

## Llanrhidian to Cheriton

A pleasant walk through the gentle countryside of north Gower using a section of the Gower Coast Path between Llanrhidian and Cheriton in Britain's first designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Gower.

The Gower Coast Path between Crofty and Mumbles, has been developed by the City and County of Swansea with funding and assistance from the Welsh Government and the Countryside Council for Wales. It is a small part of the All Wales Coast Path, which starts in Monmouthshire and ends in Flintshire!



### Gower Coast Walks

#### Llanrhidian to Cheriton

**Reporting problems:** This route follows public paths, on which you have the legal right to walk. If you have any difficulties please report them to the Countryside Access Team.

**Distance:** There are various options. The **Long Walk** from Llanrhidian to Cheriton and back is 8 miles (13km). Two shorter circular walks are available: **Short Walk 1** between Llanrhidian and Weobley (3 miles or 5km), and **Short Walk 2** between Landimore and Cheriton (3 miles or 5km). Alternatively the coast path itself could be walked from Llanrhidian to Cheriton or vice versa and the bus used to get back to the starting point.

**Time:** Total walk 3½ hours. Shorter walks 1½ hours.

**Terrain:** The route passes through a gently undulating landscape.

The route of the Coast Path itself is fairly flat and close to sea-level, but the surface underfoot is occasionally rough. A number of stiles will be found on the route and some areas will be slightly muddy. There is a very steep slope at Bovehill.

**Be prepared:** Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the conditions and season.

**Safety: On rare occasions the path will be submerged for a short time beneath high tides. Take care when following the short sections of road – there are no pavements. Check the tides at [www.visitswanseabay.com](http://www.visitswanseabay.com)**

**Refreshments:** Pubs – Britannia Inn, Llanmadoc; The Dolphin and the Welcome to Town, Llanrhidian.

Shops – the garage at Llanrhidian; community shop, Llanmadoc.

**Public toilets:** Weobley Castle (*entrance fee must be paid*).

**OS map:** Explorer 164 Gower.

**Alternative routes:** In addition to the promoted route, the map shows all of the public paths and access land in the area – feel free to make up your own walks using these.



**This walk follows a section of the Gower Coast Path, which is well marked with these waymarks.**



**The inland sections of this walk are marked with these waymarks.**

### Long Walk

Start at Llanrhidian Church and follow the path through the churchyard and over the old stone stile.

Follow the path to the track and turn left to follow it towards Landimore. You are now on the Gower Coast Path. Follow the Coast Path through a number of fields to Weobley Castle. If you are continuing along the Coast Path you will reach the road at Landimore village.

Turn right and walk to the end of the road to the gate onto the marsh, then follow the track between the marsh and the woods to North Hills Tor.

**WARNING: this track is occasionally covered by the tide.**

The path bears left here and turns inland following the Burry Pill (*stream*). Follow the stream for 300 metres then turn left and walk uphill towards North Hills Farm. Turn right through the gate and walk along the track to the road.

Walk down the road past Glebe Farm and then, opposite the church, turn to the left off the road following the path to Stembridge along the valley and alongside Burry Pill. Where the path joins the bridleway, cross the bridleway, pass through the kissing gate and turn left, walking uphill along the edge of the field, then back onto the bridleway past Kittlehill. On meeting the road, cross over and go through a gate into a field. Cross the field and join the track through Bovehill Farm (*noisy dogs*) passing Bovehill Castle and down the hill (*very steep*) back to the road and Coast Path at Landimore.

Retrace your steps along the Coast Path towards Llanrhidian. At Weobley Castle turn right (*following the sign for Weobley Castle*) and walk uphill alongside the 'mountain boarding' course. At the gate turn right and follow the track to the road. Turn left again and walk along the road for 250 metres, then climb over an old stone stile to your left.

Follow this path through the fields to Leason and walk along the track straight through the hamlet, joining another path through fields. Turn to the left off this path and walk downhill past the old limekilns and rejoin the Coast Path. Retrace your steps along the Coast Path back to Llanrhidian.

### Short Walk 1

Follow the coast path from Llanrhidian church as described under **Long Walk** above. At Weobley Castle turn left (*following the sign for Weobley Castle*) and walk uphill alongside the 'mountain boarding' course. At the gate turn right and follow the track to the road. Turn left again and walk along the road for 250 metres, then climb over an old stone stile to your left.

Follow this path through the fields to Leason and walk along the track straight through the hamlet, joining another path through fields. Turn to the left off this path and walk downhill past the old limekilns and rejoin the Coast Path. Retrace your steps along the Coast Path back to Llanrhidian.

### Short Walk 2

Start at the car park in Landimore and follow the Coast Path through the gate onto the marsh, then follow the track between the marsh and the woods to North Hills Tor.

**WARNING: this track is occasionally covered by the tide.**

The path bears left here and turns inland following the Burry Pill (*stream*). Follow the stream for 300 metres then turn left and walk uphill towards North Hills Farm. Turn right through the gate and walk along the track to the road.

Walk down the road past Glebe Farm and then, opposite the church, turn to the left off the road following the path to Stembridge along the valley and alongside Burry Pill. Where the path joins the bridleway, cross the bridleway, pass through the kissing gate and turn left, walking uphill along the edge of the field, then back onto the bridleway past Kittlehill. On meeting the road, cross over and go through a gate into a field. Cross the field and join the track through Bovehill Farm (*noisy dogs*) passing Bovehill Castle and down the hill (*very steep*) back to the road and Coast Path at Landimore. Turn left and return to the car park.

### Llanrhidian

Llanrhidian church was started in the 13th century by the Knights Hospitallers of St John. The village also contained two water mills: a woollen mill at Staffal Haegr and a corn mill to the north of the village.

### Weobley Castle

Weobley Castle is a picturesque medieval fortified manor house. The castle dates principally from the early 14th century when it was established by the de la Bere family, who had connections with Weobley in Herefordshire. The castle is open to the public for a small fee.

### Bovehill (Landimore Castle)

Bovehill or Landimore Castle was a stone-built fortified manor house of the late 15th century built by Sir Hugh Johnys, a distinguished soldier and later official to the Duke of Norfolk. The castle is not open to the public.



### Llanrhidian Marsh

Llanrhidian marsh is common land and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The marsh between Landimore and North Hills Tor is also a National Nature Reserve, managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and owned by the National Trust.

It was used as a firing range during WWII, but is now given over to more peaceful grazing sheep and ponies and further out in the Loughor estuary, a thriving cockling industry.

The whole area (*including sections of the coast path itself*) is occasionally submerged beneath high tides. The sheep must be herded to higher ground but, over many generations, the ponies have adapted to the tides and calmly stand in the rising water waiting for the sea to recede. The occasional inundation by the sea gives the grass a salty flavour, which the sheep digest, giving their meat a distinct taste - hence 'salt marsh lamb'!

The estuary as a whole is one of the most important wintering areas for wildfowl and waders. Look out for oystercatchers, curlew, lapwing and the beautiful little egret. Osprey are often seen passing through at the end of the summer.

### Tor-gro

It is difficult to believe now, but 100 years ago most of this steep, thickly wooded, limestone slope was given over to quarrying, mainly for the production of lime for agricultural fertiliser. The lime was shipped out of Gower via the creeks that bisect the marsh, some of which were canalised to aid navigation.

The remains of some of the many limekilns, in which the limestone was heated to make the lime, are adjacent to the path at Landimore. It is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The rock here and along most of the walk is Carboniferous limestone containing abundant fossils and was deposited about 340 million years ago in a warm tropical sea.

### North Hill Tor

The Tor is on private land with no public access. This limestone outcrop is a scheduled ancient monument, but the archaeological interest was somewhat reduced when the Tor was quarried in earlier times.

Beneath the Tor the Coast Path has had to be completely reconstructed due to erosion by Burry Pill. This work was completed by Swansea Council in 2007 with funding from the Welsh Assembly and was the largest individual project required to create a continuous Coast Path around Gower.

### Useful Information

#### Countryside Access Team

E-mail: [countrysideaccess@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:countrysideaccess@swansea.gov.uk)  
[www.swansea.gov.uk/countrysideaccess](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/countrysideaccess)

#### Tourist Information:

[www.visitswanseabay.com](http://www.visitswanseabay.com) for information about where to stay, what to do and where to eat and drink.

#### Using public transport in Gower

For information on using public transport to get to and around Gower go to the **Baytrans** website [www.baytrans.org.uk](http://www.baytrans.org.uk)

#### Bus Information

Mon - Sat (*No Sunday service to north Gower*): Gower Explorer Nos.115 & 116 to Llanmadoc and Llanrhidian from Swansea Bus Station.

**Check timetables before travelling.**

**Travellinecymru** 0871 2002233  
[www.traveline-cymru.info.uk](http://www.traveline-cymru.info.uk)

#### Parking

Llanrhidian village, Landimore.

## GOWER COAST WALKS

### Llanrhidian to Cheriton



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**Llanrhidian to Cheriton**

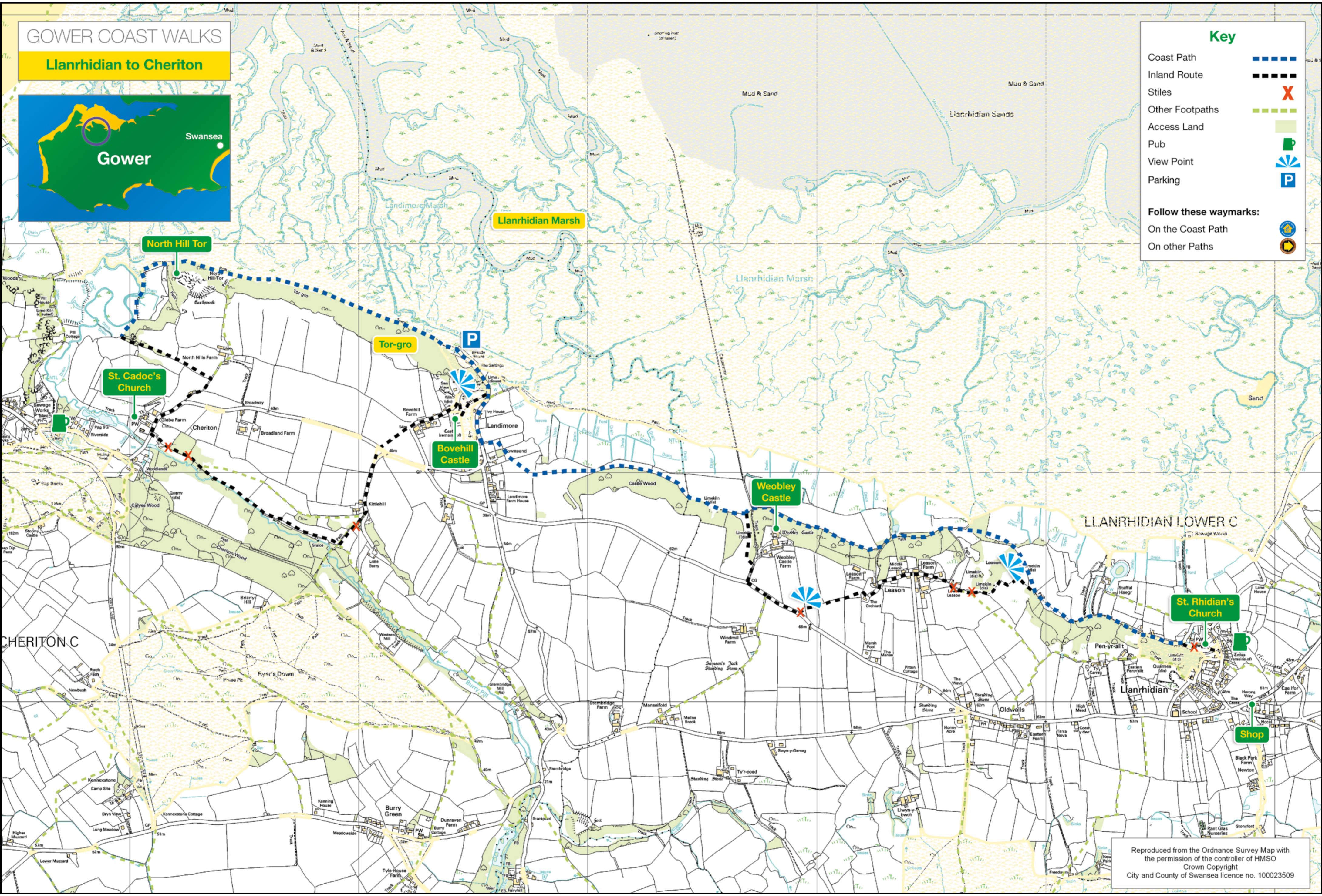


**Key**

- Coast Path
- Inland Route
- Stiles
- Other Footpaths
- Access Land
- Pub
- View Point
- Parking

**Follow these waymarks:**

- On the Coast Path
- On other Paths



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