



Selworthy Beacon and National Trust Village

A short and invigorating walk from the lovely National Trust village of Selworthy, up to the Beacon, with great views over the Bristol Channel

Essential Facts

- Route distance: 8.2 km (5.1 miles)
- Approximate time: 2 hours 30 mins
- Approx. total ascent: 230 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: SS 919 467
- GPS Ref: SS 91993 46783
- Recommended O.S. Map: Explorer OL 9
- Toughness Rating: Somerset 2

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

This walk starts from the National Trust village of Selworthy, near Minehead.

From the car park in front of the distinctive white Selworthy church, **S**, turn briefly left and then towards the war memorial. With the church now on your immediate right, take the bridleway signed 'Selworthy Beacon 1', going up hill. Go through the gate and continue steadily upwards through the wood.

After about 350 metres the path divides, so take the left-hand option, initially continuing almost straight ahead. Soon the well defined path veers sharply left, continuing up through woodland. You now follow this path for around 700 metres as it gradually turns northwards, then briefly to the left. At **A** you reach a track, where you turn sharp right.

Carry on straight ahead on the track, as it first crosses a lane then steadily ascends right up to Selworthy Beacon itself. From the summit you'll be able to see far out into the Bristol Channel, well into Wales on a clear day. Over to the right is the resort of Minehead, and Hurlestone Point is away to your left.

From the Beacon there are a number of paths and tracks. Take the footpath leading eastward, with the coast away to your left. Keep to the footpath as it descends, though the track which runs almost parallel would bring you close to the same point on the byway which you reach in a short while. At the byway take the left-hand option, which in fact is virtually straight ahead from the footpath.

Take the byway for about 200 metres until you reach a track off to the left at **B**. Taking this track straight ahead you pass a cairn and tumuli on either side. Again, you'll get superb views of the Bristol Channel, now in front of you.

In about 0.5 km the track reaches a T-junction with the South West Coast Path. A left turn would take you to Hurlestone Point, which you could visit on our walk from Porlock. But today you turn right, towards Minehead, with the sea over on your left. Follow the well defined Coast Path for 2 km to **C**, where you take a path which branches off to your right. Soon you meet a track, onto which you turn sharp right.

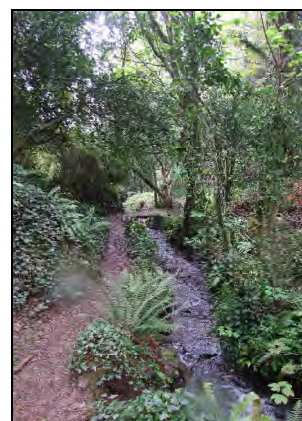
You soon ascend to a car park and viewpoint next to the Minehead byway. Feel free to stop, catch your breath and take in the view! Then continue ahead, westward, on the track which runs alongside the byway. Walk a route close to the byway for nearly 2 km, crossing it at one stage and then reaching a small car park on the right. Beyond the car park, at **D**, pick up a footpath, initially a track, on your left leading down hill to the woods above Selworthy. Take care to follow the path leading to the woods, not the first left which leads out of the N.T. property.

The path enters the woods, continues ahead for some 150 metres, then turns left. Here you'll come to the path on which you set off, so follow it down through the wooded combe, back to Selworthy village.

Take time to wander around the picturesque village, and maybe take refreshment at the tea gardens which are open on a seasonal basis. Return to the start point by the church, **S**.



Looking Over Porlock



Streamside Path
Selworthy



Selworthy Church

Refreshment

The Cottage Tea Garden Tea Garden Selworthy village Teas and snacks. Opening on a seasonal basis	The Castle Hotel Hotel High Street, Porlock Tel: 01643 862504 Bar and restaurant. Real ales
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The Ship Inn
 Public House
 High Street, Porlock
 Tel: 01643 862507
 Home-made food and real ales

LOCAL INFO

Selworthy National Trust Village is a finely restored example of estate workers' homes. As part of the Holnicote Estate the property was bequeathed to the National Trust during the Second World War. These cottages would grace the front of any chocolate box. Whatever your view of the pristine prettiness of the village, there is no disputing the lovely setting. From the start point car park near the church you get a great view over the inland valley away to your south, with Horner Woods beyond.

From Selworthy Beacon, on a clear day, you can see into Wales as far as the Brecon Beacons.

The resort of Minehead is not far away to the east. In fact this walk crosses the byway which winds up from the resort town, nearly to the beacon. An ancient coast route, this tiny road is not really a match for modern traffic, though in summer it carries many cars whose occupants seek an easy ascent to the viewpoints high above the Bristol Channel.

SELWORTHY BEACON AND NATIONAL TRUST VILLAGE G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

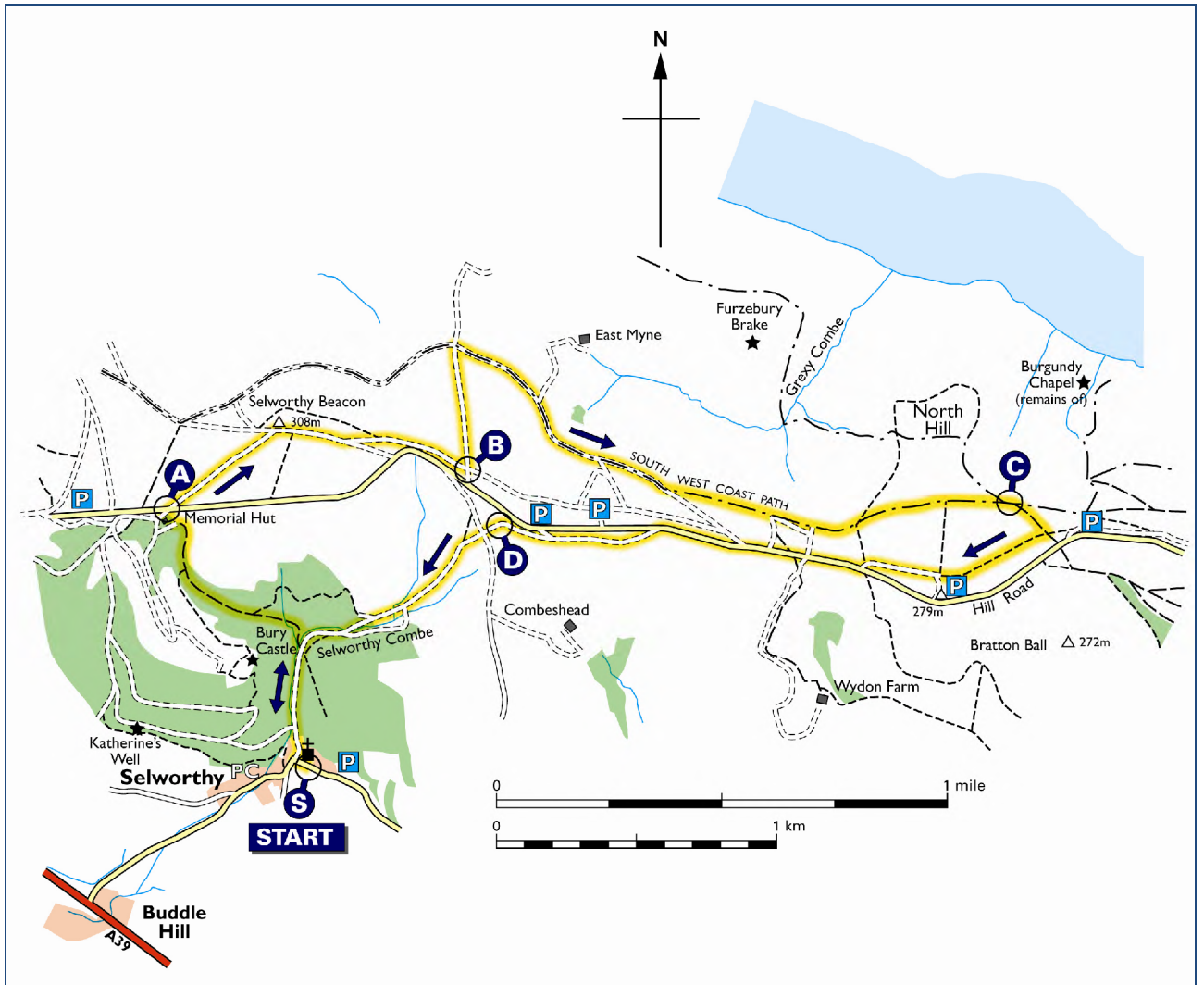
WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
SEL S	S	SS 91993 46783	130
SEL A	A	SS 91471 47685	265
SEL B	B	SS 92592 47835	280
SEL C	C	SS 94651 47749	255
SEL D	D	SS 92698 47642	270


























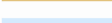




The Ship Inn



A National Trust Cottage



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

Most of our **Somerset & North Devon** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise the map segments and our recommended Ordnance Survey maps, together with the route guidance notes.

The toughest walks should be undertaken or led only by experienced mountain walkers with navigational expertise. 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. There may be prolonged steep ascents, and perhaps several ascents over the whole walk. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.
4. The toughest walks, requiring considerable fitness and navigational experience. There may be prolonged steep ascents. The ability to navigate by compass may be essential.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in the Brecon Beacons.