



**South West
Coast Path
ASSOCIATION**



PRESS RELEASE

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National Coastwatch to provide 'Coast Path Passport' stamping points along the South West Coast Path

The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) has become an official ['Coast Path Passport'](#) stamping point partner, working with the charity which cares for the UK's longest and most popular National Trail, the South West Coast Path.

The new partnership means that visitors to the Trail can now stop off at NCI stations along the 630-mile route to collect different 'stamps' in their Camino-style Coast Path Passport and find out more about the work of both charities. National Coastwatch has 24 of its 60 stations along the South West Coast Path and its volunteers help to keep people safe on the coast and save lives at sea by maintaining a daily visual and radio watch.



Image: Helen at St Ives NCI station stamping the Coast Path Passport

The South West Coast Path Association created the Coast Path Passport 18 months ago in order to help the nine million visitors who use the Path each year create a lasting memory of their journey along it. The Passport is also designed to encourage walkers to stop off at local coastal businesses and communities along the way, helping them to get a share of the £520 million the Trail brings into the local economy each year.

Stamps representing the unique nature of each section of the Path can now be collected from over 135 stamping points, with the 24 National Coastwatch stations along the South West Coast Path being the latest additions.

Julian Gray, Director, South West Coast Path Association comments, “We’re really excited to be working in partnership with the National Coastwatch Institution. The stations are ideally positioned along the Path and hark back to the original use of the Coast Path when it was used by the coastguard and customs and excise to look out for smugglers.”

Sarah Gunn, Business Engagement at the charity adds, “The fact that the majority of the NCI stations are open 365 days a year is an added bonus. We’re sure that walkers will enjoy finding out more about the NCI’s work from its volunteers, as well being able to pick up their Passport stamp and some more information about the work we do as a charity to care for, champion and connect people and local communities to the amazing health and wellbeing benefits of the iconic South West Coast Path.”

Stephen Hand, Chair of the National Coastwatch Institution says,
“We’re delighted to partner with the South West Coast Path Association as we share the same broad aims of wanting people to share our love of the coast, enjoy themselves and take home happy memories. For us that means staying safe and all our stations along the Trail are now looking forward to giving a warm welcome to even more walkers, whether they are stopping for a passport stamp, a brief rest, or to check information about the local conditions.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

About the South West Coast Path

The South West Coast Path Association is a charity (Registered Charity Number 1163422) that works to ensure the Path is one of the best walks in the world and protects it for all to enjoy. Supporting the charity and adding a voice as a member helps the South West Coast Path Association to improve the South West Coast Path and keeps the way open to beautiful coastal places. For more information about the South West Coast Path Association visit www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk

South West Coast Path National Trail was originally a means for the coastguard to track and pursue smugglers and continues to provide access to 630 miles of stunning coastal scenery from Minehead to Poole. As a designated National Trail, representing the finest walking routes in Britain, it is the country's longest and most popular walk and is considered among the World's Great Hikes. With two World Heritage Sites, Five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and one National Park, it's a journey along one of the most diverse coastal landscapes in the world where no two days walking it are ever the same.

Follow the South West Coast Path on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #southwestcoastpath

See all South West Coast Path Passport Stamping Points on the SWCPA search finder <https://southwestcoastpath.my.site.com/portal/s/placefinder>

About the National Coastwatch Institution

The [National Coastwatch Institution \(NCI\)](#) is a Registered Charity (No. 1159975) which helps to save lives and keep people safe along our coasts. It operates 60 stations around the coastline of England and Wales.

The stations are staffed by over 2,700 qualified volunteers. Volunteers from every walk of life are welcome and all are fully trained including; reading maritime charts, operating VHF radios and interpreting weather and tides. Funds are needed to help continue the charity's lifesaving work assisting HM Coastguard. This includes the development of new stations and safety cameras, essential maintenance, public safety programmes, equipment and training.

National Office: 17 Dean Street, Liskeard, Cornwall, PL14 4AB
www.nci.org.uk

Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Aletha Mays (Head of Comms) at South West Coast Path Association by Telephone: 07915 074076 or Email: aletha@southwestcoastpath.org.uk