

A BOOT UP DEVON'S JURASSIC COAST

Rodney Legg

Iron-staining has given us the warm pinks and reds of Devon's sandstone cliffs. These were laid down 240 million years ago in warm lagoons when Britain's tectonic plate, floating on the Earth's mantle, was 15 degrees further south at the same latitude as the modern Sahara. This continental drift – causing Africa to collide into Europe – led to the uplifting that produced the remarkable landform geology of the East Devon and Dorset coast. From Orcombe Point to Old Harry Rocks it was designated as a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 2001. You can time travel, literally, as the rocks get younger from west to east to span 185 million years in 95 miles.

Behind the coast on the Devon side of the border, the landscape rises and falls into a series of deep-cut valleys between high plateaus of wild or wooded pebbled-heaths. Between the hills run the rivers that provide the root elements for many place names, notably the Exe, Otter, Sid and Axe.

The ten circular walks, ranging from 4 to 11 miles, suit the needs of families, groups of friends or individuals looking for a gentle stroll or a longer walk, and reflect the many varied facets of the area – its people, its history, and its working landscape and will help first time visitors to experience some of the great scenery the area has to offer. Many of the walks feature a pub along the route.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to the area.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rodney Legg is a prolific author and historian who has published hundreds of country walks. Nationally he is active in the environmental movement having been chairman of the Open Spaces Society since 1989 and a member of the ruling council of the National Trust from 1990.

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South Devon Coast From the Air

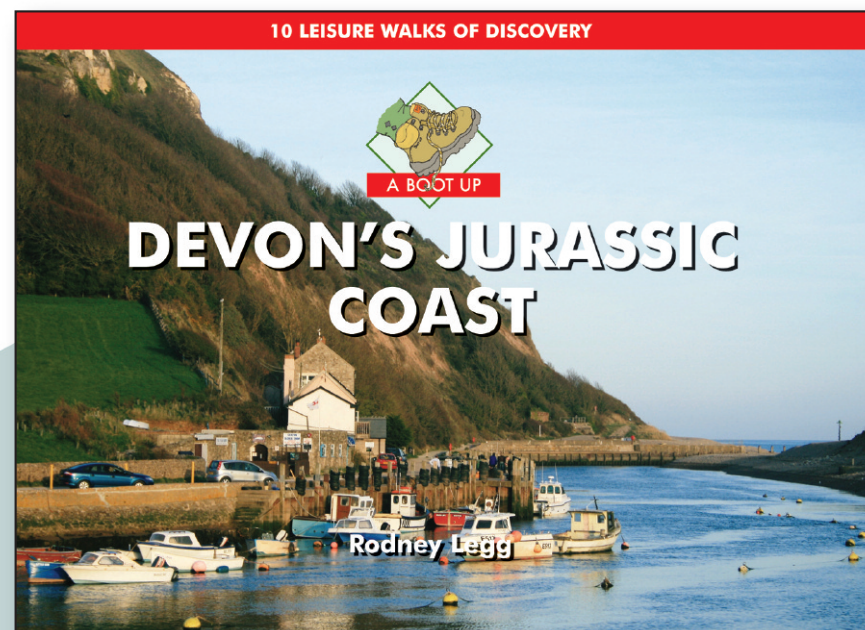
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A BOOT UP DEVON'S JURASSIC COAST



Budleigh Salterton



Exe Estuary



The Fountain Head



Regency Sidmouth



Ladram to Sidmouth

1

Littleham and Exmouth

10 Paved along the road towards Littleham for 400 metres and then turn left to re-join the track of the old railway.

11 Follow it for 600 metres. Now turn right, out of the cutting and then down into a valley, to return to St Margaret's Church at Littleham in a further 600 metres.

Anne Isabella, Lady Byron, lived in Exmouth at Italianate No. 5 The Beacon.

High sand of December

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2 Budleigh Salterton and East Budleigh

A 7-mile circuit that is high on history as well as the cliff line.

1 Budleigh Salterton is East Budleigh where Sir Walter Raleigh was born in a valley east of sight of the sea. Eventually, however, the buildings on the beach and that is where Sir John Millais chose to paint him. The town lost its two harbours centuries ago but entrepreneurs were quick to see the opportunities of establishing a popular watering place. It is again expanding, at the heart of which has become the nation's favourite retirement coast, with proportionately more old people.

2 East Budleigh is a village of old stone that chooses to be a village. Park and Street. At Budleigh Salterton in the south is a fine old park at the eastern end of Budleigh Bay. Start ref: SY 072 000. Postcode: EX4 6EP. Public transport: Buses from Exmouth to Sidmouth. Website: www.budleigh.co.uk

There can be found anywhere in the kingdom. Its name is a reminder that salt used to come from brine-beding operations in the salterns, large circular ponds, known as cobbles, used to be lifted from the shore and become a characteristic local building stone.

Budleigh Salterton and East Budleigh

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Example of a double-page spread.