



## A Circular Walk from WoonGumpus

### Introduction

This circular walk offers the opportunity to explore some of the lovely open moorland which exists in the far West of Penwith. It visits the famous historical remains of Chun Quoit and Chun Castle which offer tremendous and far reaching views of both the South and North Coasts. It also offers the opportunity to visit two lovely village churches along the route. The walk is approximately 5 miles in length and follows well way marked rights of way although a copy of the Ordnance Survey's Explorer 102 may be useful. It includes many stiles and one very steep decent and sections can be muddy after wet weather.

There is free parking available (GR 393 334) at the start of the walk for several cars, in an area along side the B3318. It is also possible to start from the parking area in front of the Light House at Pendeen. There are Toilet facilities and a shop in the village of Pendeen

### Route

Leave the parking area by a gap at the rear, bear right then immediately left, and follow a permissive path sign across open moor land on a broad track towards the sight of Chun Quoit on the skyline ahead. Cross over a granite stile, cross a green field and then another stile to continue across moorland to reach the Quoit. Continue ahead bearing slightly right to reach Chun Castle, the stone remains at the highest point. From the castle it is possible to enjoy amazing views of the moor running across to 'Ding Dong' mine and Carn Galver, the mining village of Pendeen, and across Mounts Bay .

**Chun castle is the remains of an Iron Age Hill fort. The remains are approximately 85 meters in diameter and the site has its own well within the walls. It probably remained unused from the time of Christ until the 6<sup>th</sup> Century when it was reoccupied. Nearby is Chun Quoit which is amazingly well preserved with its capstone still in place.**

Retrace your steps and just before the Quoit bear right to reach a fence in 50 yards. Follow the path down hill following green Cornwall wildlife Trust signs around a diversion and continue ahead to reach a wide grass track. Continue down hill, ignoring a track on the right to reach a gravel track. Turn left and follow the main track down hill as it bears right to reach a tarmac road. Follow the road for approximately 75 yards and climb over a granite stile as the road bears right. Head straight across the field to climb over another stile, watching out for boggy ground mid field and notice the large granite wall ahead. Head straight across the next field, over another stile and then bear left to cross a further three fields, heading towards the church, to reach the tarmac road.

**Morvah was a busy mining community in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century but now has a small population which mostly relies on farming. It has been a place of worship from early times and about half a mile from the present church is the remains of a Celtic Chapel and a Holy Well. The present church was rebuilt in the late 1820's but the tower dates from the 14 Century.**

Follow the road towards the Morvah sign and turn right and continue ahead for 50 yards. Turn right over a stile and follow the lane to reach another stile. Continue over the stile, climb a further two stiles and continue ahead to reach the Coast Path. Turn left along the coast path, cross a stile and continue ahead for approximately 1 mile to reach Portheris Cove with excellent views of Pendeen Lighthouse. Follow the Coast Path down into the cove, cross a stream and continue ahead following the Coast Path signs to reach the Lighthouse.

**The Lighthouse has been guiding ships past this dangerous stretch of coast for over one hundred years. It was commissioned on September 26<sup>th</sup> 1900 and was designed by Sir Thomas Mathews for Trinity House. The Lighthouse was automated in 1995 and the keepers finally left on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. The light has a range of 16 miles from the top of its 17 meter tower, and the lighthouse also uses a Fog Signal which sounds every 20 seconds in bad weather. It is possible to visit the Lighthouse during the summer months.**

From the lighthouse walk uphill along the tarmac road and continue for approximately 1 mile, and take the second tarmac road on the right which is opposite a sign for Calartha Farm. Continue ahead until you reach the main road and the village of Pendeen. Turn right along the main road and after the school, turn left into Church road. Walk uphill passing the Pendeen Parish Rooms until the end of the tarmac, and cross an area of grass to climb a stile ahead. Continue heading uphill to cross another granite stile, turn right and follow the field boundary for approximately 30 yards, and then follow the path as it climbs uphill bearing slightly left to pass between two granite boulders and emerge onto a stone track. Turn left and continue uphill, keeping to the main track until you reach a tarmac road.\*

### **Optional loop to visit Carn Kenidjack**

At the road turn right, and after approximately 50 yards turn left onto a track which passes to the road side of a house. Follow the track up onto the moors, and ignore a path which crosses a stile on your left and continue ahead until the Carn comes into sight. It is possible to cross to the Carn and enjoy tremendous panoramic views. Return to the path and continue ahead, then bear left to eventually join a vehicle track. After some distance this bears left to reach a tarmac road. Turn right and return to the car parking area.

### **Original route**

\*Turn left and follow the road until the car park comes back into sight.