



## Durlston to Dancing Ledge Walk

This is a 5.75 mile walk from Durlston Country Park to Dancing Ledge along the upper path and returns via Priests Way and Townsend nature reserve. The walk offers stunning views over the Isle of Purbeck and the Jurassic Coast.

**Distance:** 5.75 miles  
**Ascent:** 170m (approx)  
**Start Point:** Durlston Country Park Car Park  
**Coordinates:** Latitude: 50.59557° N, Longitude: -1.95499° W **(OS)** SZ 03282 77317

**Safety Tips:** Stay on marked paths, especially near cliff edges. Wear suitable footwear – paths can be uneven and slippery. Keep children and dogs under close supervision near the cliffs. Check the weather forecast before your walk. Mobile phone coverage can be patchy along the coast

## Directions

### 1. Lighthouse Road Car Park

**Lat, long: 50.59557, -1.95499 - OS: SZ 03282 77317**

Start in the Car Park at the end of Lighthouse road and exit the car park heading South and then turn right onto a tarmac path / road heading West until you come to an area with dry stone walls on your right and a gateway ahead where the road bares left and down.

### 2. Lighthouse service road and path

**Lat, long: 50.59455, -1.95784 - OS: SZ 03080 77204**

At the gateway continue straight ahead along a well used path in the grass and continue West to the next wide gate with a kissing gate alongside.

### 3. Kissing Gate

**Lat, long: 50.59454, -1.96254 - OS: SZ 02748 77202**

Continue straight ahead at the gate as the track goes down a slight incline to the next gate with a small wooden bridge on your left.

### 4. Wooden Bridge

**Lat, long: 50.59423, -1.96514 - OS: SZ 02564 77168**

Turn left and go across the small bridge and follow the narrow track up the hill heading South. At the top of the hill turn right and follow the track to the next wall and stile.

### 5. Wall and Stile

**Lat, long: 50.59338, -1.96507 - OS: SZ 02569 77073**

Go over the stile and follow the track heading West along the top of the ridgeline to the next wall and stile. There are some rocky sections on this track so take care.

**6. Wall and Stile****Lat, long: 50.59290, -1.96890 - OS: SZ 02297 77019**

Go over the stile and follow the track heading West along the top of the ridgeline to the next wall and stile

**7. Wall and Stile****Lat, long: 50.59305, -1.97271 - OS: SZ 02028 77036**

Go over the stile and the track splits with the lower track heading down the side of the hill and the upper track following the ridgeline, Continue along the upper track to a wide gap in the next wall. This can be muddy in winter.

**8. Wall and wide entrance way****Lat, long: 50.59344, -1.97612 - OS: SZ 01786 77079**

Go through the wide entrance in the stone wall heading West and continue down a small slope then turn right up a wide track to the stone wall on your right. This section can be muddy in winter.

**9. Open Field and junction to Belle vue farm and Quarries****Lat, long: 50.59341, -1.97915 - OS: SZ 01572 77076**

At the edge of the open field, continue heading North-West along the field to the next wall.

**10. Wall and Stile****Lat, long: 50.59376, -1.98174 - OS: SZ 01388 77115**

Go over the stile and continue along the field heading West to the next gateway with a stile alongside.

**11. Gateway and Stile****Lat, long: 50.59376, -1.98434 - OS: SZ 01205 77115**

Go over the stile and follow the path heading West to the next wall with a small kissing gate

**12. Wall and Stile****Lat, long: 50.59374, -1.98829 - OS: SZ 00925 77112**

Continue over the stile and follow the narrow rocky path heading West. This section is narrow and very rocky in some sections and can be muddy in winter. Continue heading West along this track until you come to a kissing gate and open field on your right side.

**13. Kissing Gate and open field****Lat, long: 50.59361, -1.99700 - OS: SZ 00309 77098**

At the kissing gate, go through the gate and walk North-West across the field with bushes on your left. After approx 90m you will see a path heading down to your left between the bushes, Turn left and follow the track across to a stile and gap in the wall ahead.

**14. Stile and Wall****Lat, long: 50.59451, -1.99895 - OS: SZ 00170 77198**

Continue across the next field following a well used path to the next stone wall and stile/gap.

**15. Wall and Gap to Dancing Ledge****Lat, long: 50.59408, -2.00186 - OS: SY 99965 77150**

At the next wall / track gap turn slightly right and follow the track heading up a slight slope until you come to a kissing gate on your right in the stone wall. This is the top of Dancing Ledge, If you wish you can follow the well used path down the valley on your left to Dancing Ledge or have a rest on the stone bench at the top and enjoy the view.

**16. Kissing Gate and Wall****Lat, long: 50.59451, -2.00312 - OS: SY 99876 77198**

Go though the kissing gate and continue heading North across the field following a wide track to the next wall and gap. Continue across the second field to the farm buildings and gate.

**17. Spyway Farm Gate****Lat, long: 50.59876, -2.00258 - OS: SY 99914 77670**

Go though the gate into the farm yard and continue past the farm buildings until the track splits left and right.

**18. Track Junction****Lat, long: 50.59932, -2.00269 - OS: SY 99906 77732**

At the Y junction in the track turn right and follow the track down to the Priests Way and gateway.

**19. Priests Way Gateway****Lat, long: 50.60024, -2.00116 - OS: SZ 00014 77835**

At the gateway continue straight ahead heading East following the wide track down until the track turns left with farm buildings on your left side. Continue along the wide track following the Priests Way and left down the hill heading North until you come to a wide gate with a Y junction on the other side.

**20. Gate and Y Junction****Lat, long: 50.60286, -1.99089 - OS: SZ 00741 78126**

Go though the gate and then turn right onto the wide track and follow the track heading East going past farm buildings until you come to a wide gate.

**21. Gate****Lat, long: 50.60326, -1.98780 - OS: SZ 00960 78172**

Go though the gate and continue heading East to the next metal gate

**22. Metal Gate****Lat, long: 50.60335, -1.98696 - OS: SZ 01019 78181**

Go though the metal gate and continue along the Priests Way to the next metal gate.

**23. Metal Gate****Lat, long: 50.60390, -1.98051 - OS: SZ 01475 78242**

Go though the metal gate and continue along the Priests Way to the next junction with a wide track on your right and narrower track with a wooden sign on your left.

**24. Junction****Lat, long: 50.60397, -1.97960 - OS: SZ 01540 78250**

At the junction turn left then turn right onto a narrow grass path which heads South with a stone building on your right and then turns left and East onto a narrow path with a fence on both sides. Continue along this path to the next metal kissing gate.

**25. Metal Kissing Gate****Lat, long: 50.60398, -1.97651 - OS: SZ 01759 78251**

Continue through the metal kissing gate and follow the narrow path to a rough road, Turn left and go down the hill until you come to a wide track on your right with a building on the left side. Turn right and follow this path East to the next narrow entrance and tarmac road. This section is used for camping in the summer months and often has tents across the path.

**26. Road and Caravan Park****Lat, long: 50.60440, -1.97329 - OS: SZ 01986 78298**

At the caravan park turn left and follow the steep road down to a lifting entrance gate and the park reception area. Go through the side of the lifting gate to the road and parking area below.

**27. Park entrance and road****Lat, long: 50.60633, -1.97293 - OS: SZ 02012 78513**

Turn right at the road and continue straight ahead at the next junction following the road as it turns right up a steep hill. After approx 100m on the hill turn left into a narrow entrance on your left into the Townsend Nature Reserve

**28. Panorama Road Townsend Nature Reserve****Lat, long: 50.60519, -1.96992 - OS: SZ 02225 78387**

Turn left into the Townsend Nature Reserve and follow the path heading South-East across the nature reserve, going past old quarry works and continue across the field until you come to a kissing gate onto Townsend Road.

**29. Gate and Townsend Road****Lat, long: 50.60408, -1.96417 - OS: SZ 02632 78263**

At Townsend Road, turn right and follow the road up the hill until you come to a Y junction with the tarmac road heading right and a rough track straight ahead. Continue down the hill to a wide metal gate and continue up the next field to a narrow kissing gate. Continue along the next field until you come to a gate on your left with a gate straight ahead and also a path on your right.

**30. Gates and cross roads****Lat, long: 50.59653, -1.96316 - OS: SZ 02703 77423**

Turn left through the wooden gate and continue heading East across the field to the next gate.

**31. Gate and Field entrance****Lat, long: 50.59658, -1.96046 - OS: SZ 02895 77430**

Continue straight ahead at the gate and follow the path across the field to another wooden gate

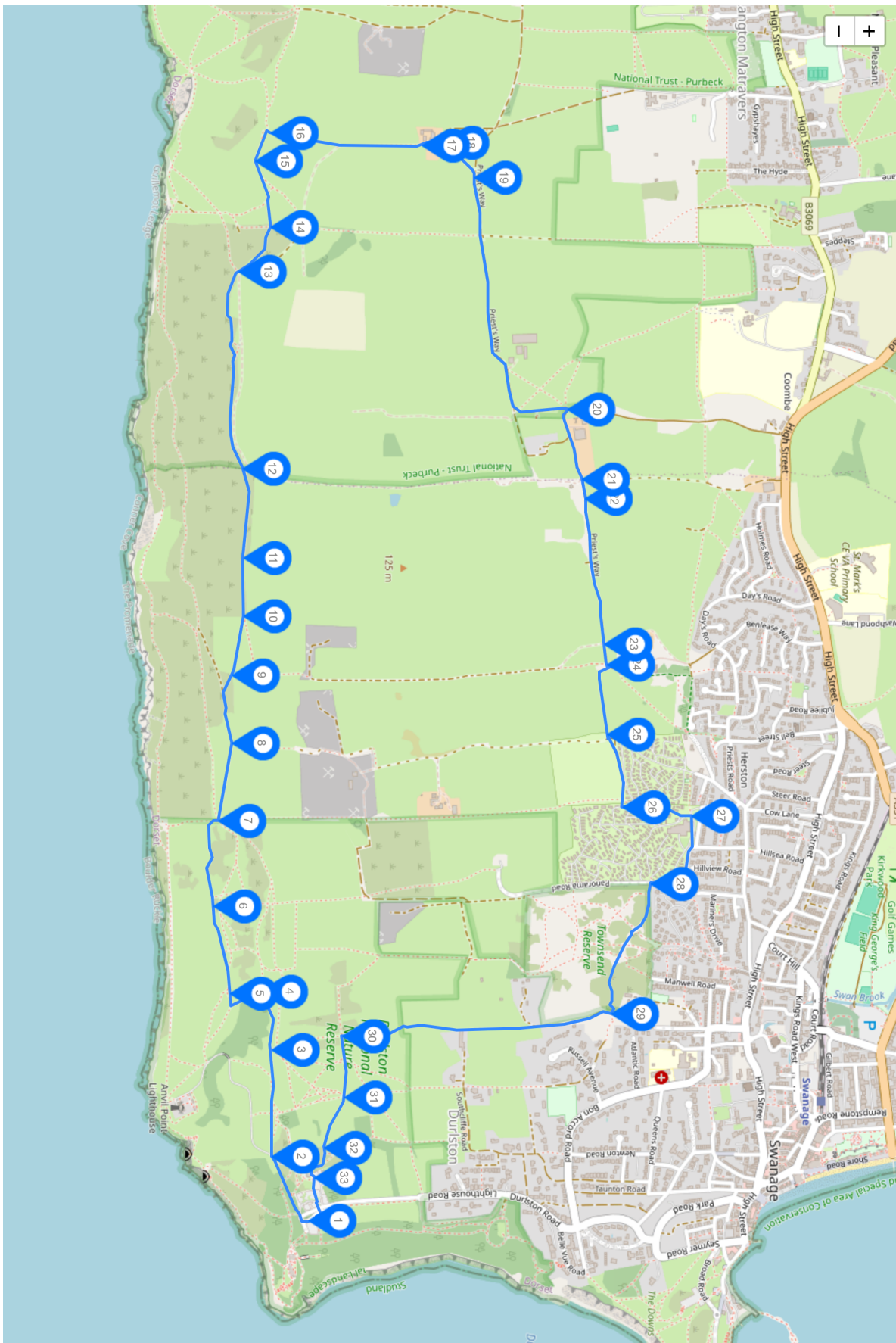
**32. Wooden Gate****Lat, long: 50.59601, -1.95824 - OS: SZ 03052 77366**

At the gate go straight ahead and then turn right and follow the path past the Durlston Country Park buildings and into the car park.

**33. Durlston Country Park Buildings****Lat, long: 50.59573, -1.95692 - OS: SZ 03146 77335**

Continue East across the car park and cross Durlston Road and then turn right back to the Lighthouse Road Car Park and start of the route.

## Route Map:



Map data from OpenStreetMap

For more walking routes visit [www.virtual-swanage.co.uk/walks](http://www.virtual-swanage.co.uk/walks)