



Walk 27. Minehead and North Hill.

- 4 miles, ascents and descents of 320 metres. 1 hour 50 minutes constant walking, allow 2½ hours.

Terrain: Generally well-made paths. There is a steep, unremitting and sometimes slippery climb after Burgundy Chapel.

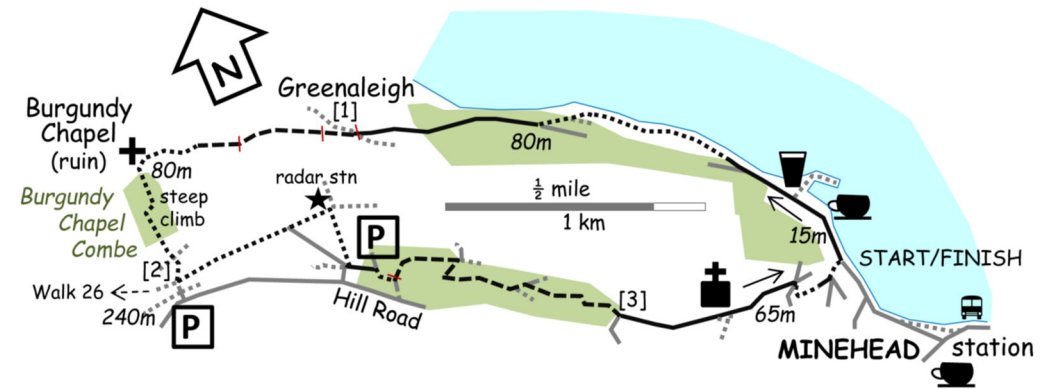
Access: Start at Minehead, at the South West Coast Path monument just east of the harbour (SS 971 468, TA24 5UJ). There is free parking in some of the streets just inland of the monument, or a car park (£) past the harbour. Alternatively, start from the railway station (served by buses from Taunton, Bridgwater, Dulverton and Porlock as well as seasonal steam trains) and walk along the sea front towards the harbour. By car, another alternative is to park off Hill Road at North Hill (SS 947 476) and start the walk from there: see walk 26 for details.

Map: Croydecycle 01 Minehead Dunster Selworthy or OS Explorer OL9 Exmoor.

Refreshments: Wide choice in Minehead.

THIS SHORT BUT INITIALLY STEEP CIRCUIT FROM MINEHEAD will take you on to North Hill, Minehead's own piece of Exmoor moorland but one that is and more free-draining than the high moors to the south. It also has plenty of historical interest. On the way out you will pass the ruins of Burgundy Chapel, mentioned in 1420 as 'Bircombe Chapel' and possibly constructed as a thanksgiving chapel by the Luttrells of Dunster after returning from a campaign in the Hundred Years War. More recently North Hill was used extensively for training in the second world war, and the walk passes the footings of barracks, a tank marshalling area and a dis-used radar station. Finally your return to Minehead is by way of the old town and the fourteenth-century church. The walk links easily with walk 26 for a longer exploration of North Hill, as well as with walk 28 to explore Bratton Ball to the south.

Starting from the Coast Path monument (hands holding a map), walk along the sea front to Minehead Harbour. Continue on the coast road, then at a roundabout join the coast path and pass a small play area (12mins). After the end of the grassy field the path gradually climbs above the sea. Keep right at a minor junction, again at a signpost for Greenaleigh Farm, and once more at a T-junction to join a narrow road. Ignoring the Coast Path to the left follow the road to an isolated house, Greenaleigh (35mins, [1]), and continue beyond it on a nearly level path. Go through a gate, where there is a slight detour to avoid a crumbling section of path. At the next junction, just before a stream, your route turns left and upwards; first visit the remains of the little Burgundy Chapel down steps to the right. The uphill path is



unremittingly steep and can be slippery. First come to a conveniently-placed seat then continue alongside a combe. Cross a signposted path then in a couple of minutes come to another signpost just before a small car park (the alternative start point and start point for walk 26; 1hr10mins, [2]). Turn left here, or right if you are continuing on to walk 26. (To start from the car park, walk towards the sea to come to the crossroads then turn right).

This well-made track brings you to a small hard-surfaced parking area, once a washing area for tanks. Two minutes further on is a path crossroads. Turn right, but before you do walk a short distance to the left to see the old radar station, a simple brick building now without its radar. The path crosses another path and brings you to an area of concrete. Turn left to come to the tank marshalling area, now a car park, and loading ramp. A stroll around this area will reveal the bases of several wartime buildings. Join a path in the right-hand corner of the car park. This soon meets a wider crossing track: turn left over a cattle grid into an area of birch and pine trees. Turn right at the next junction ('Minehead Higher Town'), follow the track around to the left and pass a brick building. Where the path forks take the middle (lower) way, which will take you past a smallholding to a road on the edge of Minehead (1hr35mins, [3]). Turn left here and walk down to St Michael's Church. Continue on the road until it curves right at a war memorial; there are good views over Minehead and the Dunster hills from here. Ignore the roads to the left but turn immediately after them into the driveway for two houses, then sharp right on on Church Path. This soon becomes a road; walk past the houses to a junction, continuing straight ahead past a hotel and down some shallow steps to arrive back on the coast road opposite the 'hands'.

Extension to Selworthy Beacon. Combine this walk with **walk 26** to make a longer circuit (● 10.7 miles, ascents and descents of 670 metres). At the 1hr10min point ([2]) turn right to join the instructions for walk 26. When you return to the parking area at the end of the walk, turn left to return to the crossing path, but now turn right to rejoin the main walk.

Minehead to Porlock (● 8.4 miles, ascents of 620 metres and descents of 600 metres). Follow this walk to the 1hr10min point ([2]), then turn right to join **walk 26**. At the 1hr45min point ([3]) of walk 26 keep right and follow the Coast Path down Hurlstone Combe (see **walks 24 and 25** for maps). Continue ahead at a crossing path, then turn left towards Bossington. Cross a footbridge into a car park, then turn left on a road to pass a tea room and some cottages. At a broad triangular green, turn right signposted to Porlock. The road comes into the outskirts of Porlock past large, well-spaced individual detached houses. Ignore a left turn, then joining the A39 keep right on the one-way system (a small pedestrian lane is marked at the side of the road) and join the High Street to arrive at the church (and bus stop or car park). Bus 10 or the Exmoor Coaster return to Minehead.



Burgundy Chapel

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