



Isle of Wight  
area of outstanding  
natural beauty

# Celebrating our Landscape 1

in association with the IW Ramblers

ramblers  
the art of walking

## Ventnor – The Undercliff

Part of a series of 11 walks to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Island

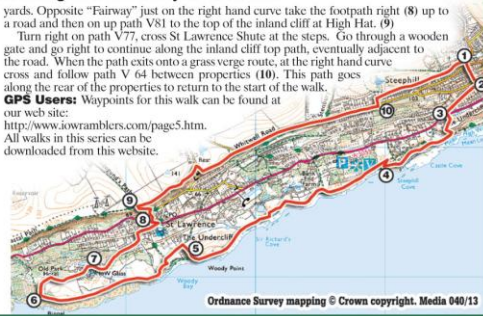
**Landscape:** Dramatic inland vertical craggy cliffs with coastal pasture and slumped grasslands viewed from the coastal path. Victorian villas and modern suburbia are interwoven in unmanaged natural woodland regeneration.

**Description:** A walk along the coastal cliff tops through attractive bays returning along the top of the inland cliff.

**Distance:** 6 miles  
**Start:** Steephill Down Road cul de sac behind the fish and chip shop in Upper Gills Cliff Road, Upper Ventnor.  
**Access Information:** Winding rugged cliff top paths and surfaced tracks with several steep flights of steps.  
**Refreshments:** Botanic gardens café, Steephill Cove cafes-in season, Ventnor Football Club (a walker friendly pub).  
**Toilets:** Steephill Cove or patrons of cafe, pub.  
**Route:** Turn right out of Steephill Down Road (1), cross over to the phone box and go down St Albans Steps passing a church and emerging on a main road. Turn left passing traffic lights, cross at the junction and go right on Castle Road (2) downhill towards the Botanic Gardens. Turn left and by a post box and a bus stop, cross the road to enter Ventnor Park (3). Follow the surfaced path over the bridge and turn right climbing to the top right corner of

the park by a children's playground.  
Leave through the metal gate, go right and left down steps and then right again to descend a flight of timber steps. Go over a concrete bridge and through parkland. Follow the surfaced coast path V87 up and over into Castle Cove followed by Steephill Cove. Walk along in front of the cottages and at the far end of the cove by the "Beach Shack" cafe turn up the sloping path and round behind the cottages (4). At the first junction turn sharp left and after a few yards climb the steps.  
Turn left along the top boundary of Ventnor Botanic Gardens on the coast path. Crossing the meadow the path continues down a concrete drive by Orchard House. The path continues along the cliff tops and eventually turns right to Woody bay Cottages (5). Go left through a kissing gate and across the field to a finger post. Here go left on the wide grassy path leaving the coast path. Then take the right path through the distant kissing gate at a hill, Sugarloaf. The path then continues along the cliff top with St Catherine's Lighthouse in the distance, to reach Binnd Bay.  
At the beach, cross a stream (6) and climb steps and a boardwalk, heading inland. The stone and then grass track bears right round the hotel garden wall before passing between properties and glass studio to a rough lane (7). Turn right and follow Old Park Road by houses up into St Lawrence. At the cross roads on Undercliff Drive turn left and walk carefully along the road for 50

yards. Opposite "Fairway" just on the right hand curve take the footpath right (8) up to a road and then on up path V81 to the top of the inland cliff at High Hat. (9)  
Turn right on path V77, cross St Lawrence Shute at the steps. Go through a wooden gate and go right to continue along the inland cliff top path, eventually adjacent to the road. When the path exits onto a grass verge route, at the right hand curve cross and follow path V 64 between properties (10). This path goes along the rear of the properties to return to the start of the walk.  
**GPS Users:** Waypoints for this walk can be found at our web site:  
<http://www.iowramblers.com/page5.htm>.  
All walks in this series can be downloaded from this website.



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