



### Walk A3. Exmansworthy, Clovelly and Brownsham.

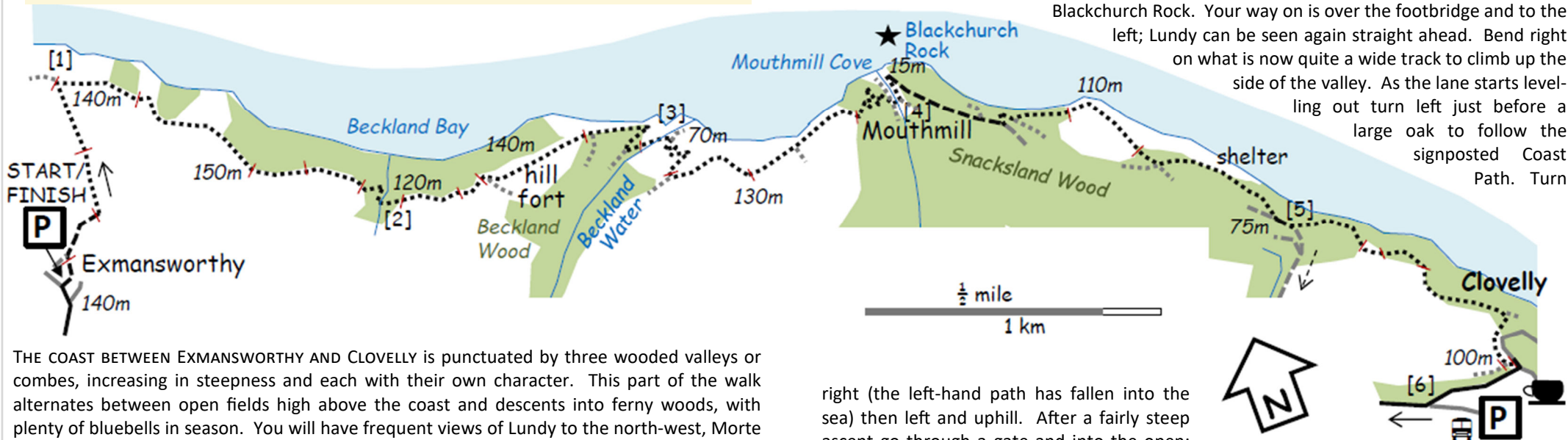
- 8.7 miles, ascents and descents of 600 metres. 4 hours continuous walking, allow 5-6 hours.

Terrain: Coastal walking on paths, often stony with plenty of steps; return section quiet lanes, tracks and paths, some muddy.

Access: Start from the small National Trust car park at Exmansworthy (SS271267, EX39 6AR). It is also possible to start from Brownsham (SS286260, EX39 6AN, also NT), where there is a seasonal tea room, or Clovelly (the main Clovelly car park is intended for visitors to the village, for which there is an entrance fee). By bus start from Clovelly: route 319 runs between Hartland, Clovelly, Bideford and Barnstaple 5-6 times daily (not Sundays).

Map: Croydecycle 11 Hartland and Clovelly or OS Explorer 126 Clovelly & Hartland.

Refreshments: Seasonal tea room at Brownsham, tea rooms and pub at Clovelly (no need to pay the entrance fee to visit the tea room in the visitor centre).



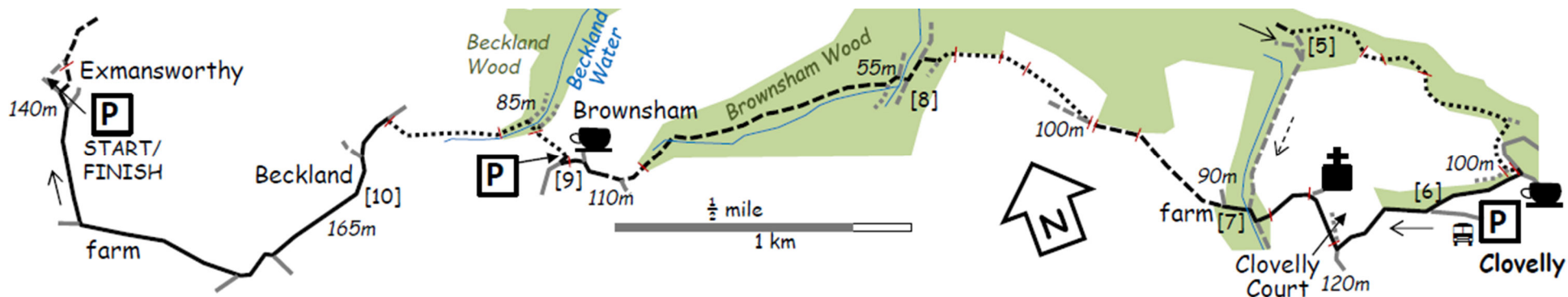
THE COAST BETWEEN EXMANSWORTHY AND CLOVELLY is punctuated by three wooded valleys or combes, increasing in steepness and each with their own character. This part of the walk alternates between open fields high above the coast and descents into ferny woods, with plenty of bluebells in season. You will have frequent views of Lundy to the north-west, Morte Point and Baggy Point to the north-east, and below the cliffs occasional ones of Blackchurch Rock, a triangular pinnacle with two arches. Clovelly itself is just off the walk, but if you have a couple of hours to spare (and want to pay the entrance fee) it is worth a detour; it is a picturesque village that tumbles steeply down a cobbled lane leading to a small harbour, with no traffic and no holiday homes. The second part of the route continues past Clovelly Court before joining a wide track through woods to Brownsham, followed by an uphill section to Beckland and a final mile on quiet lanes.

Leave Exmansworthy car park via the footpath in the corner ('Coast Path ½ mile'). Go through a gate to walk along a wide track. A second gate brings you into a field. Turn left and walk along the edge of this and the next field. Come to a gate with a view across to Lundy (10mins, [1]); don't go through but turn right to join the Coast Path, which you will follow all the way to Clovelly. Continue alongside fields; after the third gate you will drop down into the first of three valleys on a fairly steep path with steps. Cross a footbridge among ferns (30mins, [2]) and continue up the far side of this pretty valley. Follow the Coast Path beside fields again. After the fourth gate there is a small monument to the crew of a crashed Wellington bomber. Shortly afterwards ignore a path to Brownsham on the right. Just beyond are the remains of an Iron Age hill fort above Windbury Head. On its far side go through a gate and start descending into the second valley, Beckland Water. Keep left and downwards at a path junction, then take a left turn towards Mouth Mill. Go through a gate and walk down to the bottom of the valley (50mins, [3]). Cross the footbridge then turn left and almost immediately right to zigzag up the hill. At the top go through a gate into a field; turn left to continue on the Coast Path.

Soon after the field edge bends to the right, go through a gate on the left. After the next gate the path starts descending again into a wood, heading downwards quite steeply on a zigzag. This is the third and deepest valley, Mouthmill or Mill Mouth. Come to a footbridge (1hr20mins, [4]); a short detour to the left will bring you past a limekiln to the beach and to Blackchurch Rock. Your way on is over the footbridge and to the left; Lundy can be seen again straight ahead. Bend right on what is now quite a wide track to climb up the side of the valley. As the lane starts leveling out turn left just before a large oak to follow the signposted Coast Path. Turn

right (the left-hand path has fallen into the sea) then left and uphill. After a fairly steep ascent go through a gate and into the open; you will be able to see Clovelly Court slightly to the right, and the small village of Bucks Mills in a cleft in the cliff (Clovelly itself is hidden below you). Go through a gate into woodland, then turn left where a path crosses. Soon pass a shelter with carved angels' wings. Turn left when you meet a broader path. Just after, at the next junction (2hrs, [5]), you have a choice: the right fork shortens the walk by a mile but misses out Clovelly Court, while the main route to the left continues to the edge of Clovelly.

Following the left-hand path, go through a tall kissing gate into parkland, and within a few yards turn left through a wooden kissing gate back into the woods. Head up steps past another shelter, go through a gate back



into parkland, then join a wide path on the left beneath trees. The path descends into the woods; bear right on the wider path at a signpost. This soon takes you above a road. Head left to go through a formal-looking gate, then turn right and right again on the road. In a few minutes a road comes in from the left; this is the official entrance to Clovelly, via the visitor centre (2hr30mins, [6]). Unless you have a couple of hours to explore the village keep right on the pavement and continue to Clovelly Court. Turn right through grand gates and walk along the drive. Turn left in front of a large building (the estate office), following the road over two cattle grids and into woods. The short-cut comes in from the right. Cross a stream and continue on the hard road. At a white-rendered house (2hr40mins, [7]) keep straight ahead on a farm track with a barn on the right; walk through the farmyard then continue along a broad fenced-off track between fields.



Blackchurch Rock

Follow the track through a gate, then after two gates close together enter a field. Bear slightly right, away from the track, on a faint path across the field. You are heading for an isolated small metal gate. Continue ahead to a second gate, go through, and walk beside a wood. A third gate takes you into the wood. Continue ahead and downwards at a junction. Head down the stony track, turn left at a T-junction, take the first right to cross a stream (3hrs, [8]), then turn left at a signpost to stay on the bridleway. This wide stony lane rises gently; stay on it for the next twenty minutes, eventually going through a gate. A National Trust sign welcomes you to Brownsham. The lane continues past a house on the right. The seasonal tea room is just beyond, but your route turns back to the left on a tarmac drive, through a gate, then right into the car park (3hr25mins, [9]).

In Brownsham car park go to a National Trust information board in the far left-hand corner of the first parking area, taking the enclosed path to its left. Go through a gate into a wood, head downhill, keep left and cross a footbridge. Now turn left and walk above the stream and go through a gate. Stay parallel with the stream, then when you come to its source head slightly right across the field as indicated on the post. You are aiming for a tree just to the right of the highest barn, where there is a combined pedestrian and vehicle gate on to a farm road. Turn left, keep left through the farm, walk past the farmhouse and the red cows, and continue on a public road (3hr40mins, [10]). Turn, or keep, right at the next three road junctions, the last signposted to Exmansworthy and Fattacott. Keep left when you arrive at Exmansworthy, then turn right into the car park.

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