

Press Release  
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for immediate release

## **A clever new way for walkers to plan their days (and nights) on south-west England's wonderful coast path: guide-books in map form**

### **South West Coast Path WalkPlanners**

Some people walk the famously long and testing coast path in one hit, covering its 650 miles in 6 to 9 weeks; rather more people walk bits of it, a day or a weekend or a week at a time. However you do it, you're likely to want to gather information about the stretch you're looking at.

How demanding is the walk each day? If it's more than a day-trip, where can you stay overnight? What bus services might be helpful? What out-of-town car parks? What obstacles might you meet? What sights might you want to stop and see along the way?

There are countless guide-books and websites that you can wade through to answer these questions, but now there is a single source that's comprehensive and cleverly designed to make the planning process a positive pleasure (as well as being lighter and cheaper than any of the books): WalkPlanner maps, produced by experienced guide-book editor Chris Gill.

The major innovation of WalkPlanners is that as far as possible the information you need is placed on the map, where it's relevant. But they also incorporate other important new ideas. The path is broken down into 87 stages – way more than in any existing guide – so people past their prime can plan walks with it. Younger, fitter walkers can plan on walking two stages a day, or more. Each stage is given an effort rating that is clearly marked on the map using a colour code – so you can see at a glance what you're in for.

WalkPlanners are based on road maps at a scale of 1:200k, which brings another benefit: it's ideal for showing coastal bus routes – something that no guide-book has even attempted, despite the fact that buses are often crucial to planning day or weekend walks.

Another first for WalkPlanners is that they make use of the work Gill has done over the last few years researching Tricky Bits – parts of the path that some people find unnerving because of exposure to drops, for example. These are all marked (over 30 of them on the path as a whole) with explanation of the challenges and suggested alternative routes.

The first WalkPlanner was published on 1 December and is flowing into bookstores and outdoors retailers now: the SWCP WalkPlanner Lodging Edition – East Sheet, covering Exmoor, most of Devon and all of Dorset. The Lodging Edition West Sheet, due out in early January, will cover Cornwall and two short bits of Devon.

The Lodging Edition sheets focus on walks using lodgings for your overnights stays: the east sheet lists and describes over 200 hotels and b&bs on or close to the path. But of course they also work perfectly well for day-trips with no lodging involved. A double-sided Camping Edition covering the whole path is planned for spring 2026.

There's more information about WalkPlanners at [www.walkplanners.uk](http://www.walkplanners.uk), and you can buy the Lodging Edition East Sheet online at the publisher's website, [www.editors.co.uk](http://www.editors.co.uk). If you prefer to support your local bookshop, get them to order it; the ISBN is 978-1-9997708-3-9. Either way, it costs £7.99 (p&p free online).

## Notes for editors

**Published title** South West Coast Path WalkPlanner - Lodging Edition - East Sheet

**Publisher** Guide Editors

**Editor** Chris Gill

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**ISBN** 978-1-9997708-3-9

**Price** £7.99

**Size open** 1m x 700mm

**Size folded** 125mm x 175mm, 64 'pages'

The map is available from bookshops and online at [www.editors.co.uk](http://www.editors.co.uk).

Sales representation and trade distribution by Cordee: [www.cordee.co.uk](http://www.cordee.co.uk) tel 01455 611185

## Review copies

Available from Chris Gill at [chriscgill@editors.co.uk](mailto:chriscgill@editors.co.uk)

## Further information

There is more information for both public and press at [www.walkplanners.uk](http://www.walkplanners.uk). In the Press page are links to download images of:

- the front and back covers of the East Sheet, which clarify what it covers.
- an extract from the East Sheet

NB This extract marks several Tricky Bits, but it does not show detailed information on them; the details are given elsewhere on the map.

## Background

Guide Editors is the trading name of Chris Gill, who leads a small team of freelancers.

Chris learned his craft as an editor at *Which?* magazine, where he became editor of *Holiday Which?* magazine and founded *The Good Skiing Guide*. He is best known as co-editor of *Where to Ski and Snowboard*, which he and Dave Watts (another *Which?* alumnus) developed and which for over 20 years was Britain's market-leading ski resort guide.

In the wake of *Where to Ski and Snowboard*, Chris conceived and produced a mini series of national ski resort guides – *Where to Ski in Austria* followed by *France* and *Italy*. He was working on *Switzerland* when the pandemic brought his research to a halt early in 2020. He subsequently decided, in view of his age, not to resume it.

Chris has been walking bits of the South West Coast Path for decades, and 10 years ago moved with his partner Denise to Exeter, close to the Devon and Dorset stretches of the coast path. He found planning his walks on the path took a lot of time, and came to view that it was time for a rethink of the traditional guide-book. The innovative WalkPlanner guide-map is the result.

Chris Gill is now 75 and, although in good health, he finds his legs can no longer handle very long hilly walks. He reckons he is not alone in this, and this is why his SWCP WalkPlanner breaks the SWCP into 87 stages rather than the usual 45, 52 or 70 stages used in existing guide-books. Younger, fitter walkers, he points out, can plan their walks on the basis of doing two of his stages at a time, or even three.