

CIRCULAR St. Bees 8 WALK

The Parish Boundary Walk



St. Bees Circular Walk 8 : The Parish Boundary

(Approximate Distances are listed on the Map)

The **St. Bees Parish Boundary Walk** takes in St. Bees Head, The England Coast Path and the first part of Wainwright's Coast to Coast walk as well as the farming countryside around the village of Coulderton, and the higher ground between there and the St Bees Valley.

Please Respect the Countryside Code and keep Dogs on leads at all times when crossing stock fields.

There is a choice of two routes. They can be walked in either direction, although it is described in an anti-clockwise direction in this document. The views at the end of the walk, either around the head or along the coast are quite spectacular.

1. The more direct route is both shorter in distance and easier to follow making it more suitable for group and sponsored events.
2. The longer route follows the Parish boundary more closely and takes in some of the lesser known footpaths in the St. Bees Valley.

It is possible to “mix and match” the two. If the longer route is being undertaken, there is an option to go directly from Loughrigg, via Bigrigg. *There is a Pub, and provisions are available at the petrol station.* This route is NOT completely covered by the map. *[At Loughrigg, follow the minor road to its junction with the A595, head north, past the petrol station and the church to re-join the route at Linethwaite.]*

Finally the routes could be split into two separate walks by starting or finishing along Wood Lane, which is parallel to the railway line through the St. Bees valley.

The routes cannot exactly follow the Parish Boundary where this goes across private land, but does follow public footpaths and minor roads as close to the boundary as possible. The valley section along the route of the Coast to Coast walk, will be wet after rain. Boots are advised for this section if wet feet are to be avoided in anything other than the driest of conditions.



The Route of the Parish Boundary Walk

The Map for the first part of the walk covers the Southern Section of the St Bees Parish. Starting from the Main Beach Car Park, the route heads down the coast away from St. Bees Head.

There is an immediate choice. Behind the cafe it is possible to follow paths over the top of the cliff or inland around the Golf Course to Sea Mill. Alternatively, when there is sand to walk on, it is pleasant to stroll down the beach. At Sea Mill the route follows the England Coast Path. It goes underneath the railway before turning sharp right, (south) to follow the path through ‘Primrose Valley’ inland of the railway. At Coulderton Sea Lane, turn left, cross the Nethertown road and follow the road to the hamlet of Coulderton. At the T junction in the village, turn left and follow the road around the side of Coneyside Cop to the T Junction with the B5345. Turn left here and walk along the road to Howman. Then turn right, passing Moor Platt farm on the left, before crossing the Outrigg road on the way to the road junction at Loughrigg Farm. On the way you will be passing a former race course on the right. A small ruined structure in the corner of a field was formerly the “Black Cock” Inn serving refreshments to the ‘punters’ on race days. At this point it is advisable to switch to the Map of the Northern Section of the Parish.

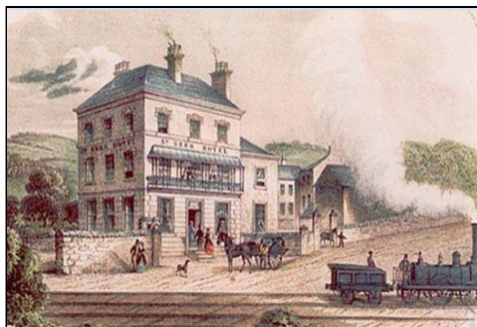
At Loughrigg the Parish boundary goes right towards Bigrigg, but our route turns left and follows the road north towards the St. Bees Valley. At the road junction at High Walton turn right and follow the road down to ‘Linethwaite Bottom’

At this point the road bears right at a bend, but the shorter route goes straight on through a gateway stile and across the field to the far boundary. Here there is a footbridge across Scalegill Beck, and a ladder stile. Then go across the field on a raised bank, over a step-stile and follow the boundary with the wood for a short distance to an old field corner. *This is the junction with the Coast to Coast walk between St Bees and Robin Hood’s Bay.*

From Linethwaite, the longer route follows the road almost to the A595 before joining the Cycleway for a short distance, getting off it down the steps on the right (east) side of the first bridge to join the Coast to Coast Path. Go under the bridge and follow the path to join up with the shorter route at the old field corner by the wood.

Here, both routes turn west and follow the Coast to Coast Path towards St. Bees. Walk along the field boundary avoiding the wet patches until a bridge across a beck is found in the field corner. To the right is Stanley Pond which is hidden by reeds.

After the bridge turn left, follow the boundary but then head across the field to pass under the railway. Our route takes the waymarked path straight on to Bell House farm. *For those wanting a shorter walk, just after the railway tunnel it is possible to take the footpath left, which follows Wood Lane on the North side of the railway back to St. Bees.*



Walk up, out of the valley, to Bell House Farm. The route crosses the B5345 and takes the track past Demesme Farm to the Lanehead junction on the Byerstead road. Here the shorter route follows the Coast to Coast path through Sandwith village and along the road to the Lighthouse where it re-joins the longer route.

The longer route turns left along the Byerstead road to be closer to the parish boundary and follows the road south, past a minor road on the right until it reaches a footpath finger post. Follow this footpath westwards, passing along the back of some houses to the Rottington Road at Sandwith Newtown. Turn right along the road and at the next bend turn left and almost immediately right up a tarmac lane leading to a cluster of houses. Continue straight on along a muddy track which forms part of the Parish Boundary. On reaching the Lighthouse road turn right and shortly after, turn left along a lane leading to the row of cottages at Birkhams Quarry. The views ahead stretch across the Solway to Scotland and up the coast to Whitehaven and Workington.

At the end of the lane, re-join the England Coast Path and follow it left round the North Head past the Lighthouse and back to St. Bees. On the way to the Lighthouse you pass through an area of clifftop, former sandstone quarries, and a RSPB reserve. This area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

After the Lighthouse, the route drops down to Fleswick Bay between the North and South Heads. If there is time take the path down the gully to the shore. Semi-precious stones can be found on the shingle beach. The views along the coast across to Scotland, and the Isle of Man are stunning. Follow the path over the South Head and back to the starting point by the RNLI station and the Beach Car Park.



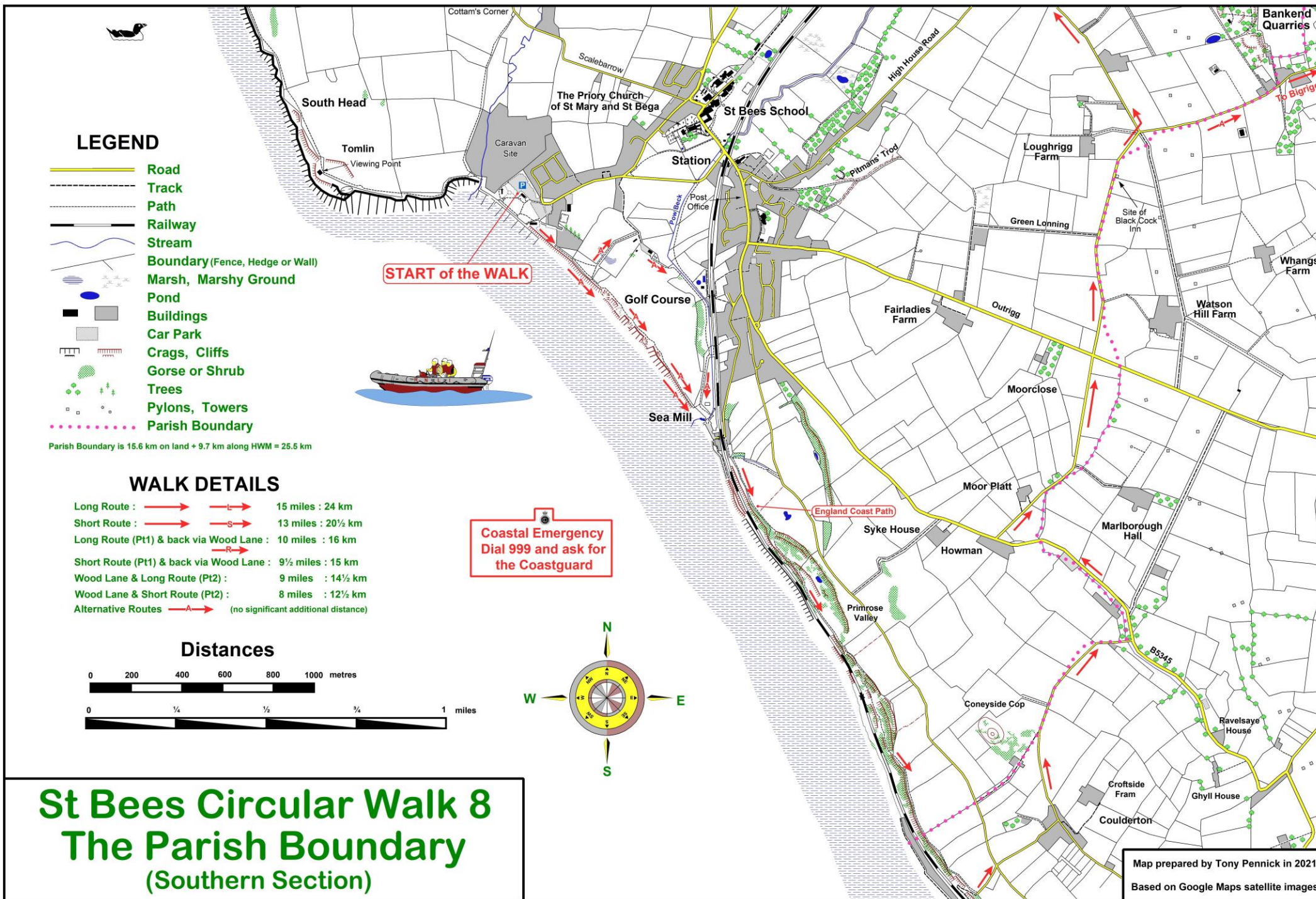
We hope you enjoyed your walk around the Parish Boundary. If you would like to find out more about St Bees and its history, why not visit the Web Site on www.stbees.org.uk or if you wish to download any of the other 7 Circular Walks, why not visit www.stbees.org.uk/home/visitors/beach-coastline/walks/

The picture of St Bees Head on the front page is “Copyright Natural England/Gerry Rusbridge”

Tony Pennick and Bob Mayow

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Coastal Emergency
Dial 999 and ask for
the Coastguard

The Parish Boundary (Northern Section)

Coast to Coast
Walk to
Robin Hood's Bay
190 miles

