

# About this walk

This walk explores parts of the old Acland-Hood Estate, now known as the Fairfield Estate. The walk takes in the beautiful, abandoned churches of St Andrew's in Lilstock and St Nicholas Wayfarer's in Kilton before heading into the open coastal farmland of the estate.

On reaching the coast it explores the ruins of what was once a thriving port established by the Acland family in the first half of the nineteenth century. Dating as far back as 1589, its heyday was in the mid-19th Century when it was busy with goods for the estate and welcoming pleasure steamers travelling between Lilstock, Ilfracombe, Cardiff and Burnham-on-Sea.

## 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)  
[someset.gov.uk/england-coast-path](http://someset.gov.uk/england-coast-path)  
[visitsomerset.co.uk](http://visitsomerset.co.uk)



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

# Lilstock Circular

3.7 miles / 6km | 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](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/lilstock-circular](http://nationaltrail.co.uk/short-routes/lilstock-circular)



All information correct at the time of publication

## WALK KEY INFORMATION & FACILITIES



**Distance:** 3.7 miles/6km

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Map:** OS Explorer 140: Quantock Hills & Bridgwater

**Grade:** Easy



### Access:

This is an easy walk, with one or two shorter, steeper climbs in places. It includes a mix of surfaced roads, rougher tracks and farmland with two-in-one gates.



### Getting here:

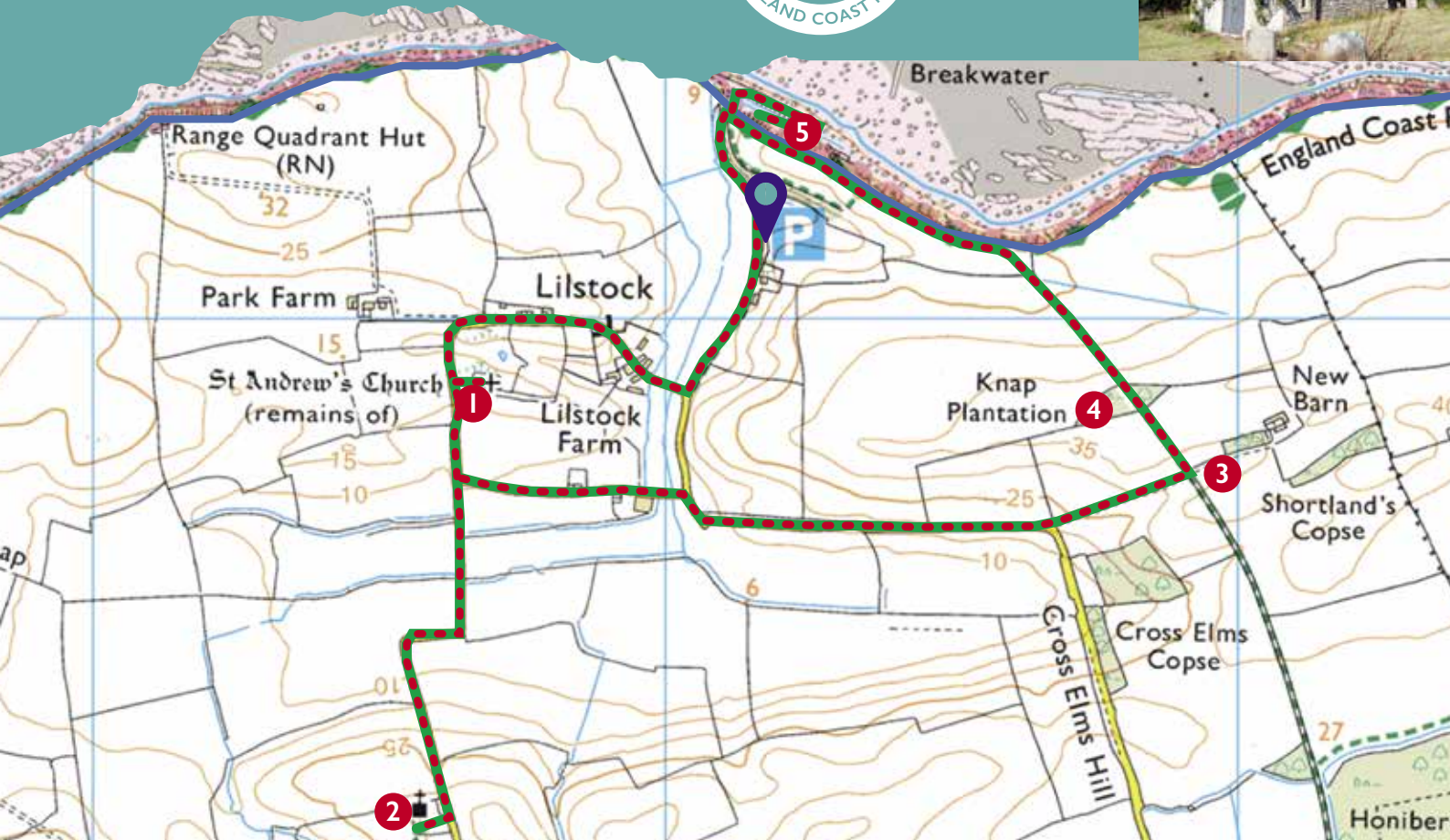
By car to Lilstock Beach, Bridgwater TA5 1SU. There is a small private car park here that the public may use with permission, but please be considerate of residents and other users; currently use of the car park is free.



### Facilities:

There are shops, pubs and cafés at Kilve, Shurton, Stogursey and Nether Stowey and the nearest public toilets are at the car parks in Kilve or Nether Stowey.

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England Coast Path

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## DIRECTIONS

From Lilstock Car Park walk back along the access track until you reach the road. Turn right and walk along the road past Lilstock Farm on your left. Continue up the hill and follow the road round to the left. A short distance on is the entrance to St Andrew's Church **1**. Turn left into the churchyard and take some time to appreciate this ancient and peaceful place. The church is open, and the graveyard contains a beautiful array of wild and cultivated flowers.

Return to the lane and continue along the road ignoring side turnings. As you ascend the hill gaps in the hedge on your right afford wonderful views of the Quantocks and Exmoor. At the top of the hill the St Nicholas Wayfarer's Church of Kilton is on your right **2**. This church is also redundant. It is now privately owned and run as a drop-in prayer centre and day-time retreat.

From the church retrace your steps along the lane until you come to a lane on the right. Turn right and follow the road to a T-junction. Turn right again, then bear left and continue along the road until it bends to the right. Leave the road here and continue straight ahead on the permissive footpath until you come to a crossroads of tracks. Look back here for stunning views over local farmland to the Quantocks.

Turn left at the crossroads; this track is known as The Old

Coach Road **3** and it once linked the small port at Lilstock to Fairfield House and its vast estate in Stogursey. Continue along the track through Knap Plantation **4** taking in the coastal views until you come to a 2-in-1 gate. Go through the gate and veer left to join the England Coast Path. Along this stretch of coast there is an abundance of Pyramid Orchids and occasionally, the rarer, Bee Orchid.

Continue west until the path heads downhill to another gate. Go through the gate and turn right towards the coast. At the beach, turn right again and follow the path along the top of the shore. On your right is the site of what was once Lilstock Harbour **5**, and on your left you can see the remnants of the slipway and the old dry dock running through the pebble beach. Follow the path as it turns right and back into the old harbour area. In the woods at the foot of the cliffs are the remains of old houses and lime-kilns and heading east towards Hinkley Point are the remains of quayside warehouses and stores.

Lilstock beach is also the start of a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that runs twelve miles along the coast to Blue Anchor and the area is known for its blue lias pavements dating from the Jurassic period - an historic source of paving slabs - and its fossil rich rocks. Retrace your steps to the track and keep right to return to the Car Park.