

WALK NO 1

BIGBURY-STOGGY LANE- BIGBURY GREEN

(Incorporating Public Footpaths Numbers 14,19,9 and 8)



Distance: Approx 2 miles.

Grading: Easy. Time: Approx 1 hour

This walk is full of interest with splendid views down the valley to the sea, so take time to enjoy it.

The walk commences from the small car park situated on the left hand side of the road as you leave Bigbury village towards St Ann's Chapel. Cross the stile at the end of the car park and proceed along the field edge keeping the hedge to your left until you reach the electricity pylons. A sign here will direct you right along a grassy track following the pylons.

After a short distance you will descend to a junction where a sign will direct you left on to a well-used track. Passing a small pond on your right you will descend the valley with its splendid views. After a short while you will reach another larger pond also on your right. Keeping to the track you will eventually reach a small plantation and whilst there are no signs at this point the path is well defined through the trees.

Eventually the path takes you to a field edge where a sign directs you right. Keeping to the field edge proceed to the corner of the field where a sign will direct you left along the field edge until you reach a kissing gate. Go through the gate and cross the stream (known as Cockle stream) over the footbridge turning left at the sign. Proceed along the field edge until you reach the next sign, which will direct you left through a field gate into Stoggy Lane. There are some muddy patches along this well-defined track but nothing too daunting providing you are wearing good footwear!

There is now a steady climb up the tarmac lane to the centre of Ringmore passing some beautiful thatched cottages en route. At the top the lane bears right before reaching a T-junction.

If a rest is called for at this point turn right and proceed to The Journeys End Inn where you will be able to obtain refreshments (providing the arrival coincides with opening times).

To continue on the walk without stopping turn left at this T-junction and proceed through the village until reaching the church. It is worth stopping here to look around this mediaeval church that has an interesting history. After leaving the church turn left up the road opposite the car park on the right. There is some road walking for a while but it is quite pleasant, but take care as it is narrow in places and there can be the occasional car to disturb the tranquillity.



After approximately 1/2 mile the road bends sharply round to the left. At this point there is a small BT station on the corner, turn right and after passing the building a fingerpost marked 'Public Footpath' will be reached on the left hand side. The footpath is not distinct as it traverses farmland and often there are growing crops in the field. However take a route roughly following the telephone poles and on reaching the brow of the field the exit stile is clearly visible in the opposite hedge, which abuts the road to Ringmore.

On reaching the stile cross the road and a further stile will be seen in the hedgerow clearly marked. After crossing the stile turn left and keeping the hedge to your left proceed to a sign, which will then direct you to the right. Continue across the field where a further sign will be reached. The field will begin descending at this point until the top of a valley is reached. It is worth taking in the views here as to the east Bigbury Church can be seen and to the south the view down the valley to Challaborough is very pleasant. At the next fingerpost turn right along a very well marked grassy track. There are two natural ponds here that have an abundance of wild life and it is well worth resting here for a short break in the walk. contd..