

WALKING THE JURASSIC COAST

**DORSET AND EAST DEVON:
THE WALKS, THE ROCKS, THE FOSSILS**

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Front cover: Layered Bridport Sandstone at East Cliff (Walk 13)

WALK 7 – HARTRIDGE AND DUMPDON

downhill below a phone wire to a gate, and a woodland path down to a footbridge. Keep ahead through a small swamp, and up to left of a stream to a driveway corner.

Take the tarmac track bearing up right, with the stream to its right. After a stiff climb, the lane bends left but turn right on a gravel track above **Malthayes Farm**. ▶ Keep ahead below the hedge at the top of the steep slope, with great views. The farm just below is also the Otter Brewery, smelt rather than seen.

Follow the slope top along the top edges of several fields (one of them has a fine pile of chert lumps collected off the fields). Keep ahead along a strip of grassland above woods. At the next gate, a waymarker points slightly down right. Slant down the field to a driveway above **Hillend Farm**, and exit to the corner of a lane.

Keep ahead along this lane. After 50 metres, there has sometimes been a cleared path up left through the bracken, and turning right along the slope top. Otherwise, in 300 metres along the lane turn up left on a right-of-way path. Either way, you reach a lane at the slope top. ▶

Cross slantwise, onto a path along the top of the steep **Hartridge** scarp, with a fence on its left. At the hill

Here the footpath has been diverted: you don't now drop to Malthayes Farm.

Alternative parking place here, ST 180 067.

On Hartridge, looking south towards Luppitt



WALK 12

Bridport to Seatown

Start/Finish	West Bay SY 465 905 or small pay and display at Chideock SY 423 928
Distance	15km (9 miles); or shorter version 13km (8 miles)
Ascent	450m (1500ft); or shorter version 400m (1400ft)
Approx time	4½hrs; or shorter version 4hrs
Terrain	town and village, inland hill, deeply sunken hollow way; grassy cliff tops
Maps	Explorer 116 Lyme Regis; Landranger 193 Taunton
Parking	long-stay pay and display at West Bay former station east of B3157; or small pay and display beside river in Chideock
Note	Two cliff falls in April 2021 affect this route, although neither has caused radical diversion of the Coast Path. One is east of Seatown, on the ascent to Thorcombe Beacon. The other is east of Eype's Mouth. Look out for signs and be aware that the cliff falls may develop further.

A good 5km of airy cliff tops, and rock face investigations at Seatown, Eype's Mouth and West Bay – at least one of them ought to yield an ammonite or two. But that's just the walk's return leg. The old town at Bridport is pretty in the same golden-stone way as the Cotswolds. Fuddle your brains at the Palmers' Brewery and then sharpen them up again with the intellectual rigours of the Bridport Museum.

But what really sets this one apart is an out-of-world experience arising from being sunken below it by 10m. Shutes Lane, at the back of Symondsburry, is Dorset's slot canyon, an eroded road or hollow-way with a green and faded-orange Jurassic atmosphere.



Leave the car park at its southwest corner, and head west to **West Bay** harbour. Cross the river bridge at the back of the harbour, and turn right into a large caravan park. Head up between the caravans alongside the **River Brit**, with a tarmac path leading to a gate at the north corner of the site.



WALKING THE JURASSIC COAST

The coast path crosses the faultline itself at a stile. Here you look ahead across the River Brit (see diagram). North of Bothenhampton, the Warren is a plateau of tough Inferior Oolite above Bridport Sands and the softer Thorncombe Sands and Eype Clay. South of Bothenhampton, North Hill is a plateau of tough Forest Marble above softer Frome Clay. So the stuff to the south is a whole lot higher up the rock sequence. It's the same displacement as at Fault Corner, but carried 1km to the north by the wrench faultline north-south through Bridport.

*Ammonite from
Green Ammonite
Beds, Seatown*

Cross stepping stones above the beach, for the continuing path up the cliff rim. Cliff erosion means a short diversion left into a holiday park, then back to the right to pass through lumpy quarry workings. The path swings back right to the cliff tops, then heads easily down to the seafront at **West Bay**. Pass around the harbour to re-cross the river bridge at its back.

