

Greenway Walk

Experience breathtaking views of the spectacular Tor Bay, discover ruins, follow in ancient footsteps along historic trackways, through rural villages and outstanding countryside to the beautiful River Dart estuary and visit the National Trust's historic Greenway.

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| Start: | Broadsands Beach |
| Distance: | 6.5 miles |
| Circular Walk: | Yes |
| Grade: | Moderate |
| Terrain: | Coastal and inland footpath, pebble beach, short section on estuary foreshore. |
| Obstacles & Steep Gradients: | Two stiles, several gates and two short steep climbs and one main road crossing. |
| Public transport: | Well served. Nearest Bus stop is on Broadsands Road, near the viaduct. Regular buses run between Paignton and Broadsands. For information on public transport to Broadsands and Galmpton from the South Hams, please call traveline on 0870 6082608 or visit www.traveline.org.uk |

Refreshment stops:

The seafront café at Broadsands. The Weary Ploughman, near Churston Station. The Churston Court Inn, Churston. The Manor Inn, Galmpton. Greenway café when the estate is open. The Anchor Stone café and the Ferry Boat Inn at Dittisham.

Toilets:

Public toilets situated on the seafront at Broadsands.

Parking:

Broadsands Beach, charges apply.

Accommodation:

River Dart Youth Hostel at Maypool. Campsites, B&B, inns and guest houses around Galmpton. Tourist Information Centres for Torquay, Paignton and Brixham can be telephoned on: 0870 70 70 010. For Dartmouth TIC Tel: 01803 834224.

Other facilities:

The National Trust's Greenway estate. Check with the National Trust for latest opening times and prices before you set off. Tel: 01803 842382 or email: greenway@nationaltrust.org.uk. Let them know you have arrived using the Greenway Walk, arriving by 'green ways' like this will reduce your entry ticket price.

OS map:

Explorer 0L20

Grid Ref:

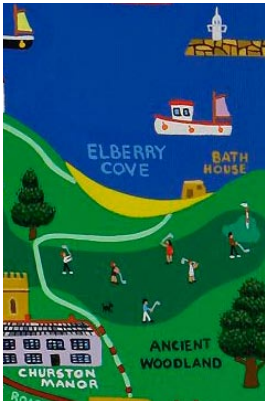
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Directions

- Starting from Broadsands Beach take the Coast Path to Brixham. At the junction with the old tree, head right inland, then left across the golf course. Turn right into Green Lane, turn right at the end, then left into Bridge Road.
- Cross the main road using the subway. Pass Churston Station on your left, and take the next left. Just before the Manor Inn, take the left-hand fork to Greenway Garden. Beyond the village, turn left into Kennel Lane, over the railway bridge and turn right onto Combe Lane. At the top turn right to Higher Greenway.
- At the next T-junction turn left to Greenway. Enter the National Trust's Greenway estate and go through the gates on your right. Keep to the right-hand edge of the field. Follows signs to the right for Galmpton. Go through the gate and keep to the left-hand fenceline. Take the left-hand gate into the woodland. Go through the kissing gate and cross Greenway Road.
- Climb the two stone stiles and turn right into Lower Greenway Farm yard. Turn left and head towards another old stile and gate. Go through the gate in the right-hand fence heading down towards the stile onto the foreshore. Continue right, along the foreshore. Walk up the short hill until you come to a right-hand bend. Here take the green lane ahead towards Galmpton Creek boatyards.
- Follow the lane up hill past Dartside Boat Park. Turn right to Galmpton at Stoke Gabriel Road. Pass the Post Office and take Slade Lane on your left, to Galmpton Warborough Common. Head for the disused windmill. Cross the main road, near the War Memorial.
- Walk downhill, alongside Bascombe Road until you reach the Public Footpath on the left. The footpath emerges on Broadsands Road. Turn right downhill to return to Broadsands beach.

Further Interest



Heritage

Elberry Cove bath house was built for Lord Churston in the 18th Century when seawater bathing became fashionable after King George III took a dip at Weymouth. The 18th Century Boat House on the banks of the River Dart at Greenway also has a bath house which floods with the tide.

First recorded in 1493, 'Greyway' is an historic crossing point of the River Dart.

The Greenway estate has been owned by explorers, merchants, and in the 1930's by world-famous crime writer Agatha Christie. The garden, tended for around 400 years, includes a nationally important plant collection and is renowned for its magnolias. For further information on Greenway visit the National Trust's website

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Galmpton, pronounced 'Gamp-ton', was recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) as Galmetona, which means 'a peasant who rented a smallholding'. It was largely agricultural, with a mainstay of apple orchards and piggeries providing for the village. Whole valleys were once covered in apple blossom as every farm used to have an orchard, with cider forming an important part of a farm workers pay. By the Tudor age (1485-1602) Galmpton was at the heart of limestone quarrying on the Dart and produced building materials for export from the nearby ports of Dartmouth and Totnes.



Landscape

The landscapes and waterscapes of this walk vary from the coastal cliffs and wide sweeping waters of Tor Bay to the intimacy of the River Dart estuary created by its steep sided woodland fringed creeks. This

enclosed feel is characteristic of drowned river valleys, or 'rias'. The Dart valley was formed when sea levels were lower than today, and was then flooded and 'drowned' when sea levels rose with the last melting of the great ice sheets.

Thick beds of Devonian limestone, once marine reefs, extend from the coast at Berry Head, to the north and east

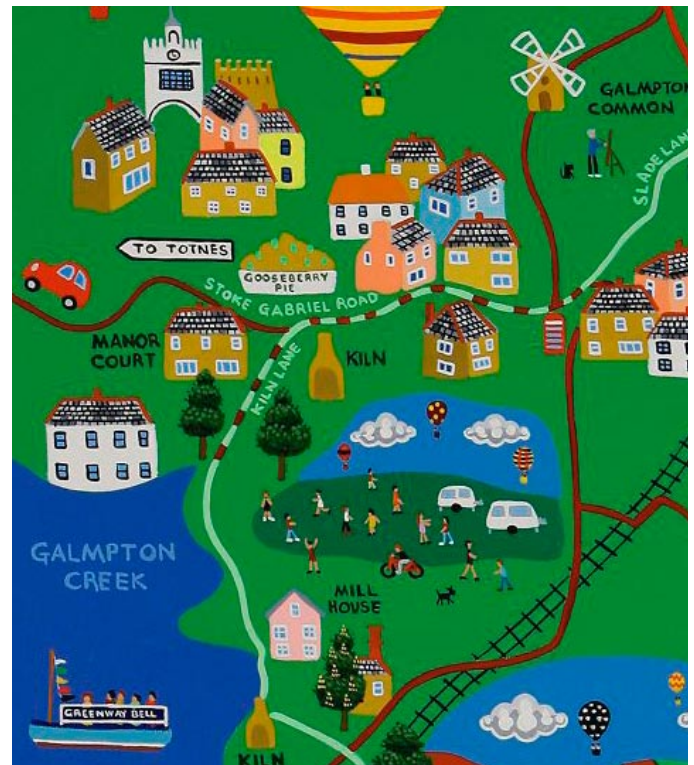
of Galmpton Creek. For centuries Galmpton was the centre of the limestone quarrying industry on the River Dart. Some derelict lime kilns can still be seen on the estuary foreshore. Others were located nearer the farm fields where lime was used as a soil conditioner. A restored kiln can be seen on Kiln Lane between Galmpton Creek and the village.

At the top of Combe Lane, once out of the woodland, there are views of both the Tor Bay and the River Dart, and it is clear just how narrow the area of land in between them actually is. It was once proposed to cut a canal through from the river to Broadsands, to save ships having to travel round the coast.

Wildlife

Estuarine areas are home to both Herons and the white heron-like Little Egrets, which can be seen fishing in the shallows. The oystercatcher, with its orange beak and black and white plumage, is one of the many wading birds to be seen feeding, following the retreating tide. Inland the unmistakable continuous trilling and warbling song of Skylarks can be heard as they hover high above the farm fields.

Mature woodlands around Greenway are important foraging grounds for the nationally rare Greater and Lesser Horseshoes bats, so named because their noses are shaped like horseshoes.



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