GETTING HERE

Berry Head National Nature Reserve, Gillard Road, Brixham, TQ5 9AP



Berry Head National Nature Reserve is open to the public all year round and is free to visit. Opening times for the Visitor Centre 10am – 4pm. Summer: 7 days a week, Winter: Weekends only. Guardhouse Café 7 days a week 9am – 5pm (Summer) 9am – 4pm (Winter)

GETTING HERE

Berry Head National Nature Reserve is signposted from Brixham and you can get here by foot, bike, car or bus. Berry Head is situated at the end of Gillard Road. Go past Landscove Holiday Village up a single track road which leads to the car park. There is ample car parking including disabled bays. This is a pay when you leave car park.

The number 12 bus serves Brixham (runs approx. every 10 mins). Take the bus to Brixham and either follow the signs to Berry Head (30 minute walk, parts of which is steep) or, from Brixham Town Centre take the number 17 bus (hourly service) which runs to Victoria Road. From here it is about a ½ mile walk to Berry Head, signposted from the bus stop (with steep sections).

CONTACT US

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Berry Head NNR is part of the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark - one of earth's extraordinary places where you can experience part of the earth's story. A globally recognised dramatic landscape and stunning coastline inviting you to explore and discover its places and people.

FIND OUT MORE: www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk



Berry Head is cared for by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust. We're Torbay's conservation charity. Become a member to support our work at Berry Head and many other great places in Torbay like Cockington Country Park and Occombe Farm. There are membership packages for families, kids and couples too. Membership benefits include:

- Free parking at all Trust car parks
- Regular updates on activities and projects
- Exclusive early bird offers and event invites
- 10% off all Trust events and activities
- **Discounts** at Occombe Farm Café and the Guardhouse Café at Berry Head National Nature Reserve.
- 10% discount on Cockington Carriages Tour rides

T&Cs apply. Member benefits apply to named cardholder(s) only and may not be used in conjunction with other offers.



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YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ATIONAL NATURE RESERVE



www.countryside-trust.org.uk **y** @BerryHeadRanger ☐ / Berry Head NNR ☐ #berryhead

you enjoy your time here. memories. We welcome respectful visitors and hope Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but

may see across the site to one of our Rangers on site. Do report any accidents, damage or vandalism you

fences and walls. use stiles and gates provided and avoid climbing over All signs on gates will be current and relevant. Please They are there to protect you, wildlife and livestock. • Please take heed of warning and information signs.

grassland; use road or surfaced paths only. bins provided. If you are cycling do not cycle on the with your dog please clear up after it and use poo you; do not use BBQ's or light fires. If you are visiting avoid picking the wildflowers; take all litter home with from climbing on the heritage buildings and walls; Be Mindful. Help us protect this special place: refrain

tor more details.

Become a Trust member; see the back of this leaflet Workshops; all proceeds help fund the Trust's work. Tours, Whale and Dolphin Watches to Photography Join us on a Trust event from Bat Walks to Bird

have the chance to make a real difference. Days. Running on Tuesday's and Thursday's, volunteers Take part in our Practical Conservation Volunteer

can help us conserve Berry Head: wildlife monitoring. There are a number of ways you carry out practical land management tasks as well as Trust. A small team of rangers, alongside their volunteers, Berry head is managed by Torbay Coast and Countryside



CARE FOR THIS

and in the opposite direction, Sharkham Point. Berry Head to the picturesque harbour town of Brixham you to explore with the South West Coast Path linking over 150,000 visitors every year. The reserve is open for It's little wonder then that this is a place which attracts





Napoleonic forts. bat. You can also see the cave-dwelling greater horseshoe 7 species of bat including the over 200 species of birds and It is home to many rare plants, scrub woodland and rocky cliffs. calcareous limestone grassland To xim eviznetxe na ot ygoloeg wonders from the spectacular Berry Head features many

something for everyone here. simply taking the dog for a quick walk; there really is wildlife, refueling at the cafe, fishing in the quarry, or you're soaking in the views, enjoying the rich array of site, it's thrilling history and inhabitants. So whether bat beacon where you can learn more about the Guardhouse Café, the visitor centre, bird hide and At Berry Head itself, you'll find the award winning







where land meets the sea. and wildlife, fascinating history and stunning scenery Nature Reserve is host to 170 acres of diverse habitat Set on the southern tip of Torbay, Berry Head National of the most beautiful and peaceful places in the world. Stroll, hike, run or simply sit and watch the view at one



MEICOWE



HISTORY AND GEOLOGY

Towering 200 feet above the English Channel, the headland once protected Torbay's valuable naval anchorage during the Napoleonic War (1803 – 1815). The two garrisoned forts, dating back to 1795, protected Brixham Harbour from the threat of a French invasion.

Northern Fort (3) – housed 600 men (regular army & local militia) plus 12 42-pounder cannons located on the end of the headland.

Southern Fort (2) – protected the Northern Fort from land attack and contained a barracks, powder magazine, kitchen and storehouse

During the 1780's, limestone was quarried from Berry Head and continued for over 200 years, in some years producing over 200,000 tons of material. The purity of limestone long made Berry Head important for agriculture, industry and construction and so extensive were the workings that in places the quarry floor falls below sea level.

Today the quiet seclusion of the **quarry (7)** is a refuge for wildflowers, insects and birds. The ruins of the forts can be enjoyed by all, whilst the working lighthouse, built in 1906, continues to keep mariners safe. Within the Northern Fort you can find; the **Guardhouse (4)** now home to an award-winning café, the **Artillery Store (5)** which has information on our 2nd most famous resident: the greater horseshoe bat, and the shortest, highest & deepest **Lighthouse (6)** in the country. The **South-West Coast Path (9)** runs through the reserve, originally used by the coastguard as a means to get from lighthouse to lighthouse patrolling for smugglers.

WILDLIFE

Berry Head is home to a colourful and rare assortment of plants, animal species and grasslands - the site attracts 200 varieties of bird, 50 of which breed within or close to the reserve and include the nationally threatened cirl bunting.

Peregrine falcons, sparrowhawks and kestrels can be found circling the headland whilst out to sea, fulmars, kittiwakes and gannets can be seen foraging for fish. From the **birdhide (8)** you can see our most famous resident, the guillemot. Here the largest colony on the south channel coast returns each October and numbers build through to breeding season (Mar – July) peaking at 1,400 strong. An

Area of Special Protection (10) safeguards the guillemots from disturbances by marine vessels.

1. MAIN CAR PARK & TOILETS

2. SOUTHERN FORT

28 species of butterfly including the rare small blue, flit through over 500 species of plant at Berry Head, a good number of them only occasionally found in the UK. These include the goldilocks aster, small hares ear, small rest harrow, white rock rose and honewort.

Finally, hidden in the dark recesses of Berry Head's quarry caves is one of Britain's most endangered mammals: the greater horseshoe bat. Alongside pipistrelles, seratines, long eared bats and lesser horseshoes, these creatures of the night dance through dusk in pursuit of insects to feed on.

FISHING

Torbay was given a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) designation, at the highest level, in November 2013, from Oddicombe Beach, around to Berry Head, and beyond to Sharkham Point. Responsible anglers are drawn to this prime fishing location. Berry Head is well known for its beautiful fishing spots, down in the old quarry, surrounded by towering limestone cliffs.

Please help us by;

- Berry Head NNR operates a honesty catch system that falls in-line with enforcement at Hopes Nose (Torquay). No individual shall be permitted to catch more than 20 mackerel within any 24 hour period. Any surplus mackerel must be returned to the sea immediately.
- Please do not light any fires, BBQ's or stoves which can cause wildfires and huge damage to our rare grasslands or heathland. Take care with stray matches and cigarettes.
- Take all litter home with you (especially snagged or broken hooks & line)
- No camping. No individual shall be permitted to erect a tent, shelter or bivouac.
- Minimum fish landing size, please use guidelines from the Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority.

www.torbay.gov.uk/asb-environment-and-nuisance/hopes-nose/





DOG WALKING

We welcome you to walk your dog whilst being mindful of this special and sensitive place. Here's some things dog walkers can do to help:

Our livestock are used to graze extensively across the site. We use North Devon/Aberdeen Angus cattle which are very tolerant and pose no threat to people or dogs. In the more difficult to reach areas we use Hebridean/Soay sheep, however these can be found anywhere across the reserve at various times of the year. Be aware of each area as you pass through (check gates for signs) and obey any restrictions.

You can help us by;

- Around cattle: Keep your dog under close control.
- Around sheep: Keep you dog on a lead at all times.
- Keeping your dog under close control near cliffs, if unsure how your dog will react perhaps use a lead again. Areas with cliffs: End of headland, Southern Fort, Quarry Rd and some coast path sections.
- Clean up your dog's mess. The reserve's low nutrient grassland cannot tolerate high nutrient faeces and it can lead to damage of our rare habitats. On the spot penalty fines for

www.gov.uk/government/publications/ the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code

dog fouling are £75 and can

lead to a fine of £1,000.

