

## Porlock and its Vale



This walk provides lovely views down the Exmoor coast and over Porlock and its Vale. There are ancient hedgebanks, fields of barley, saltmarsh, wooded hillsides and traditional old buildings, including packhorse bridges and thatched cottages.



## POINTS OF INTEREST

### Bossington

Most of the cottages at Bossington belong to the National Trust. The walls of many contain stones from Bossington Beach. The tall chimneys and bulging bread ovens are a local feature. At the green are several walnut trees. The road bridge over Horner Water has a boundary stone marked PP and SP for Porlock and Selworthy parishes. The boundary changed in 1880.

### Lynch

The ancient farm at West Lynch is now a Farm Park and Falconry Centre. Adjacent is a medieval chapel of ease restored in 1885 by Sir Thomas Acland. The coats of arms in the east window are of the various families who once owned the manor. In the centre is the shield of the Abbot of Athelney: the ancient Manor of Bossington was given to the monks by King Alfred the Great after his defeat of the Danes in 878. The woods behind Bossington and Lynch were planted around 1840 for Sir Thomas Acland, the 10th Baronet. They contain much evergreen oak.

### Old Bridges

New Bridge crosses Horner Water and was new in the 17th century but has been altered since that time. At West Luccombe the packhorse bridge dates back to the 18th century and the road bridge has a stone bearing the date 1854.

### Porlock

Doverhay Farm dates back to the reign of Henry VII. In Doverhay are some lovely old thatched cottages, the old smithy and Doverhay Manor Museum. The Manor house was restored in 1894 but dates from the 15th century. Doverhay was not only a separate manor but also in a separate parish from the rest of Porlock – it was in Luccombe until recently. The Manor house, however, was probably only a Dower house for the manor and not the main house.

### EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

Exmoor became Britain's eighth National Park in 1954 and these walks were designed to celebrate its Golden Anniversary. The public were invited to propose their favourite walks as part of the series and this walk is based on a walk proposed by Dennis Corner.

The National Park covers 267 square miles of Somerset and Devon. It is a landscape of great variety: from rugged, towering cliffs to gently rounded hills, wooded valleys, colourful heaths, wild grass moors and farming hamlets and it is home to nearly 11,000 people.

For further information contact Exmoor National Park Dulverton Visitor Centre: Tel 01398 323841  
E-mail: [DulvertonVC@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:DulvertonVC@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)





## MAP

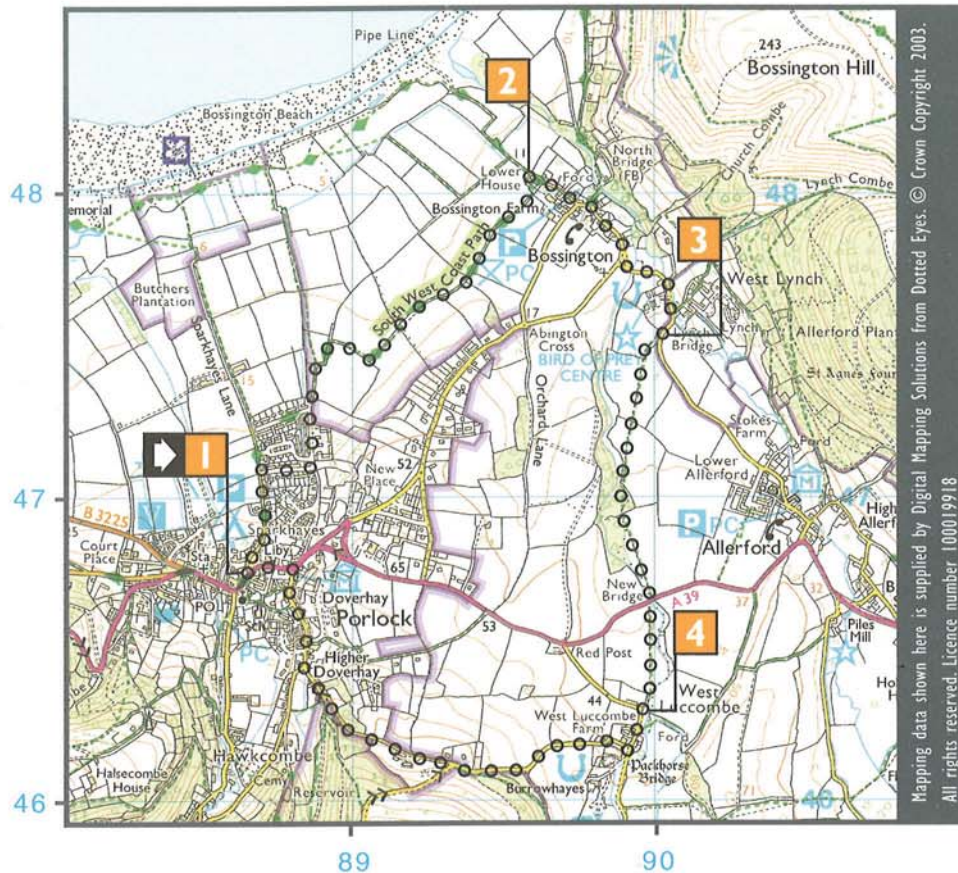
Scale 1: 25000 SHEET No. 55

The map section below can be found on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL9. The area is also covered by the Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 181.

 1 Kilometre

 1 Mile


## EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK



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-  4 miles (6.5 kilometres).
-  2 hours.
-  Start Point: Sparkhayes Lane, Porlock.
-  Easy. The route is mostly level and easy going with some walking on quiet roads and one busy road to cross.
-  Buses run to Porlock from Minehead and Lynmouth and beyond from Taunton and Barnstaple
-  Many places in Porlock and teas at Bossington in season.
-  WC At Porlock and Bossington.
-  On a lead.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

 There are car parks well sign-posted off the A39 through Porlock. Start at Sparkhayes Lane, off Porlock High Street.

**1** Walk along the lane until you see the entrance to the camp site. On the opposite side of the road is a footpath. Follow this until you reach the road at Villes Lane. Follow the road to the end of the tarmac and continue down the path following signs to **Bossington**. You come out at Bossington Lower House, originally a farm.

**2** Turn right to walk up through the village. At the green keep left, over the road bridge and continue along the road to **Lynch**. A little beyond Lynch you will find a footpath sign pointing across fields to your right.

**3** Take this path across two fields and into a small wood. The path brings you out into a third field, at the top of which a stile brings you onto the busy A39 by New Bridge. A gate on the far side of the bridge and road a gate leads you into another field. Cross this field to West Luccombe.

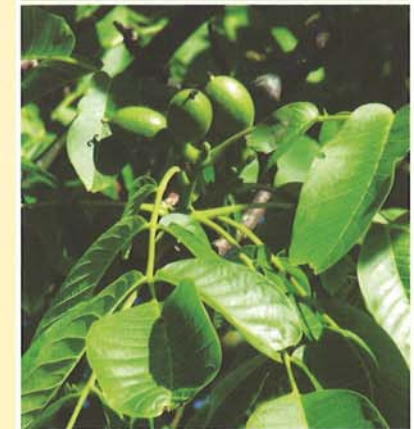
**4** Follow the road out of West Luccombe signed to the Filter Station. You can detour briefly at the turn to go ahead to the **packhorse bridge** at the entrance to Burrowhayes Farm. After a climb of about half a mile, fork right down towards **Porlock**. Continue down the road for another half mile to the road junction at Doverhay. Keep right and down the

road to return to the High Street. A left turn will take you back to the start of the walk.



Comma Butterfly

*Comma butterflies are common around Porlock, particularly in autumn, and are attracted by orchard fruit.*



Walnut Trees

*Walnut trees were reputedly planted on the Holnicote Estate to provide wood for gunstocks. England's largest walnut tree once arched over the street at Bossington.*