

CORNWALL

## White Rocks to St Agnes Beacon loop

This circular walk follows a gentle stretch of South West Coast Path from St Agnes Head to Wheal Coates before looping back via St Agnes Beacon. People have been coming to this spot for more than 6,000 years, ever since Mesolithic hunters first stopped here – scatterings of their flint weapons and tools have been discovered beyond the car park boulders. There are also foundations of Second World War ammunition stores and gun emplacements, where Bofors guns were mounted and used by trainee gunners.



### Information

Address: Near St Agnes, TR5 0NS

OS map: Explorer 104

Activity: Walking

Easy: Rough pathways with several steep inclines. For further details, please see Terrain

Dog friendly: Dogs welcome, but please keep under close control. Please note that dogs are not allowed on the beach from 1 July to 31 August.

Full trail: Miles: 2.8 (km: 4.48)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 2 hours

### Terrain

Some narrow paths, bumpy underfoot, with steep climbs and stone stiles, plus a short stretch along a minor road. May be muddy.

### Total steps: 8

Start point: St Agnes Head main car park, grid ref: SW699513

1. Head south onto the coast path at the far end of the White Rocks car park. Continue along the path, taking in the panoramic views south past Porthtowan and Portreath and on to Godrevy Point and St Ives beyond.
2. After the capped mineshaft take the waymarked coast path leading down to the right and follow it, bearing right again at the next junction to reach the Towanroath Engine House.
3. Retrace your steps up the coast path, take a hairpin bend to the right, and follow the path up the slope to the Wheal Coates complex.
4. Leave the mine along the gravel path to the left of the chimney stack and head east, with St Agnes Beacon directly ahead. Walk through Wheal Coates car park towards the road. Turn left, walk along the road for a short distance, then take the first right to Beacon Cottage Farm touring park.
5. Follow the lane to reach the farmyard, then walk through the yard between the barns to reach the far end. Go through the signposted gate, cross the field to the far corner, and over the stone stile. Follow the path, ignoring other paths to left and right, then bear left uphill towards the beacon's summit.
6. Descend from the summit, taking the left-hand path heading north west. When you reach the road at the foot of the beacon, cross over and go down the lane opposite.
7. Take the lane on the left after the sentry box and continue along it to reach a stile. Walk over the steps and onto a path running along the edge of the heath.
8. Follow the path in a straight line, ignoring routes to either side, to reach your starting point.

