

# About this walk

St Audries Bay is a popular beach for families, with great amenities and wonderful wildlife and geology. The beach has something for everyone from fossils dating back millions of years to rockpools full of seashore life. It is also home to the spectacular St Audries Bay Waterfall surrounded by limestone pavements and multi-coloured rock formations.

This walk is tidal - please check tide times at **tidetimes.org.uk** before setting off to ensure you can complete the walk safely - Watchet is the closest recording station.

## Photo credits

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## 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/)

# 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/st-audries-bay](http://nationaltrail.co.uk/short-routes/st-audries-bay)



All information correct at the time of publication

# St Audries Bay Circular

ENGLAND  
COAST PATH  
NATIONAL TRAIL

1.5 miles / 2.4km | 1.5 hours | Easy



## WALK KEY INFORMATION & FACILITIES



**Distance:** 1.5 miles/2.4km  
**Duration:** 1.5 hours  
**Map:** OS Explorer 140: Quantock Hills & Bridgwater  
**Grade:** Easy



**Access:** While the walk itself is easy, the beach is accessed via a steep path and a series of steps, making it unsuitable for wheels. Please check tide times at **tidetimes.org.uk** before setting off to ensure you can complete the walk safely.

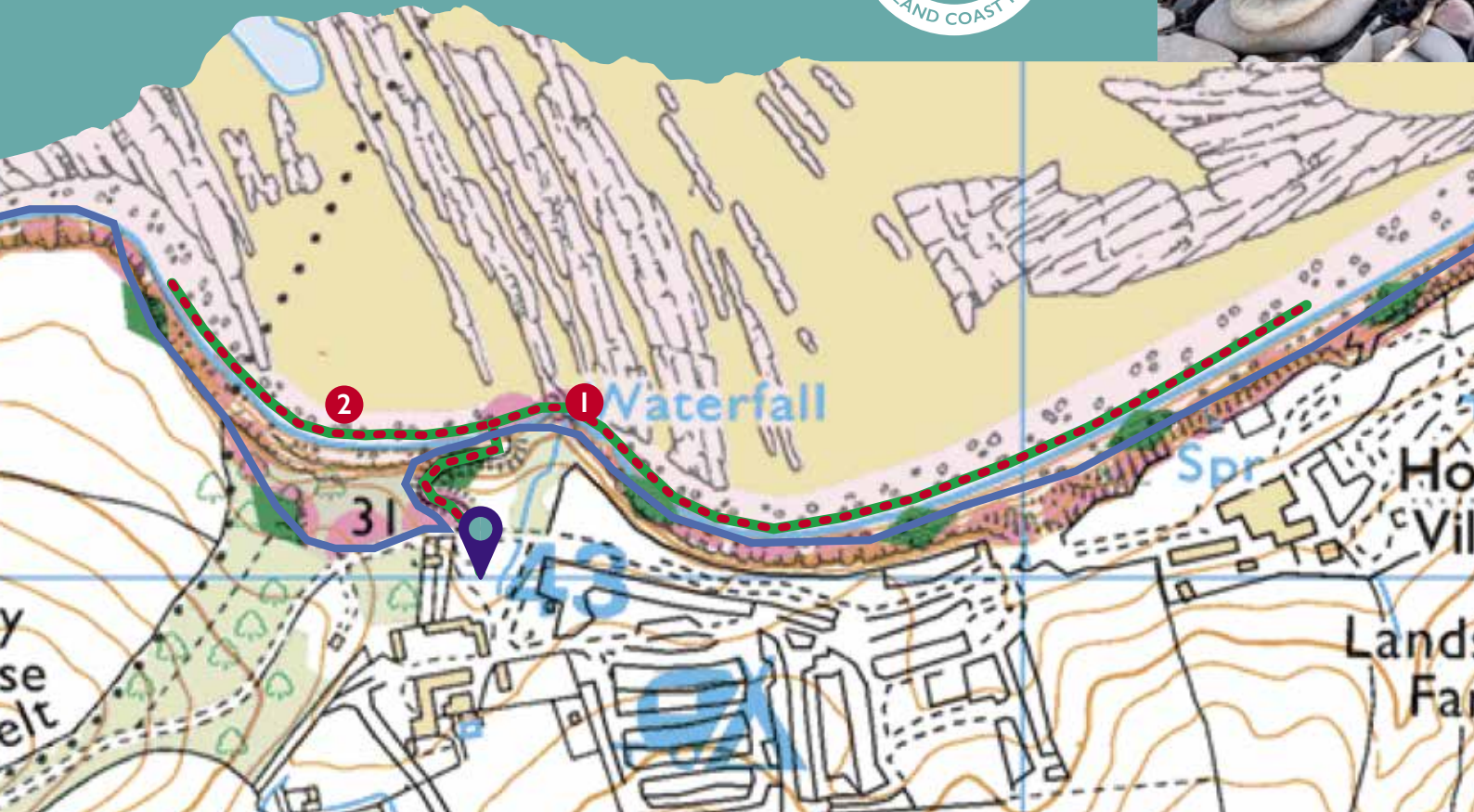


**Getting here:** By car to Home Farm Holiday Centre, St Audries Bay, Williton, Taunton TA4 4DP. There is a pay and display car park here available for use by the public. Payment is by cash at the machine in the car park or by card at the site reception office.



**Facilities:** There are public toilets by the car park and a small shop in the main Holiday Centre.

# St Audries Bay Circular



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England Coast Path  St Audries Bay Circular 

## DIRECTIONS

The walk starts in the car park at Home Farm Holiday Centre just off the road to Doniford. Turn off the road at the mock Tudor lodge-house and drive down the hill through a wood known as The Belt, enjoying the primroses, rhododendrons and wild garlic. Keep straight on to the end of the road where you reach the car park.

From the car-park follow the England Coast Path signs to the beach down a cobbled path which leads to a wooden gate, after which there is a flight of steps down to the bay. There are warning signs about the crumbling cliffs and guidance on the variable tides. DO NOT pass the headlands at either end of the bay without knowing the tide times and movements as the headlands - and therefore your return route - are not accessible at high tides.

Historically, St Audries was part of the West Quantoxhead Estate, which was gifted to William de Mohun in 1086 along with Dunster. It later passed to the Malet family in the late 14th Century and was bought by Sir Peregrine Fuller-Palmer-Acland, for his daughter Isabel in the 19th Century when the main house was extensively re-modelled.

The beach and farm were separated from the rest of the estate in the early 20th Century and what would have once been a private sandy beach for local aristocrats and landowners is now a popular family holiday destination.

This walk takes you from end to end of this contained sandy bay. Turning right at the bottom of the steps head round the rocky outcrop to see the waterfall ①, actually

two waterfalls that exit the rocks around the base of a gnarled tree that perches on the edge of the cliff top. This area is surrounded Devonian red sandstone that breaks through the stratified Jurassic limestone and blue lias pavements. The rock strata that you see here are the same as those seen on the Jurassic coast in Dorset, 45 miles to the south.

There are some metal steps here to facilitate access over parts of the rocky outcrops and to aid exploration of the beach where fossils, particularly ammonites, hide in the rocks and where once the remains of a woolly mammoth were uncovered.

Above the sand the upper beach is littered with pebbles of every colour with sparkling quartz in between. While further down the beach, rockpools are teeming with local marine life.

Returning to the western end of the bay large triangular stone fish traps ② are revealed at low tide. These were used to catch fish as the tide receded.

### NOTE

St Audries Bay is at the centre of the Lilstock to Blue Anchor geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). As such there are rules and guidelines about fossil collecting. So while it is permissible to collect loose fossils, hammering the bedrock or cliff face is not permitted and is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.