

SOUTH DEVON AND DARTMOOR

Outstanding Circular Walks

Pathfinder® Guides 

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walk 15

Start
Prawle Point

Distance
5¾ miles (9.1km)

Height gain
690 feet (210m)

Approximate time
3 hours

Route terrain
Field paths, rocky and undulating Coast Path

Parking
National Trust car park (honesty box) at Prawle Point, just over 1 mile (1.6km) south-west of East Prawle

Dog friendly
On lead in coastal fields (livestock)


OS maps
Landranger 202 (Torbay & South Dartmoor), Explorer OL20 (South Devon)

GPS waypoints
 SX 774 354
 A SX 766 358
 B SX 767 361
 C SX 780 363
 D SX 786 371
 E SX 794 369

Prawle Point and Woodcombe Point

Prawle Point is the southernmost tip of Devon and is situated amid some of the most dramatic coastal scenery in southern England. The walk starts by passing the Point and continuing along the coastline almost to Gammon Head. Then follows an inland section, mainly along enclosed paths and tracks, passing through the village of East Prawle and rejoining the coast at Woodcombe Sand. The final part of the route from Woodcombe Point to Prawle Point provides coastal walking at its finest.



 Climb a stile by the car park entrance, walk downhill along the right-hand edge of a field to a fingerpost and turn right through a gate to join the Coast Path. Now comes a spectacular stretch of coastal walking: the path winds around this wild and rugged coastline, passing Prawle Point (call into the National Coastguard Watch visitor centre) and continuing around Elender Cove, with the jagged profile of Gammon Head visible ahead. There are several gates and stiles,





Dramatic Cliffs, Hoist Point

taxing. Follow the cliff edge to round The Beacon, and then keep along a fence inland from the cliffs. The path hugs the cliffs again above Gutterslide Beach, before descending into and out of a combe near Broad Cliff Copse. Pass a path to Scobbiscombe, then follow the cliff edge again to gain the top of Hoist

Point, with glorious views east to Burgh Island and its Art Deco hotel.

From here the Coast Path zigzags very steeply downhill – be aware that after wet weather the path may be slippery, and that the cliffs here are sheer – to run along the back of Westcombe Beach.

walk 2



Start

Venford Reservoir



Distance

2½ miles (4km)



Height gain

425 feet (130m)



Approximate time

1½ hours



Route terrain

Moorland and
woodland paths



Parking

Car park on west side
of dam, 1½ miles
(2.4km) north-west
of Holne



Dog friendly

Under control at all
times; on leads in
nesting season
(1 March–15 July)







OS maps

Landranger 202
(Torbay & South
Dartmoor), Explorer
OL28 (Dartmoor)






GPS waypoints

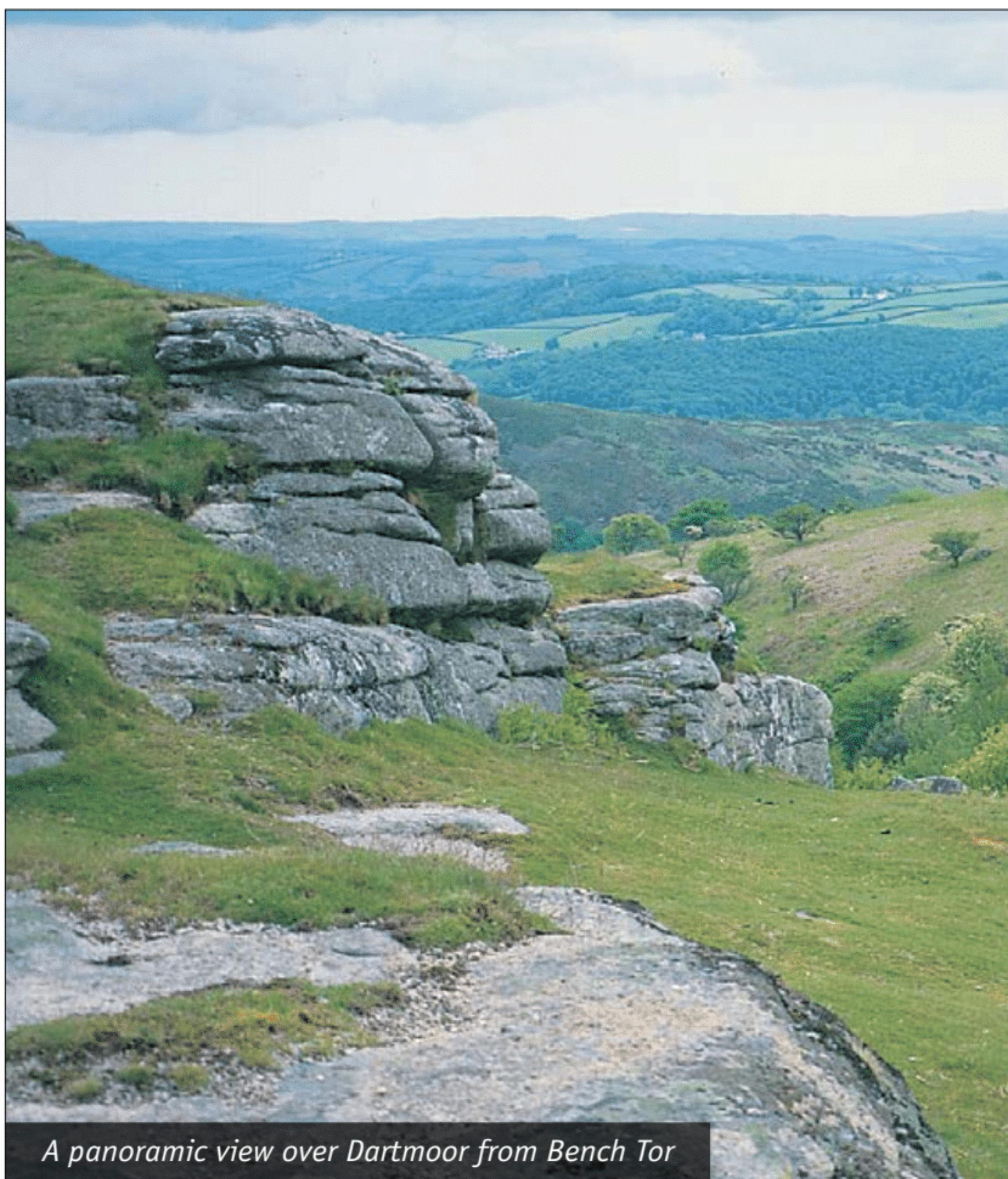
-  SX 685 712
-  SX 687 711
-  SX 695 713
-  SX 691 716

Bench Tor

There can be few walks of this modest length that offer such outstanding views and are more enjoyable than this one. From Venford Reservoir you take a clear and easy woodland path that follows the curve of the river above the thickly wooded Dart gorge, eventually climbing steadily to the magnificent viewpoint of Bench Tor. From here it is a gentle descent back to the start.

 Although a short and easy walk, it is advisable not to attempt it in misty weather as the final section could be difficult without the landmark of the reservoir as a guide.

 From the car park head down to the road to cross the dam. On the other side climb a low embankment and then turn left  alongside railings which border woodland that surrounds a water treatment works. Where the railings turn left, bear left



A panoramic view over Dartmoor from Bench Tor

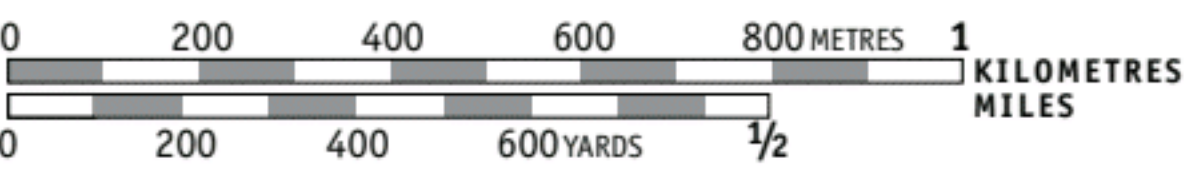


Looking along the coast from Revelstoke Drive

looking towards the estuary of the River Yealm and beyond to Plymouth Sound. The track curves right to keep above the Yealm and later continues through attractive woodland fringing the estuary. On this section there are some gates and stiles, and at intervals gaps in the trees reveal fine views over the water.

Continue along a tarmac drive by the estuary and later beside Newton Creek into Noss Mayo. On the opposite side of

the creek, the houses of Newton Ferrers, topped by the church tower, make a very attractive scene. Follow the lane to the right, passing in front of cottages. Continue uphill, passing the waterside **Ship Inn**, and at a junction turn right **C** along a lane with a 'No Through Road' sign to return to the start.



SCALE 1:25000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM

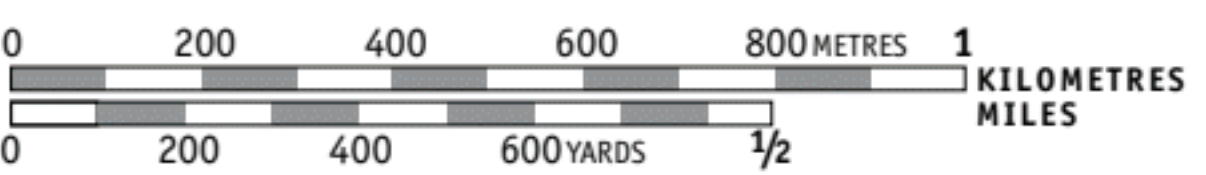


ahead at a footpath fork and climb steadily to enter an area of woodland, by a public footpath sign. Keep ahead along a narrow path and climb a stile, after which the path descends and continues as an enclosed, hedge-lined path. Emerge on to a lane and continue along it, eventually descending past some attractive thatched cottages.

At a fork take the left-hand lane, signed 'Rew' and 'Malborough'. The lane drops then climbs steadily. After ¼ mile (400m) turn left along a tarmac drive **B**, at a public footpath sign to Soar, passing Higher Rew Farm. Keep ahead as signed along a hedge-lined path, by a caravan and camping site on the left. This path curves left and enters a field.

Turn right and head uphill along the right edge to join a field-edge track. Bear left along this and eventually turn right by a cattle-grid to a meeting of lanes and tracks **C**. Keep straight ahead along the lane to a junction in front of a holiday home development. Turn left along a lane to Soar Mill Cove, and head downhill to a public footpath sign in front of a thatched cottage **D**.

Turn left to pass in front of the cottage, cross a stream and keep along an enclosed path to pass through a gate. Keep ahead, soon following the path right. Pass through a gate then bear



SCALE 1:25 000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM



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