

Halsgrove Discover Series

EXPLORING THE SOUTH WEST COAST PATH

Philip Carter

Many people have discovered the South West Coast Path by walking a section of it, some indeed with intent, but quite a few others have simply stumbled across it whilst on holiday. One can walk the whole 630 miles from Minehead to Poole Harbour, or simply enjoy a hour or two strolling on part of its spectacular course.

It encompasses most of the peninsula of South West England. Starting at Minehead in Somerset, it traverses all North Devon, circumnavigates Cornwall, continues through all of South Devon and then takes in nearly all of Dorset, to finish at the south side of Poole Harbour.

The longest footpath in the British Isles awaits those few who wish to walk the whole, and those many who would walk a section. This book is an illustrated celebration of the footpath, extolling the spectacular landscape that can be found along its length utilising the superb aerial photography of Jason Hawkes. It is not intended to be a definitive 'guidebook', as these have already been successfully produced, although at the end of each chapter there are 'suggestions for short walks'. These have been chosen to give a taste of what the Coast Path has to offer. They obviously have a geographical spread but they have also been chosen to give a variety of scenery and interest.

Happy walking!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Philip Carter is a Devonian by birth. After a working life mainly as a potter he sought further education. Having gained a degree with the Open University he obtained an MA in Local and Regional History at the University of Exeter. He has contributed articles to the *Devon Historian* and written a book about Newton Abbot on the history of that town. He has been involved with the South West Coast Path Association since its inception. Philip says: 'I used to be Secretary to the Coast Path Association, and it was said that I had to know every mile of the path. My wife, a far more practical person, knew every tea shop!'

RELATED TITLES AVAILABLE

A Boot Up North Devon

ISBN 978 1 84114 828 1 £4.99

North Cornwall Coast from the Air

ISBN 978 1 84114 706 2 £14.99

South Cornwall Coast from the Air

ISBN 978 1 84114 677 5 £14.99

North Devon Coast from the Air

ISBN 978 1 84114 706 2 £14.99

Halsgrove Publishing
Halsgrove House,
Ryelands Industrial Estate,
Bagley Road, Wellington,
Somerset TA21 9PZ

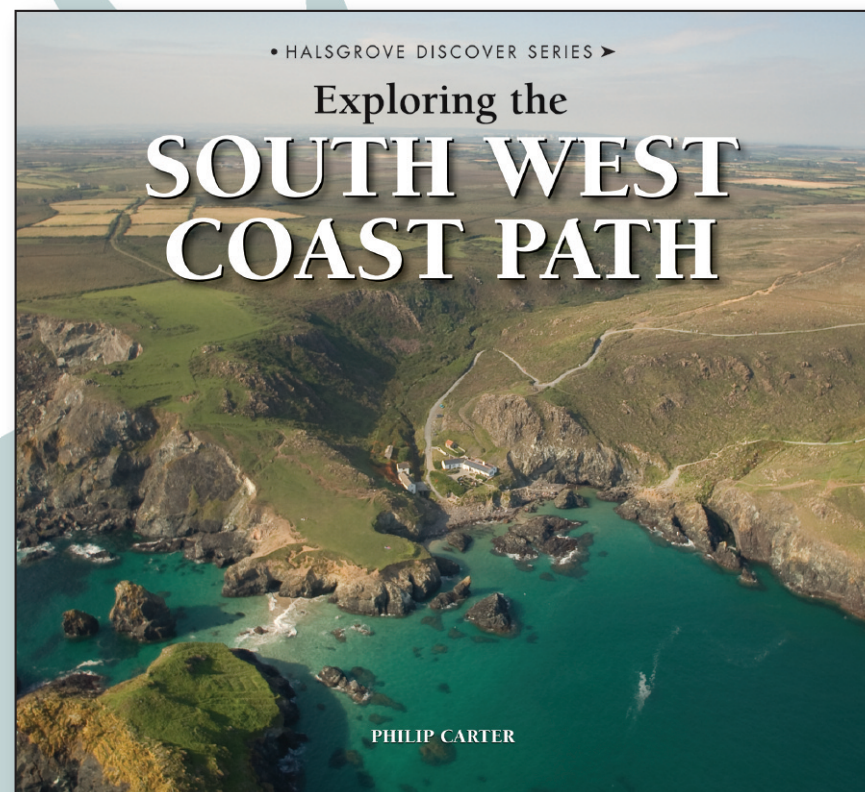
Tel: 01823 653777

Fax: 01823 216796

www.halsgrove.com

e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: Hardback, 144 pages, 214x230mm, including over 120 aerial colour photographs

Price: £14.99

ISBN: 978 1 84114 851 9

Imprint: Halsgrove

Published: March 2009



Halsgrove Sales Contacts:

Sue Rhodes-Thompson – DDI 01823 653770 suet@halsgrove.com

Roger Start – DDI 01823 653773 rogers@halsgrove.com

Helen Deakin – DDI 01823 653772 helend@halsgrove.com

Marie Lewis – DDI 01823 653771 mariel@halsgrove.com

Andrew Stirling – Mobile 07971 572468 andrews@halsgrove.com

Credit card sales – DDI 01823 653760/653777

EXPLORING THE SOUTH WEST COAST PATH



Start Point in Old English means 'tail' as used in the bird's name Redstart. The Lighthouse was originally built in 1836.



Boscastle with its sinuous harbour. Access was always difficult but local competition was scarce so it became a busy port. The outer breakwater had an argument with a mine, the explosive sort, in World War II and had to be rebuilt.



Looking east over Combe Martin Bay. The land rises behind to the Little Hangman and then Great Hangman at 1045 feet (328 meters), the highest point on the whole path.

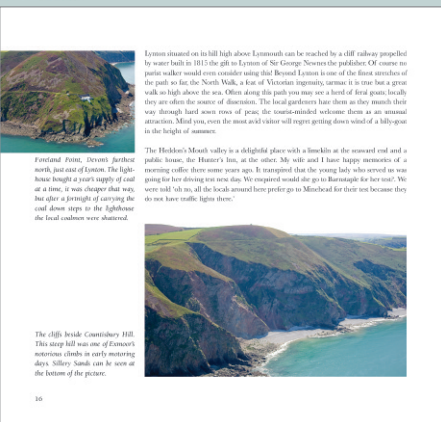


St Michael's Mount off Marazion, a few miles east of Penzance. It is only an island at high tide, there being a causeway you can walk along when the tide is low.

Example of a double-page spread.



Looking east along the coast from Hartland Point. The beach to the left of the lighthouse is that of Barley Bay. Behind there again is the 'golf-ball' of the radar station. The lighthouse had a concrete catchment area to collect rainwater



Fortland Point, Devon's farthest north, just east of Looe. The lighthouse height is just a supply of land at a time, it was cheaper that way, but after a journey of carrying the coal down steps to the lighthouse the local custom were shattered.

Looe situated on its hill above Looe can be reached by a cliff railway propelled by water built in 1813 the gift to Looe of Sir George Newnes the publisher. Of course no point water would ever consider using that beyond Looe is one of the finest stretches of the path so far, the North Walk, a lot of Victorian ingenuity, it is true but a great walk so high above the sea. Often along this path you may see a herd of first goats, locally they are often the cause of discussion. The local gardeners have them as they munch their way through hard worn rows of peas, the tourist-minded welcome them as an unusual attraction. Mind you, even the most ardent visitor will regret getting down wind of a billy-goat in the height of summer.



The cliffs Brisk Country House Hill. This steep hill was one of Looe's scenery climbs in early morning days. Silvery sands can be seen at the bottom of the picture.



Looe, really, will always remembered for the 1952 flood disaster when 34 people were drowned.



The rising creek at the end of the valley of Brisk. Swallow can be seen on the Coast Path that regularly here, near inland. There is a cricket ground in the valley and few fields can have a more impressive setting.



The bottom of the Looe to Looe Cliff Railway at Looe. Sir George Newnes the publisher funded it.



Looe Bay just west of Looe, there is another one so named in North Devon, just west of Ilfracombe.