

# About this walk

Dunster originated as "Dunn's Torre", a craggy fortification overlooking the Bristol Channel which William the Conqueror gave to the powerful de Mohun family in 1086. In 1375 the feudal barony was purchased by the Luttrell family, who owned the Castle until 1976 when it was gifted to the National Trust.

The village of Dunster retains much of its old world feel and exploring its lanes reveals old cottages, mills and a dove cote. In the middle of the village the Yarn Market signifies the high importance in Somerset of the cloth trade where there were broadcloths called "Dunsters" and "Watchets".

## Photo credits

© Isobel Pring coastal and walk images

## Useful websites

[nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-sw](http://nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-sw)  
[somerset.gov.uk/england-coast-path](http://somerset.gov.uk/england-coast-path)  
[visitsomerset.co.uk](http://visitsomerset.co.uk)



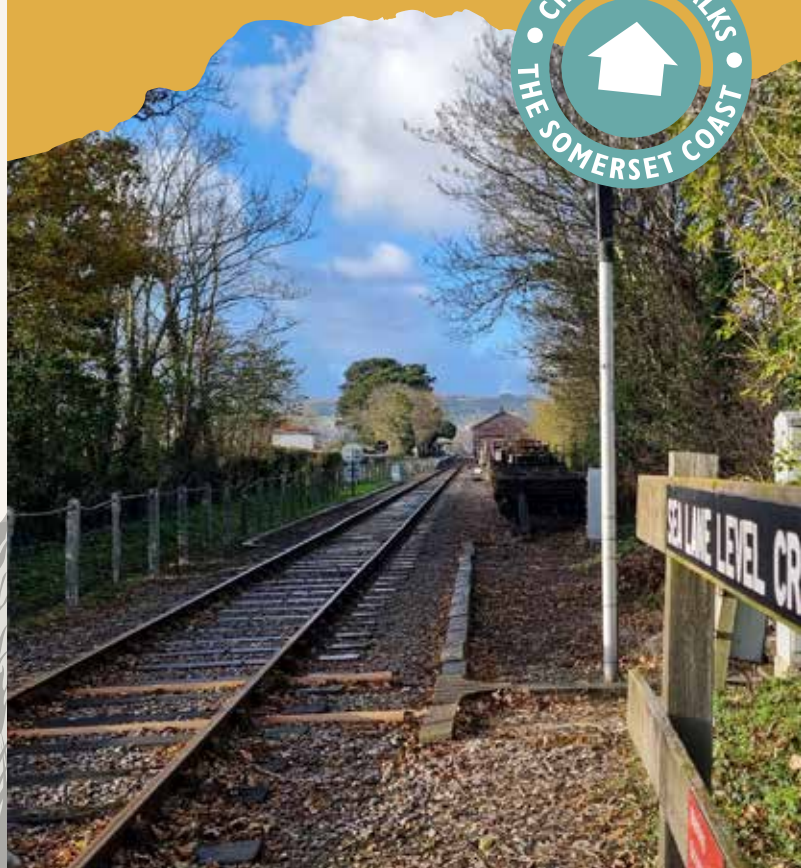
To report any problems on the footpaths during your walk visit:  
[somerset.gov.uk/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/](http://somerset.gov.uk/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/)

ENGLAND  
COAST PATH

NATIONAL TRAIL

# Dunster Circular

3.5 miles / 5.5km | 2.5 hours | Easy



## On your walk...

The England Coast Path is well waymarked and easy to follow. The acorn symbol of the National Trails is found on waymarks and fingerposts along the route.



Where your walk takes you away from the Coast Path it will be signed with the standard waymarks shown here:

Footpath Bridleway Permissive path

Stay safe and follow the Countryside Code on your walk and always follow guidance on local advisory signs. You can see the Countryside Code at [www.gov.uk/countryside-code](http://www.gov.uk/countryside-code).



Dogs are welcome on these walks but always keep your dog under close control near livestock and wildlife, especially ground nesting birds, and always clean up after your dog and dispose of dog waste in an appropriate bin.

For more information about this walk or to download a .gpx file, scan the QR code or visit [nationaltrail.co.uk/short-routes/dunster-circular](http://nationaltrail.co.uk/short-routes/dunster-circular)



All information correct at the time of publication

## WALK KEY INFORMATION & FACILITIES



**Distance:** 3.5 miles/5.5km

**Duration:** 2.5 hours

**Map:** OS Explorer OL9: Exmoor

**Grade:** Easy



### Access:

An easy walk on footpaths and farmland with some sections on country lanes, pavements and paved paths. There are gates and open gateways but no stiles.



### Getting here:

By car to Dunster Beach Car Park, Dunster, Minehead TA24 6TH.

It is also possible to join this route at the A39 main road from a number 28 bus, see [travelsomerset.co.uk](http://travelsomerset.co.uk), or at Dunster Station, see [west-somerset-railway.co.uk](http://west-somerset-railway.co.uk)



### Facilities:

There are public toilets and refreshments available on Dunster beach, and shops, cafes, pubs, toilets and the Exmoor Visitor Centre in Dunster village.



# Dunster Circular



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved (Somerset County Council) (100038382) (2022)

England Coast Path

Dunster Circular

## DIRECTIONS

From Dunster Beach walk in a westerly direction along the grass at the edge of the beach, until you reach a gap in the fence (do not take the drive leading to the chalets). Follow England Coast Path signs and waymarks keeping closer to the beach than the chalets. In summer there is a profusion of wildflowers here, most notably Evening Primrose and Biting Stonecrop.

Stay on this path for about 20 minutes until you come to another gap in the fence and a Second World War "pillbox" **1** on your right. Leave the Coast Path here and turn left, following the footpath signs for Dunster.

Continue inland on this path and over the footbridge until you come to a metal gate. Turn left onto the track and follow it until you reach a series of gates, which take you through Lower Marsh Farm **2**. Keep on the enclosed path through the farm until you reach another track passing The Old Manor **3** on your right; the estate of Dunster belonged to the de Mohun family and this manor was most likely that of one of their retained knights.

The track becomes a road here and crosses the West Somerset Railway line. Take some time to explore Dunster Station **4** on your left. Leaving the station, continue along Station Road, passing Sea Lane on your left, until it becomes Marsh Street. Stay on Marsh Street and bear left at Dunster Court passing the old Police Station **5** and following signs for the underpass leading to Dunster.

Go through the underpass **6** and follow signs to Dunster, heading up Dunster Steep until you reach Exmoor National Park Visitor Centre **7** on your left.

Dunster is one of the most romantic villages in Somerset, dominated by its Medieval Castle that was converted in the 19th century to a luxury mansion for the Luttrell family. The town keeps its old world feel and behind many of the seemingly 18th and 19th century facades lie cruck built medieval houses. Take some time to explore the village and visit the castle if you wish. The magnificent Luttrell Arms Hotel just around the corner dates from the 16th century and once had its own brew house and oyster vats.

To return to the beach go back down Dunster Steep passing the car park on your right until you get to the junction with the A39. Cross the road with care at the crossing and follow signs for the underpass **6** going under the A39.

Leaving the underpass bear right into Riverside Gardens and follow signs for the Riverside Jubilee Walk **8** to Dunster Station and the beach).

Stay on the Riverside Jubilee Walk and after crossing the footbridge, turn left and follow the path to the gate which leads onto Sea Lane. Turn right and pass Haven Close on your right crossing the West Somerset Railway line and continuing until you reach the beach car park.