

About this walk

This easy walk has historical interest as well as some wonderful views across to Dunkery Beacon on Exmoor and the Welsh coast. The walk includes areas of Medieval forest dating back to King Alfred in 873 AD, as well as the remains of an attempt to extract oil in Somerset!

On the headland you pass the Royal Navy Quadrant Range Hut, which was used during air gunnery practice by fixed wing aircraft until 1995, when it was redesignated as a helicopter gunnery range. It remains in occasional use today and is attached to RNAS Yeovilton.

Photo credits

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Useful websites

nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-sw
somerset.gov.uk/england-coast-path
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/

Kilton Circular

3.4 miles / 5.5km | 2 hours | Easy

ENGLAND
COAST PATH

NATIONAL TRAIL



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.



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/kilton-circular



All information correct at the time of publication

WALK KEY INFORMATION & FACILITIES



Distance: 3.4 miles/5.5km

Duration: 2 hours

Map: OS Explorer 140: Quantock Hills & Bridgwater

Grade: Easy



Access:

An easy walk, mostly on coastal farmland but with some sections on hard paths and country lanes. There are gates and open gateways but no stiles.



Getting here:

By car to Kilve Beach, Bridgwater TA5 1EG. Kilve is a pay and display car park - you can pay by cash, phone or using the RingGo app. If you are using cash, note that there is only one machine close to the entrance.



Facilities:

There are public toilets by the car park (over the bridge to the left of the information signs) and a Tea Room, pub and shop in Kilve village.

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DIRECTIONS

From the car park at Kilve walk towards the Oil Retort **1**. This brick building is Grade II listed and all that remains of Somerset's oil boom. Built in 1924 to extract shale oil, it never went into production as the project failed to raise sufficient financial backing. Take the path to the right following the England Coast Path signs and pass the remains of one of Somerset's many disused lime kilns in the trees ahead of you.

Follow the path around to the right and bear left across the picnic area to the coast. Turn right and continue on the cliff top Coast Path, remembering to keep well away from the cliff edge. The path joins with a farm track and the edges of this host a mass of wildflowers in summer including Bird's-foot Trefoil, Knapweed, Common Milkwort, Bull Thistle, Yellow-wort, Agrimony, Lady's Bedstraw and Burdock. Keep an eye out for orchids too from late spring.

Stay on this track until you reach the Royal Navy Range Quadrant Hut **2**, then turn right in front of the hedge and follow the permissive path along the field edge. On a clear day you can see Dunkery Beacon to your right, the highest point in Somerset, and the Brecon Beacons across the Severn estuary in Wales. Follow this permissive path, waymarked with green and white discs, keeping the hedge on your left, until you reach Deerleap **3** - a ditch and bank which marks the edge of the Medieval Park.

This Medieval Estate was left to Edward the Elder by his father, King Alfred, in his will of 873 X 888. But by 1086 the estate had passed to William de Mohun and was then purchased by the Luttrell Estate, which took over in 1404.

At the gateway in the hedge turn left and continue with the hedge on your left through two fields until you reach the northeast corner of Kilton Park Woods **4** which date back to 1279. Follow the path with the woods on your left then, at the western edge of the woods, continue straight ahead but with the hedge now on your right.

A short distance from the woods, go through the gap in the hedge and continue with the hedge on your left. Keep on the path until you reach the junction with the public footpath. Go straight ahead through the gate and follow the track to the road. Turn right and follow the road until you reach the junction with Sea Lane.

The walk route turns right here, but if you wish to visit Kilve village it is to your left. Turning right you pass St Mary's Church **5**, parts of which date back to the 13th Century, and then the remains of Kilve Chantry **6** where monks once prayed for their founder, Simon de Furneaux of Kilve Manor, and later smugglers stored contraband brandy which led to its destruction by fire in 1848.

Continue past the Tea Rooms to return to the car park.