

Coastal Round Walk 23 – Porth Farm, St. Anthony Head, Place, Porth Farm 6.00 miles

Route Directions – Non GPS Version

Porth Farm to St. Anthony Head - 2.46 miles

Start from Porth Farm National Trust Car Park. Cross road diagonally L to entrance to yard. L through cart entrance and follow coast path sign to just above Towan Beach. Go R on coast path (*sign St Anthony Head 2 miles*) into a field. As always, the route on the Coast Path is obvious. You pass a former wreck post at 370 yards. The way then undulates easily, only reaching 145 feet after Killigeran Head at 0.70 miles, where the westward views begin.

The path continues to undulate fairly easily before reaching 200 feet for the first time at 1.77 miles. You soon enter the National Trust's Zone Point property and climb steadily over grassy Drake's Downs, up to 210 feet, before reaching the toposcope on St. Anthony Head at 84729/31211 at 195 feet at 2.46 miles. *Views from here are grand: over Falmouth Bay to Rosemullion Head, over Carrick Roads to Falmouth and Pendennis Castle. Up Carrick Roads to Restronguet Creek, St. Mawes and its Castle and the Percuil River. In the far distance you can make out Carn Marth to the north-west, Goonhilly Earth Station to the south-west. It is well worth lingering at St. Anthony Head for those parts of the former military installation that you can visit.*

St. Anthony Head to Place Quay – 1.94 miles

Leave on a tarmac path, passing the Officers Quarters on R to a NT storyboard. *NT CP ahead.* Go L downhill on the tarmac coast path (*signed lighthouse*), with 12 steps down. *It is worth detour here to the Battery and Observation Post (total detour ¼ mile)* Tarmac path goes L and R down steeply, becoming moderate, through light woodland, then steep again. Just before the lighthouse, at 2.72 miles, the tarmac ends, and the coast path goes R between hedges undulating gently down, passing the Paraffin Store at 2.78 miles, scrub on L, wood on R, down to a gate (*or steps up and down*) at 2.90 miles. *Here you leave NT St. Anthony Head.* Continue down, with 10 steps, to a footbridge at 2.94 miles. There are then 6 steps up to a gate at 2.96 miles. Continue up, briefly steep, up to 75 feet at Great Molunnan. The path now undulates easily, with a kissing gate and 4 steps up to Carricknath Point at 50 feet at 3.31 miles. *Here views begin to open up across the Percuil River to St. Mawes.*

The path now stays low until, just before the woodland at Amsterdam Point, it bears right uphill to a kissing gate into a field at 90 feet at 3.74 miles. It now follows the LH fence, with woodland on your L, on a grassy track down to a gate to a track above Cellars Beach at 3.82 miles. Go R on the track, level then gently up through woodland. At 4.02 miles, by the back drive to Place, bear R (*sign Place Quay ½*) on a track uphill moderate, becomes steepish, becomes easy up to 70 feet at 4.11 miles. Here you bear L on a path down through woodland, with 20 steps down, to St. Anthony Church (*worth seeing inside*) at 4.14 miles. Go R on a track through the graveyard, up easy in woodland, passing on your left a medieval coffin, and on up easy to a granite stile to a lane at 50 feet at 4.24 miles. Pass the main drive entrance to Place, and continue down to Place Quay at 4.40 miles.

Place Quay to Porth Farm – 1.60 miles

Go R though a gate into woodland, then L on a path, up then down 2 steps to Toffy's Steps, where the St. Mawes Ferry lands at low tide, at 4.53 miles. The path now enters NT Drawlers Wood and undulates easily in woodland, along the Percuil River, much of the way back, never climbing above 80 feet until you start the final short climb up to Porth Farm. At 4.81 miles watch up for a brief steep muddy slippery bit. At 4.93 miles a path heads up R to Bohortha.

At Porth Quay at North Hill Point, opposite Trewince Quay at 5.20 miles, you now leave the Percuil River and follow the south bank of Porth Creek, mostly through woodland but also through one field. *Along here, woodland permitting, you get some attractive views across to Trewince Quay Cottage and up the Creek to Froe.* Along the way, at 5.31 miles at 80 feet, you pass a path heading R uphill to Bohortha (1 mile). At the Froe end of the field, at 5.82 miles, go L over a long footbridge over marsh and a stream. R through woods, uphill on a path, with the road on your L, bearing R behind the grassy Porth Farm CP to a track at 5.94 miles. Go L on a track to the road at Porth Farm House. Go R on the road to the main Porth Farm CP at 6.00 miles.

A fuller version of these route directions, complete with GPS data including 10 figure grid references, spot heights and detailed distances, is also available. Return to the walk page and click for it.