

Hope Cove to Bolberry Down

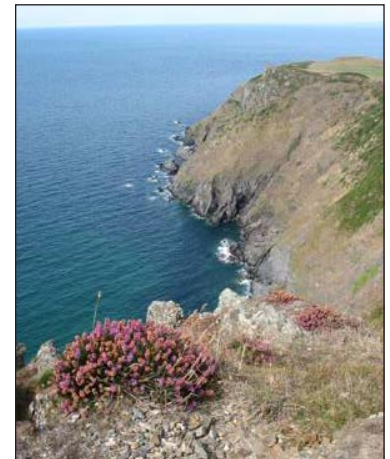
A walk of towering cliffs, endless coastal views, scenes and stories of shipwrecks, and the charm of Devon lanes winding between abundant hedgebanks - with the beautiful, nestled fishing village of Hope Cove to start from and return to.

Start:	Outer Hope car park
Distance:	5 miles.
Circular Walk:	Yes
Grade:	Moderate
Terrain:	Coastal footpath with some uneven ground; surfaced road; green lane; fairly even country footpath.
Obstacles & Steep Gradients:	4 stiles, 1 flight of steps. There are two ascents on the walk, though the climbing is long and steady rather than very steep.
Public transport:	Bus service 162 between Kingsbridge and Hope Cove, twice a day Monday to Saturday. For information on public transport in South Hams please call Traveline on 0870 6082608 www.traveline.org.uk .
Refreshment stops:	In Outer Hope: Hope & Anchor Pub, serves food 01548 561294; Beachcomber Cafe open April-Oct 561294; Harbour Light restaurant serves cream teas, snacks and meals 561376. At Bolberry Down: Port Light Hotel, serves drinks, cream teas and lunches 561384.
Toilets:	Public toilets in Outer Hope.
Parking:	Private car park at Outer Hope. Parking fees apply.
Accommodation:	Please contact Kingsbridge Tourist Information Centre on 01548 853195 www.kingsbridgeinfo.co.uk
Other facilities:	Phone box by Outer Hope car park. Hope Post Office and Stores in Outer Hope.
OS map:	Explorer 0L20
Grid Ref:	SX676402



Directions

1. Turn left out of car park and follow the lane and follow the lane through the village. This becomes a path and then a road again down into Inner Hope.
2. By the slipway, follow the coast path up the steps. Follow the waymarked path, which snakes around Bolt Tail, and along the cliffs.
3. At Bolberry Down turn down the lane. At the next T-junction, turn left, then just around the corner fork right.
4. Drop down the hill, then up the other side of the dip, and turn left onto the green lane signed 'Sweethearts Lane'.
5. At the next junction turn left, signed 'Public Footpath Galampton 1/2 mile'. Then path cuts off to the right by the gateway to Higher Barton, and runs up across one small field, and right along the field margin of the next.
6. Through gate and turn left over the stone stile by the tall waymarker post and follow the field edge footpath back to Hope.
7. Cross the road and follow the path down steps by the side of St Clements Church, then turn right and return through Hope to the car park.



Heritage

In the summer of 1588, thousands of people gathered at Hope Cove and Bolt Tail to watch the 140 ships of the Spanish Armada as they moved in a great crescent formation up the Channel.

In October of that year, one of those ships was back at Hope Cove. The defeated Armada had fled around the top of Britain via the North Sea.

As they headed back down the west of the country, storms scattered the fleet. The San Pedro el Mayor, a transport ship fitted out as a hospital, was blown back up the Channel, and her exhausted crew could not prevent



the ship being driven onto the Shippen Rock between Inner and Outer Hope. The 140 survivors were initially sentenced to death, but were eventually ransomed back to Spain.

In the 1800s dozens of ships at a time might take shelter from South-Easterly gales in the cove at Hope. The village was a centre of both fishing and smuggling. Kegs of brandy and rum were weighted with stones and dropped to the sea floor by ships plying from France. Local fishermen would then recover them at the same time as they hauled in their crab pots, and bring them ashore.

At Bolt Tail can still be seen the remains of the ramparts of an Iron Age fort, probably built around 600 BC. The rocks along this stretch of the coast have been the scene of several shipwrecks. Perhaps most famous and tragic was the HMS Ramillies. In 1760 this ageing and leaky 90-gun warship was caught in a severe gale in the Channel, and attempted to make it back to land. Mistaking it for Rame Head near Plymouth, the crew tried to round Bolt Tail into what they thought would be the safety of Plymouth Sound. Instead the already battered ship smashed into the cliffs. Over 700 men died and the loss of the ship was a national disaster.

Landscape

From Bolt Tail, the view extends beyond Rame Head near Plymouth, and well into Cornwall. The spoil heaps from the China Clay works around St Austell - the 'Cornish Alps' - can often be made out.



Locals report that lights on the Lizard peninsula can even be made out on clear evenings.

The rock along the coast from Bolt Tail is mainly schist. This is a metamorphic rock, altered by heat and pressure, which splits readily along parallel lines. In this area, large slabs of the rock were placed in rows, on end, to form the earliest field walls.

Wildlife

The rough grassland around Bolt Tail is a good hunting ground for the Kestrel. This small bird of prey can often be seen hovering on reddish brown wings, its tail feathers fanned out. These cliffs are also home to the Peregrine Falcon. A sleek figure with dark grey plumage, the Peregrine hunts other birds and is one of the fastest of all animals. When stooping to dive after prey it can reach speeds of up to 200 km/h.

The clifftops around Bolberry Down support breeding pairs of Yellowhammers - named for their vivid plumage - along with Skylarks, Meadow Pipits and Cirl Buntings. The area is also home to the Dartford Warbler, a rare and shy bird with a deep red-brown breast.

Along the coast path grow clusters of Yarrow, with feathery leaves on a dark green-blue stem, and flat umbrellas of white florets. There are drifts of pink Thrift, the spinach-like leaves of Sea Beet, and the low, bright red and yellow flowers of Bird's Foot Trefoil. Toadflax also grows here, its yellow lipped flowers massed on straight stem-spikes.

Heading inland, the hedgerows are threaded through with the blooms and red berries of Honeysuckle. In the shady lanes the green straps of the Hartstongue Fern thrive, as does the delicately mottled brown speckled Wood Butterfly, and the boldly coloured black, red and white Red Admiral.

