



Walk 90. Kilve to Watchet.

- 6.5 miles, ascents of 185 metres and descents of 210 metres. 2 hours and 40 minutes constant walking, allow 3½ hours.

! **Two tidal sections** along the beach where the sea comes up to the cliffs. Check the tide times before setting out and start the beach sections between four hours before and two hours after low water (closer to low water if a strong wind is blowing in from the sea).

Terrain: Mainly on paths and tracks, mostly good; the beaches can be muddy and slippery.

Access: Start in Kilve. There is a small car park in the village centre (ST 148 429, near TA5 1EA, or a larger one between the tea garden and the beach (ST 145 442, TA5 1EG, £; head towards the coast and pick up the walk at the oil retort). Bus 15 from Minehead and Watchet (and by request 23B from Watchet) stops at Kilve early mornings on college days and returns late afternoon: if you are using the bus, park in Watchet.

Map: Croydecycle 55 Watchet and Quantock North.

Refreshments: Inn in Kilve; seasonal tea garden between Kilve village and beach, choice in Watchet.

THIS WALK USES A RECENTLY-OPENED STRETCH OF COAST PATH between Watchet and Kilve, including two tidal stretches. The cliffs along this stretch are quite low so it is generally easy walking, and though you will have to negotiate two holiday parks the route has plenty of interest. The lane to Kilve beach has a fourteenth-century church, the remains of a chantry chapel, and an oil retort, the last remnants of a failed attempt in the 1920s to extract oil from the local shale beds. The foreshore, explored at two points on the walk, is Jurassic blue lias and a good hunting-ground for fossils.

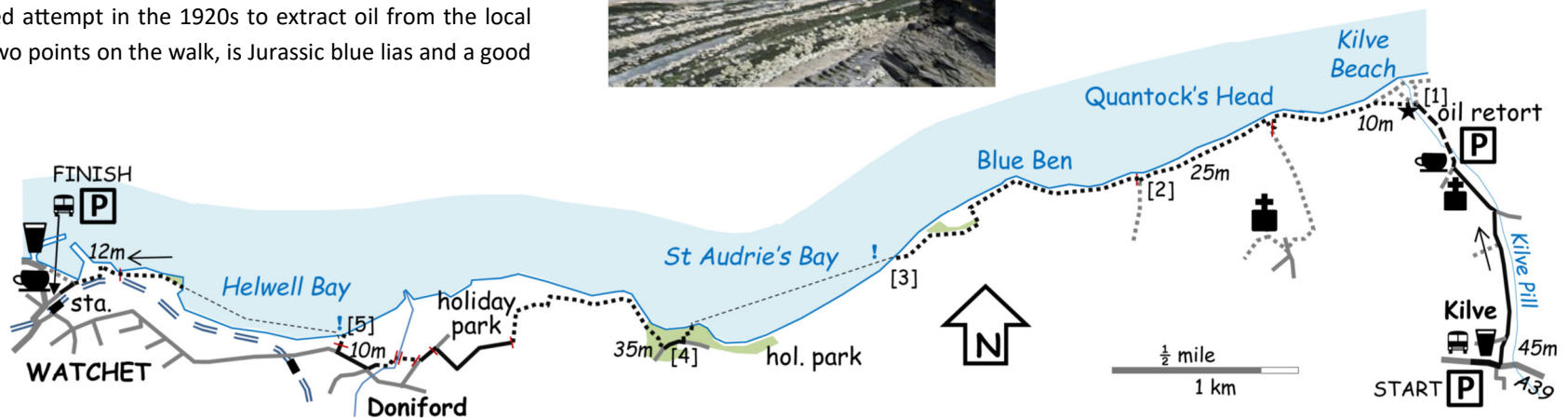
Starting from the village centre car park in Kilve, turn right on the A39, pass the pub, then cross over and turn left next to the post office. Follow Sea Lane past the tea garden to the oil retort (25mins, [1]). Bear left here to join the coast path. Turn briefly left at a small gully, then right and through a gate to continue on the coast path and ascend Quantock's Head. Continue ahead at the next gate (50mins, [2]). The path now takes you past Blue Ben, a lower headland. At the opening into the next field follow the sign left to divert

around a deep wooded gully. Soon after returning to the path, descend to the beach (1hr10mins, [3]). Make for a waterfall at a small headland, to the right of a clifftop chalet park. As you approach the waterfall cross lines of rock and ascend two sets of metal steps. Just around the headland take some steps on the left. A short steep climb brings you to the entrance to the chalet park, in front of a large red brick house (1hr40mins, [4]).

Turn right on the road, then at a speed bump turn right on a footpath into a small wood. Fork right at the post, then enter a field. In five minutes or a little over the path turns inland to skirt around another holiday park. When you come to two gates, turn right as signposted on to a service road. Follow it around to the right, cross another road, then turn left out of the gate. In little more than a minute turn right on a footpath. Cross the stream then turn left on a service road and right on the main road. You can follow this into Watchet (take care as it is busy and lacks a pavement or verge), but if you have time before the tide turns, before the road bends at a bridge turn right into a closed-off parking area where there is a large lime kiln (2hr10mins, [5]). Descend to the beach and turn left to walk towards a low headland. Just as you reach it head upwards on steps: there are over 70. Keep to the clifftop, then go through a gate and continue towards the signalling house (with prominent flagpole). This is Splash Point, a former Victorian pleasure ground with views over the harbour. The path to the left takes you alongside the railway to arrive back at the car park, bus stop and station.



East from Kilve beach



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