



[Brixham Parish Boundary Walk](#)

The original boundary of the Parish of Brixham starts and finishes at the low water mark on the west side of Fishcombe Cove.

This 22 mile walk includes woodland, riverside, countryside, town, road and coastwalking and has lots of interesting places to visit along the way.

It can easily be split into two or more routes.

Public transport links are at Brixham, Churston, Greenway and Kingswear and are by bus, ferry or steam train.

Start grid reference SX919 569. Nearest postcode TQ5 8BX. OS Map Explorer OL20

This walk will follow as closely as possible the actual boundary but does deviate in places where it crosses private land.

[MAP LINK](#)

Start at Fishcombe Cove, noticing the red iron oxide which was historically used to paint Brixham's boat sails red. Climb the short but steep path, past the seasonal cafe and the toilets and if the day allows visit the fascinating Brixham Battery Museum.

From here turn right and on entering The Grove turn left signed to Churston Ferrers. This is the John Musgrove Heritage Trail. A few steps lead to a clearing, after which notice the ancient stile on the left. Follow the track to the road and turn left. Mindful of traffic, follow Copythorne Road over the disused rail track.

The bounday actually follows the back gardens of North Boundary Road, hence the name, and meets Copythorne Road by the first stone building which is what remains of George Emmery's Cottage and offices for his walled fruit orchard (1841). This was the main road into Brixham.

Continue along the road where the boundary turns right along the back gardens of the houses opposite Lakes Road to emerge on New Road. We continue down Copythorne Road and at the bottom follow the right fork, signed as a cul-de-sac. This leads us out onto New Road, the busy main road into Brixham.

Cross carefully to walk behind the Toll House dated 1790 and cross over Monksbridge Road which leads up to Cowtown, the historic heart of Brixham. Walk up New Road and cross again at Laywell Road. Find the ancient boundary stone behind the modern sign.



The walk can end here by catching a bus back to Brixham. This walk is just over 2 miles.

The boundary follows the stream in the valley but we will walk along the road, past Churston Mill Farm, and around "Strawberry Bend". Named as a small hut was on the corner for many years selling strawberries !

Circle walk - carry on along main road and taking second right through Churston Village and back to the start via the John Musgrove Trail. This will be 4 ½ miles in total.

Carefully cross the road at the gateway to Lupton Estate, pass between the Lodges and down the drive. On some days a wonderful cafe is open for refreshments. Much has been written on the history of the house and there are occasional guided tours but stop and wander around the parkland on the permissive paths and view the Italianate garden.



Walk in front of the house and the impressive Lucombe Oak tree and follow the permissive path to the right. Through an avenue of oaks and at the bend in what was the original main drive carry straight on and over the stile. Don't disturb those in No 7, The Hobbit House in the tree on your right !

Follow the path up the field on the right. There may be livestock in here so follow advice to keep dogs on a lead.

Towards the top of the hill, peace and birdsong will be replaced by traffic noise. Climb over the stile and be careful as this is Kennels Road, (the kennels for Lupton House are on the left) a busy and fast road.

Circle walk – turn right and right again into Alston Lane, a track that leads down to Churston Village and back to the start via the John Musgrove Trail. This will be 6 ¼ miles in total.

Admire the view out over Torbay and right around to Portland on a clear day. Carefully cross the road where the grass verges are largest and turn left down the first track. Follow this well marked path which is heading away from the original boundary, this takes a more direct route over the fields.

We soon rejoin the John Musgrove Trail then a bit later the Greenway Walk comes from the right. A fine viewing platform dedicated to the memory of John Musgrove gives wonderful views over the River Dart, Torbay and up to Dartmoor.



Go through the gate or over the stile and follow path down and to the right. The boats in Galampton Creek can be seen with Waddeton Court behind.

At Higher Greenway, a ½ mile detour can be taken to Agatha Christie's Greenway House.

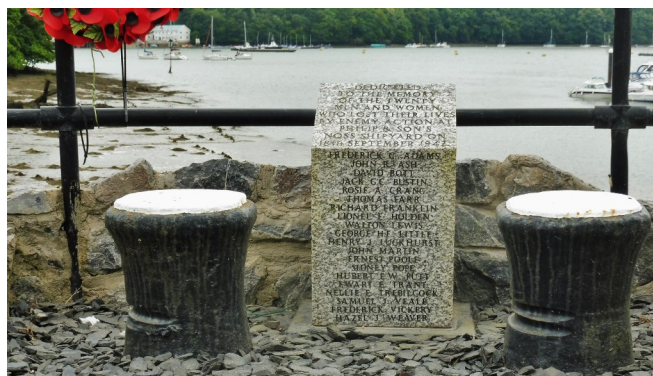
Circular walk – from Greenway House walk the road to Galampton and cross the main road to return to Churston Village. Around 9 miles in total. Or time it right to catch the Greenway Ferry or the steam train from Greenway Halt.

Take a left to follow the permissive path to Kingswear. We are now on the Dart Valley Trail.



Shortly we enter Long Wood, a National Trust site. This can be quite steep in places and often wet underfoot but it is a beautiful walk through an oak woodland and all the native wildlife. The view is over the River Dart and creeks up to the ancient ferry crossing between Greenway and Dittisham (locals pronounce "Ditsum").

We emerge at Noss Shipyard which is at present (2017) under development. If time allows pay your respects at the waters edge memorial to those that died here after it was bombed in WW2.



Climb steeply up some steps and we emerge on Bridge Road. Take great care in crossing the road to the private lane opposite. Just as the lane begins to narrow a zig-zag path on the right leads us down to near the Higher Ferry where there is a phone box and seasonal public conveniences.

Cross the rail track and take a small path along the river bank. Follow the river enjoying fine views of Dartmouth opposite and the village of Kingswear ahead. Don't forget to wave at the train if it passes !

Near the end a pedestrian gate crosses the rail tracks so keep an eye out for trains ! Then follow the road until the first path on the right. The way is straight along this path but take the short diversion to the right to explore the lime kiln before returning back and emerging at the top of Waterhead Creek.

Circular walk - turn right following the path along the Creek to emerge on the road just below the Banjo at Kingswear. The village has a couple of cafes and pubs and a shop. Here you can catch a bus, ferry or steam train. You've done around 9 miles from the start.

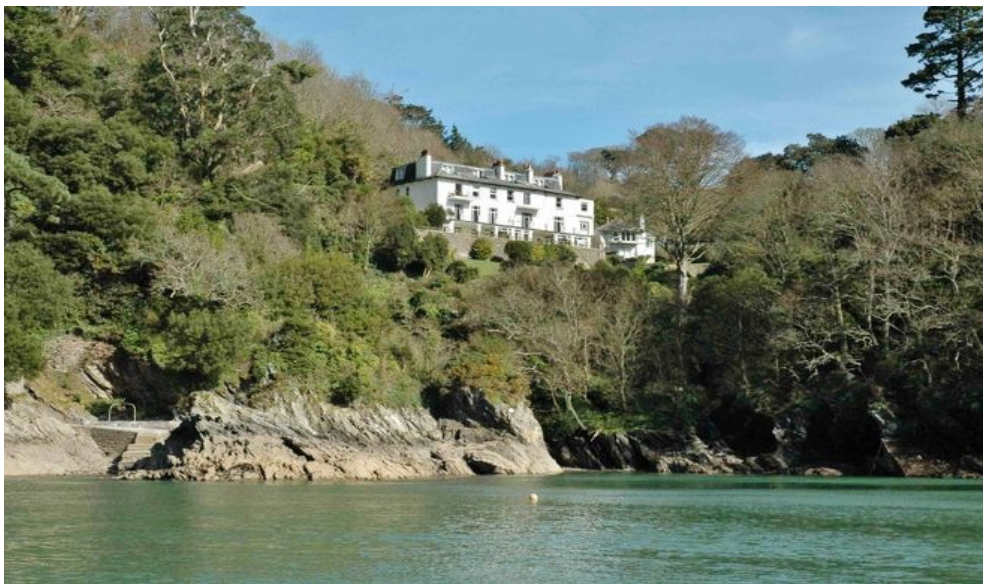
At Waterhead Creek the walk has to deviate from the boundary a little as it runs uphill by the side of Waterhead House. Turn left and carefully follow the road to the Cemetery. Turn right and follow the road around the bends. There are no pavements here so take extra care. Almost rejoining the boundary, take the left fork in the road onto Higher Contour Road then the first left into Upper Wood Lane.

Near to the end of the cul-de-sac find some steps between the houses on the right. They are steep and there are lots of them ! Join Mount Ridley Road at the top. Turn right and then left towards Fountain Violet Farm. If time allows though continue a few paces further down Mount Ridley Road and have a go down the play slide with the best view in Devon ! At the first bend in the Devon lane leading towards Fountain Violet Farm, the Kingswear/Brixham boundary descends straight down the hill to the River Dart. There are fine views of Dartmouth Castle over the river and the Daymark on the left.

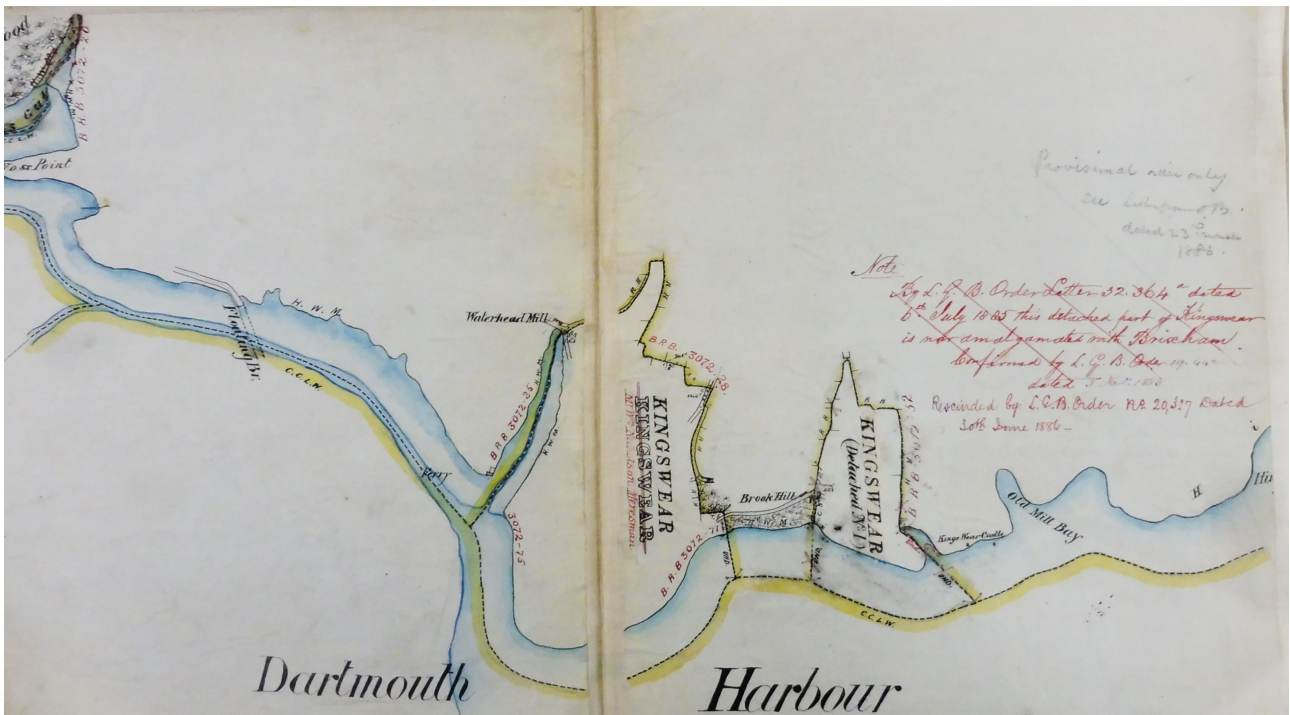


Take a right turn on the path, past a small cottage and continue down the Devon lane to meet the drive towards Brookhill.

Circular walk - turn right and walk the drive the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile back to Kingswear and the bus, train or ferry. At the end of the Drive you will see the Devon County Council boundary marker showing the crossing from Brixham to the Parish of Kingswear.



Turn left and pass Brookhill House, oddly this was still in Brixham Parish. It is thought the boundary was drawn around Brookhill as that was where the Brixham St Mary's Rev. Robert Holsworth lived. The vicar had to live in the parish and he didn't want to move so they drew the Brixham boundary to include his house ! There seems to be no other explanation for the strange separation of Kingswear parish into two parts.



Original date of map 1862
TNA ref OS27/1140

Now follow a breathtaking section of the 630 mile long South West Coast Path. From Brookhill House follow the acorn signs. The path now crosses a series of valleys that makes this stretch spectacular but also very challenging. There are few ways to shorten this stretch without organising transport but you will be rewarded for your efforts by the stunning views.

From here to Sharkham Point is around 8 miles.



Just past Brookhill House the path returns to Kingswear parish. A small stream passes under the road where the boundary heads steeply north in a triangle type shape to return to this path by Kingswear Court and so back to the parish of Brixham. The path now becomes a bit of a rollercoaster from here until Sharkham Point with many hills to climb and valleys to cross.

Turn off the drive into Warren Wood on your right. This part is dedicated to local man Lt. Col. H Jones VC, OBE who died in the Battle of Goose Green in the Falklands. Cross two drives, one leading to Kingswear Castle which you can book for holidays.

The South Devon AONB Estuaries Partnership has created a audio guide. Look out for the points to scan.

At regular intervals are small signs giving your location and grid reference so you can follow your progress.



Explore Brownstone Battery and its wartime defences. Remember the volunteers in the Coastwatch Lookout and drop a few pennies in the bucket. They keep a watch out for coast walkers' safety as well as those at sea.

A few ups and downs to walk before going past the rear entrance to the National Trust's Coleton Fishacre where an entrance fee is payable but they have a fine cafe.

Past here is a craggy point where on a good day you can see Start Point to your right and Portland to the left.

Climb Scabbacombe Head and descend to the beach. Then up again before descending down past the old Coastguard cottages at Mansands beach. Cross the beach, or pause for a paddle, and the last big, steep climb up Southdown Cliffs. Zig-zag down the other side and the path gets flatter from here !

Shorten walk by turning left on reaching the first field and follow the track down to a holiday camp and a bus or a mile walk into Brixham. Berry Head is a further 2 miles ahead. 3 ½ to the “King Bill” statue on Brixham harbour.

Walk along the long field and stop for a rest at the far end to enjoy one of the finest views in Devon, down to Mansands and the cliff top walk you have just enjoyed.



Various paths circle Sharkham Point but head towards St Mary's Bay and enjoy the wildlife of this Site of Scientific Interest made more special by the fact that this was once Brixham's municipal tip.

If you descend to Mudstone Beach you will have to retrace your steps and they are steep but it is a good place for a paddle. Go past the steps down and take a left and keep following signs for Berry Head.



Crossing a few ancient stiles worn smooth and shiny by years of use the path leads to Berry Head. There is an audio guide for this headland. Explore the South Fort then the North with the lighthouse, bird hide and wonderful cafe !

From the North Fort follow the coast path to Brixham. Take a detour to the bottom of the old quarry but you will have to retrace your steps.

Follow the path to the left of the quarry gate, through the woods to emerge by the Berry Head Hotel, one time home of the Rev. Francis Lyte who wrote "Abide With Me". Follow the road and turn right to walk around Shoalstone Pool, crossing the boundary from Cowtown and into Fishtown, then return to the road. Shortly after turn right again to descend down to Breakwater Beach.

A walk out along the Breakwater will add a mile to the walk but there is a cafe.

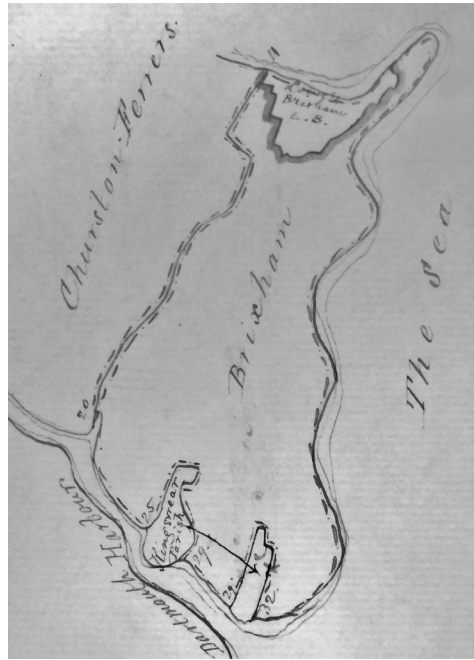
Walking along the reclaimed land of Prince William Quay will lead into the Inner Harbour of Brixham.



Enjoy all that the wonderful Fishtown part of Brixham has to offer in shops, cafes, bars and restaurants.

To finish the walk head around the harbour towards the fish market building and follow the path to the left which runs below the road. Again you are walking on reclaimed land.

At the end climb the steps to Battery Gardens and explore all the WW2 buildings before returning to Fishcombe Cove.



Boundary map dated 1838
TNA ref OS26/2394

Congratulations you have just finished the ancient ritual of Beating the Bounds of the Parish of Brixham.

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