

Coastal Walk – 7 miles

Selworthy Beacon, Exmoor

A truly spectacular walk over moorland, with breathtaking views of cliffs and the coast of Somerset and the Mendips, parts of Devon, Steep Holm and Flat Holm islands in the Bristol Channel and the South Wales coast. Wildlife interest at all times of the year. Part of the Holnicote Estate acquired in 1944 from Sir Richard Acland.

Getting there:

Road: minor road from Minehead (turn left at hospital in town to North Hill)

Car parks: Selworthy Beacon SS911477

Foot: South West Coast Path (SWCP) which starts on Minehead seafront

Bus: (B=bus stop) Exmoor National Park runs buses in summer

Rail: Steam train Bishops Lydeard to Minehead, link to Taunton For public transport information visit www.traveline.org.uk

Maps and start grid ref: OS Landranger 181 grSS911477, Explorer OL 9

Facilities available: Cafes, toilets, pubs, shops and baby changing facilities available in Minehead

Terrain: In places steep walking conditions especially on the 'rugged' coast path

Distance: 7 miles

Accessibility: Height gain of 100m over the walk. If going on the beach beware of strong currents, do not swim and do not use inflatables. Cliffs are dangerous- children should be supervised. If you start on the 'rugged' coast path please stay on this to the end- land adjoining is tenanted with no access

Points of interest: Follow the path from car park heading south east Continue on this path looking out for the following features:

1. Folly Combe- oak and ash woodland planted in 1820's
2. Head up Selworthy Combe - nightjar area in spring-good for red deer anytime
3. At cattle grid head for coast- good heathland with dartford warbler and hares regularly seen
4. Furzebury Brake-views to the north, view of Iron Age enclosure
5. Henner's Combe- good for spring flowers- wheatears breed in rocky areas
6. Hurlstone Combe - opportunity of seeing Raven and Peregrine all year Follow (SWCP) track and return to car park passing remains of military shooting range used by Canadians and Americans in World War Two

Detailed walk leaflets are available by contacting the property (tel. 01643 862452) or Porlock Visitor Centre

