

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND'S COAST

Outstanding Circular Walks

Pathfinder® Guides 



Britain's
best-loved
walking
guides

9 Hawker Country

Rolling farmland and strenuous Coast Path



4¾ miles (7.6km)

3 hours

10 Dizzard Point

Very strenuous Coast Path, fields and woodland



8¼ miles (13.2km)

4½ hours

11 Tintagel & Boscastle

Coast Path, rolling farmland and wooded river valley



10 miles (16km)

5½ hours

12 Stepper Point from Trevone

Moderate Coast Path, fields and farm tracks



7¼ miles (11.5km)

3½ hours

13 Porthcurno & Porthgwarra

Undulating Coast Path, fields and farm tracks



5 miles (7.9km)

2½ hours

14 Lizard Point

Moderate Coast Path, tracks across Lizard Downs



7¾ miles (12.5km)

4 hours

15 Polruan

River valley woodland, lanes, moderate Coast Path



5 miles (8.2km)

2½ hours

16 Looe & Talland Bay

Wooded riverside path, fields, undemanding Coast Path



7½ miles (12km)

4 hours

Padstow Bay



Lulworth Cove & Durdle Door

The last mile (1.6km) of this walk is along the most popular stretch of the Dorset coast, best avoided at bank holidays and other peak times. The reasons for its popularity are obvious: the attractive Lulworth Cove, the geological phenomenon of Durdle Door, and the magnificent cliff scenery in between. The walk also explores some fine countryside inland and provides an optional detour to the fascinating Fossil Forest, which is just inside the boundary of the Lulworth Army Ranges. Although only a short walk, it has several steep climbs.

Note: For information on access and the absolute need to observe the warning notices, see Walk 26.

 From the car park, head back left up the road for 200 yards. If the range is open, to reach the fossil forest, take a path climbing away on the right beside the last house. Breaking out on to the down, turn right with the Coast Path. Continue above the cliffs backing Lulworth Cove until the path levels to a T-junction **A**.

The Lulworth coast is one of the most geologically interesting in the country, where striation, folding and spectacular marine erosion can all be seen in just a short walk. Rock bands of differing hardness have been tilted to near vertical, with Lulworth Cove forming behind a narrow breach in the resistant limestone fronting the coast. The incoming sea has eroded the softer rock behind, the breaking waves curving to create the



walk **25**

 Start

Lulworth Cove

 Distance

5 miles (8km)

 Height gain

1,575 feet (480m)

 Approximate time

3 hours.

 Route terrain

Rolling downland, fields, undulating and popular Coast Path past Durdle Door

 Parking

Car park at Lulworth Cove (fee-paying), signed off B3070

 Dog friendly

To be kept on leads through fields; some non-dog-friendly stiles

 OS maps

Landranger 194 (Dorchester & Weymouth), Explorer OL15 (Purbeck & South Dorset)

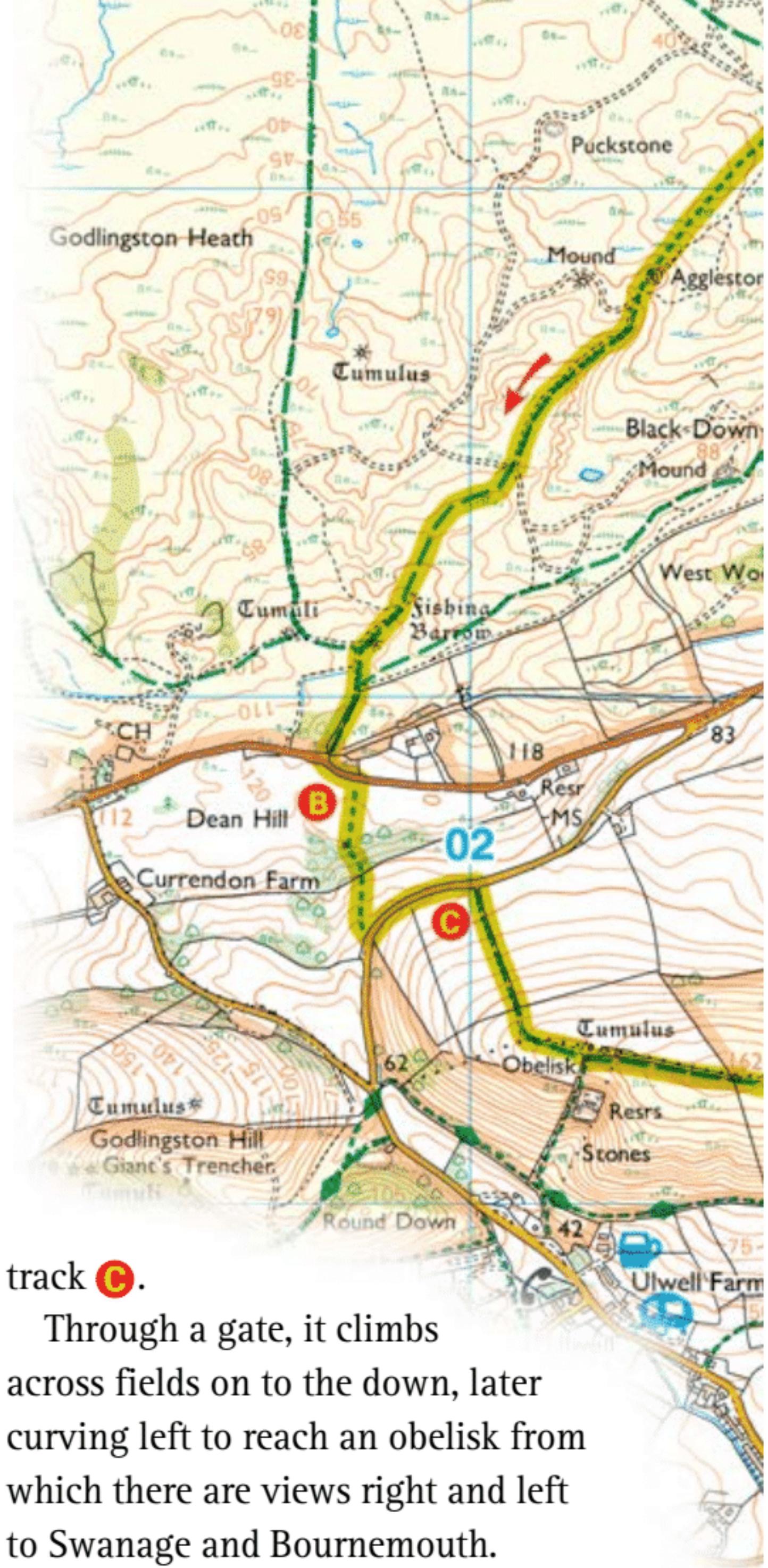
 GPS waypoints

-  SY 824 799
-  SY 828 801
-  SY 829 797
-  SY 829 802
-  SY 821 803
-  SY 811 810
-  SY 802 804

unspoiled heathland in the county, Godlingston and Studland are fragments of the great heath that once covered much of eastern Dorset and the inspiration for Hardy's *Egdon Heath*.

Beyond the rock, continue with the sandy track across the undulating heath to a junction by a National Trust waymark stone. To the right, walk through double gates in the direction of Studland Road. Following bridleway signs, branch right at a fork and remain with the main track, which shortly crosses a golf course. At a junction near the top of the hill bear right and then keep ahead to pass out through a gate on to Studland Road **(B)**.

Turn left, but almost immediately go right over a stile. Strike out across another part of the golf course, making for a yellow-topped post marking the onward path into the trees. Continue downhill to a stile and bear right across an overgrown field to another stile in the bottom right corner. Emerging on to a lane, follow the verge left around a bend before turning off right along a



track **(C)**.

Through a gate, it climbs across fields on to the down, later curving left to reach an obelisk from which there are views right and left to Swanage and Bournemouth.

Ahead across the intervening sea is



walk 20

Start

Car park at Start Point. Signposted from the A379 at Stokenham

Distance

6½ miles (10.4km)

Height gain

935 feet (285m)

Approximate time

3½ hours

Route terrain

Coast Path, uneven underfoot in places, with steady final climb; quiet undulating lanes, some short ascents/descents

Parking

Car park at Start Point (fee-paying in season), 8 miles (13km) south-east of Kingsbridge

Dog friendly

Under control at all times

OS maps

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

GPS waypoints

- A SX 820 375
- A SX 824 372
- B SX 829 371
- C SX 802 372
- D SX 803 383
- E SX 817 385

Start Point & Hallsands

From the prominent headland of Start Point the views along the coast in both directions are outstanding and extensive: northwards across the wide expanse of Start Bay to Berry Head near Brixham, and westwards along one of the most spectacular stretches of the South Devon coast to Prawle Point and beyond to Bolt Head near Salcombe. After a short walk to Start Point, the route continues by heading westwards along the often rocky and dramatic Coast Path to Lannacombe Beach, and then turns inland through a steep-sided, wooded valley. An undulating section along lanes, steep in places, brings you back to the coast at the abandoned fishing village of Hallsands and the final stretch is a steady climb of nearly one mile (1.6km) above Start Bay. This is a superb walk but there are narrow paths in places and some fairly energetic climbs.

 Begin by going through a white gate and walking along the tarmac lighthouse road to Start Point. At a fingerpost A keep ahead along the road for a short detour to the lighthouse at the tip of Start Point B to enjoy the magnificent views that encompass a large stretch of the South Devon coast.

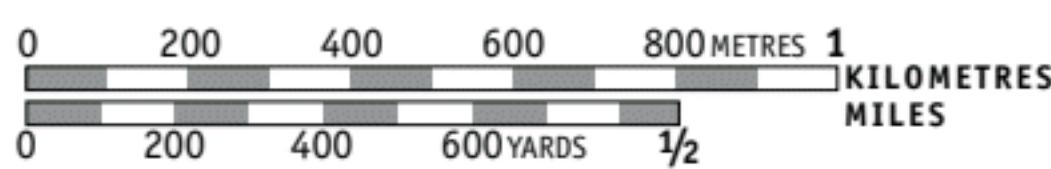
Return to the fingerpost and turn left A along the Coast Path which cuts across the narrow neck of the point. The path makes



attractive enclosed path. After going through a gate, the path descends quite steeply through trees along the right side of a combe. Follow the path as it bends sharp left and drops to a T-junction of paths above Woodcombe Sand.

Turn right **E** to rejoin the Coast Path, initially between bracken and bushes below Woodcombe Point. Start Point can be seen to the left. Keep along the Coast Path back to the start, negotiating several gates and following the regular

SCALE 1:29412 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 3.4CM to 1 KM



Gammon Head from Prawle Point

acorn symbol waymarks. In particular look out for a sharp left turn, in the Prawle Point direction, and follow the field edge to the right to continue towards Langerstone Point. Pass below it and soon Prawle Point is seen. Keep along the Coast Path as far as a fingerpost in front of a gate, turn right, on a public byway to East Prawle, and retrace your steps to the car park.





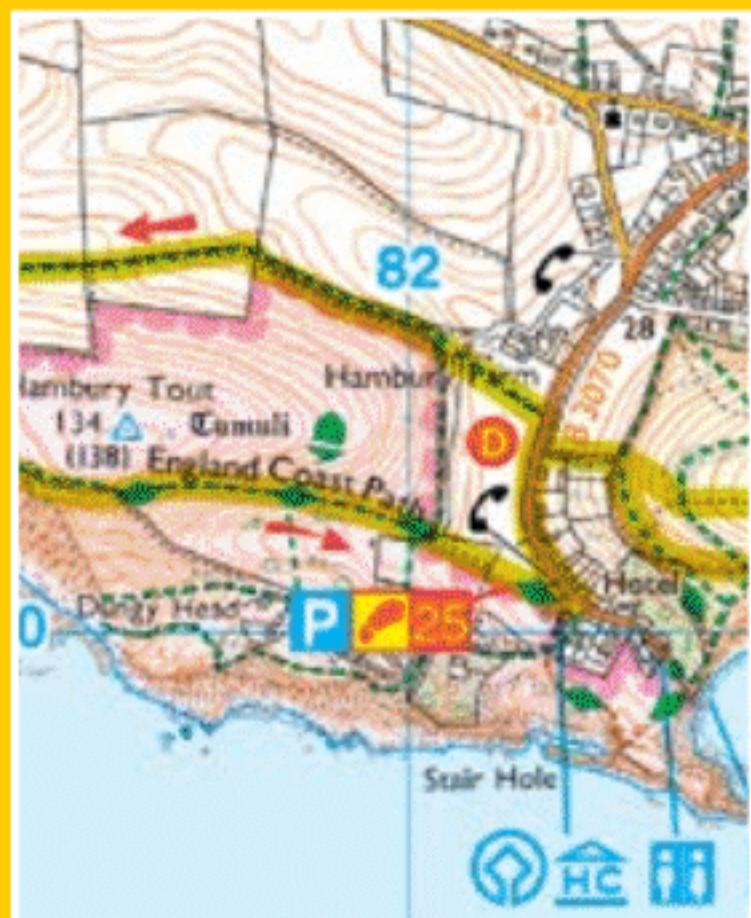
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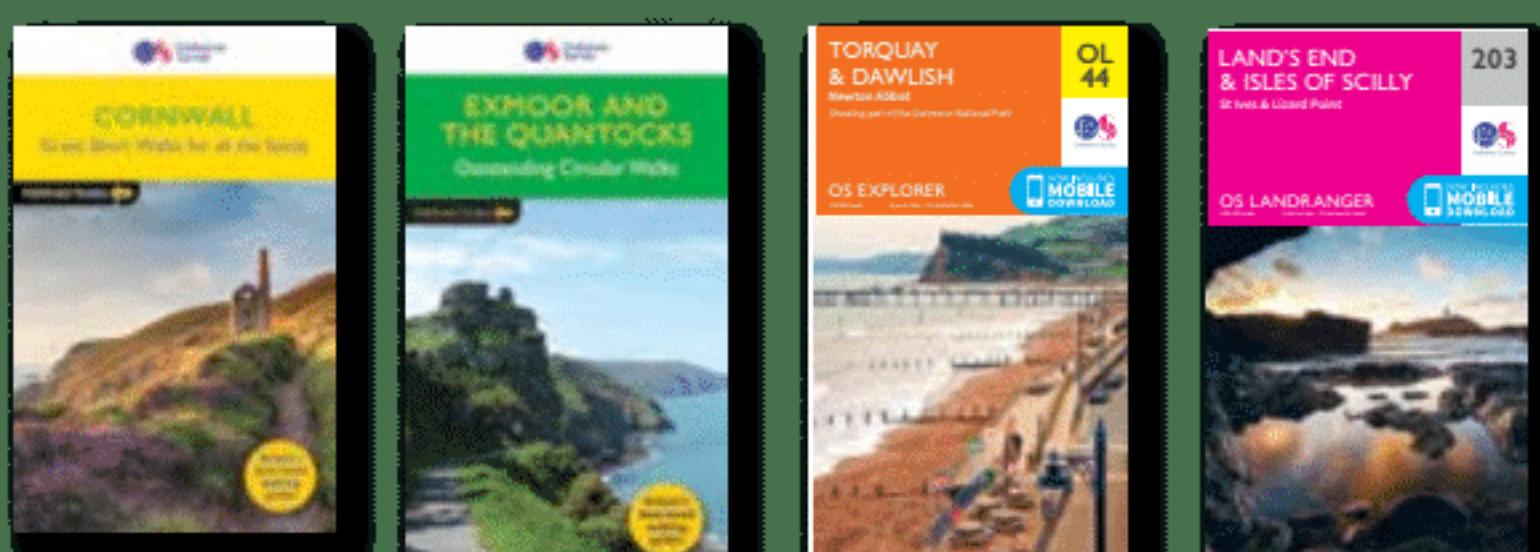
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OS maps and walking guides for the surrounding area



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