

Porlock Circular



Fact File:

Highlights: St. Dubricius church, Bossington village, shingle ridge, South West Coast Path, Porlock Marsh, wading birds, Porlock Weir, Porlock Vale views

Start Grid ref: SS 885 467

Distance: 5.6 miles, circular

Height gained/lost: 176 metres. An easy to moderate walk. Can be muddy in parts and walking on large stones on the shingle ridge.

High Point: 92 metres

Low Point: 4 metres

Toilets: Porlock, Bossington, Porlock Weir

Eating places: Porlock, Bossington, Porlock Weir

Time required: excluding stops: 3.25 hours

Public transport: 300, 10 bus services. Please check the current timetable on Traveline 0871 200 22 33 www.travelinesw.com before travelling.

Route description: This walk keeps relatively level crossing the Porlock marshes and the width of the Porlock Vale. It visits the pretty village of Bossington where refreshments can be enjoyed. It then follows the South West Coast Path which skirts the marshes. This walk may not be passable on high spring tides at high tide. This means that it should normally be passable. Porlock marsh became a salt marsh after the natural shingle ridge was breached in 1996. It was decided not to repair it, but to let nature take its course. Trees that were surviving on the fresh water in the marsh prior to the breach are now standing dead, poisoned by the salt. Porlock Weir is then visited where refreshments are available again before returning through woodlands with excellent views across the walk you have taken.

Route directions: The grid references are given should you like to follow the route on an Ordnance Survey map. They are not needed to follow the route which is described very accurately in the text.

1, SS 885 467

From the bus stop outside St. Dubricius church in the High Street, turn right in the Minehead direction and shortly turn left along Sparkhayes Lane. Pass Furzeland Road and as the lane becomes unmade, watch for a gap in the hedge on your right up concrete steps. These bring you out at the end of a cul-de-sac.

2, SS 888 472, 0.5 miles

At the end of this road turn left down a path signed to Bossington. Shortly follow the path to the right between hedges, ignoring the path ahead through a field. Again, shortly ignore the bridle gate ahead, instead going right, still between hedges.

3, SS 890 474, 0.8 miles

Soon follow the path through a kissing gate and then go left along the edge of this field with the hedged bank on your left. On reaching the gate pass through and continue along the hedged path again. Shortly ignore the kissing gate on the left, continuing ahead along the hedged path. After a short while you reach houses at Bossington. Go left around the property to reach the road. Bossington village is to your right with tearooms and toilets by the car park.

4, SS 895 480, 1.3 miles

Otherwise turn left towards the beach. Soon turn left on the Coast Path to Porlock Weir, over a small stream. Soon pass through a bridle gate ahead, keeping on the Coast Path, ignoring fields on either side. Shortly you are walking along a field's right-hand boundary. Follow the path as it goes right and left to the next field where you turn right to follow the right-hand boundary of this field.

5, SS 887 478, 2 miles

On reaching the far corner pass through the kissing gate, cross over the path to Porlock and continue ahead on the Coast Path to Porlock Weir. Soon follow the Coast Path to the right and left to then pass through the next kissing gate by a gate.

6, SS 882 476, 2.4 miles

Continue ahead to the next kissing gate to then cross a footbridge. Stay on the Coast Path to cross a stream by dead trees killed when the shingle ridge was breached in 1996 causing a salt marsh to be created. Pass an old barn and follow the path to the right along the edge of the marsh.

7, SS 876 472, 2.9 miles

At the next kissing gate by a gate, ignore the path to the left, bearing slightly right on the Coast Path to Porlock Weir. Continue ahead until you reach the shingle ridge.

8, SS 870 476, 3.3 miles

Bear left along its top. On reaching the concrete steps,

follow them up to the road.

9, SS 867 476, 3.5 miles

Turn right along the road to Porlock Weir, watching for cars. At Porlock Weir there are toilets and refreshments.

10, SS 864 478, 3.7 miles

Leave by taking the small road between The Ship Inn and Andrews on the Weir, following it uphill. Continue ahead on reaching the next road, ignoring it going hard back right to Worthy.

Stay on it to reach the main road and then bear right along it, watching for cars.

11, SS 867 473, 4.1 miles

Shortly bear off right up a footpath ahead into the woodland. Cross straight over the small road, signed Bridleway to Porlock. Follow the track up to cross the river by a footbridge. Then leave this track as it goes right, instead going ahead up the bridleway.

12, SS 868 472, 4.3 miles

Shortly bear off left on a more level path and soon ignore the path on the left to West Porlock. Continue ahead on the fairly level path to Porlock.

13, SS 881 467, 5.3 miles

On reaching the road, bear left along it into the village.

14, SS 884 467, 5.5 miles

At the Village Hall bear left on to the High Street. Be careful as there is no pavement here. Follow it back to where you started the walk.



Bossington Village