



Devon's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

This leaflet is part of a series of themed trails in Devon's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); helping you get out there, enjoy, and learn more about the landscape around you.

Trail themes include

- Coast in Conflict,
- Man and the Landscape,
- Trade and Settlement and
- A Colourful Landscape.

Have a look at these websites for further leaflets in the series, and ideas for other ways of enjoying yourself out and about!

See www.southdevonaonb.org.uk,
www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk,
www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk and
www.discoverdevon.com

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is the Governments designation for Britain's finest landscapes; there are 40 in England and Wales. Together with Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks, Devon's 5 AONBs cover 35% of the County. AONBs share a common commitment to secure sustainable living landscapes. Each AONB has been designated for special attention because of the quality of their flora, fauna, cultural and historical heritage, as well as beautiful scenery.

Their care has been entrusted to local authorities, organisations, community groups, individuals who live and work in them and those who value them.

Please recycle this leaflet by passing it onto a friend when you have finished with it. Don't let Devon go to waste.

East Prawle and Prawle Point

- **Start/Finish:** East Prawle Village Green
- **Distance:** 3.5 miles (5.5 km)
- **Circular walk:** Yes
- **Grade:** Strenuous
- **Terrain:** Coastal footpath with some uneven and rocky sections; green lanes; surfaced roads.
- **Obstacles and steep gradients:** 2 steep climbs.
- **Toilets:** Public toilets immediately above the village green, East Prawle.
- **Parking:** Village Green, East Prawle. By donation
- **Other Facilities:** In East Prawle: public payphone above village green; small village shop, also by the green.
- **Accommodation:** Please contact Kingsbridge Tourist Information Centre 01548 853195 or www.kingsbridgeinfo.co.uk or www.discoverdevon.com/site/where-to-stay.
- **OS map:** Explorer 0L20
- **Grid ref:** SX 782364
- Follow the Countryside Code: for more information www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk





Colourful Landscape

Devon offers a glorious tapestry of colour throughout the seasons.

From the dazzle of its coast and the inspiring open cliffs and heaths, to its richly wooded valleys and the patchwork of rolling field and pasture, this beautiful county offers a feast for the eyes.

It is a land of lush greens – in more shades than you would think possible. The exquisite lightness of spring's uncurling leaves, the deep greens of late summer's shaggy hedgerows, and the quiet beauty of winter meadows are just some of the delicate and delicious tones on view. Amidst all of this, a ploughed field here and there reveals the rich red or deep brown of the fertile soil, and as summer fades, the autumn colours light up the land.

Down by the sea, the bright blue and fresh white of the waves invigorate the senses, while up on the cliffs, purple heather mixes deliciously with the yellow gorse. Drop down into the valleys, and the peaceful woods are thronged with wildlife, while Devon's hedgebanks are a glorious riot of wildflowers in spring and summer.

Artists, whether poets, painters, sculptors, or musicians have always been drawn here, seeking to capture the rich essence of the county. Yet colour is not confined to the landscape here. Charming villages, seasonal traditions, quirky place names, and even quirkier individuals all contribute to Devon's vibrant character.

These guides introduce you to a few of Devon's larger-than-life characters. Some have lived within the law, and some beyond it - so be prepared for tales of smuggling, skulduggery, and eccentric antics!



Description

Numbers in brackets refer to Points of Interest.

1. From village green in East Prawle (1), head to the café, and turn right along the lane leading out of the village.
2. After 400m turn left by post box down bridleway signed for Gorah Rocks (2). Turn left again at t-junction down old green lane which passes through a gate and between fields (3) towards the sea.
3. Bear right at the fingerpost onto the coast path (4), signed for Prawle Point, and follow the field edge path along the low cliff (5,6).
4. In time you will see Prawle Point ahead, with the lookout station perched on top, and the aptly named Horse's Head rock below (7,8).
5. Continue along the coast path beyond Prawle Point (9,10).
6. Turn right at the waymarker post above Maceley Cove (11), and then left after about 50 metres at the next waymarker, heading uphill and inland.
7. After 350m, turn right following the blue waymarker arrow



along another old green lane (12,13).

8. Bear left along the road, which leads you back to East Prawle.

Points of Interest

1. East Prawle was an estate at the time of the Domesday Book, and it had very likely been a Saxon manor before that. The village was once home to a medieval chapel dedicated to St Brendan. Legend has it that this much-travelled 6th century Irish saint even sailed to Greenland and North America during his pious and adventurous life.
2. The weathered post in the field to the left here as you drop down the bridleway is the remains of an old Rocket Post. It was used to simulate the mast of a ship by rescue teams training in the use of the Rocket Apparatus. This was a system of land-sea rescue involving the firing of lines from the shore to ships in distress.
3. The band of flat low-lying fields down by the sea is backed by the remains of old cliffs dating from a time of higher sea levels. Weathering of these relic cliff faces in the last ice age caused soil and rock particles to slide down and create the fertile fields we see today.
4. Beyond the cliffs, rocky shelves run unevenly out into the sea. These unusual platforms were cut by waves towards the end of the last ice age - a time when the sea level was 7 metres higher than it is today.
5. The fields along the coast are rich in wildflowers, and a haven for many birds, in particular the nationally rare Cirl Bunting.



This striking little green and brown bird has a yellow and black striped face. It thrives on the arable weed seeds here and feeds its young on the abundant grasshoppers and similar insects in the area. Stonechats and Whitethroats are also common sightings, perched on gorse and blackthorn scrub along the cliff edge.

6. Residents of the many rockpools along the coast include the colourfully patterned cones of Topshells, and the spiral whorls of Winkles. The Oystercatcher, with its orange beak and black and white plumage, is one of the many wading birds to be seen. Further out over the water, likely seabird sightings include Gannets, wheeling on long black-tipped wings before they plummet dramatically into the sea to catch fish.
7. The curious looking bunker just to the left of the path before you climb up to Prawle Point is the remains of a radar station. It is one of two built at Prawle during World War Two.
8. The lookout on Prawle Point was formerly a coastguard station. Abandoned in 1982, it was reopened in 1998 under



the auspices of the National Coastwatch Institute and is now staffed by volunteers. The station welcomes visitors to pop in and say hello, and to peruse the display housed there.

The name Prawle stems from the Old English word 'Prawhyll' meaning 'lookout hill'. Clearly this spot has been used for that purpose for many centuries.

9. By the path beyond Prawle Point, you may come across short rows of large flat stone slabs set on edge. These remnants of old field boundaries are the last evidence of an ancient field system, still marked on maps but no longer existing on the ground.
10. The lacy white rosettes of Wild Carrot grow abundantly along the coast path, while the small blue stars of Spring and Autumn Squill are also to be found. Seals are sometimes to be seen from the coast path here as, very occasionally, are Dolphins and even Basking Sharks.
11. Maceley Cove is thought to have been a smugglers' haunt in days gone by. Its secluded situation, and location far from the Revenue men stationed at Salcombe and Dartmouth, would have made it perfectly

suitable to 'free trading'. There are also plenty of old trackways leading up the village, where the Pig's Nose Inn is reputed to have once been a storage and distribution centre for smuggled goods.

12. This green lane is one of the area's many ancient byways, and follows the line of an old sea cliff. Freestanding dry stone walls line the lane – an unusual sight in lowland Devon, where earth-filled hedgebanks are the norm.



13. Prawle is the most southerly point in Devon. Because of this, it is both departure and arrival point for many migrating birds and butterflies. Migrating butterflies including Painted Ladies, Red Admirals, and Clouded Yellows arrive here. They can be seen along with many other species of butterfly during the summer months - particularly along the lanes, which act as butterfly 'rides'.

Refreshments

Pig's Nose Inn, East Prawle

01548 511209

www.pignoseinn.co.uk

Well known, friendly, characterful pub. Food served lunchtime and evenings. Dogs and children welcome.

Providence Inn, East Prawle

01548 511208

www.providenceatprawle.co.uk

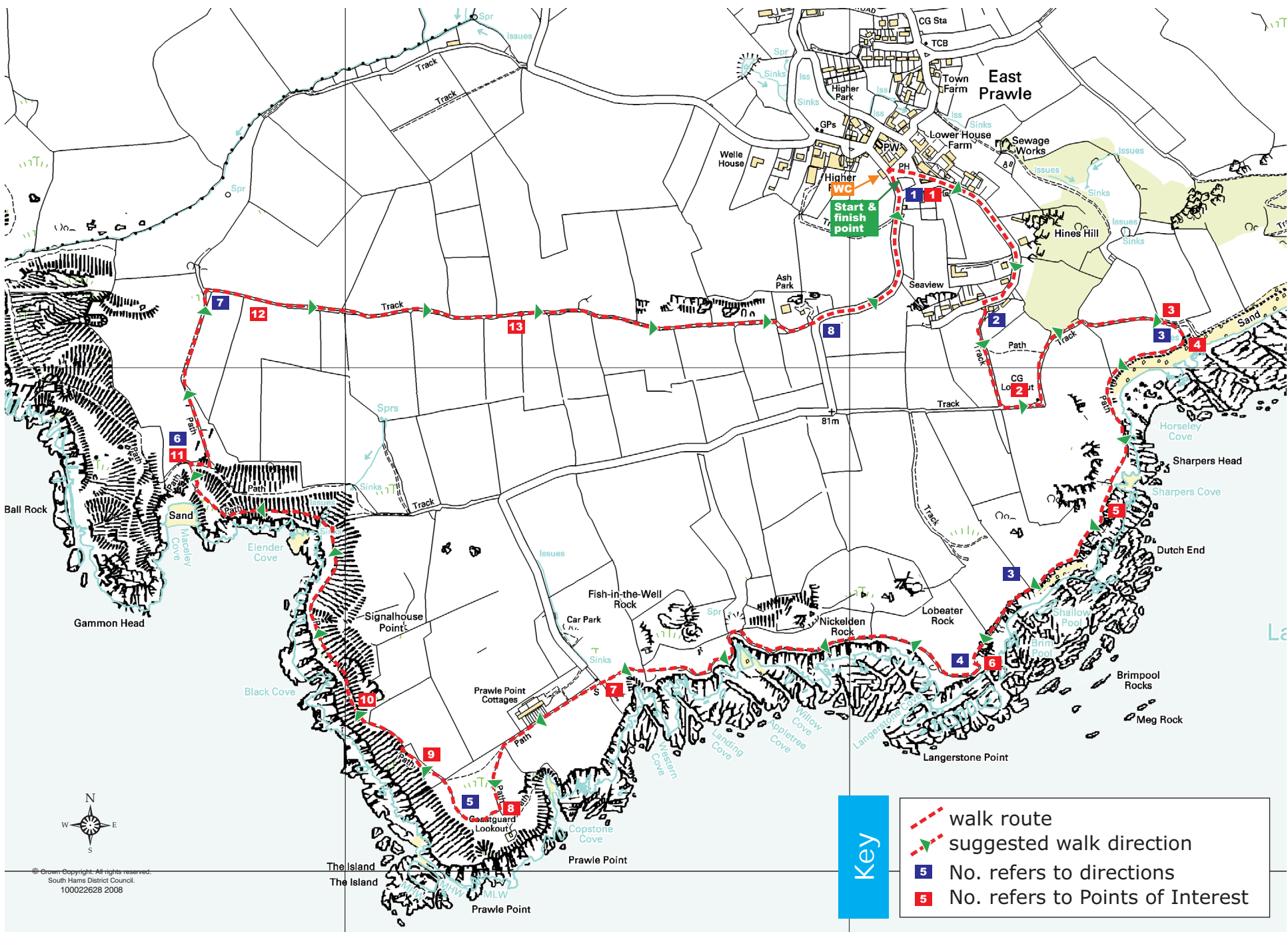
Beer garden, log fire, and real ales. Food served 12-2pm and 6-9pm. Menu specialises in local produce. Dogs and children welcome.

Grunter's Café, East Prawle

01548 511486

Serves breakfasts, filled baps, homemade soups and quiches, hot and cold drinks, cream teas, and homemade cakes. Open 9-5, Easter-end October.





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