

East to West

**Burnham, Berrow and Brean.**

A vast 8 mile+ stretch of Sandy Beach with sand dunes one side and fabulous view of Wales the other, accessible from multiple points on the coast road. Can be busy particularly around the holiday camps in high summer, though so huge it is never crowded, but outside this period it is very peaceful. At low tide do not venture on to the mud as there is a danger of getting stuck (why on earth anyone would want to is beyond me!) and keep your eye on an incoming tide if you have parked on the beach, spring tides come right up to the dunes. A pleasant National Trust Café at the Brean Down end and many refreshment options near the holiday camps at the Berrow end SC

**Brean Down itself**, at the Eastern end is a great climb for the energetic and offers great views over Weston Super Mare (**on no account clamber down and try to walk to Weston, it looks close but the mud is deadly**). The steps are very steep and difficult to successfully Social Distance but the road (only used by service vehicles) is a much easier and safer option. SC

**Stear Marshes TAS 2PU**

Stear Marshes is the first of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's working wetlands and is a fascinating walk at any time of the year. It provides flood defence for local homes and businesses, showcases productive farmland and is home to a thriving nature reserve. The Marshes are free to visitors and there are any number of signposted, well maintained and wheelchair / pushchair friendly paths. The numerous viewpoints and hides are free for all to use. One of the most important wetland bird sanctuaries in Europe, the list of expected sightings is vast, but there are lots of signposts and information boards to help you around and identify what you are seeing. SC

**Bridgwater Bay to Minehead** Jenny McCubbin volunteer Parish Path Liaison Officer

Bridgwater Bay National Nature Reserve

There is a free car park within the village of Steart. From here there is access to both the England Coast Path and the River Parrett Trail. It is possible to do a varied circuit of about 2.5 miles. Take the path towards the sea and turn right onto a pebbled path (rather uneven, inevitably) with views across the reeds towards the vast mudflats and the sea. Go through the gate at the end of the path and cross a field to access the tower hide for fine elevated views across Bridgwater Bay and the mouth of the River Parrett. Take the gate on the right and follow a quiet and attractive track back to Steart village and the car park on your right after Dowell's Farm. JM

Stolford

There is a popular but small parking area very close to the sea wall here. Facing the sea, Hinkley Point is on your left. The footpath past it has been diverted but it is much more pleasant to turn right along the track past Catsford Common to Wall Common and back. JM

Lilstock

There is a small free privately owned car park here (vehicular access by a rather rutted track) and it is a wonderful place to walk either east towards Shurton Bar or west towards Kilve. If you go towards Kilve it is possible to do a circuit, taking advantage of the signposted permissive path which skirts the village of Kilton. Lilstock and Kilton churches are delightful to visit. JM

Kilve

*Do not get too close to the edge of the cliffs, they are very unstable. Fossil hunters find Kilve to be a very productive area, largely because of the frequent cliff collapses!*

Kilve is the classic place for a short but highly varied walk on the Somerset coastline. There is a popular car park with fees payable here. It is a short, easy walk to the beach and there is a pleasant grassed area for picnics. Head west along the cliff top and turn left to East Quantoxhead, turning left again just before the village, skirting woodland (muddy in winter) and returning to Kilve via the church. About 2.5 miles. There is a tea room and village pub. JM

### East Quantoxhead

The above walk can also be started here at the large car park near the duckpond in this pretty village. There is an honesty box for payment for parking. Follow the track beside the pond between hedgerows which descends gently towards the sea to pick up the circuit. JM

### Blue Anchor and Dunster Beaches

This is an extremely popular place to visit to get some sea air, as the access and surfaces are so good. There is free parking and a cafe nearby. Heading west the path initially runs alongside the West Somerset steam railway line, reaching Dunster beach. Continue on for Minehead. JM

<https://www.thebestofexmoor.co.uk/blog/category/things-to-do-on-exmoor/walks-and-beaches/>

### Dunster Village

There are some splendid varied walks which start at Dunster. Parking (fee payable) with toilets available in the village, or use National Trust car park (free for members). This is a 4 mile circular walk through woodland and includes some ascent and descent. <https://www.thebestofexmoor.co.uk/blog/dunster-circular-walk/>

JM