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Foreland Point, Lynmouth and Watersmeet Circular Walk

2 short circular walks 1) East along the South West Coast Path past Foreland Point 2) Along the narrow, steep sided River Lyn gorge to picturesque Watersmeet (NT)

Length	15.5km / 9.6 miles (Foreland Point Loop : 7.8km/4.8miles, Watersmeet/Lynmouth Loop : 7.7km/4.8miles)
OS Maps	Explorer: 9 (Exmoor)
Toughness	5/10 (Foreland Point Loop : 6/10 - up and down cliff path, level back; Watersmeet/Lymnouth loop: 4/10 - 1 steep climb at the end)
Walk Notes	This walk consists of 2 short walks from Countisbury (nice pub, car park) on the main Exmoor coast road, with a regular summer bus service from Minehead and Lymington. The walks can be done together as a figure of 8, but they both are exellent walks in their own right. The Foreland Point loop heads to the coast via Butter Hill to reach the point, then follows the South West Coast Path east along the side of a partly forested hill sloping own to the see. It returns over the top of the hill The Lymington/Watersmeet Loop is something quite different. It follows the SWCP west along the coast, gently descending to Lynmouth. It then follows the River Lyn through a very narrow steep sided, forested gorge. The gorge is 200m/600 feet deep in places. After 2 miles, at Watersmeet, which has a popular NT cafe, the gorge splits in 2 to form the East and West Lyn rivers - both in narrow, steep sided gorges. A little further, there is a steep climb out of the gorge to return to the pub at Countisbury.
Walk Options	The is can be done as 2 short walks, or 1 longer walk.
Travel	The 300 bus (Lymnington - Lynmouth - Countisbury .... Minehead, April-October only) stops outside the pub at Countisbury. If you starts from Lynmouth, there are more year round choice from the West or South. Countisbury, EX35 6NE, on the A39, with a National Park car-park nearby, is the best place to park. Lynmouth or Watersmeet (steep climb up to car park) would also be possible.

Lunch and Tea

- The Blue Ball Inn - Countisbury, on the A39, national park car park nearby, nice view from the terrace
- Watersmeet NT Cafe - set in a deep river gorage where 2 rivers meet - a magical place - but (as of April 2012) *"over-priced with very poor food"*
- Many places in Lynmouth. For picnics, the churchyard in Lynton has picnic tables and nice views.

Exmoor

Exmoor is a small National Park (NP) on the north coast of Somerset and Devon. It has a dramtic rocky coastline with the highest sea cliffs and largest coastal forest in England. Inland are steep sides valleys which lead up to bleak moorland plateau ("The Chains") and the NP's highest point - Dunkery Beacon at 519m / 1703 feet. The southern side of the plateau, bisected by steep valleys slopes much more gently, as is used for sheep farming. Formerley a royal forest, the NP has few towns, but 2 large seaside resorts outside it - Minehead and Barnstable. See Exmoor's wiki page

Travel

There are no train stations nearby. To get here, take 1) a National Express Coach to Minehead or 2) a train to Taunton, and then a bus to Minehead.

Regular buses run along the coast on the SWCP day 1 route to Porlock, then a summer only services along the SWCP day 2 route to Lynton. The coastal road heads inland, and doesn't rejoin the coast until the end of SWCP day 3 route - a summer weekend only bus service. NB the #300 bus along the coast runs in 2 sections: i) Minehead to Lynmouth, and ii) Lynmouth to Illfracombe

Bus Routes

- National Express : London to Minehead
- #28 Taunton (train station) to Minehead : year round
- #39 Minehead (day 1 start) to Porlock and Porlock Weir (day 1 end / day 2 start) : year round
- #300 Minehead (day 1 start) to Porlock (near day 1 end / day 2 start), County Gate (day 2), Lynmouth and Lynton (day 2 end) : April to October, reduced service on Sunday
- #300 Lynmouth (day 2 end / day 3 start) to Combe Martin (day 3 end / day 4 start) and Illfracombe (day 4) : April, October: weekends; May-September: daily

Help Us!

After the walk, please leave a comment, it really helps. Thanks!

You can also upload photos to the SWC Group on Flickr (upload your photos) and videos to Youtube. This walk's tags are:

By Car

Start

Map Walk	This walk **requires** an OS map and a compass or GPS for navigation. You can print out OS maps using the link above.
Help	National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Traveline (bus times): 0871 200 22 33 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234
Version	Oct-26 **Andrew**
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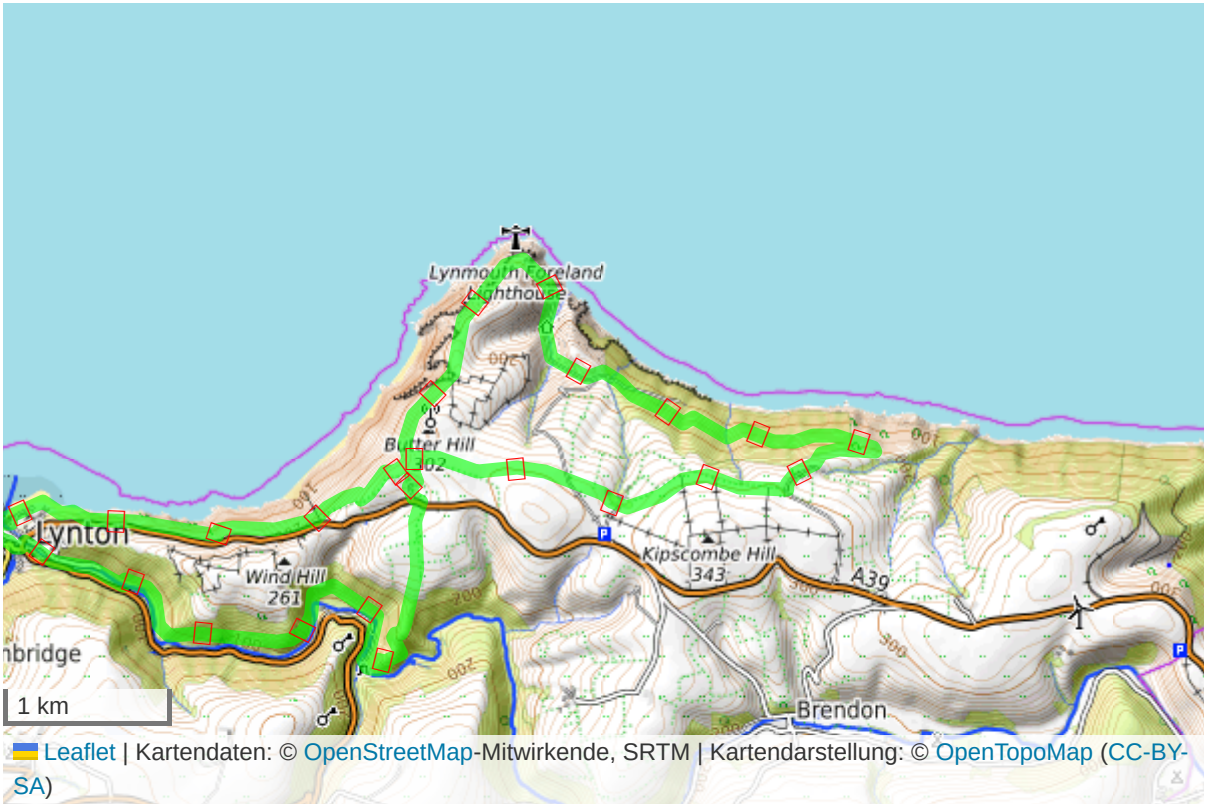
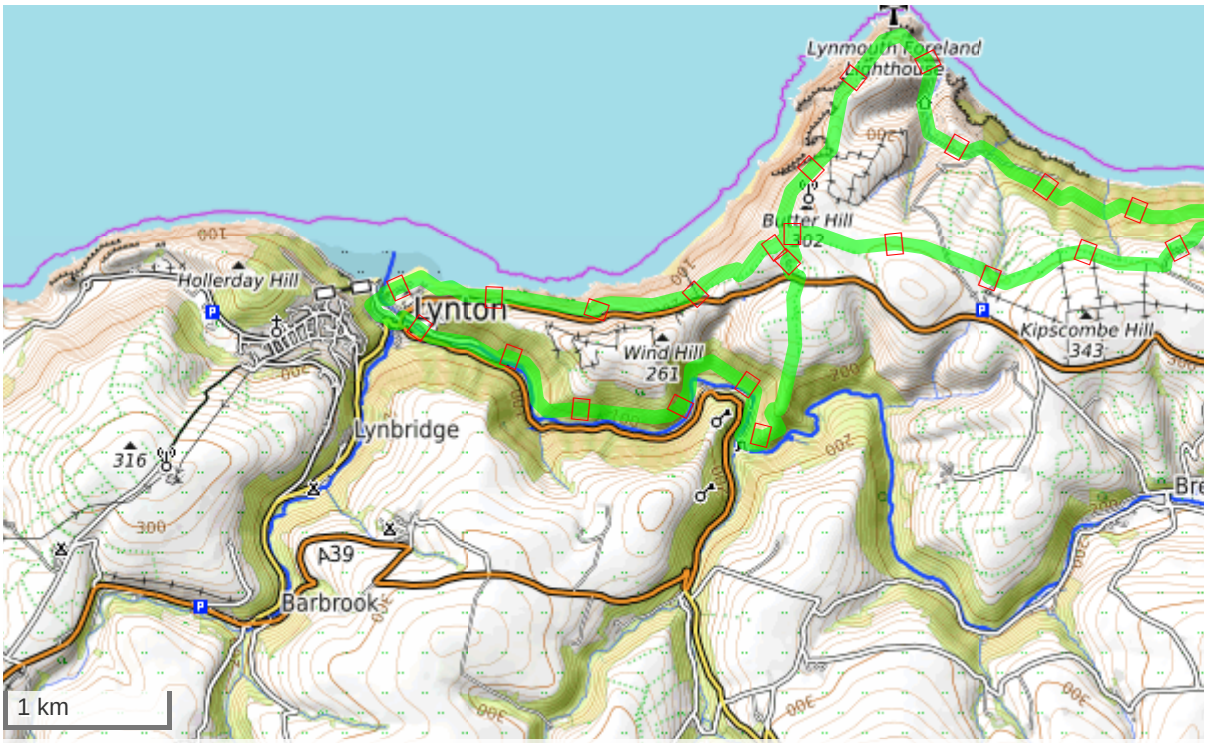
Walk Directions

OpenStreetMap (not OS) mapping is used in the PDF for licence reasons.

Map 1 : Foreland Point loop



Map 2 : Watermseet and Lynmouth loop



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