



Coastal Path Cowes to Yarmouth

A coastal walk in name, but on this long walk you also go inland around the Newtown River estuary, passing along cliff tops through villages and woodlands, with fine views of the Solent and mainland beyond.

- 1** The north west section of the Coastal Path commences from the floating bridge on the Cowes side of the River Medina. Walk along Medina Road and turn right at the Police Station into Birmingham Road. Continue into the High Street and shortly after passing the Island Sailing Club turn right down Watch House Lane to Victoria Parade. Pass along the promenade to the seaward side of the Royal Yacht Squadron with its gun platform, to Egypt Point. Continue along the sea wall to Princes Esplanade, Gurnard, past the beach huts and bear left at the sailing club. Take the tarmac footpath to the right of Shore Road which rejoins above Gurnard Cliff. Follow the path into Worsley Road and take the first turning into Solent View Road, continuing into Marsh Road, past the cafe on the right. After Gurnard Luck Bridge turn left in front of Marsh Cottage to follow the signposted coastal footpath. Cross the stile and follow the cliff-top path by the chalets, continuing along the gorse lined path.
- 2** Continual coastal slope movement over the next 2 kilometres (1 1/4 miles) makes it difficult to define a constant route, but generally the path runs along and close to the top of the coastal slope and is fairly obvious with stiles and waymarks throughout. Care should be taken not to venture on to the coastal slope, which is dangerous in places.
- 3** Descend to the beach at Thorness Bay, pass over a footbridge and along the beach to turn left and follow the main path through Thorness Bay Holiday Village. Turn right, as signed at the entrance, to a stile and a field beyond. Walk the length of the narrow field to a road and turn left. Pass Thorness Lodge to the left and turn off the road to the right, where signposted after passing farm buildings. Pass across field with farm buildings on your right, turning at the hedge to follow it to the foot of a slope. Pass over a stile on your right and turn left to continue through the next three fields with the hedge on your left emerging by the side of woodland onto the road at Bunts Hill. Turn right and follow the road to Porchfield Village, passing the post office on your left.
- 4** Continue along the road signposted 'Shalfleet and Yarmouth' to Locksgreen, bearing right at the wooded triangular island at the road intersection. Pass over Clamerkin Bridge and at the next junction take the road for Newtown on your right. Shortly after passing Old Vicarage Lane on your left take the Public Footpath signposted to Newtown on your left. Cross several small fields maintaining a constant direction with the road now running parallel to your right and finally pass along a grassy lane to regain the road at Newtown. Turn left at the road by the National Trust building called 'Noah's Ark' and pass the Town Hall on

your left, over Newtown Bridge. Turn right at the road junction, continue to Corf Farm and bear right along a narrow lane to Shalfleet Mill.

- 5** Pass over a footbridge and bear left along Mill Road to the New Inn. Here turn right out of the village along the main Yarmouth Road. After leaving the village the road descends, look for a signposted footpath on the right. Pass along the right side of the field and on entering the next field take a left diagonal line to the far corner and a footbridge crossing an inlet. Turn right and follow the path bearing left through the wood to a gravel road; turn right over Ningwood Lake Bridge and up the track to pass Pigeon Coo Farm on the left. Take the next right turn and follow the road to Lower Hamstead Farm passing Creek Farm on the way. Upon reaching Lower Hamstead Farm, continue in the same direction to turn left as signposted just before reaching Hamstead Quay. Cross over the stile and keeping to the right hand edge of the field, look for a stile on your right before reaching the belt of trees ahead. Cross the stile and turn left to follow an embankment along the edge of a river inlet. After crossing a footbridge turn right and follow a well defined path along another embankment and over two footbridges to a stile. Cross the stile and turn right into the adjoining field where you turn left and follow the hedgeline on your left for 250 metres (270 yards). Cross the stile on your left and take a right diagonal course across the next field to its far corner and another stile. Cross the stile and the wooden causeway beyond and continue along the right of the next field. Cross another stile and descend a bank to follow a wide grass track to the left above the high water mark.
- 6** Shortly after passing a memorial stone in the bushes on the left, follow the track as it starts to diverge away from the shoreline past Hamstead and Bouldnor Cliff.
- 7** Continue along the track to Hamstead Farm gate. Maintain same direction with the farm on your left and immediately after the second, sharper, left hand bend take the stile on your right and cross to a stile about midway along the right hand boundary of a small field. Take a line to the far left hand corner of the next field and then make for West Hamstead Farm to the right ahead. Keeping the farmhouse on your right, continue past the greenhouses and orchard to another stile, passing Cliff Cottage, and continue along its access road. Turn left on
- 8** reaching a gravelled track and after approximately 250 metres (270 yards) turn right along another access road for a further 150 metres (160 yards). At the entrance to 'Greenacres' turn left as signposted then right to cross a small field close to the right hand boundary to enter Bouldnor Copse over a stile. Follow the obvious track through the copse to near the cliff edge and then continue parallel with the top of the Coastal Slope on a well defined path for about 1250 metres (1400 yards) to reach a stretch of shingle beach.

- 8** Pass along the shore for a short distance before ascending again into the woodland to continue again roughly parallel to the cliff edge. At the end of the wood turn left over a short distance of track to reach a gravel access road where you turn right and follow to the main road. Passing a car park / view point on the right, take the steps down to the sea wall shortly after passing the B3401 Thorley Road junction on the opposite side. Turn left at the sea wall towards Yarmouth, turning up to the High Street at the end.



ROUTE INFORMATION

- Start location: **Cowes**
- Difficulty: **Moderate**
- Walk distance: **16 miles**
- Places to stop for food & drink
- Viewing & rest stops on route
- Family friendly route