

Stoweywalking

Nether Stowey, Over Stowey and the Quantock Hills



Somerset's Jurassic Coast: Kilve & East Quantoxhead

Length: 3.12 miles or 5 km.

Maps: Ordnance Survey maps: Explorer 140 Quantock Hills & Bridgwater & Landranger 181 Minehead and Brendon Hills area.

Refreshments: The Chantry Tea Rooms, Kilve Pill & The Hood Arms, Kilve/A39 (pub closed at time of writing)

Public Toilets: Near car park at Kilve Pill.

Public Transport: Occasional buses from Bridgwater and Minehead stopping at Kilve Village Hall and Hood Arms pub.

Start and parking: Public car park behind Kilve Village Hall on A39. GR: ST149429



Kilve Beach

Description:

A circular walk across fields and along country lanes.

Grade - Easy

Along this coast the dramatic cliffs are layered with blue, yellow and brown lias from the Lower Jurassic period embedded with fossils, particularly ammonites. The beach at Kilve is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Behind the coast the Quantock Hills rise up at Quantoxhead. Across the Bristol Channel there are fine views of South Wales, whilst further west along the coast behind Minehead is North Hill and Exmoor National Park.

Directions:

1. From the bus stop turn into the the car park behind the village hall at the sign 'Footpath avoiding narrow main road'. Turn right at sign 'Permissive Path to Winrush Corner' and follow the path, noting the large maze in the field on the left. At the end of the path turn right through a gate before the 50 mile an hour sign on the A39.
2. Cross the A39 with care and take the stile on the left of a five bar gate. Cross field diagonally to next stile. Go straight across next field and through gap in hedge and cross the third field to a stile on the left.

The village of East Quantoxhead is visible up ahead. Cross the next field passing two cottages on the right, cross a stile onto a lane, Frog Street, turn right and follow the lane into the village.

3. At the large duck pond turn right down an unmade track. Follow the track past the Court House garden on the left, then turn left at a sign 'To Beach' passing the Millenium Bench on the right.

4. Follow the path towards the beach. This path is often muddy. At the cliff edge turn right and follow the cliff path. (Alternatively turn left and head straight down to the beach).

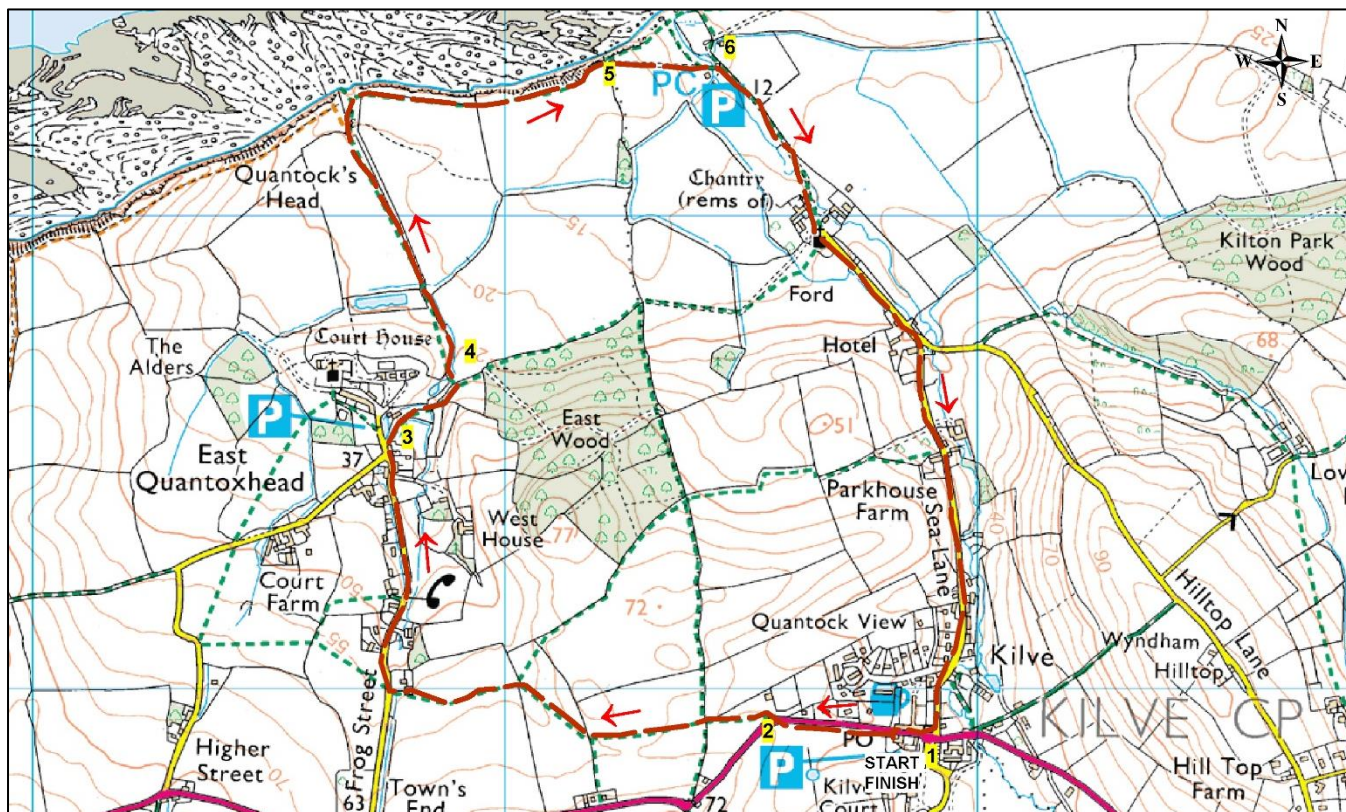
Follow National Trail sign for England Coast Path, Kilve 1.5 miles



The Court House is the home of the Luttrell family. There has been a manor house on the site since Norman times. The current house dates mainly from the 17th century. The adjacent Church of St Mary the Virgin houses the Luttrell family tombs.

5. At Kilve Pill go through a small gate to an open grassy area. The beach can be accessed to the left. Head straight on following the acorn National Trail sign. Cross a bridge and go through a large kissing gate. On your left is an old oil retort. There are public toilets down a path to the right.

6. Turn right down an unmade up road with the car park on your right. Past the car park on the right is the Chantry Tea Garden. Continue through the village up Sea Lane, past the church of St Mary the Virgin with the white tower, until you reach the A39 and the Hood Arms Pub where you started from.



The brick oil retort was built in the 1920's in an attempt to extract shale from the cliffs.



The medieval Chantry was built by Sir Simon de Forneaux in the fourteenth century. The building is thought to have burnt down during the nineteenth century after it was used by local smugglers to store contraband.

The details of this walk were correct at the time of publication but may be subject to minor changes particularly when walking over farmland. Footpaths may be subject to diversion, please follow local signs on the ground. If you have any problems or feel the directions could be clearer please contact Stowey Walking via our website: stoweywalking.co.uk