane to Duckpool, passing toilets and an NT car park on your R at 20225/11700. 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 R, to the beach at 20106/11642 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 stile then R uphill steeply on the Coast Path, to a wooden stile. The path continues up to 280 feet at Warren Point at 20155/11238. It then descends steeply, over some loose stone, to three sets of duck-boards above Warren Gutter at 20156/11040 at 155 feet. The climb out of Warren Gutter is steep, with 63 steps up to a hunting gate at 20188/10896 at 310 feet and continues up to above Warren Little Beach at 20196/10861 at 315 feet. The path now descends on grass to a kissing gate at 20291/10523 at 200 feet where a path goes L to Stowe Barton.

Climb again, now fairly steeply, to 20289/10452 at 260 feet before descending through bracken to a wooden footbridge over a mini-ravine at 20239/10173. 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 down to beach, L up to CP, toilets, café*) at 20286/10003 at 85 feet at 5.52 miles. Continue forward on the Coast Path (*FP sign Duckpool 1, Northcott Mouth 1*) steeply on grass through a kissing gate (*Reg's Gate*) and on up to 20250/09710 at 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 simpler version of these route directions, without the GPS data, is also available. Return to the walk page and click for it.