



## Walk 1. Berrynarbor, Watermouth and Combe Martin.

- 8.7 miles, 3 hours 40 minutes. Ascents and descents of 550 metres.

Terrain: Roads, paths and tracks, some likely to be muddy.

Access: By car, park in the car park in Berrynarbor village (SS 562 466, near EX34 9SE). By bus, twice weekly bus 33 goes to Berrynarbor from Ilfracombe, or use more frequent bus 301 to start on the A399.

Map: Croydecycle O6 Ilfracombe and Berrynarbor or OS Explorer OL9 Exmoor.

Refreshments: Pub in Berrynarbor, various options in Combe Martin, seasonal café at Watermouth.

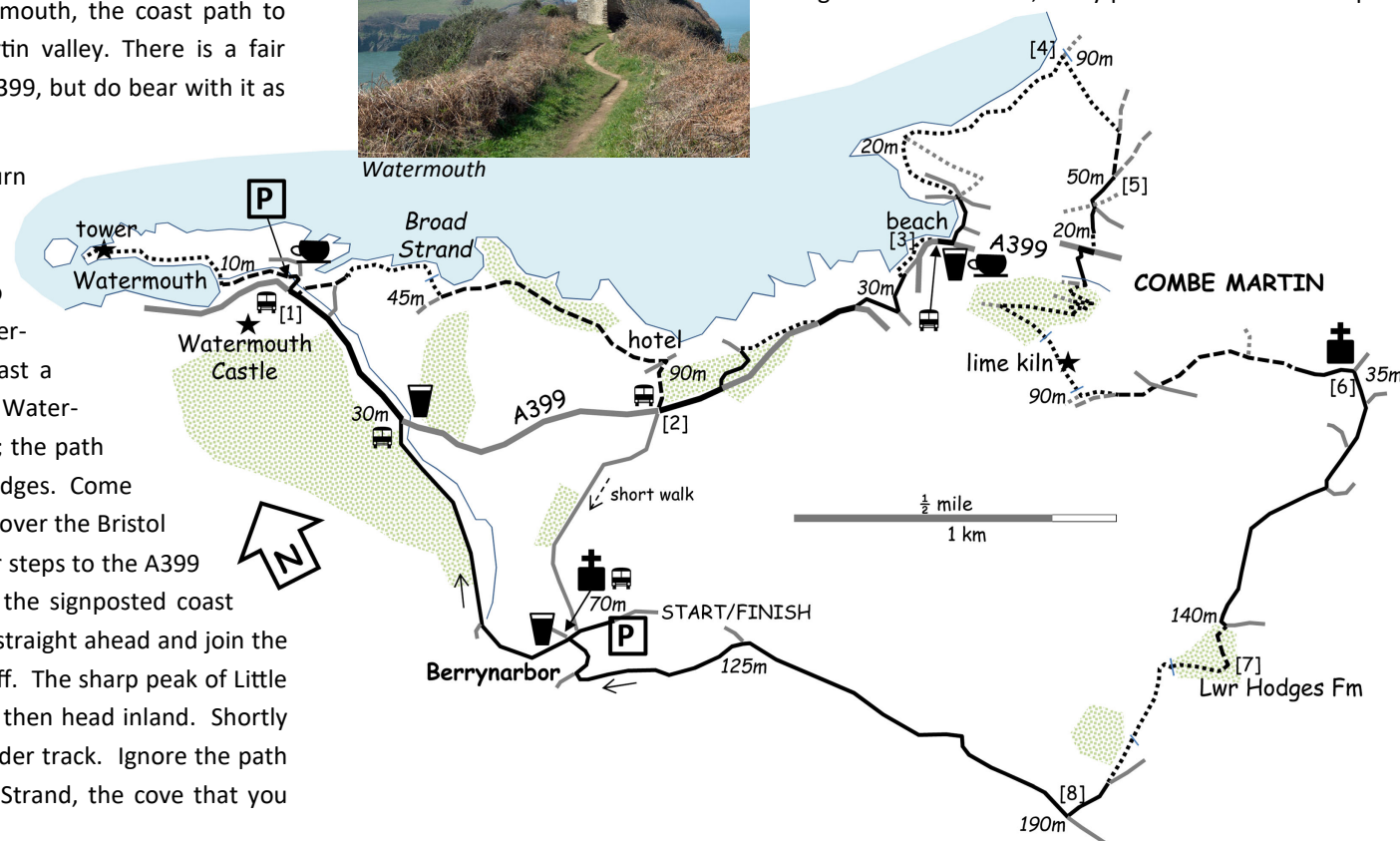
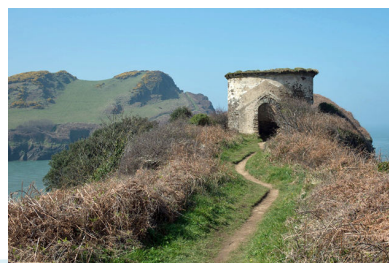
BERRYNARBOR IS A CHARMING VILLAGE OF WHITE COTTAGES and flower-filled gardens, favoured by holidaymakers who want something quieter and more rural than nearby Ilfracombe or Combe Martin. The walk takes in the natural harbour of Watermouth, the coast path to Combe Martin, and the rolling hills above the long Combe Martin valley. There is a fair amount of walking along roads, both narrow lanes and the main A399, but do bear with it as the rest of the walk is highly varied and scenic.

Start at Berrynarbor car park, next to the shop and post office. Turn left on to the road into the village centre, passing the church and then the Globe Inn. The road curves around to the right, then continues to a T-junction with the A399. Cross over and turn left to walk beside the main road. Turn right into the entrance of Watermouth Cove Holiday Park (25mins, [1]), then immediately left past a small pay and display car park to join the track leading down to Watermouth Harbour. At the shore, turn right and cross a small stream; the path briefly follows the shoreline, then heads slightly inland between hedges. Come into the open and arrive at a small open-topped tower, with views over the Bristol Channel. The path ends just beyond, above a chasm. Retrace your steps to the A399 (50mins, [1]), turn left briefly, then left after the bus stop on to the signposted coast path. This takes you over a stream and into a camp site: continue straight ahead and join the service road. Continue on a narrower path along the top of the cliff. The sharp peak of Little Hangman appears in front of you. Walk high above a sandy cove, then head inland. Shortly afterwards pass through a pedestrian gate and turn left on to a wider track. Ignore the path to the left unless you want to descend the 200+ steps to Broad Strand, the cove that you

passed above earlier. Pass some houses and a hotel on the left, then turn right on to the signposted coast path diversion. This brings you back to the A399 (1hr15mins, [2]); the short walk crosses over here to return to Berrynarbor on Barton Lane.

Turn left and follow the footpath along the roadside. Turn left again into Newberry Close, following it to the left and briefly down. Opposite some large houses, take a signposted path to the right, heading down steps at first. The path soon rejoins the main road; turn left, pass a chalet park, and take the minor road to the left signposted Combe Martin. Join a wider road, then turn left to walk down to a stony beach (1hr35mins, [3]). Go up some steps and follow the promenade to the main beach. After you have explored Combe Martin, continue along the left-hand side of a pay-and-display car park at the far side of the beach. Take the road out of the car park upwards and to the left; ignore the track to the right for the Coast Path, but head across the grass and past some seats to follow a vague path upwards along the field edge, next to the greenery. The path will bring you to a young oak tree with a seat

beneath, with views back over Combe Martin and its narrow bay. Just beyond is a gap in the vegetation; go through to take a narrow, rocky path that ascends steep-



ly, turning left where it meets the official coast path. The path comes to a viewpoint where Little Hangman looms in front of you, and views open up across Combe Martin to the right. After the viewpoint the path descends to a gate (1hr55mins, [4]); only go through if you want to climb Little Hangman (see Walk 2).

For your onward route, turn right just before the gate and descend steeply. Go down some steps to join a lane, turn right and cross a small bridge. Keep straight ahead where a track on the left heads back towards Great Hangman (2hr5mins, [5]). The road bends to the left; ignore the footpaths, but turn right on a minor road past a 1930s-era chalet bungalow ('Scaena'). This descends, via some steps at the end, back to the main street in Combe Martin. Turn right then immediately left into a residents' road (Barton Gate Lane) with a signed public footpath. The road bends around to the right and becomes a track; shortly afterwards take a footpath forking to the left, heading upwards into the woods. Follow the zigzag path, keeping always left and upwards; ignore paths that continue straight ahead (there are two). Eventually arrive at a gate into a field. Go through, and follow the path past an overgrown lime kiln. Go over a stile and turn left at a sign saying 'foot'. Join a wider track coming in from the right, then go through a metal field gate and past a stone gatepost. Cross a road and head downwards. The path narrows, then widens out again and passes some houses before arriving at Combe Martin church, an ideal spot to take a break (2hr40mins, [6]).

Turn right at the church into Rectory Road, and follow it past houses until it bends left: turn right and uphill on another road. Follow this through a sharp left bend and to a second left bend as it enters woods: turn right here into the driveway for Lower Hodges Farm, signposted as a public bridleway. Come to the farmyard ([7]) and continue between the house and barn, heading uphill on a narrow stony path until you arrive at a field gate. Go through, walk to the right of a small hillock, then veer left and head across the field. Head uphill, slightly to the right of the uppermost field boundary, on the opposite side of the field to the white house. A narrow opening between woods and a ragged hedge leads to a gate into the next field. Continue ahead and slightly to the left to arrive at a field gate. Join a farm road, turning right. Turn right at a T-junction (3hr15mins, [8]) and follow the road for 20 minutes or so to arrive back in Berrynarbor. Come to a T-junction, with the church and Globe Inn ahead of you. Turn right. At the next T-junction turn right to return to the car park (3hr40mins), or left for refreshments if the Globe is open (at present there is no tea room in Berrynarbor).

**Short walk A: Berrynarbor and Watermouth** (● 3.8 miles, ascents and descents of 195 metres). Follow the main walk until it rejoins the A399 at the 1hr15min point [2], then cross the road into Barton Lane. Now follow this road downhill into the centre of Berrynarbor and turn left at the junction to return to the car park.

**Short walk B: Around Combe Martin** (● 3.2 miles, ascents and descents of 200 metres). Start at the beach in Combe Martin, joining the walk just after the 1hr35min point ([3]). At the church ([6]), turn left to come to the main street. Turn left and walk back to the beach; this is claimed to be one of England's longest village streets, although apart from the 'Pack 'o' Cards' inn on the left much of it is not particularly interesting.

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