

BAT TRAIL-1

Berry Head National Nature Reserve



Photo: View from Berry Head

Berry Head is a National Nature Reserve (NNR), and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is also home to rare greater horseshoe bats, the UK's most southerly guillemot colony and a variety of rare or threatened flora and fauna. The headland is occupied by ancient monuments in the form of some of the UK's best-preserved Napoleonic fortifications.

Berry Head NNR is open to the public. There is a visitor centre and cafe in the Northern Fort, and school visits and events such as bat walks take place regularly.

Resident all year round, the bats roost in the extensive limestone cave system here at the reserve which is an internationally important site for them. During the winter they retreat further inside to hibernate whilst in summer they move to a maternity roost which houses first the pregnant females and then their babies.

DEVON
GREATER
HORSESHOE
BAT PROJECT



ROUTE INFO

Start:	Artillery Store at Berry Head
Distance and timings:	2 miles (approximately 1 hour)
Circular Walk:	Yes
Terrain & Description of paths:	Coastal foot path with occasional uneven sections and mud in wet weather and surfaced road
Obstacles and Gradients:	Steep descent and ascent to Quarry area
Public Transport:	No. 12 bus to Brixham & walk No. 17 bus to Victoria Rd & walk
Toilets:	Berry Head NNR carpark
Refreshment Facilities:	Guardhouse Café at Berry Head
OS Map:	Explorer Map OL20
Grid Reference and postcode:	SX 941 564



Photo: Cattle grazing



Photo: Phil Richardson



Photo: Frank Greenaway



Photo: The Quarry



Photo: The Artillery store

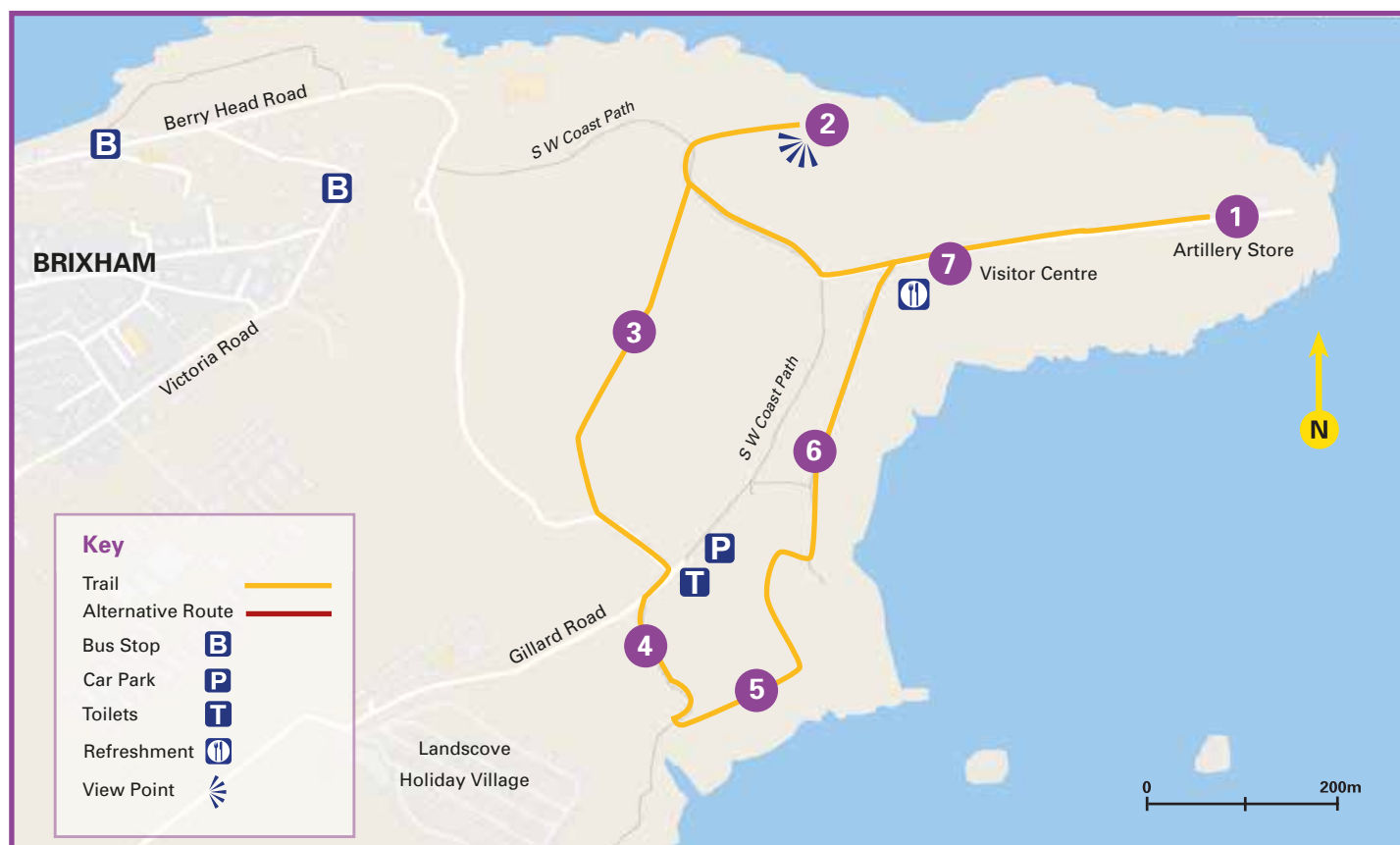


Devon
Wildlife Trust



Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund





DIRECTIONS

Berry Head National Nature Reserve is signposted from Brixham. The site is situated at the end of Gillard Road. Drive past Landscope Holiday Village up a single track road which leads to the car park. There is ample car parking at Berry Head.

Park your car in the Berry Head car park and walk up to the Visitor Centre, just beyond here you will see the old Artillery Store which is open during the summer months – your walk will start here.

1 When open you can go inside the store to see the Bat Beacon, where you can find out lots of information about greater horseshoe bats. The area around here is grazed by cattle, providing lots of dung; perfect feeding grounds for the bats as they love to eat dung beetles.

2 Walk back towards the visitor centre, then out of the North Fort and follow the track around to the right. Shortly after descend the steep, tarmacked track to the Quarry. Take the time to look around and spot the cracks and caves in the quarry face. This is where the bats live!

3 Walk back up the track and continue straight, where the path splits into three take the middle path out onto the open field. This area is also grazed, but another important feature is the hedges – these are vital for greater horseshoes to be able to navigate through the landscape. In the middle of the field where the path splits, head right towards the tree line and join the track that leads past the Rangers bungalow.

4 Keep going straight on towards the car park, turn right onto the road and then almost immediately left onto the South Coast Path, in amongst the scrub. Routes like this one, through woodland or scrub, not only provide great navigational help to greater horseshoe bats, but also allow them to feed on insects which tend to congregate in sheltered areas away from the wind.

5 As you come out onto the cliff top turn left into the Southern Fort area of the NNR. Continue walking through the open, scrubby area and turn left to walk along the edge of the old fortifications.

6 Turn left at the bridge leading into the Southern Fort, following the path through the scrub and head across another open area of grassland. When the path splits into two, take the right hand fork and continue back to the visitor centre.

7 Reach the visitor centre and have a look inside where you will find more information on greater horseshoe bats, as well as the other wildlife and features of interest at the NNR.