

WALK NO 2

FOLLY FARM BIGBURY-ON-SEA - THE HAM - LINCOMBE (Incorporating Public Footpaths numbers 7,6,10 and 17)

Distance: Approx 4 miles Grading: Moderate

Time: Approx 1¾-2 hours

This circular walk starts and finishes at Folly Farm, Folly Hill, Bigbury-on-Sea. There are magnificent views of both the coast and Avon estuary. Although there are a few ups and downs it is not too strenuous. This is a very interesting walk with much to observe, so take your time.



THE AVON FROM FOLLY FARM

Starting at Folly Farm proceed through the farmyard crossing a stile into a field. The path descends through some small windswept trees

before bearing right towards the cliff.

On reaching the cliff edge bear left over a stile and continue along the field edge descending to a stile and a well-marked cliff path. This path continues downwards until you reach the shoreline at the Ham. It is worth taking time here to explore the Ham with its abundance of bird life.



VIEW FROM THE FOOTPATH TO THE HAM

At Cockleridge go down the concrete slipway and turn right to proceed along the beach to Bigbury-on-Sea. I must emphasise that at this point do ensure that you are familiar with the tide times, as once committed there is no turning back, and it is so easy to get cut off at the westerly end of the beach. Providing it is low tide, on reaching the end of the beach continue in front of the rocks going across the sand causeway to Burgh Island.

The official public footpath then proceeds past the Pilchard Inn, where refreshments are available when it is open, terminating at the westerly side of the island at Herring Cove. At this point you can now continue up and around the island on permissive paths. Ascending a well-worn path you will arrive



at the remains of a stone building at the top of the island. This building is reputed to have been used in the nineteenth century as a Huers Hut, where a lookout would keep a watch out for the shoals of Herring or Pilchard, which frequented these waters at that time. On seeing the shoals the lookout would alert the fishermen, who were no doubt supping their ale in the Pilchard, by crying out. It is possible that the phrase "Hue and Cry" may have its origins from this practice. On a fine day the views in all directions are magnificent so it is worth staying a short while to enjoy them.

The route now descends left of the Burgh Island Hotel on a recently reconstructed path and steps to adjoin the official path. On reaching the Pilchard Inn you may wish to stop for some refreshment, but do keep an eye on the tide situation, as it can come in quite quickly on the island side of the causeway and then the only way over is by sea tractor, providing of course that the sea conditions allow it to operate. If you should be so unlucky you could be in for a long wait before the tide recedes sufficiently for you to be able to walk across the causeway!

The last leg of this walk takes you across the causeway towards the concrete slipway adjacent to Burgh Island Causeway apartments, the ascent of which will return you to the main car park.