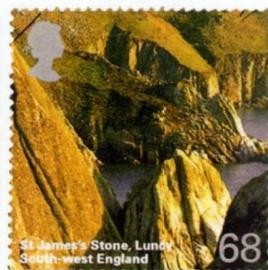
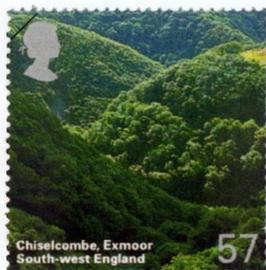


## A British Journey: South West England



### Technical details

**Printer** De La Rue

**Process** Gravure

**Stamp size** 35mm square

**Sheet size** 25 and 50

**Perforation** 14.5

**Phosphor** One band 2nd class, two bands others

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Vertical

### Cylinder numbers & colours

**All values** D1 silver ● D1 black  
● D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ●  
D1 deep blue (2nd) or cyan  
(others) ● D1 phosphor

A FURTHER six stamps in the British Journey series, featuring the beautiful scenery of South West England, go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Talents House on 8 February. They are: 2nd class Old Harry Rocks, Studland Bay, Dorset; 1st class Wheal Coates, St Agnes, Cornwall; 40p Start Point, Start Bay, Devon; 43p Horton Down, Wiltshire; 47p Chiselcombe, Exmoor, Somerset; and 68p, St James's Stone, Lundy, Devon. The stamps were designed by Phelan Barker Design Consultants using photographs by Fay Godwin (2nd class), Joe Cornish (1st & 68p); Rob Talbot (40p); Andreas Heumann (43p); and Brian Pearce (47p).

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25. However sheets of 50 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Talents House.

Ballard Down forms the eastern tip of the great chalk ridge of the Purbeck Hills. Sheer cliffs drop 500 feet to the sea, with the Old Harry Rocks offshore. Wheal Coates at St Agnes, now in the care of the National Trust, stands in a dramatic position on a ledge 300 feet above the sea. The great sweep of Start Bay in South Devon is best seen from Little Dartmouth and the A379 follows the beach for two miles between Slapton and Torcross. Horton Down is five miles from Devizes, an area of beautiful farmland in the chalk downs. Chiselcombe is near Lynmouth on Exmoor – a 170,000 acre plateau of moorland and upland farms with deep wooded combs along the main rivers. Much of the land is owned by the National Trust. Lundy is a small island, three miles long and half a mile wide, 11 miles off Hartland Point, Devon. It is now owned by the National Trust and is a place of natural beauty.



**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 8 February, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or The Lizard, Helston must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £3.27 UK or £2.79 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of the Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (Lizard postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0503' (Tallents House), or 'FD0504' (Lizard). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Lizard postmark. A non-pictorial Lizard postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres: request 'FD0504 NP'.

Sponsored handstamps for 8 February will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

**PHILATELIC PRODUCTS** An illustrated pack (price £3.10) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House. The pack, written by Will Hodgkinson, takes the form of a journey through the West Country, with information on (and illustrations of) some key tourist sites: Stonehenge, the Royal Crescent at Bath, Glastonbury, and the Eden Project. The pack, which includes a quotation from Thomas Hardy's poem *Wessex Heights* (1896), was designed by Russell Watson-Fisher. The main illustration is of Durdle Dor, Dorset.



Top row: Over Stovey church in Somerset (2000); Padstow Harbour and Newquay Beach, Cornwall (2002).

Middle Row: the ancient Tarr Steps bridge, Exmoor (1968); Dunster Beach, Somerset and Studland Bay, Dorset (2002).

Bottom row: St Mary the Virgin church, Huish Episcopi, Somerset (1972); Tin mine, St Agnes, Cornwall (1989); and Clyffe Clump, Dorset (1990).



**South West stamps** A number of previous issues have featured places in the South West. As well as those shown above, these include: St Mary Le Port church, Bristol (1968); Bush House, Bristol (1984); and Eddystone Lighthouse, Plymouth (1998). A sunflower representing the Eden Project, the head of a *Gigantiops destructor* ant, representing Wildscreen at Bristol, and a bather symbolising the Bath Spa Project were depicted on stamps in the Tree & Leaf, Mind & Matter and Body & Bone sets in the Millennium series (2000).

South West places have also featured on a number of stamp book covers: Temple of the Sun, Stourhead, Wilts (50p, August 1982); Kennet & Avon Canal (90p, August 1978); Marlborough College, Wilts (£1, July 1993); Tin Mines, Cornwall (£1.20, June 1980); and Lyme Regis, Dorset (£1.45, August 1983). Finally, Durdle Dor was included on one of the 'Landscapes of Britain' aerogrammes issued in 1989, and glass making in Tiverton on the 'English Crafts' aerogramme of 1999 •