

Tree planting

As you walk, you will see several areas of newly-planted saplings, part of the Clovelly Estate's woodland management programme. Native deciduous trees are being planted to replace old and dying trees – some 2,500 saplings have been planted each year over the last 10 years. This will ensure the future of the woodland and its diverse wildlife habitats.

Please note that the pheasant shoots take place from November to the end of January.

Smugglers and cannibals!

In 1804, Clovelly was described as a 'place notorious for smuggling'. Caves off the Hobby Drive were said to be used for storing contraband. More eerie is the story of John Gregg and his family, who reputedly lived in a huge cave below the Hobby Drive, some 250 years ago. Legend has it they made their living by robbing passers-by, then murdering and eating them.

Harbour viewpoint

From here you get a marvellous panorama of Clovelly's historic quay which dates back some 600 years. Sheltered from the westerly winds, it has long provided the only safe harbour along the coastline from Appledore in Devon to Boscastle in Cornwall.



Harbour viewpoint

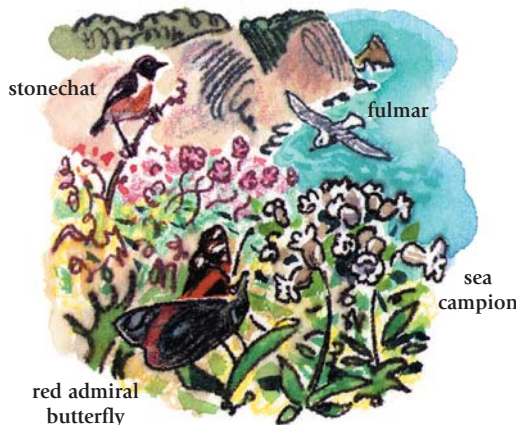
Wildlife watching

Here is some of the wildlife to look for as you walk:

Birds

In the woodland, you might spot the greater spotted woodpecker, nuthatch, tree creeper, and mistle and song thrushes. Open spaces such as Gallantry Bower are home to the stonechat, linnet and meadow pipit.

On the cliff ledges, watch for the fulmar with its stiff-winged flight, and the peregrine falcon, the fastest and most graceful bird of prey. Ravens nest on the cliffs – recognisable by their large size, shaggy throat feathers and low croaking call. In summer, look for flocks of Manx shearwater skimming over Bideford Bay.



stonechat
red admiral butterfly

fulmar

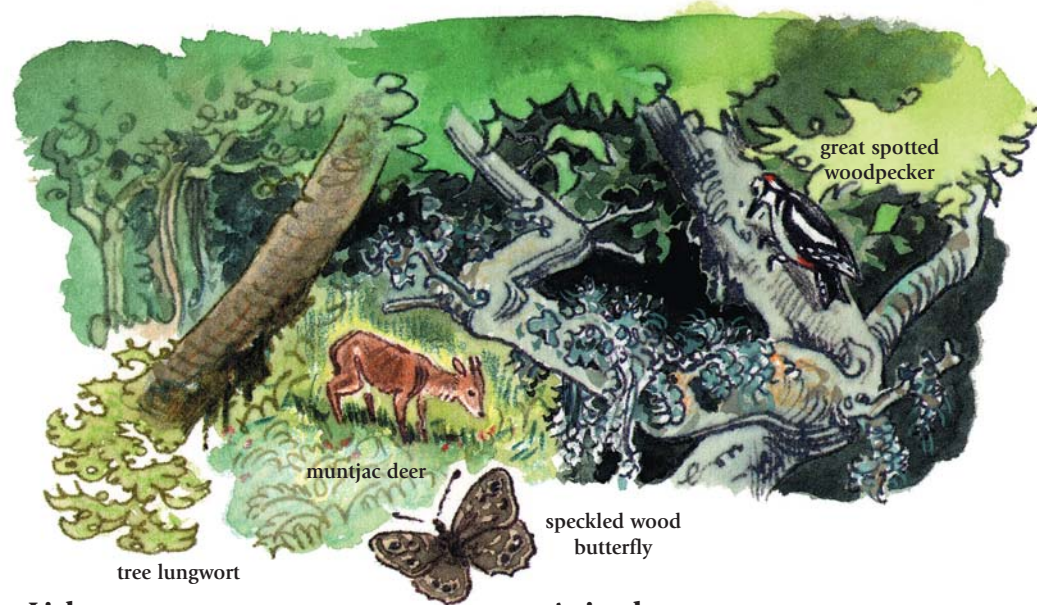
sea campion

Wild flowers

In spring, the woods burst into colour with bluebells and primroses, followed by red campion, cow parsley, wild garlic, gorse and masses of foxgloves. Clinging to the cliff edges are salt-tolerant plants like thrift, bladder and sea campion, kidney vetch and wild carrot.

Butterflies

In woodland glades look for speckled wood butterflies darting and diving in shafts of sunlight – or brimstone, silver-washed fritillary and gatekeeper butterflies. Open, grassy areas attract the orange tip, painted lady, red admiral and dark green fritillary.



muntjac deer

tree lungwort

speckled wood butterfly

great spotted woodpecker

Lichens

Clovelly's woodlands are nationally-important for lichens – tiny plants that feed off air and moisture. Lichens can only survive in clean, unpolluted atmospheres, so their profusion indicates the purity of Clovelly's air. There are over 250 species here, including two sub-tropical varieties which are found nowhere-else in the UK.

Most easily recognised are the 'beard lichens' which festoon tree trunks and branches. The longest species is commonly known as the 'string of sausage' lichen. 'Writing' lichens grow on the bark of trees and look like oriental script. The tree lungwort is a large green lichen that resembles a cabbage.

Animals

Many small mammals live in the Clovelly woodlands, but most only appear at night, such as the badger, fox, dormouse and a variety of bats. At dusk, you might spot roe deer, red deer or even muntjac (the smallest British deer).

After your walk, relax in one of Clovelly's inns and enjoy fresh local food and ale – or even better, stay overnight.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For information, brochures or accommodation lists (24 hr service), please contact:
Clovelly Visitor Centre,
Clovelly, Near Bideford,
North Devon, EX39 5TA
Tel: 01237 431781.
Or visit our website:
www.clovelly.co.uk

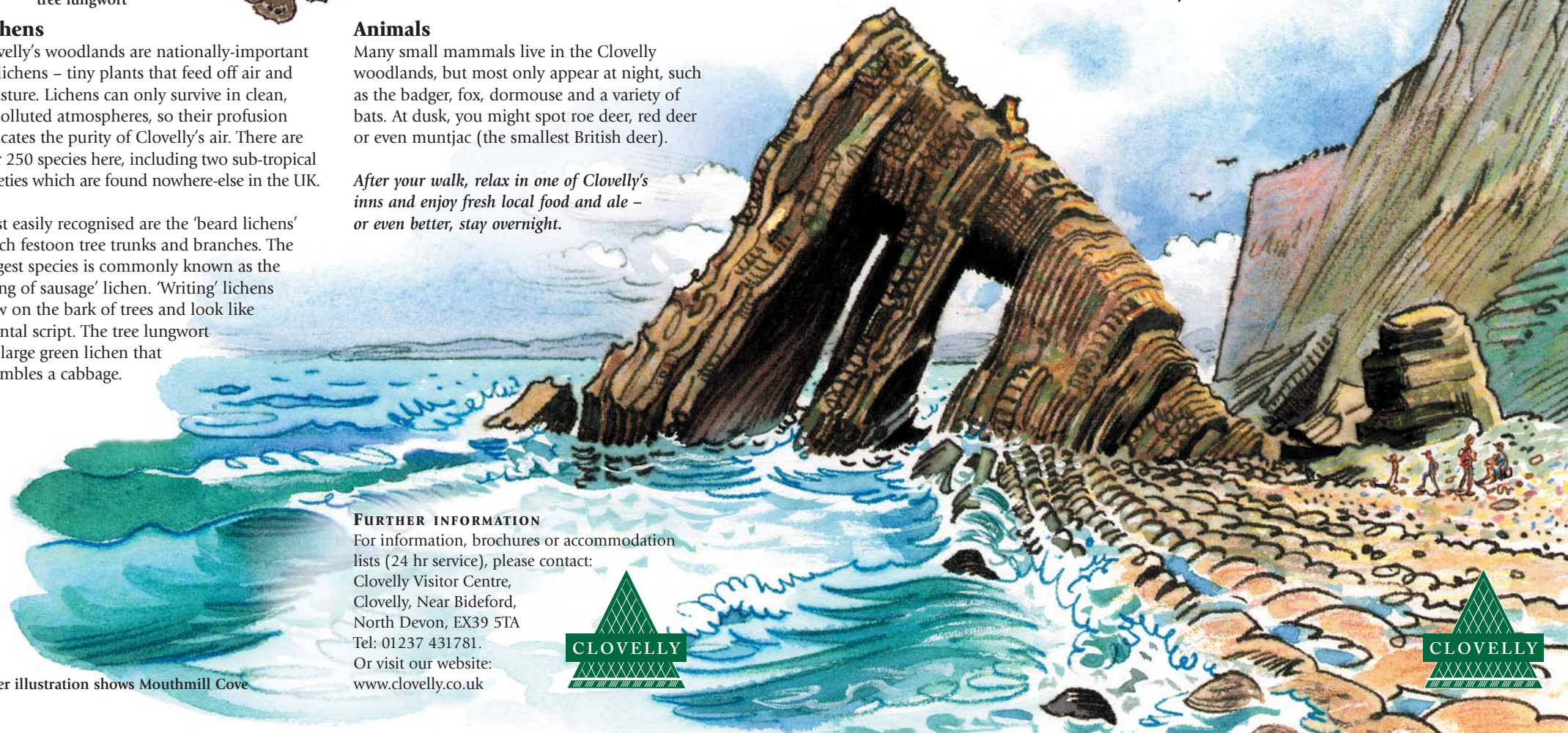


Cover illustration shows Mouthmill Cove

Prepared by Froghopper (email Cathy@froghopper.fsnet.co.uk)

CLOVELLY COAST WALKS

Stroll along Clovelly's winding coast paths to discover breathtaking cliff-top views, ancient gnarled trees, fascinating wildlife, and a secluded, secret cove



Clovelly's coast path

Clovelly lies amidst some of Devon's most beautiful, unspoilt countryside. The sheer cliffs are draped with woodland – its ancient trees home to myriad wildlife.

Whatever the season, the coastline has a beauty of its own. In spring and summer, wild flowers and butterflies fill the sunny glades, while in autumn, the woodland blazes in gold, copper and red. In winter, the trees open out to give stunning views to Lundy and along the North Devon coastline.

Both walks start at the top of Clovelly's cobbled street. They are linear and easy to follow – look out for the yellow 'coast path' waymarkers.

Please note your safety is your responsibility. Keep to the path and do not walk up to the cliff edge. The coast path can be slippery - so do wear appropriate footwear. Dogs are welcome but must be kept on leads to avoid harm to wildlife.

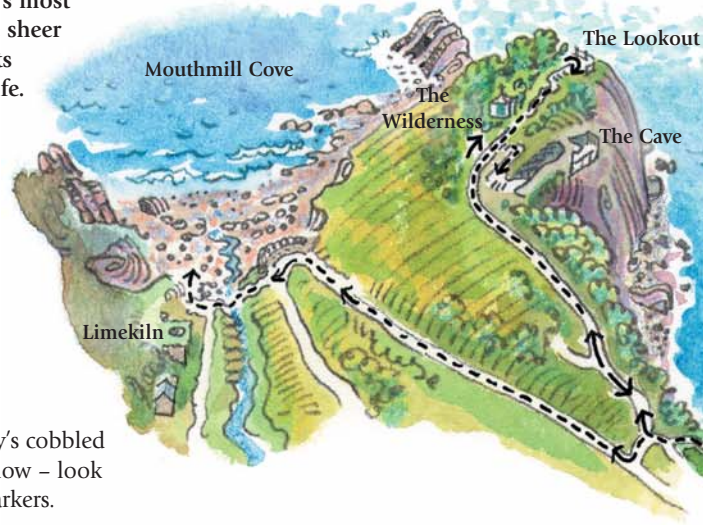
Mouthmill Cove Walk

Length: approx. 4½ miles (to cove and back)
Allow: 2½ hours return
Terrain: Narrow footpath, some steps, steep in places. Can be slippery when wet.

The coastal path to Mouthmill Cove passes through hay meadows and shady woodland, opening out to spectacular cliff-top views. When you reach the secluded private cove, you can relax on the beach, explore rock pools, and marvel at the amazing rock formations.

Mount Pleasant

Mount Pleasant is a small grassy knoll overlooking the bay, which was given to the National Trust by Christine Hamlyn, owner of Clovelly from 1884-1936. It stands as a memorial to the men of Clovelly who fell in the First World War.



The Cabin

This shelter is one of several built in the early 19th century by Sir James Hamlyn Williams. He and his wife Diana also created the Hobby Drive.

Rhododendron grotto

Here the path enters a dark tunnel through twisted rhododendron bushes. Rhododendron was introduced to the British Isles from the Himalayas more than 200 years ago. It is now one of the commonest evergreen shrubs, but its growth has to be controlled as it spreads rapidly and smothers all nearby plants.

Clovelly Court

Clovelly Court is the ancestral home of the owners of Clovelly. In 1681, the Cary family built a manor house on the site, which passed to Zachary Hamlyn in 1740. Disaster struck in 1789 when a fire destroyed all but one wing. It was replaced by an imposing Georgian house built by Sir James Hamlyn, but fire struck again in 1943. Strangely, the same wing survived the second fire.

Angel's Wings

This lovely shelter, its roof upheld by four ornately-carved wings, was made by Sir James Hamlyn Williams, circa 1826. He placed it here so that he could look across the bay to where his daughter, Lady Chichester, lived at Youlston.



Gallantry Bower

This dramatic headland towers some 400 feet above the sea, and gives magnificent views along the coastline. To the left is Lundy, a haven for marine animals and plants ('Lundy' means island of puffins). To the right you can see Bucks Mills, the next village along from Clovelly. The far headlands are Morte Point and Baggy Point.

The ditch and humps at the summit of Gallantry Bower are the remains of a Bronze Age bowl barrow (burial mound), some 3,000 years old. The Clovelly Estate has recently cleared trees from the headland to restore the heathland and precious wildlife habitats.

Devon whitebeam

As the path descends from Gallantry Bower into the woods, look out for the Devon whitebeam trees which grow on the cliff edge. Unique to this area, the tree is recognisable by its silvery-white underleaves, white flowers in May and red berries in autumn.

The Wilderness

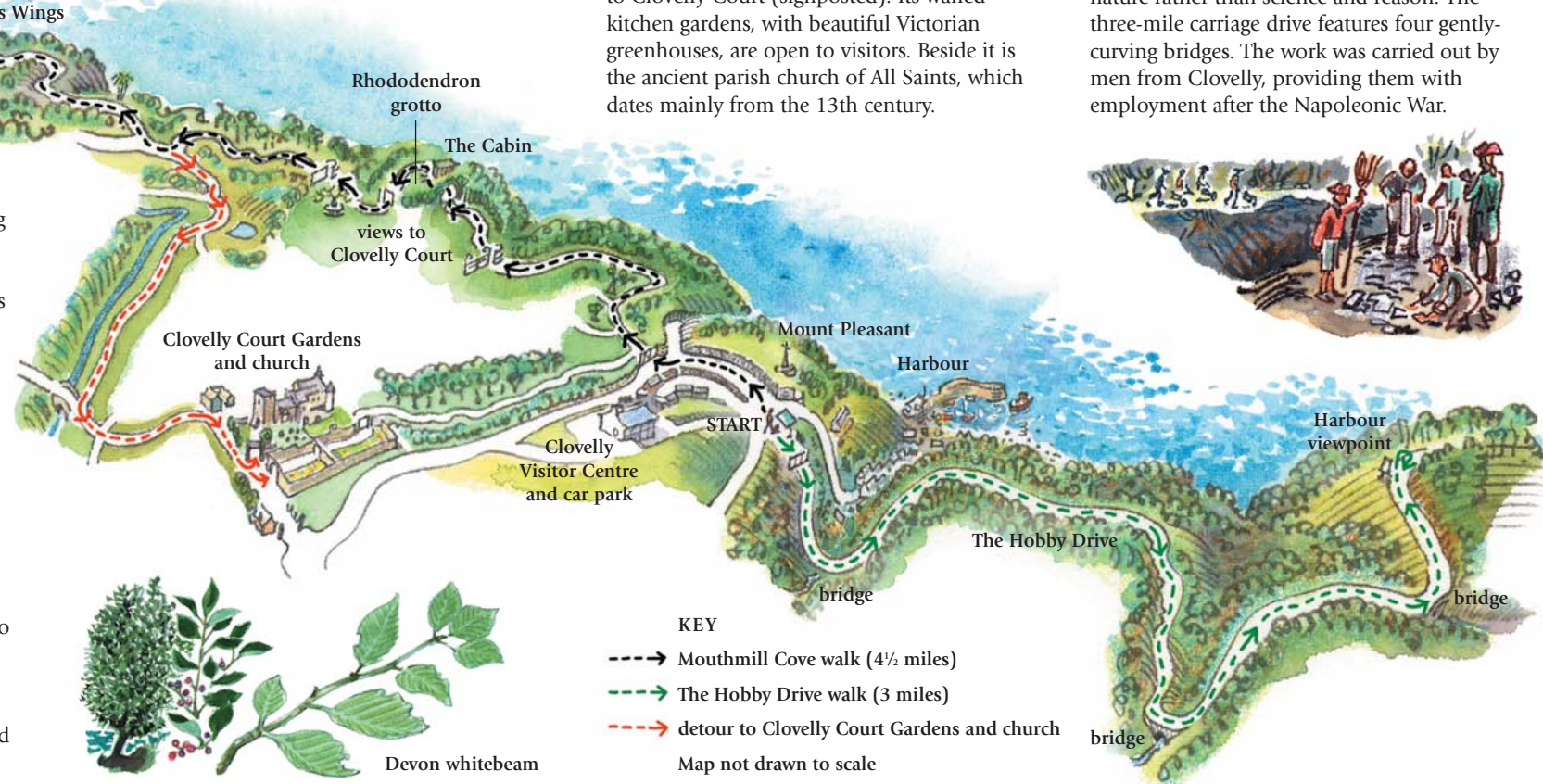
The next promontory is the Wilderness. The summerhouse, complete with fireplace and verandah, was built in 1820, then restored in 1935 for Christine Hamlyn's 80th birthday, and again in 2007, using as much of the original as possible.

The Lookout

Further along is the Lookout, which gives dramatic views over Black Church Rock. The concrete base is the remains of a 20th century wartime structure.

The Cave

A tiny path to the right takes you to a cleft in the rock, with a ledge beyond, known as the Cave. Here, the cliff falls sheer 300 feet to the seashore below. The word 'Cave' is inscribed in the entrance – a Victorian play-on-words as 'cave' means 'beware' in Latin.



Mouthmill Cove

This secluded cove lies where a tiny valley and stream meet the sea. The mill after which it is named is now a cottage (on your left as you descend to the cove). On the beach is Black Church Rock, or Window Rock with two vast windows carved through it by the tides. Swimming is not recommended here due to the rocks and steep shelving at high tide.

Limekiln

The buildings by the stream are a deserted limekiln, cottage and stables. Lime burning was an important part of North Devon's economy in the 18th and 19th centuries. Boats used to land on the steep, pebbly beach to unload coal and limestone from South Wales. There is a similar kiln by Clovelly's harbour.

Clovelly Court Gardens and church

On your return walk, it is worth taking a detour to Clovelly Court (signposted). Its walled kitchen gardens, with beautiful Victorian greenhouses, are open to visitors. Beside it is the ancient parish church of All Saints, which dates mainly from the 13th century.

The Hobby Drive Walk

Length: approx. 3 miles (to viewpoint and back)
Allow: 1½ hours return
Terrain: Flat, easy walk along wide track. Can be muddy and pot-holed. Suitable for pushchairs.

One of the best ways to appreciate the stunning setting of Clovelly is to stroll along the Hobby Drive. As it winds through the woods, it gives magnificent glimpses of the harbour and Bideford Bay. Don't miss a visit in spring, when the new beech leaves shimmer above the carpet of bluebells.

History of the drive

The Hobby Drive was laid out between 1811-29 by Sir James Hamlyn Williams. It was created as part of the Romantic Movement of the early 19th century, which embraced the beauty of nature rather than science and reason. The three-mile carriage drive features four gently-curving bridges. The work was carried out by men from Clovelly, providing them with employment after the Napoleonic War.



KEY
 - - - -> Mouthmill Cove walk (4½ miles)
 - - - -> The Hobby Drive walk (3 miles)
 - - - -> detour to Clovelly Court Gardens and church
 Map not drawn to scale