



Walk 12. Hunter's Inn and Woody Bay.

- 6.8 miles, ascents and descents of 650 metres (5.6 miles and 500 metres without the descent to Woody Bay). 3 hours 25 minutes constant walking, allow 4½-5 hours.

Terrain: Well-made paths and tracks. ! Cliff path above steep drops, though the path is well-made and straightforward.

Access: Park at Hunter's Inn (SS 655 482, EX31 4PY; access on narrow lanes). There is a National Trust car park (£ or free to members), or limited free parking on the road. The walk can also be started from the small car park above Woody Bay (SS 676 486), again on narrow lanes.

Map: Croydecycle 54 Lynton Lynmouth with Hunters Inn, or OS Explorer OL9 Exmoor.

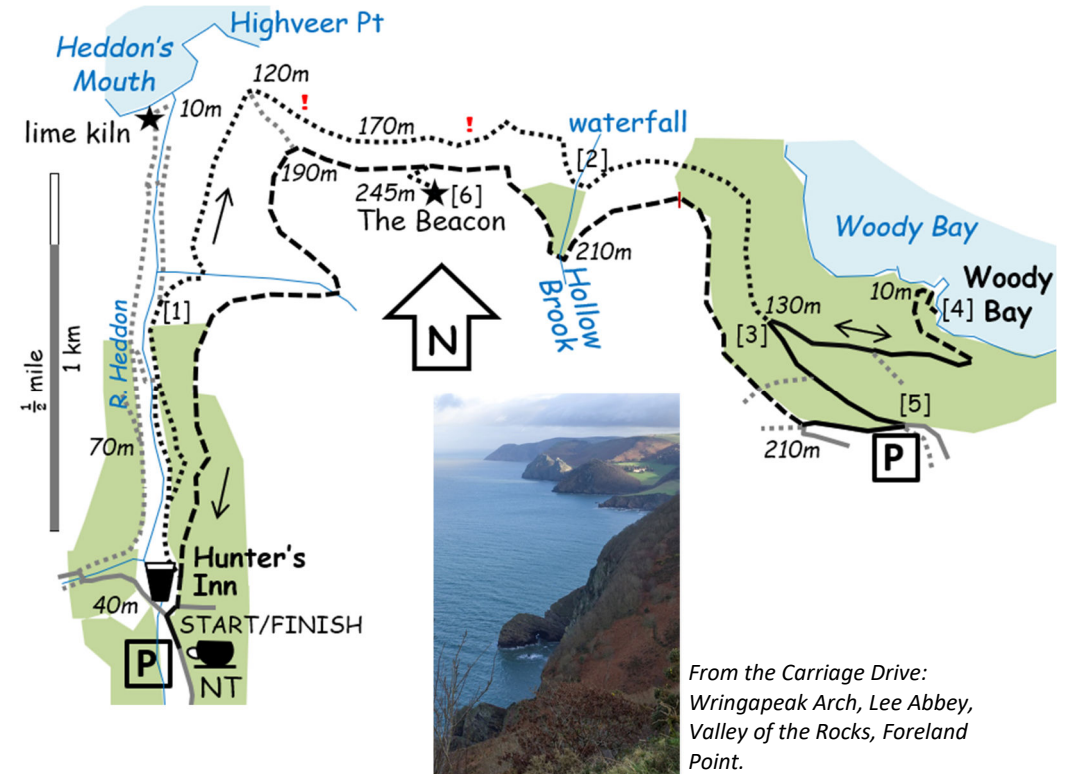
Refreshments: Hunter's Inn and National Trust café opposite.

THIS POPULAR WALK FROM HUNTER'S INN TAKES YOU HIGH ABOVE THE COAST on both the outward and return legs. It follows the Coast Path on the way out and returns 50 metres higher up on an old coach drive with even better views and the added bonus of one of Exmoor's few Roman remains. There are steep ascents up the side of the Heddon Valley and returning from Woody Bay; the paths in between are much easier. Hunter's Inn is a rather grand building in the Lynton Victorian style, one of the more successful remnants of the Woody Bay enterprise (see walk 11). The inn is now owned by the National Trust.

Start at Hunter's Inn. From the National Trust car park walk towards the inn and take the narrow road heading upwards on the right. Immediately turn left on a wide path, then in under a minute take the left fork, the bridleway towards Heddon's Mouth. Ignore a turn to the left. Continue to a stone bridge across the river. Two or three minutes further on, turn right on a path signposted to Woody Bay (15mins, [1]; if you want first to visit Heddon's Mouth continue ahead and cross the river on the next bridge, returning the same way). This steep path takes you up the side of the valley. The path used in walk 9 runs high up on the other side, and Heddon's Mouth soon comes into view. As the path turns to the right, magnificent views open up along the coast: to Combe Martin to the west, and eastwards past Lee Abbey to Foreland Point. The cliff path continues uninterrupted for over a mile; care is needed as it is narrow and sometimes uneven, though always well-made. After passing a waterfall where Hollow Brook cascades down the combe (55mins, [2]) you will eventually meet a road at a hairpin bend (1hr15mins, [3]). Take the left-hand, downhill fork, continuing down to Woody Bay (1hr30mins, [4]). Take some time to explore before starting the steep uphill return; you have 200 metres to climb.

Return to the hairpin bend but now stay on the road, passing Wringapeak House before coming to a T-junction (2hr5mins, [5]). Turn right here and pass a small roadside parking area. When the road bends sharply left, continue ahead on the lower of the two paths, a permissive bridleway that used to be the old carriage drive to Hunter's Inn. This wide, well-made path provides easy walking high above your outward route, returning all the way to Hunter's Inn. Ten minutes after it crosses the head of a combe, look out for a small path to the left which takes you up to The Beacon, the site of a Roman fortlet and signal station (2hr45mins, [6]). Return to the main path, turn left and continue above the Heddon Valley to arrive back at Hunter's Inn.

Extended walks: Walks 12, 13, 14 and 15 are designed to link up into longer circular routes. Combining this walk with **walk 13** gives a 10.5 mile walk with 1070 metres of ascent and descent, taking in Crock Point and Lee Bay on the outward route and returning via Croscombe Barton (●). See walk 13 for the linking instructions.



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