

Access Opportunities on the Defence Estate

Castlemartin Pembrokeshire



Scenic walk following the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, along the beautiful Pembrokeshire coastline.

Distance: 7½ - 8 miles (12-12.8km)

Duration: 4½ hours

Grade: ▲▲

OS map sheet(s)

OS Landranger Sheet 158 (1:50,000)

OS Outdoor Leisure Sheet 36 (1:25,000)

Starting Grid Reference: GR 926 945

Site description / history

The Castlemartin Range was first used by the Army in 1939 and purchased in 1948. It makes an important contribution to local agriculture with large flocks of sheep and some cattle maintained on the 2,429 hectare estate during the winter. Cattle graze on the fringe areas throughout the year.

It is an area of great beauty and contains a wide variety of plant life seldom seen elsewhere. The absence of constant human activity has allowed the Range to become a sanctuary for flora and fauna. In addition, there are a number of ancient fortified sites along the route of the walk.

Walk description

The Castlemartin Range is divided into two: Range East and Range West.

Range East

The recommended walk is through Range East only and follows the Pembrokeshire Coast Path which enters Castlemartin Range at Castlemartin Pound **A** (GR 915 984) in the west and leaves at Broadhaven (Trevallen Gates), **G** (976 939) in the east.

The walk starts from the car park at Stack Rocks **C** (GR 926 945). A short walk from the car park there is a viewing point which provides good views across to the Green Bridge of Wales, a magnificent natural limestone arch.

From the car park **C**, follow the Coast Path eastwards along the south shore of the Castlemartin peninsula. The path continues to the car park at St Govan's Chapel **D** (GR 967 929), past Bullslaughter Bay and Huntsman's Leap, along some superb cliff scenery.

Options to finish the walk

From St Govan's Chapel **D**, depending on whether access is allowed there are two potential routes:

Option 1

North to Bosherton (GR 966 948). Follow the road northwards for about 1 mile (1.6km) through the barrier at the edge of the range **E** to Bosherton **F**; or

Option 2

Continue east along the Coast Path across Trevallen Downs to the gates at the eastern limit of the Range **G** (GR 976 939). From **D**, if access permits, you can take a diversion from the Pembrokeshire Coast Path down to St Govan's Head, **H** (GR 974 926) giving spectacular views back along the coast.

Points of interest

- St Govan's Chapel, built around the 13th Century and recently restored by the National Park Authority, nestles into the side of the cliff, close to St Govan's Head.



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- Flimston Chapel, just off the road to Stack Rocks **C**. A key to enter the chapel is held at the main entrance to Merrion Camp.
- The Green Bridge of Wales, Stack Rocks, and Huntsman's Leap, all natural limestone features.

Other requests for access to Range West should be addressed to the Commandant of Castlemartin Range.



Restrictions / access times

Range East

Access to this area is generally available on all weekends and public holidays. Access is also available on non-firing days and before and after firing when the red flags at the points indicated on the map are not flown and the barriers are open. When access is not available to Range East, it is necessary when using the Pembrokeshire Coast Path to proceed east from **A** to Warren, and on to Merrion Camp to rejoin the B4319. If access is not available at **B** through the Range, continue eastwards along the B4319 and on to Bosherton **F**, to continue on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path.

Normal Firing Times

- 9am-5pm for Day Firing.
- Night Firing takes place between 7pm and midnight.

The precise timings for the day/night firing should be checked before entering the Range. Please call 01646 662367.

Firing times are published in local newspapers and at entrances and exits to Range East. Red flags are flown along the boundary and indicate that the whole area is potentially dangerous. Red flags at the points indicated on the map are put up and taken down at the start and end of firing. The public are reminded that they must keep to the coastal track which is marked by white stakes.

Range West

Range West is not open to the public owing to the danger from unexploded ordnance. Access to Range West is only available through guided walks organised by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

Safety

- Visitors are asked to comply at all times with the instructions and Byelaws on the Range Warning Noticeboards located at St Govan's Chapel and Stack Rocks car parks and entrances onto the Range from the main road.
- Always obey instructions of the Range Wardens.
- Please keep away from all buildings, bunkers and military installations except for Flimston and St Govan's Chapel. Never enter any other buildings.
- Never stray from the paths. Stay away from cliff edges and overhangs. Cliff top walking can be dangerous in high winds.
- Never allow children or dogs to stray. Always supervise/control them especially near cliff edges.
- Beware of taking shortcuts across beaches - you may be cut off by the tide. Swimming can also be dangerous.
- Remember the Coast Path is for walkers. Most of its length is not suitable or safe for cycling or horse riding.

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



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How to get there

For information on local public transport, call traveline on 0870 608 2608 (local call rate) or www.traveline.org.uk

Local facilities

There are car parks and viewpoints at Stack Rocks C and close to St Govan's Chapel D. No access is available between C and G when the red flags are flown and the barriers are closed at B and E. Further picnic and car parking facilities owned by the National Trust are at Bosherton F, and Trevalen G. There is a small charge for parking.

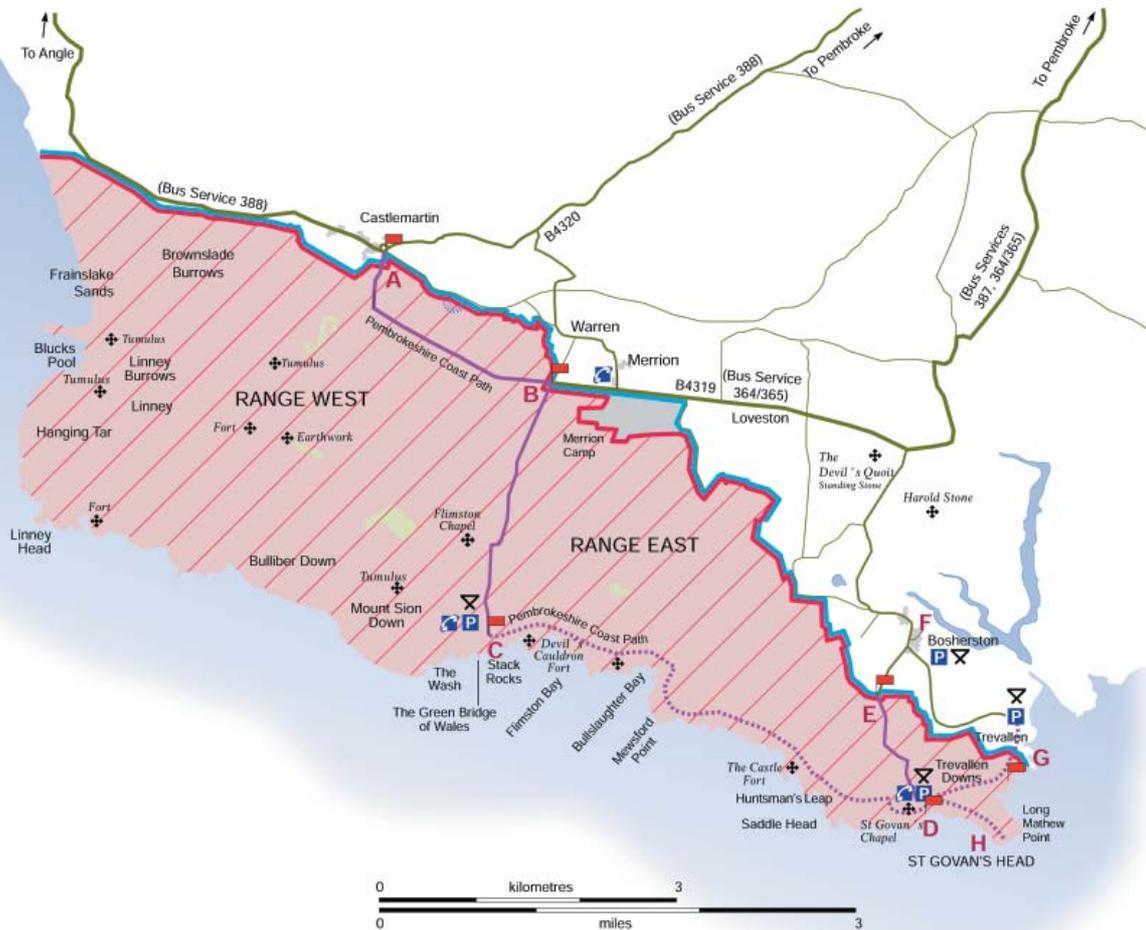
Useful contact details

Castlemartin Range 01646 662280 or 662367.

For guided walks on Range West contact: St Davids National Park Visitor Centre on 01437 720392.

Other useful publications

Countryside Commission/Countryside Council for Wales Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail.
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Leaflets on a variety of walks and the Pembrokeshire Coast Path.



Roads	Roads	Training Area	Historic Sites
Footpaths	Woodland Training Area	Live Firing Range Danger Area	View Points
WARNING SIGNS	Car Park	Training Area Boundary	Picnic Facilities
FLAGS - Day	Emergency Telephone only		

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