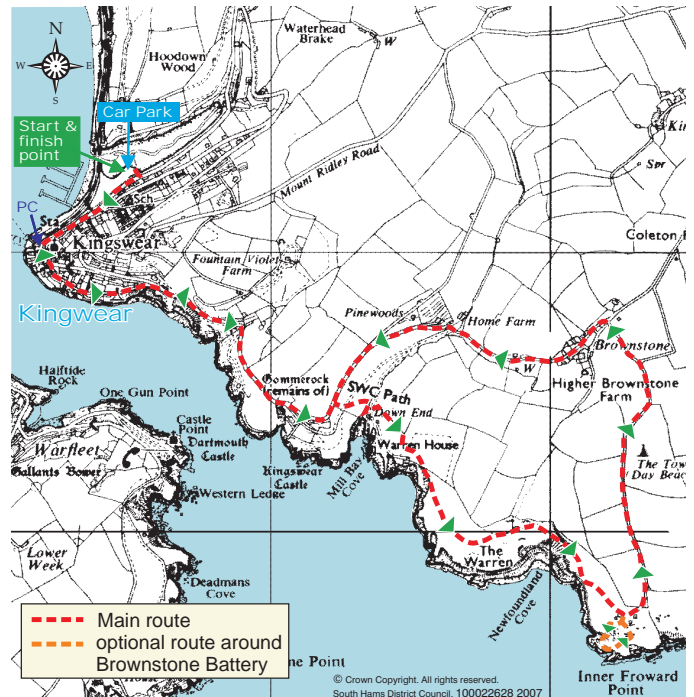


## Kingswear to Froward Point

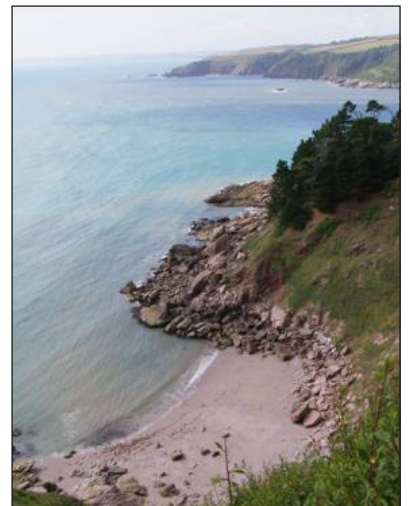
Castles and cliffs, seals and skylarks, on a coastal circular walk rich in views, history and natural abundance.

Start:	Marina car park, Kingswear.
Distance:	5 miles
Circular Walk:	Yes
Grade:	Moderate to strenuous
Terrain:	Coast path with some uneven sections and long flights of steps; 2 steep descents; 1 steep ascent.
Obstacles & Steep Gradients:	2 Stiles; 4 flights of steps; 2 steep descents; 1 steep ascent.
Public transport:	Kingswear is served directly by buses from Paignton and Brixham. Steam railway from Paignton April-October 01803 555872. You can also travel by bus to Dartmouth from Kingsbridge and Totnes and then by ferry to Kingswear. For information on public transport in South Hams please call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 <a href="http://www.traveline.org.uk">www.traveline.org.uk</a> .
Refreshment stops:	Royal Dart Hotel in Kingswear 01803 752213. Many cafes, restaurants and pubs across the river in Dartmouth.
Toilets:	Public toilets are by the ferry slipway in Kingswear.
Parking:	Private car park at Kingswear Marina. Pay on departure.
Accommodation:	Please contact Dartmouth Tourist Information Centre on 01803 834224 <a href="http://www.discoverdartmouth.com">www.discoverdartmouth.com</a>
Other facilities:	Kingswear has a general store, and a post office. There is a phone box by the slipway.
OS map:	Explorer 0L20
Grid Ref:	SX885512



### Directions

1. Turn right out of the car park along the road, then bear right again. By ferry slipway, pass under the arch, then left up Alma Steps.
2. Turn right onto Beacon Road. This becomes a tarmac footpath, and then joins a road again.
3. Turn right down wooden steps, signed Froward Point 1¼ m.
4. Just past Mill Bay Cove, turn right onto private drive, and then left after 30m, up steps and through woods. Pass above Newfoundland Cove to Brownstone Battery. (To explore the Battery, drop down the path to the right by the coastwatch station. Turn left by the first searchlight post, then left again following the 'acorn' waymarker. Fork left once more to wind back up to the coastwatch lookout).
5. Bear left onto the track signed 'HG Brownstone'. Past the Day Mark, fork left onto a green lane signed for Kingswear.
6. Turn left at Brownstone and follow the footpath through the farm and past Crocker's Cottage. The footpath joins a private road. Bear left where the road forks, and then left again.
7. Turn right back down Alma Steps. Retrace your steps past the steam railway, and fork left past the bus shelter to the car park.



## Heritage

The first historical mention of Kingswear is found in 1170, and a ferry has operated between there and Dartmouth from at least 1365. Always strongly linked to the sea, the village was at one time an important bunkering port, where steam ships would call to take on coal. This trade declined as vessels became too large to enter the harbour.

As you walk out of Kingswear, Dartmouth Castle can be seen across the water. It was built at the end of the 15th century, although the remnants of an earlier castle built in 1388 also stand just uphill. Directly below your route,



close to the waterline, is the smaller Kingswear Castle, finished in 1503. The original iron cannon had to be replaced with brass guns after suffering severe corrosion from the salt water and wind. The fortification was abandoned once the development of more powerful cannon meant that the whole river mouth could be covered by guns from Dartmouth Castle across the water.

The complex at Brownstone Battery was built in 1942 as a defence against German naval attack. The site was equipped with two six-inch guns taken from a First World War battleship. Each gun had a range of over 14 miles, and operated in tandem with a powerful searchlight situated close to the high water mark below. During the War, the Battery was manned by up to 300 soldiers, and the cliffs all around were strung with barbed wire.



The National Coastwatch Institute station is situated at Brownstone Battery. Visitors are welcome to pop-in and say hello at the lookout and to peruse the display house opposite.

The hollow stone tower of the Day Mark was built in 1864 as a navigational aid to shipping. It is a grade 2 listed building.



## Landscape

The landscape of this walk is built on Dartmouth Slate. This is a relatively

durable rock which gives rise to the high ground here, and stretches in a band across the South Hams to Wembury in the west.

Much of the land here is owned by the National Trust. The Trust works with its tenant farmers to manage the cultivated land for farmland birds and rare arable plants. Other areas are managed to provide a mosaic of open grassland and scrub habitats, along with the coastal woodlands. This management encourages a great variety of wildlife.

## Wildlife

The conifers you pass on the coast path from Kingswear are Monterey and Corsican pines. These trees are tolerant of the salt winds and harsh weather, and so thrive in coastal situations.



The swift and rare Peregrine Falcon can be seen from the coast path. With blue-grey plumage above, and white with dark bars below, this bird-hunting falcon is one of the fastest animals on Earth.

The Mew Stone, visible off the shore from Brownstone Battery, is a rich site for seabirds, and is home to a large seabird colony. The rocky island is also the most easterly 'haul-out' for grey seals in the English Channel.

Thanks to sympathetic management, many of the fields on the walk are home to the skylark, a species declining on farmland in many areas. The liquid song of this crested bird can often be heard from above as it rises in its characteristic songflight.

The Linnet, a sociable ground-feeding finch, is also found here, as is the rare Cirl Bunting, with its yellow and black facial stripes and green-brown plumage. Among the rare arable plants in these fields are the pink lipped flowers of the Lesser Snapdragon, the bright blue Cornflower and the purple and yellow flowers of the sprawling Sharp-leaved Fluellen.

