

Coastal Footpath

Goodrington to Broadsands

1 mile (2 km) One-way | linear | Grades 3 to 4

Footpath with steps.

Starting Point: Junction of Coastal Footpath with Cliff Park Lane, Goodrington

A wonderful chance to walk an undulating section of the South West Way with superb sea views and numerous stopping places to relax for a minute or two and just take in the unique beauty of Torbay.

The entire length of this route runs parallel to the Paignton and Dartmouth Steam Railway as it makes its way up a relatively steep gradient to Churston Station. A number of the engineering feats necessary in building this stretch of line between 1859 and 1861 will become evident to the walker. Although Isambard Brunel had surveyed the route of the track, he sadly died just before this section was constructed. Having walked alongside the line briefly, the path then climbs to allow you a splendid view back over Goodrington beach.



Soon the path reaches an intersection where you will have the opportunity to turn left, over a railway bridge onto a grassy headland. This area is known as Three Beaches. In fact, strangely, there are only two coves, both being accessible from the headland. The cove to the right is Saltern Cove and is classified as a Marine Nature Reserve due to its geology and diverse rich sea life. A leaflet about the cove can be obtained from the Seashore Centre at Goodrington. For those who are agile and fit, and tide allowing, it is possible to scramble up over the rocks to regain the footpath at the southern end of the cove.

The main route continues on from the railway bridge, climbing on up to the flank of a hillside where all of Torbay is revealed in its splendour. There are a couple of well positioned benches, but for those who have the energy and will, a final climb up to the summit of the hill, away from the path, will be met with a just reward. This is Sugarloaf Hill and its origin is very much volcanic! The footpath now plunges down the hillside via a flight of steep steps with the railway line still very much in evidence. Passing a caravan site on the right, soon a second opportunity arises to leave the path by passing under a



railway arch to the left. This leads onto a second headland with access to Saltern Cove and also the quaintly named Armchair Cove with its associated rocky outcrop.

Returning to the Coastal Footpath, climb a further flight of steps and Broadsands beach will soon come into view. Having crossed a grassy meadow, a final flight of steps begins the descent to Broadsands. Before reaching the beach, the bonus is a close view of a Brunel-designed viaduct, built of local Devonian limestone.

