



## Charmouth and The Jurassic Coast

**A bracing cliff-top walk with superb views, followed by an easy section along the River Char**

### Essential Facts

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Route distance:         | 13.0 km (8.2 miles) |
| ▪ Approximate time:       | 4 hours             |
| ▪ Optional shorter route: | 10.0 km (6.3 miles) |
| ▪ Approx. total ascent:   | 300 metres          |
| ▪ Start point Grid Ref:   | SY 365 932          |
| ▪ GPS Ref:                | SY 36520 93205      |
| ▪ Recommended O.S. Map:   | Explorer 116        |
| ▪ Toughness Rating        | Dorset 3            |

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

**Up For A  
CHALLENGE ?**

**Take a Great Walk and HELP  
your favourite charity with**

**A Donation**

**An Individual Walk  
A Team Effort**

**Full Info from the Great Walks web site**

## THE ROUTE

From the Beach Car Park, **S**, in Charmouth walk over a prominent footbridge and continue straight ahead along the Coast Path. Ascend steadily for about 1.25 km; this section has been heavily eroded and reopened in 2006 after five years of restoration work. When you reach a kissing gate turn left signed Stonebarrow. At the next gate **A** turn right.

The shorter route goes straight on through the gate and follows a track across the top of Stonebarrow Hill. At the end of the track go through the right hand of two gates and continue along the top of Chardown Hill. Go through a way-marked gate on the left signed to Morcombelake. Turn right to follow a sunken track, climb a stile on the right and go steeply downhill to another stile. Turn left to rejoin the main route at **C**

The main walk goes downhill to a crossing track. Turn left and immediately right to continue downhill. At a junction turn right along a concrete track which leads to a field. At a signpost turn left to follow the Coast Path to Golden Cap. You can see Golden Cap in the distance and the path clear. On the summit of Golden Cap pass the Antrim Memorial and continue to the triangulation pillar, **B**

Go down steps to a kissing gate and cross a field to a stile. Turn left to follow a hedge on your left. Go through a gate and continue to follow the hedge. At a track turn left to St Gabriel's. Pass the ruined chapel and the house. Just after reaching a concrete track turn right. When you reach a stream turn left over a footbridge and right to pass a pond. Cross a stile and footbridge and continue straight ahead towards a house. Cross a lane and walk up the edge of a field, cross a stile and head for the top left hand corner of the next field. Turn right onto a track to reach a gate at **C**

Continue past St Wites Well; turn right at a T-junction and fork left to reach the A35 in Morcombelake. Cross and follow the lane opposite. Turn left, signed Charmouth just before a house called Little Manscombe. Go through a gate on the right and follow the hedge to a stile. Now keep the hedge on your left, at the end of the field turn right and look for a gap in the hedge which leads to a stile. Cross to a gate and in the next field veer slightly right to reach another gate. Follow the hedge to a stile and continue in a final field to a road. Cross to a stile and turn right to walk the length of the field to the River Char, **D**

Turn right to follow the river, at the end of a long field cross a footbridge, turn right and after a few paces turn right again to rejoin the river. Keep the river on your right to a track. Turn right, cross a bridge and turn left. Now keep the river on your left. Cross a ladder stile, veer right away from the river to a stile and cross a field to a gap. Cross a stile to a fenced path. When you reach a road turn left, **E**

Turn right at a T-junction and then left into Bridge Road. At the end of the road follow a footpath on the right of Seadown Park, back to the Car Park, **S**



Lyme bay From Golden Gap



St Bagriel's Chapel

## Refreshment

<p>The George Public House The Street Charmouth Tel: 01297 560280 Meals and bar snacks available</p> <p>Royal Oak Inn Public House The Street, Charmouth Tel: 01297 560277 Real Ales, Meals and bar snacks</p>	<p>The Garden Room at Kingfishers Tea Rooms Stonebarrow Lane, Charmouth Tel: 01297 560232 Snacks, lunches, afternoon teas Indoor and outdoor seating</p>
--	--

## LOCAL INFO

**The Jurassic Coast** is a name well applied to this area rich in fossils which are to be found on the beaches and cliffs. The Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre was set up in 1985 as an information and education centre.

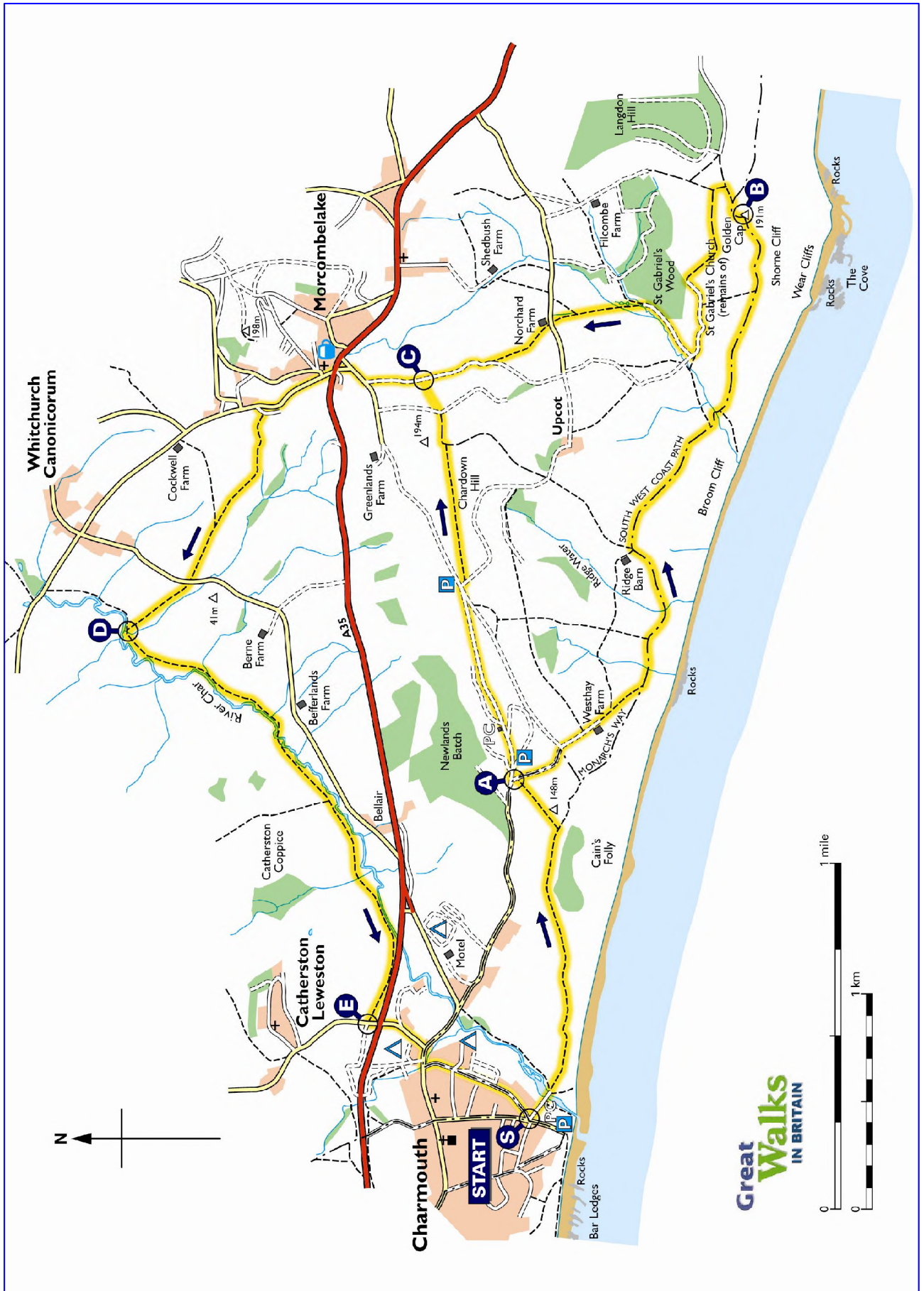
**Golden Cap** at 191 metres is the highest point on the South Coast. It gets its name from the distinctive sandstone summit. From the trig point the views are exceptional. Much of the land around Golden Cap is owned by the National Trust and there is a memorial stone on the summit to the Earl of Antrim who was chairman of the Trust from 1966 – 1977.







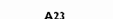





















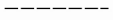
The hamlet of **St Gabriel's** was first recorded in 1086. In mediaeval times it was a thriving fishing community. From the 1500s there are many references to the cost of repairing weather damage to the church which was left in a derelict condition by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the population had dwindled. The house is a mainly 18<sup>th</sup> century building and has been converted to National Trust holiday cottages.

**St Wites Well** has been known as a Holy Well since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it is said to have curative properties for eye diseases. St Wite was killed by the Danes and is buried in Whitchurch Canonicorum church.

## CHARMOUTH AND THE JURASSIC COAST G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
CAP S	S	SY 36520 93205	11
CAP A	A	SY 38079 93244	127
CAP B	B	SY 40727 92204	191
CAP C	C	SY 39973 93709	96
CAP D	D	SY 38843 95077	30
CAP E	E	SY 36994 93961	18



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower	 248m	Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

## Safety First

**Safety should always** be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

**Lead a group** of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

**Weigh up the capabilities** of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

**Ensure** all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

**Emergencies** are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

**Refreshment**, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

**On tougher walks** it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

**All our walks use legitimate routes:** Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

**Road** walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

**Occasionally** you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

**It is courteous** to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

**Mutual respect** for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

**Dogs** should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

## Walking Our Routes

**Our walks** are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

**On mountain, moorland and open heathland** walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

**Take care** to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

**Consider conditions before setting off.** Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

**When navigating the route** look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

**All our routes are carefully checked** before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

**The approximate time** given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

**Total ascent** is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

**GPS users** can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

**Remember that GPS** is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

### TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Dorset** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Dorset may be equivalent to a moderate route in Devon & Dartmoor..