



### Walk 1. Berrynarbor, Hele and Watermouth.

- 7.7 miles, ascents and descents of 450 metres. 3 hours 10 minutes constant walking, allow 4-4½ hours.

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). Twice weekly bus 33 goes to Berrynarbor from Ilfracombe, or use frequent Monday-Saturday bus 301 to start at Hele, Watermouth or close to Berrynarbor on the A399. There is also a car park at Hele (SS 536 477, EX37 9QZ, £) and a smaller free parking area above the cliffs just east of Hele on the A39 (SS 538 480).

Map: Croydecycle 06 Ilfracombe and Berrynarbor or OS Explorer OL9 Exmoor.

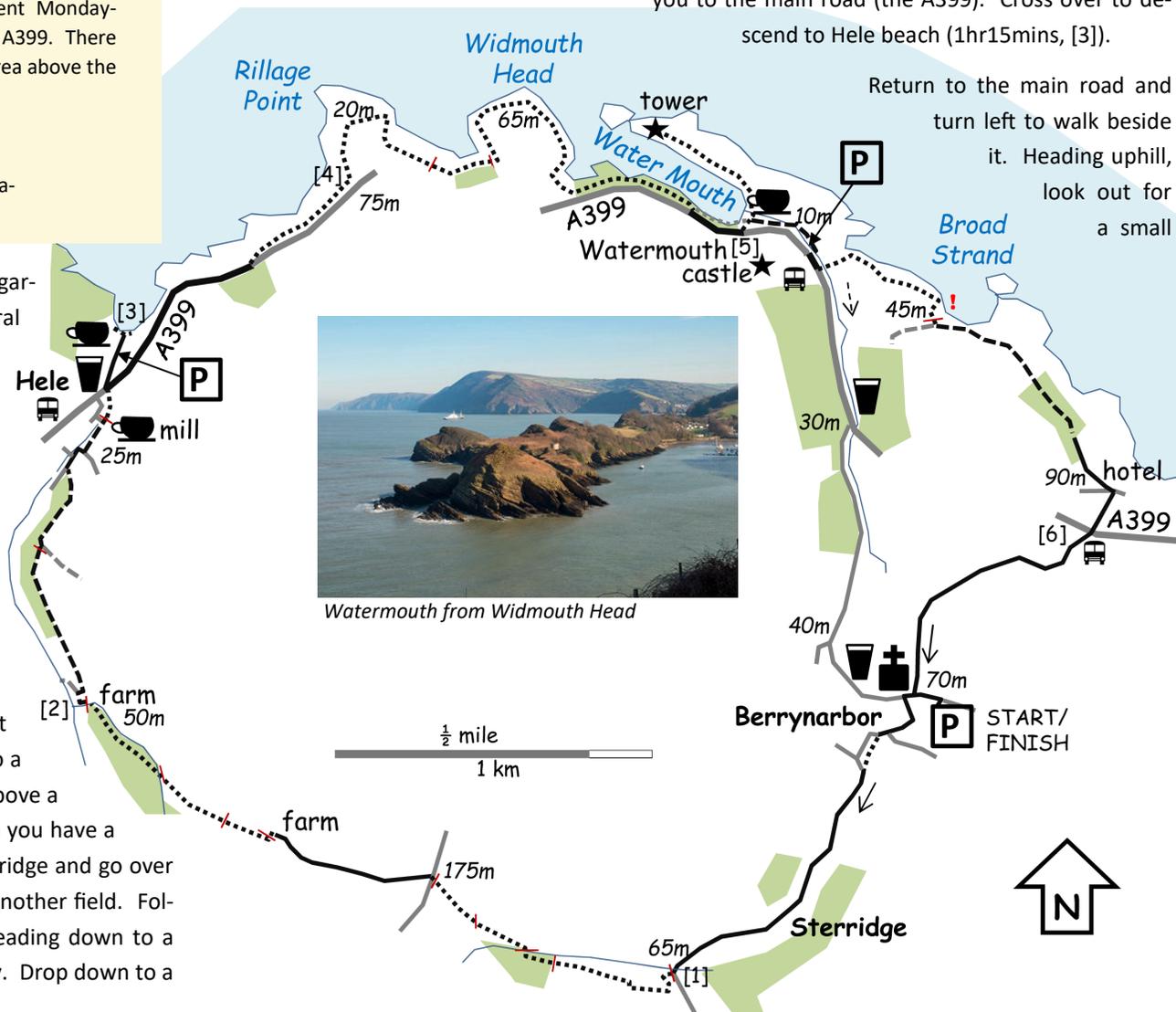
Refreshments: Pub in Berrynarbor, pubs and cafés in Hele, seasonal cafés at Watermouth.

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 heads south on a pleasant lane to the Sterridge Valley, before continuing west through quiet woods and fields to pick up the coast path at Hele, just outside Ilfracombe. The coastal stretch includes one of the most spectacular views on the whole of the Coast Path, from Widmouth over Watermouth and east along the cliffs to Foreland Point. A there-and-back path explores the Warren on the far side of Watermouth.

From the car park in Berrynarbor turn left, left at the T-junction, then immediately left as signposted to Sterridge Valley. Go uphill then down, and after a road junction turn left on a footpath. When it ends keep left on the road to walk through Sterridge. After the speed derestriction signs, just before a long white house on the left, turn right through a kissing gate on to a public footpath (20mins, [1]). This bends left then right to take you uphill above a side-valley. Keep the field boundary always on your left, forking right when you have a choice, then cross (or bypass) a stile to enter a small wood. Cross a small bridge and go over a stile into a field; bear left and upwards to a second stile taking you into another field. Follow the footpath across the field to a gate, with a stone stile and steps leading down to a road. Cross the road and continue on a farm lane, signposted as a bridleway. Drop down to a

farm; keep right of the house, then go through a gate on the left and follow the path as it bends around to the right. Go through another gate and continue above a valley on a slight ledge. Gradually descend to the bottom, and go through a gate to cross a stream. Walk beside the stream beneath trees, then splash through it at a ford by a farm (55mins, [2]). Turn left and through a vehicle gate, walk past a stone house, then right at the end and left on a green lane just in front of a barn. Bear left after going through a gate, then turn right when you meet a road in Hele village. Ignore the turn to the left, then follow the road sharply right in front of Moles Farm. Just beyond, turn left on a drive signposted as a footpath. Arrive at Hele Mill, where there is a tea garden: continue ahead, joining a narrow footpath that brings you to the main road (the A399). Cross over to descend to Hele beach (1hr15mins, [3]).

Return to the main road and turn left to walk beside it. Heading uphill, look out for a small



Watermouth from Widmouth Head

path to the left that takes you to a grass area with a viewpoint over Hele. Walk through the car park and continue parallel with the main road on the signposted coast path. Arrive at a row of coastguard cottages (1hr35mins, [4]); just before them, head down some steps on the left. This path takes you down towards Rillage Point, where there are views back over Ilfracombe. As the path returns inland, Great Hangman comes briefly into view. Walk alongside a stone wall, then go through a gate to come high above a cove, Samson's Bay. Through a second gate, then turn left; there are views over Watermouth and the Hangman Hills. The path descends and ascends on earth steps, over a hundred in all. Look out for the Widmouth Head viewpoint on the left, from where there is a stunning panorama over Watermouth, the Hangman Hills and the coast beyond. Return to the main path; many more steps take you down towards the sea. Follow the path over a small bridge and upwards towards the main road. Continue through a narrow strip of woodland alongside the road until you arrive at some modern concrete steps. Walk beside the road (the alternative footpath, down to the left, will take you along the shore at anything other than high tide). Watermouth Castle, a Victorian manor that is now run as a family theme park, soon comes into view. To explore the far side of Watermouth, turn left on a footpath opposite the castle (2hr5mins, [5]). Cross the head of the inlet (there is a café in a converted boat here) and go over a small stream. Turn left: 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, and turn left.

Just beyond the entrance to the holiday park is a bus stop. Turn left here on a footpath and go over a small bridge. This takes you into a camp site: go 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. A seat on the left has views over a sheer drop above Broad Strand or Broadsands, a beach far below, and the small tidal island of Hamator Rock. Continue upwards, then pass through a pedestrian gate and turn left on to a wider track. Ignore the path further along on the left unless you want to descend and re-ascend the 200+ steps down to Broad Strand\*. 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 (2hr50mins, [6]); cross the road into Barton Lane, follow it downhill into the centre of Berrynarbor, and turn left at the junction to return to the car park.

**Short-cut missing out Broad Strand** (● 6.5 miles, 390 metres of ascent and descent). At the 2hr5min point ([5]) continue along the A399 to the Sawmill Inn. Turn right here to pick up the road to Berrynarbor. Keep to the left, and this road will take you past the Olde Globe inn and the church; continue ahead to the car park.

\* The steps were closed at the end of 2020 to allow a crumbling footbridge to be repaired.

**Extension to Combe Martin** (● 11.7 miles, 715 metres of ascent and descent; see Walk 2). Follow the main walk as far as the 2hr50min point ([6]), then join Walk 2 to continue to Combe Martin. From the sea front, continue ahead inland on the main street. Pass a small garage and a general stores, then take the fourth residential road on the right, Barton Gate Lane, which is marked as a 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 Adderstable Wood. 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 a clump of trees and bushes that conceals a lime kiln. At the far side of the field go over a stile and turn left. Join a wider track coming in from the right, then go through two gates. Cross a road and head downwards. The path narrows, then widens out again and passes some houses before arriving at Combe Martin church. Turn right here and rejoin the instructions in Walk 2 to return to Berrynarbor.

**Coastal walks using the bus.** There is a frequent service (301) between Combe Martin and Ilfracombe that can be used for linear walks along the coast. (A) Park at Berrynarbor and walk up either lane to the A399 to catch the bus to Hele. Join the main walk here to return to Berrynarbor (● total including the diversions to Hele Beach and the Warren 5.3 miles, with ascents and descents of 300m). (B) Park in Combe Martin and take the bus to Hele, returning as for the main walk as far as the 2hr50min point ([6]), then continue along the coast path as described in Walk 2 (● 5 miles, ascents and descents of 300m).

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