

Watchet Circular

7.5 miles / 11.5km | 4 hours | Moderate

KING CHARLES III
**ENGLAND
COAST PATH**

NATIONAL TRAIL 



About this walk

This walk takes you on footpaths and tracks once used by miners and monks! From Watchet to Washford the route runs on the line of the old West Somerset Mineral Railway that was used to bring iron ore from the Brendon Hills to the harbour in Watchet where it was shipped to the Ebbw Vale furnaces for smelting. In Washford it joins the Monks' Path, which ran between Cleve Abbey in Washford and St Andrew's church in Old Cleve.

There is much to see along the way including old manor houses and the church, before you join the King Charles III England Coast Path at Blue Anchor. This section of the Coast Path offers fantastic views of Minehead and Exmoor, the Quantocks, Wales, Steep Holm and Flat Holm, and Hinkley Point with the Mendip Hills behind.

Photo credits

© Isobel Pring coastal and walk images

Useful websites

nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-sw

somerset.gov.uk/england-coast-path

visitsomerset.co.uk



Somerset
Council



To report any problems on the footpaths during your walk visit:
somerset.gov.uk/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/

On your walk...



The King Charles III 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.countryside-code.org.uk.



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/watchet-circular



All information correct at the time of publication

WALK KEY INFORMATION & FACILITIES



Distance: 7.5 miles / 11.5km

Duration: 4 hours

Map: OS Landranger 181: Minehead & Brendon Hills

Grade: Moderate



Access:

The ground is mostly flat or gentle hills, with some steps and short steeper sections. There is a mix of footpaths, graded tracks, country lanes and field paths, with gates but no stiles.



Getting here:

By car to Market Street car park, Watchet TA23 0AN or Blue Anchor Bay Road TA24 6JR.

There are multiple pay and display car parks in Watchet and free parking on the seafront at Blue Anchor.

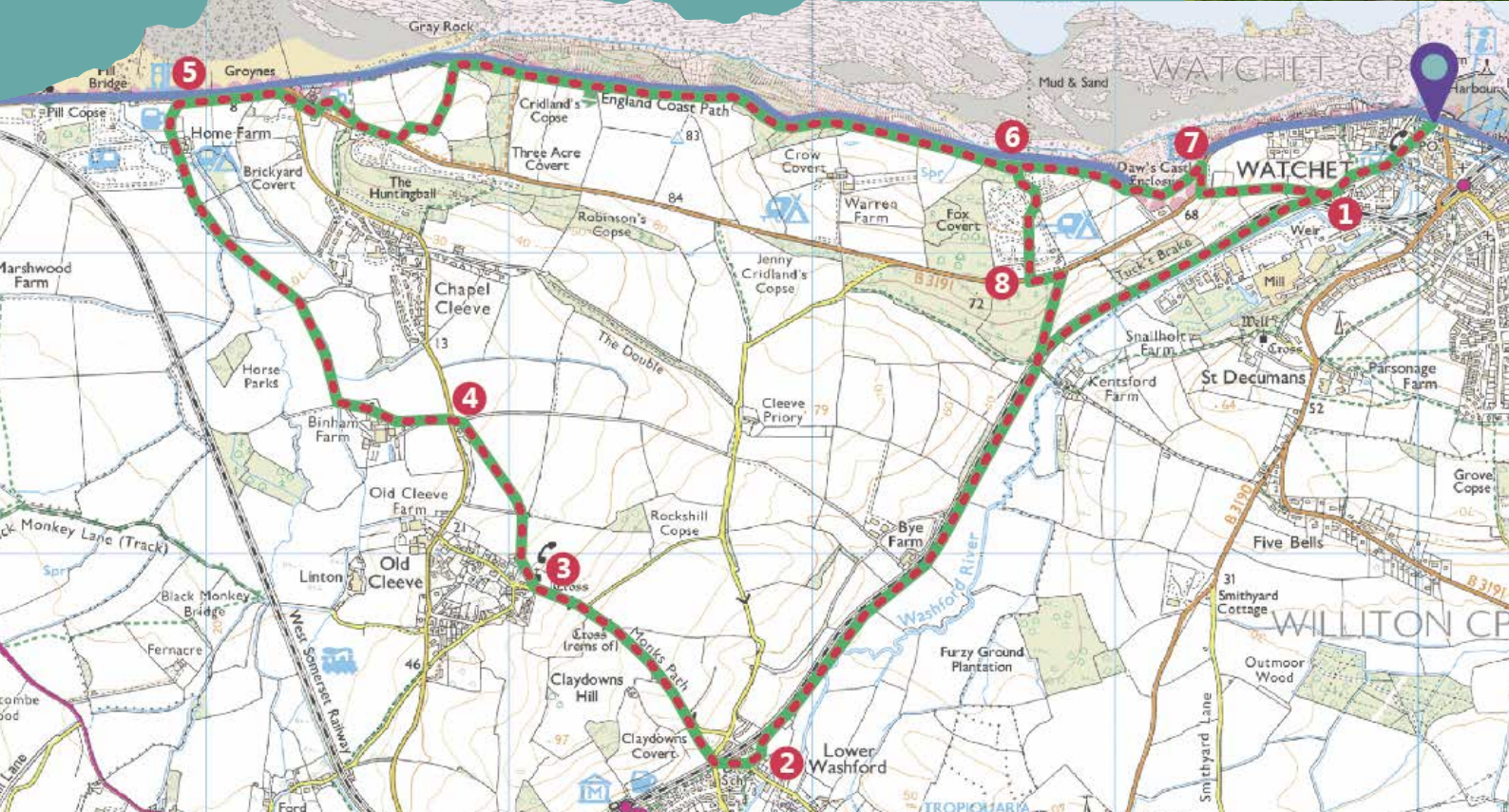
Watchet is on the number 28 bus route between Taunton and Minehead, see **somerset.thinktravel.info**, and Watchet and Blue Anchor are on the West Somerset Railway, see **west-somerset-railway.co.uk**




Facilities:

There are shops, pubs and cafés in Watchet and toilets on Harbour Road. In Blue Anchor there are cafés and toilets on the seafront (turn left when you reach Blue Anchor Bay Road).

Watchet Circular



Coast Path  Watchet Circular 

DIRECTIONS

Here we start in Watchet, but if you start in Blue Anchor, pick up the route from the bold text below at **5** on the map.

Make your way to Mill Lane, off Market Street, and follow the footpath signs to The Mineral Line. At Whitehall turn right and continue until you see a fork to the right. Take this and at the end **1** keep left past the gate and under the railway bridge.

Stay on this path for about 1.5 miles to a kissing gate into Washford playing fields. Walk through these and exit through a second kissing gate and down a short lane to the road **2** where you turn right. At the T junction turn right again, go under the bridge and take the steps on your left. You are now on the Monks' Path, when you reach the road turn left and continue straight until you see the church on your right **3**.

Turn into the churchyard and turn left on the path looking for a waymark pointing right through the grave stones. Follow this to exit through the gate at the bottom, go down the steps and follow the path to the right. At the end of the path go down more steps and then immediately up again and through a gate. Head diagonally left across the field towards the house and through a kissing gate to the road **4**.

Cross the road with care, taking the right hand track and following the path past Binham Grange. Leaving the grounds, go over the footbridge and turn right. Continue to a

second bridge, taking in the views of Chapel Cleeve Manor, once a pilgrims hotel, to your right. Once over the bridge go diagonally left across the field, cross a third bridge and go through a wooden gate. Continue with the stream on your left until you reach a tarmac track that takes you to the seafront at **Blue Anchor 5**.

Cross the road and turn right, continuing up the hill to the right at the end of the seafront. Turn left into the pub car park following signs for the Coast Path. Exit the car park through the kissing gate in the far corner and follow the Coast Path to return to Watchet.

At **6** there is a choice of routes. Continue straight to return on the Coast Path, passing through a kissing gate to reach the English Heritage site of Daws Castle. Stay on the path through the site and exit through the kissing gate on the far side **7**. Turn right on the road and walk to a waymarked path on the left. Take this down the steps and through the woods and fields to **1** and retrace your steps into Watchet.

Alternatively, turn right at **6** to return on the Mineral Line. At the top of the slope turn left and stay on this path through Warren Bay **8** to reach the entrance. Turn left at the road and head for the footpath gate on the other side. Carefully cross the road and go through the gate, down the hill and through another gate. After a short distance turn left through two railway crossing gates and re-join the Mineral Line, turning left to return to Watchet.