

WALK 1

Wednesday 14th April

THE BANKS ARMS, STUDLAND

Distance 3 ³/₄ miles— 10.00a.m.

This walk is best done in reverse to avoid a steep climb.

Studland is reached either from Sandbanks, using the car ferry, or by taking the A351 from Wareham to Corfe and the B3351. The inn is on the right on the road down to the beach.

Approx. distance of walk: 3³/₄ miles. O.S. Map No. 195 S.Z. 037/825.

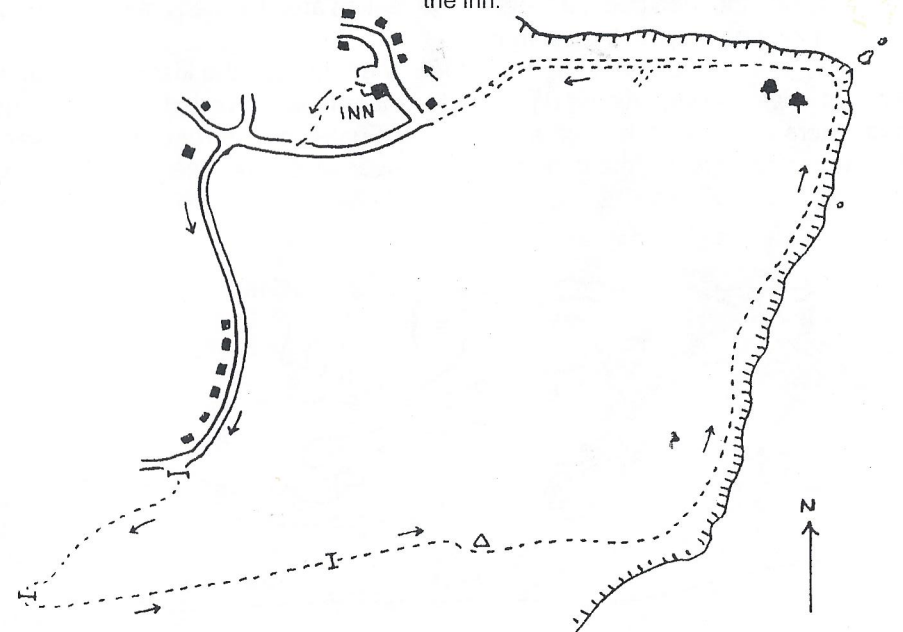
There is a very large car park beside the inn but a charge is levied in summer by the National Trust. Only very limited parking is available outside the inn.

An easy, very popular coastal walk, fairly hilly, but quite dry and often breezy. The scenery is stunning with magnificent views over Dorset.

From the car park go behind the inn to a stile set in the fence on the left. Go across the field, over a stile in the hedge opposite, and out into the road. Turn right, walking up the road for a short distance, turning left at the War Memorial onto the bridleway, it is signed Swanage 1³/₄ miles. Walk along and up the hill past several houses on the right. Near the top the road bears round to the right and on the left is a wooden gate. Go through and follow the track up onto Ballard Down.

When you reach the top there is a wooden gate ahead of you, go through and turn left, following the Swanage Coastal Path, taking

time as you go to admire the magnificent panoramic views. Continue on this path, through another gate following the sign for Old Harry Rocks. When you eventually reach the triangulation point there are three paths, take the centre one down to Handfast point and the rocks. Turn left. From here the track leads back to Studland. At one point it passes through a small wooded area which, in late April, is covered in a dense carpet of wild flowering garlic. Just past a hedge of blackthorn the path divides, take the right fork, continuing ahead back down to the road. Turn right, back up the hill to the inn.



WALK 2

Saturday April 24th HENGISTBURY HEAD AND TUCKTON

Distance 3 OR 5 miles— 10.00a.m.

Park and meet in the car park off Wick Lane Tuckton.

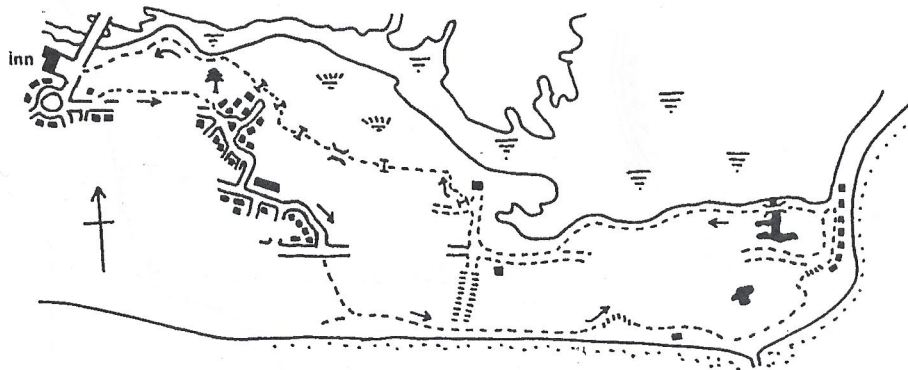
The walk takes you through Wick village to the top of the Head, down to the shore and back through a nature trail and along the bank of the river.

Walk down Wick Lane. If you bear left down to the riverside park a tarred path runs parallel with the lane ending in Wick Village. Ignore the sign directing you to the Head but keep straight ahead and follow the lane round to the right and out into Harbour Road. Turn left along the front of the school, past the pitch and putt course and round to meet the road. Walk straight across and make your way over the grass to the cliff path.

Many walks cross the Head including a circular nature trail. Our walk combines the best of both. Keep to the path by the shore. When you reach the Head walk up the steps to the top and take the path on the right past the Coast Guard Lookout Station. After rounding the headland go down the steps to the beach and along the track behind the beach huts. At the turning point for the Noddy Train go left following the shoreline, over the wooden crossing points and back to meet the tarred road. If the weather is very bad, or in times of extremely high tides, keep to the tarred road.

After you pass the wardens house turn right, signed to Wick village. Go through the gate and into the field on the left. If you keep close to the fence the path will take you round beside the reed beds; a feeding and resting area for many migrating birds. It is also a good spot to pick blackberries.

Go through the gate and cross the bridge, then through the kissing gate and keep straight ahead making for the right-hand corner of the converted farm buildings. The path veers to the right through a couple more gates before reaching the river bank. This time simply follow the path beside the river which will take you straight back to the pub.



WALK 3

Wednesday, 5th May WOOL WOODS

Distance 3 or 5 miles — 10.00a.m.

Take the Wareham to Wool Road. Go over the railway crossing, immediately turn left, this is Station Road, which runs into High Street. Go past the Black Bear, on your left is a small free car park. If full 50 yds on the right is High Street Close, park here.

This is a very good area for woodland walking. We did a lovely woodland route starting from Wool village and up, the lane past the church, straight on into footpath ahead and then all around Cole Wood and back down to Wool - about three miles.

For a little longer route go on up through Highwood and back on the optional path - this would give you a five mile trek.

Go straight ahead through the field, cross a footpath and into the field ahead for only a few yards until you find a gate and bridleway on the right into the woods.

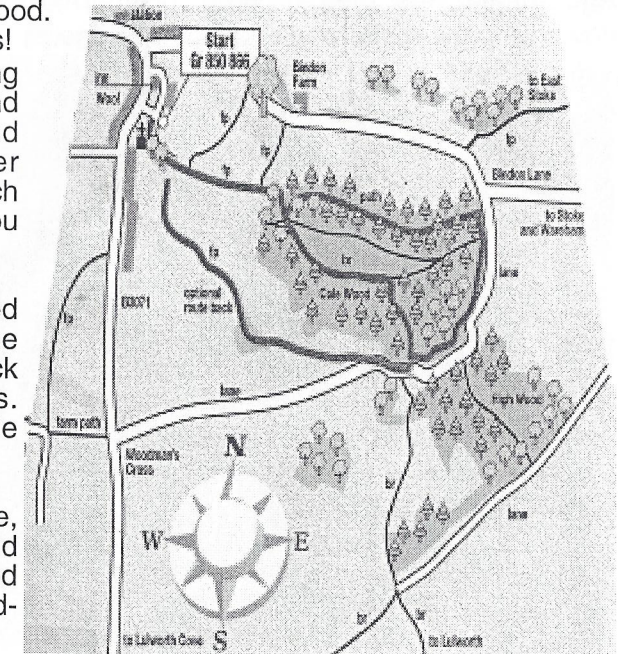
Only a few yards up you will find woodland path on the left this lovely route follows the woodland track all along for a good mile before it reaches the lane.

Turn right, either into lane or into woods and follow all along again to reach the westerly end of Cole Wood.

Trees, trees and more trees! turn right up the track running north and into the woodland centre near left (trees and more trees) along another lovely woodland path to reach the gate at the top where you entered.

Return same way you started to reach the church and the village and the friendly Black Bear Inn for refreshments. This is about a three mile walk.

For a longer five mile route, go up into High Wood and back and the into Cole Wood again following lovely woodland paths.



WALK 4

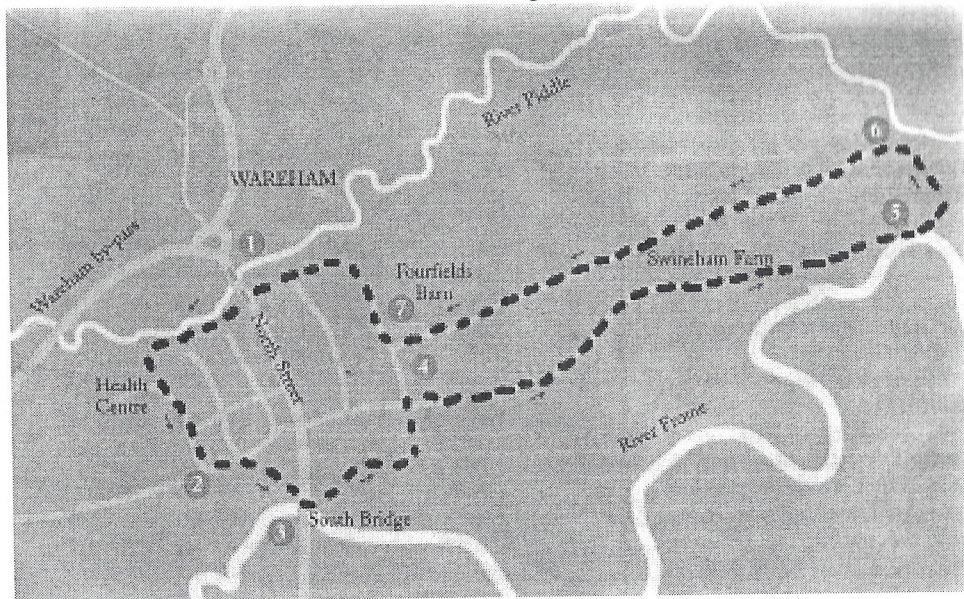
Saturday 15th May

AROUND WAREHAM

Distance $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles— 10.00a.m.

Park and meet in the long stay car park on the corner of West Street No. 2 on the map.

Turn up Shatter's Hill leading to St. Edward's Church. By the Mill Lane junction take the metalled path up on to the grass covered town wall. At the viewpoint turn left and south with the wall. At Worgret Road go half left down Pound Lane. By Parsonage House go right down Tanner's Lane to Abbots Quay by the River Frome. Cross South Bridge approach to reach The Quay. Pass The Quay Inn and go through a gap at the far end to Church Green where there is the church Our Lady & St. Mary and Priory Hotel. Pass the church door and go right into Church Lane to follow the road through the burial ground. At the far end go left along East Wall to a junction. Turn right along Bestwell Road where the houses soon give way to countryside. Ignore all 'private road' notices. Where the metalled surface swings left keep ahead over a stile by a gate. The track meets the riverside at a bend. Leaving the track to turn left into a field, keep ahead outside the field on a high narrow path. At Swineham Point the path turns north with the field. After a stile go left into a fenced area. Go over the stile ahead to follow a straight path running back to Wareham. At the grass town wall go right to walk along the top. After turning west the path drops down to join Mount Pleasant, which runs downhill to the main road and North Bridge.



WALK 5

Wednesday, 26th May

HOLT, THE OLD INN

Distance 3 miles — 10.00a.m.

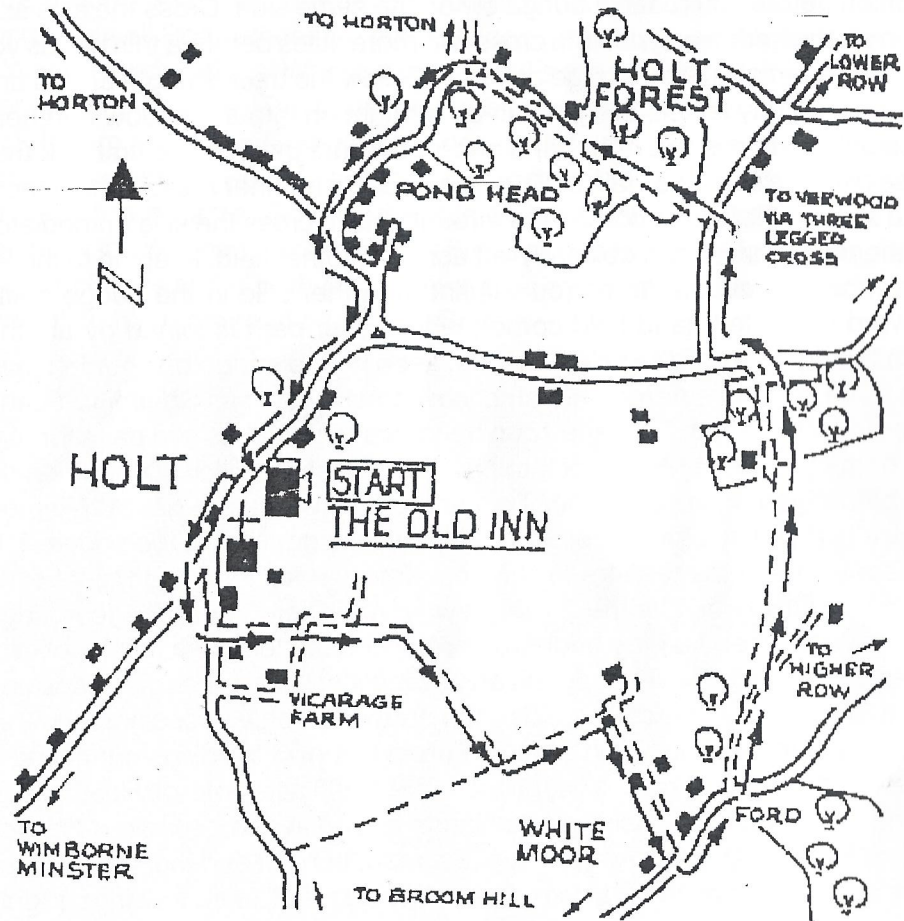
MEET AND PARK AT THE OVERFLOW CAR PARK, OPPOSITE THE INN
How to get there: Holt is just over 2 miles north of Wimborne Minister. Take the B3078 out of the town and, after 1 mile, you will see a turning signed to Holt on the right. The Old Inn is on your right in the village.

The Walk:

From the Old Inn turn left and walk alongside the church wall. The Church was built in 1834-5 on the site of a former chapel and the wall was added a year later. Where the road forks, turn left, pausing to admire the view on your right over the green to cottages on the Wimborne Road. Look for a stile on your left before you reach a bungalow on the same side. Cross the stile and, keeping the hedge on your left, cross two more stiles before a third leads you out onto a farm track by a large oak tree. Follow the track straight ahead until it bends sharply left. At this point keep straight on into a meadow and head for a stile visible in the right hand hedgerow, just beyond the first oak tree. Pass over the stile and walk obliquely left across another meadow to a metal gate in the far left hand corner. Go through this to cross the stile immediately on the right. Again head obliquely left across another field, keeping to the left of a ,one midfield oak tree. You will find a further stile in the hedge a little forward of the left-hand field corner, where your path is joined by another from the right. Cross the stile and then, keeping the hedge on your left, over two more stiles to emerge onto an access track known as Sheepcroft Lane, where you turn right. The lane soon becomes metalled as you pass through the hamlet of White Moor. Look out for the attractive Willow Cottage on the left before you arrive at a lane. Turn left to follow the lane past Whitemoor House to arrive at a ford. Veer left and cross the stream by a footbridge. This stream is one of the feeders to Uddens Water, which joins the Moors River near Trickett's Cross, some 2 miles away. After going over the footbridge, look for a track and a blue brideway arrow on your left. Join this to follow a pleasant trackway to where a path angles left just before the track rises up a slight incline. Take the path, which soon narrows to enter woodland and then leads uphill to eventually join a track. Follow this past buildings on the left to meet a road. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to your right lie the 1,200 acres of Holt Heath, which is one of the largest remaining heathlands in Dorset and became a National Nature Reserve in 1985. As you meet the road, turn left and then immediately right up a lane signed to Lower Row. Walk along it until it swings slightly

Continued page 8

right after crossing a little bridge with white side fences. Look for a bridleway sign with a blue arrow on the left. Another sign announces that you are entering Holt Forest, which is another National Nature Reserve and contains some fine oaks. It was referred to in the Domesday Book as part of the Forest of Wimborne. Take the left fork inside the wood to follow a path which is often muddy—this is a poorly drained area. Soon you emerge from the trees to pass to the left of a bungalow and shortly meet the access road to it. Walk left-handed away from the bungalow, with the nursery grounds of Glen Farm on the right. Soon you reach a road after passing a display cabinet, which usually contains self-serve fruit and vegetables. Turn left and follow the road (Pond Head) down into a valley and then steeply - up again past houses to the junction with Lodge Road. Turn left and walk along this road past a junction and then uphill, back to the Old Inn.



WALK 6

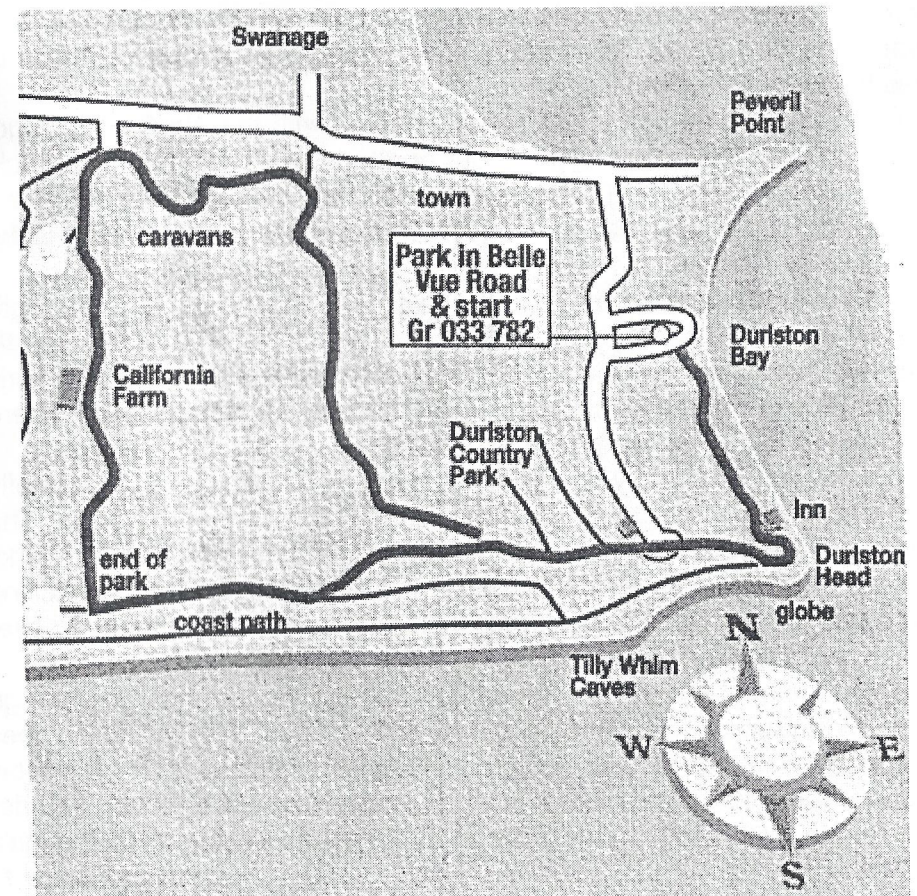
Saturday 5th June

DURLSTON COUNTRY PARK

Distance 4 miles — 10.00a.m.

Take the Durlston Country Park Road out of Swanage, take a left turn into Belle Vue Road. Park and meet here. If any difficulty there's good parking in BonAccord Road opposite.

From Belle Vue Road go down steps to Coast Path. Follow this to Durlston Head. Turn right here to the Country Park entrance. Follow the path and bear left for 1/2 mile. Go onto the top path until you meet a gate. Go through turn right. Walk north passing California Farm and on to the Caravan area, walk through this down hill, left at the top to the stile, up the road a few yards and into the Nature Reserve. Continue to main track, turn right across track and up path opposite, bear right and then left to meet the path used earlier to return.



WALK 7

Wednesday 16th June

ST. CATHERINE'S HILL

Distance 3 1/2 miles — 10.00a.m.

How to get there;

Take the A338 Bournemouth - Ringwood Spur Road, turn left B3073 for Christchurch. Takes you over the Spur Road onto Hurn road. Straight across small roundabout 2nd left after Hillside Drive is Sandy Lane, Park and meet here not at the Fairmile Pub.

The walk;

Take the left fork, called St. Catherine's Hill Lane and signed as a bridleway to Avon Causeway. The track climbs gently past a white bungalow on the right to enter woodland of birch and oak. As you reach the gate leading to Christchurch Gun Club, veer right and pass by a gate signed 'No motor cycles'. The track now steepens and winds its way up the flank of St. Catherine's Hill. Ignore all lesser side tracks and paths as you go up the hill. There are glimpses of extensive views to the right over the Avon Valley and towards the New Forest. The track curves left and goes through a cluster of pines before levelling out.

There are many side paths hearabouts marked with the 'No Cycling' logo, but you ignore these and maintain your northerly course on the main track. After passing an open area of heathland on the left, the woodland becomes, predominantly pine and you walk on a soft bed of pine needles. This is the summit of St. Catherine's Hill

Pass a covered reservoir on the left and an information panel to the right overlooking an old sand and gravel extraction pit. Your track now gently descends through pine woodland into a cleared valley and rises again fairly sharply. Blue bridleway signs on posts keep you on the correct route. There is a further shallow drop and rise in the track.

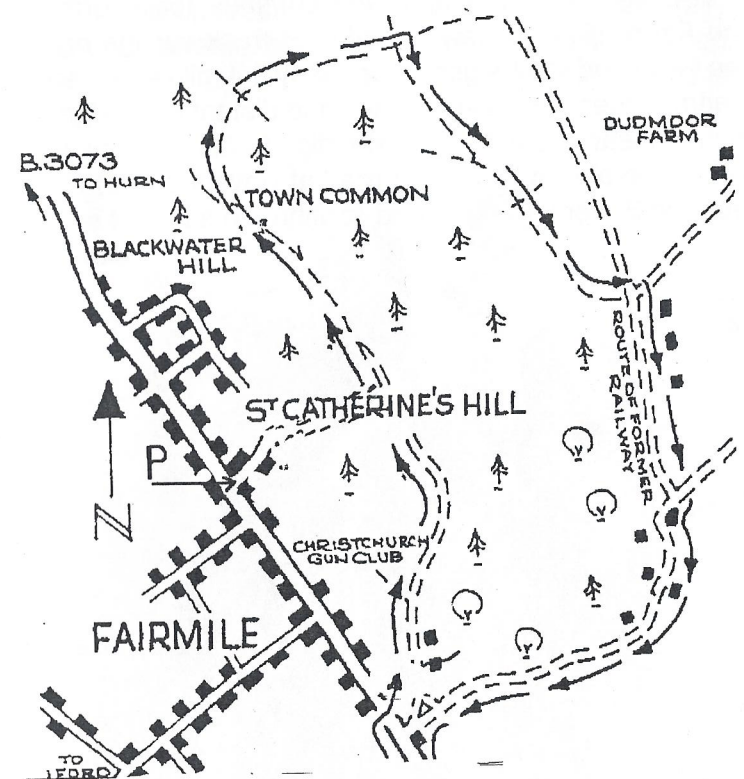
Once more you go sharply down, turning half-left at the bottom to go briefly uphill and then plunge down through a sandy gully framed by pines. The sand is quite deep as you descend steeply, going right where the path forks by a silver birch tree. Continue the descent through rhododendrons, picking your way through much erosion under electricity transmission lines. Go over a small path crossing as your path, becomes stony.

Soon you arrive at a big crossing of paths, where you turn right past a sign saying 'Permissive bridleway. Oct 20-April 20th- please'. This restriction does not apply to walkers and you proceed as the path widens and crosses a low hill under the same transmission lines as you encountered earlier. You descend again. With heath ponds to the left and the flanks of the St. Catherine's

Continued page 11

Hill ridge to the right. After veering right to avoid a boggy area, you meet another path and go left. Pass another 'permissive bridleway' sign and keep ahead at a path crossing, still following the base of the ridge on your right. Walk past a 'No horses or bikes' sign and soon you share your path with a little stream. Over this section, the path narrows to a minimum through heather and moor grass, but you soon bend left to meet a gravel road opposite to the entrance to Dudmoor Farm. Turn right here to follow the route of the old Ringwood to Christchurch railway, built in 1862. Several properties have access to this well used track, including Cresswell, which has a nature information panel at its entrance. Trees shade the route of the former railway, which is raised on a low embankment above wetlands.

Soon you join Dudmoor Farm Road and turn right and then quickly left along a well used gravel track. Ignore all side turnings as you follow the track back to Fairmile Road - a distance of about, 1 mile. Turn left past the shops, back to the pub.



Walk 8

Saturday, 26th June

CRANBORNE CHASE

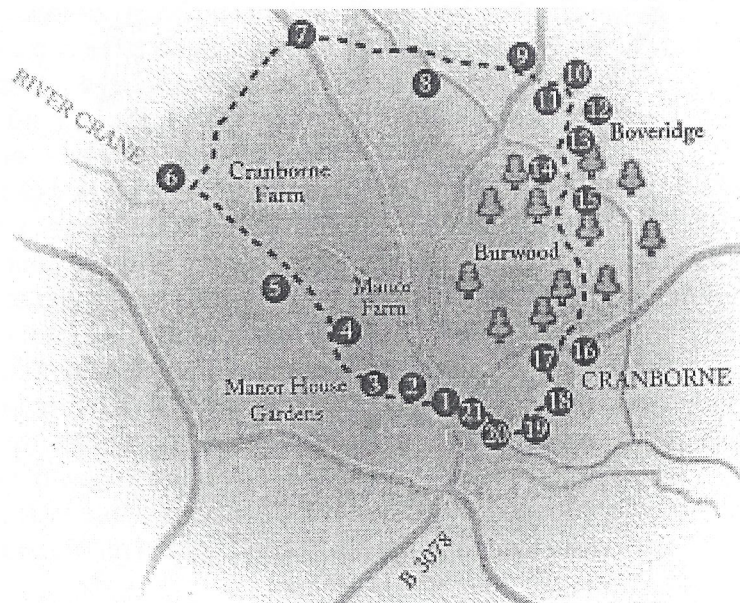
Distance 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles — 10.00a.m.

Take the B3078 from Wimborne to the centre of Cranborne, there is a small car park on the right in front of the school, meet here, if full, park in the High Street.

(1) From the Sheaf of Arrows, continue up the High Street towards Boveridge, bending right soon after the garden. (2) Immediately after the terrace of four new houses on the left, go left up an initially Tarmaced bridleway.

(3) In 50 yards enter a field and continue along a surfaced track ahead, which in 50 yards gives a superb view of Cranborne Manor. In 1/4 mile arrive at Manor Farm. (4) A The Ramblers' Association's Jubilee way continue ahead on the far side of the farm. Stick to this, keeping the tiny River Crane in the field on your left as you follow a Tarmac track up the valley. (5) After 1/2 mile, ignore a turn right and continue for a further 1/2 mile to Cranborne Farm. (6) The now unsurfaced track swings right, away from Cranborne Farm and climbs gently for nearly 3/4 mile to a junction. (7) At the junction, admire the views, especially to the distant Pentridge Hill to the left, then continue ahead to two barns in the dip. (8) At the barns, ignore the right fork and continue ahead to a minor road at Boveridge. (9) Cross to the no-through road to Boveridge Farm and continue to a pair of semis 200 yards

Continued page 9



away. (10) Turn right just past these houses by a solitary young tree and climb for 30 yards to a gate into a field. (11) Don't go into the field, but turn left and follow the path along the edge of the wood, keeping the field to the right. (12) At the end of the wood, follow the right-hand hedge of the field beyond, aiming for another small wood and a lone house. (13) Having negotiated the mud, follow the path ahead through the trees with the house to the right. You reach another minor road. (14) Go virtually straight ahead here on the road to Damerham, keeping a white house in the triangle of land to the left. (15) After 100 yards on the Damerham road, turn right along the footpath to Burwood Pit. Keep to the widest and clearest track through the lovely woods which continue for 1/2 mile. (16) Reaching a minor road, turn right and climb for 50 yards. (17) Now turn left and follow the footpath which overlooks Cranborne. This is straight, then swings sharply right. (18) 50 yards after the bend, turn left and follow the footpath down the back of some new houses. (9) The path ends at a parking area, through which you walk diagonally right, aiming for a footbridge over the River Crane. (20) Don't cross the bridge, but turn right and follow the Crane upstream to reach the village centre. (21) Cross the B3078 and continue ahead, then turn off it as it swings left, keeping to your ahead direction, taking you past the bakery on the left. 50 yards later you will return to your car.



WALK 9

Wednesday, 7th July

BURLEY WOODS

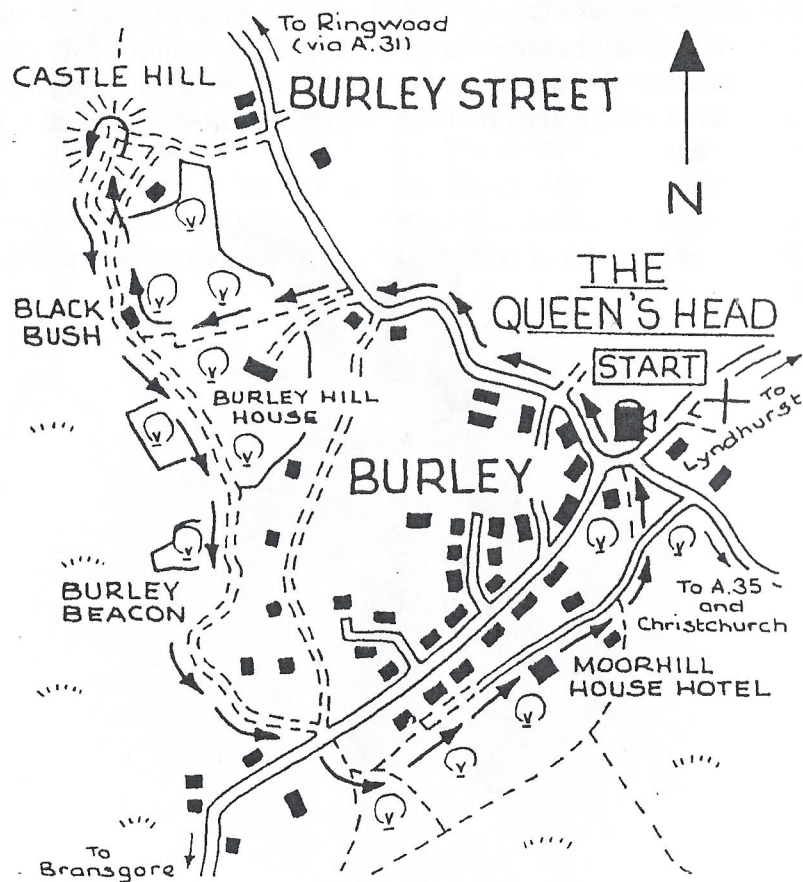
Distance 3 miles — 10.00a.m.

Park in Public car park next to Queen's Head. From Ringwood continue on the A31 for about 1¼ miles, Burley is signposted on the right through the underpass.

With your back to the front of the pub, turn right, then bear right again with the war memorial on your left, to walk down Burley's main street, the Ringwood Road. Pass the entrance to Burley Manor, now a hotel. Follow the footpath beside the road to leave the village behind and walk beside high hedges shaded by Forest oaks.: Continue to the entrance of Clough Lane, then cross the road and take the raised footpath signed Burley Street.

When the path drops down to the road again, cross over and continue along

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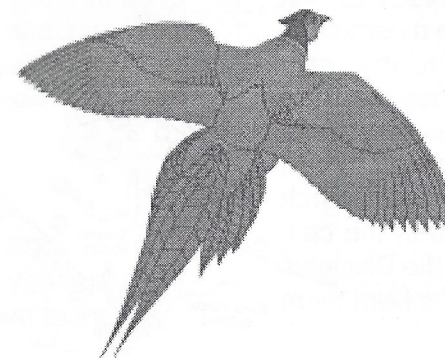
the pavement for just a few yards to the wide entrance leading to a set of iron gates barring the drive to Burley Hill House. A right-of-way leads through the smaller right hand gate. (An inconspicuous footpath sign indicates the way.)

Turn left to go through the gate and follow the fenced footpath ahead.

The path winds gently uphill to enter a wood and cross streams by small rustic bridges climb the hill, cross the stile at the top of the hill to emerge on the high ridge, west of Burley turn right to follow the track through the trees past Black Bush cottages. When the track begins to rise and the trees give way to open grassy slopes on the left you have reached the hill fort turn left to follow one of the defensive embankments

Turn right from the fort to retrace your steps along the ridge, keep on the track ignoring the stile into the wood on the left. On the right you pass a flat grassy area shaded by well-spaced oaks, the site of Burley Beacon

Continue past a track on the left and follow the track as it descends the hill and curves left to meet a road. Cross straight over and take the footpath ahead which becomes a wide greenway leading into old oak, beech and rowan woods. Shortly the path divides. Follow the main path left with a fence on your left. The fence running along the top of a low embankment is now your guide. The path climbs a little uphill and divides. Take the left-hand path, keeping the fence a few yards away on your left. Just past a house on the other side of the fence the path runs past a Forestry Commission barrier. Continue along the track ahead past the next house with a hedge on your left to more houses where the track becomes a metalled lane. Pass the Moorhill House Hotel and now the lane runs downhill to follow a valley with attractive cottages and gardens. The lane climbs through woods to a gravelled car park beside Station Road. Do not go to the road but keep straight on past the house sign for Brenchley to a Forestry Commission barrier. From the barrier ignore the more obvious track leading ahead and bear a little to the left of it through the trees. After a few yards the path becomes more clearly defined and drops steeply past some wooden fencing to the road opposite the Queen's Head.



WALK 10

Saturday, 17th July

BERE REGIS & TURNERS PUDDLE

Distance 3-4-5 miles — 10.00a.m.

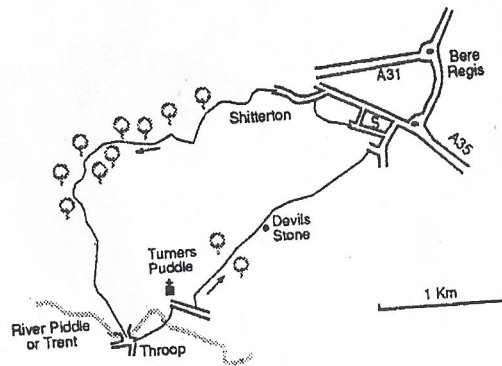
How to get there: The A35 from Poole or the A31 from Wimborne to the Car Park in the centre of Bere Regis.

Walk: Leave the Bere Regis car park by the approach road and turn left. At the bottom cross the road and the cut grass and turn right along the delightful stream-side boardwalk. Continue on gravel where this ends, ignoring a footbridge to the left. On reaching a road, turn left over the bridge into and through Shitterton with its many charming cottages.

Beyond the dwellings, go up a private road marked with a blue bridleway arrow. This rises by a series of square turns, the traffic noise soon yielding to the peace of the slopes above.

Turn right on a crossing track. With farm buildings on the right, go left through a small steel gate. Cross the field, keeping to the right to find a small wooden gate in a damp corner. Join the main woodland track ahead. This runs along a ridge at first and then wiggles a bit, going generally to the left and eventually downhill. Free from trees, the track passes a chalkpit and goes on through fields. Turn left at a junction, then right 100 yards further on. This path by the river meadows crosses the River Piddle at Throop.

Here, turn left on the road and immediately left again up a farm track. Re-cross the river by footbridge or ford (twice) to reach Turners Puddle and the now redundant 16th-century church. Turn right, then left at the end of the farm. Bend left with the bridleway and turn right through a gate. The track rises slowly between hedges and enters a wood. In the open again, the way becomes steeper as it crosses slopes of heather, gorse and bracken - part of Hardy's Egdon Heath. Go straight over at a gravel crossing and, after only 20 yards, the Devil's Stone is on the right. Continue on this path, now grass and level, and cross another track. Ignore a small left fork and carry on ahead. The path narrows as it drops down to a grassless clearing under trees. Go half-left on a sheltered path between fields. Level at first, this then freewheels down beside a cemetery. Walk through housing to the main road and turn left to cross the Bere stream - note the watercress farm. Beyond Elder Road, turn left to visit the churchyard and excellent Church with the wooden figures in the ceiling depicting Christ and the Disciples (Well worth a visit). Paths from there lead to the car park.



WALK 11

Wednesday 28th July

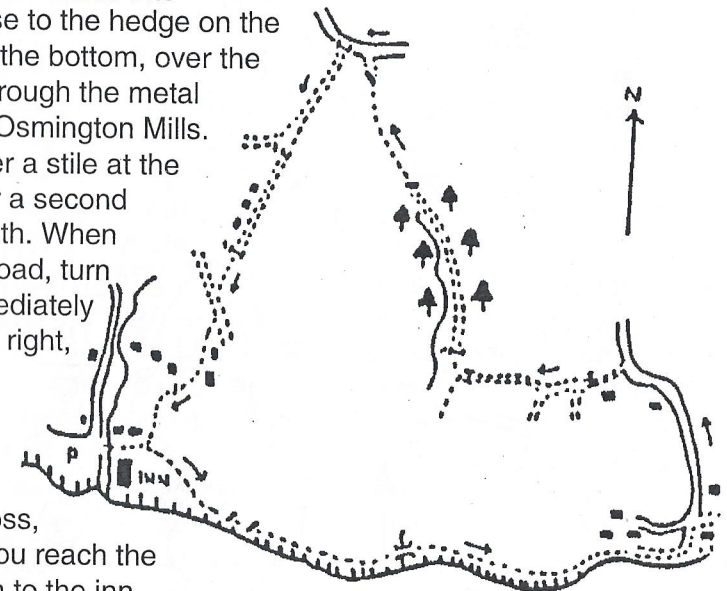
SMUGGLERS INN, OSMINGTON

Distance 3 1/2 miles — 10.00a.m.

How to get there: From the A352 Dorchester to Wareham, turn south at the Warmwell roundabout on to the A353 and take the turning on the left to Osmington. Park

The Walk: Start from the cliff-top car park and go down the steps to the inn. Bear left, and go round behind the inn, up a short path, over the stile, and into the field. Following the well-trodden path ahead, go up to the cliff top, through a thicket and over a couple of stiles. Continue ahead, keeping close to the wire fence on the right. The path is easy to follow, it is well marked and needs little explanation. At one point it dips down through a valley and eventually comes out onto a gravel drive and passes through Ringstead village.

Keep on the drive round to the left until it merges with a tarred road. Continue ahead, up the hill, round a left, and then a right-hand bend, turning left onto a gravel drive. Go past the house, through the wooden gate, and take the right fork up into the woods. When the path divides, take the right fork and, further on, go through a gate and turn right, following the sign for Upton. Go over the stile beside the gate, and up the track through a lush wooded valley. At the top a stile leads into a field. Keeping close to the hedge on the right, walk down to the bottom, over the stile, and turn left through the metal gate, it is signed to Osmington Mills. Go up the track, over a stile at the top and ahead, over a second stile onto a stony path. When you reach a tarred road, turn left and almost immediately take the path on the right, through the holiday park, and out over the stile on the far side into the field. Follow the path across, turning right when you reach the cottages, back down to the inn.



WALK 12

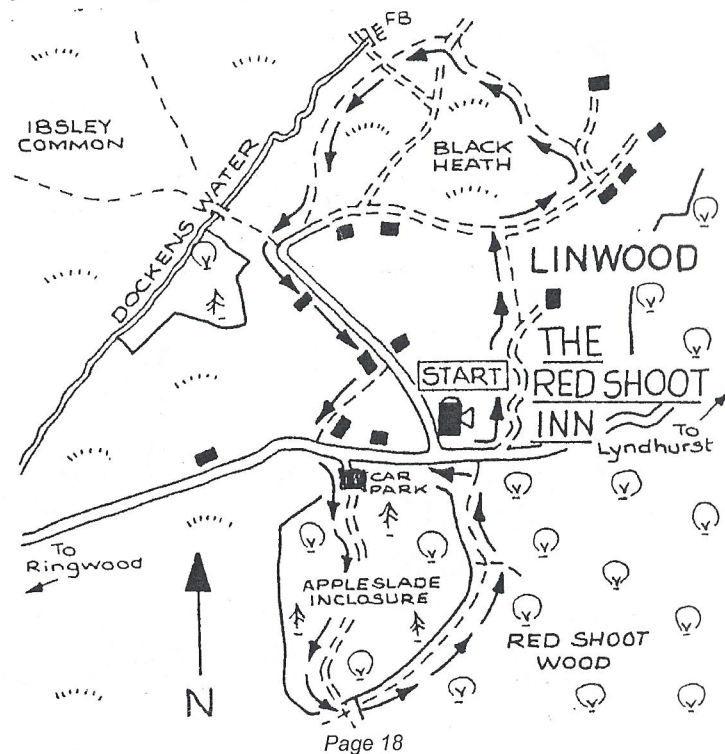
Saturday 7th August
LINWOOD

Distance 2½ miles — 10.00a.m.

From Ringwood take the A.338 towards Fordingbridge at Blashford turn right into Ivy Lane sign posted North Gorley. At the T junction turn left past the Alice Lisle. Follow the road till you come to the crossroads. Bear slightly right on the road to Linwood. After approx. 2 miles Appleslade Car Park is on the right (This is about 200 yards before the Red Shoot Inn). Park and Meet in Appleslade Car Park.

With the front of the pub on your left follow the narrow lane that leads to the road. Walk along the grass beside the road under the trees for about 100 yards to a gravelled track on the left. Turn left to follow this past an attractive thatched cottage. Cross a cattle grid and now the path bears a little left then right to run between a high bank crowned with a fence and meadows framed by sloping heathland. When the track curves right, keep straight on down a grassy track towards a gate. Cross the stile to the left of the gate. Do not be too perturbed by the sign about adders. Do take care, but bear in mind that they are more afraid of you than you are of them and will quickly get out of your way when they hear you coming.

Continued page 19



Cross the field ahead with the hedge on your right and go through the gate to meet a gravelled track. Suddenly the farming world vanishes and the undulating moorland of Black Heath opens before you.

Turn right to follow the track beside the heath. In front of a cottage the track curves left and climbs a little to give wide moorland views. Rising to the west are the slopes of Ibsley Common. When the track turns right to a house, bear left past a Forestry Commission barrier to follow the path over the heath. The path turns a little left to follow a moorland ridge and reveal a splendid view over the valley of Dockens Water, on the right before running downhill past a Forestry Commission barrier. At this point you meet a gravel crosstrack. The route does turn left but do not take the gravel track as there is a prettier path beside Dockens Water. Cross straight over the track and continue for a few yards over the grass towards a fence.

Turn left along a narrow path with the fence on your right. This becomes a wide path which follows the bank of Dockens Water, one of the Forest's loveliest streams. There is a particularly delightful place where the stream has carved a deep channel and runs under a footbridge.

Continue along the path as it leaves the streamside to bear left and bring you to a lane. Turn right along the lane which turns left uphill. Climb the hill and just after a white house on the right, opposite a farm entrance, look carefully for a footpath sign beside a gate on the right. Turn right to walk along the top of a field with a hedge on your right. Cross the stile and go through a small wooden gate to a grassy path. This runs close to a house, but it is a right-of-way. Follow the grassy path through a gate to the road beside a footpath sign.

Turn left for a few yards, then bear right to cross the road to the entrance to Appleslade car park. Walk over the parking area and keep straight on through the gate ahead following the main track into the inclosure. Keep to the main track through these old woods, ignoring all side tracks. The track rises and runs past some gateposts to a clear area where there are several paths. Turn left along a wide grassy path which runs close to a low embankment marking an inclosure boundary on the left. This embankment is now your guide for all but the last few yards of the return route. Look for deer along this quiet woodland path. The Forest is home to fallow, roe, red, sika and muntjac. Only a few of the great herds of red deer that once roamed the Forest remain as nowadays there is probably not enough cover for them. Sika and muntjac favour the southern Forest so you are most likely to see fallow, the bucks recognisable by their wide spreading antlers, or roe who look like adverts for Babycham with small upright antlers. Follow the path beside the embankment over a crosspath and keep to the path as it bears left downhill. The path now leaves the embankment to cross the grass ahead to the road Turn left to walk the few yards back to the Red Shoot Inn.

WALK 13

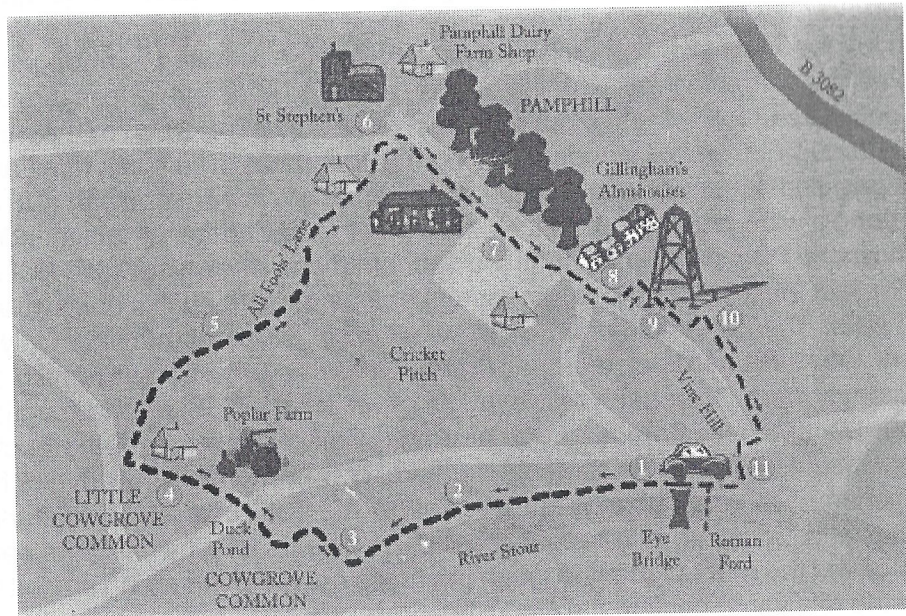
Wednesday, 18th August PAMPHILL & COWGROVE Distance 3 miles — 10.00a.m.

To make parking easier, park and meet at no. 7 on the map opposite the cricket pitch.

Take the B3082 out of Wimborne, turn left shortly after passing the school, signed to Pamphill, take the next left and the car park is on the left.

In the car park, walk to the 1. River Stour and turn right, past Eye Bridge steps. Go over the stile onto the riverside path. The Roman ford is just downstream from the bridge. 2. Follow the meandering riverside path for 1/2 mile, crossing stiles when they appear. 3. When the path turns right, away from the river, it follows the edge of a deep hollow-way between fenced fields. Eventually, the path drops into the hollow-way and, a little later, it emerges over a bridge and stile onto Cowgrove Common. Follow the path across another small bridge and past a footpath sign. 4. Cross Cowgrove road and walk between three poplars and a lovely duck pond. Follow the left track past Poplar Farm. After a bridleway-arranged farm gate, follow the track for 1/4 mile to Little Cowgrove Common. Near the end of the track you will find a single brick cottage on your right. 5. Immediately after the cottage, turn right onto a shady, rising hollow-way called 'All Fools' Lane'. Walk steadily up this 1/2 mile long, gravelled and verdant path with harts-tongue ferns and

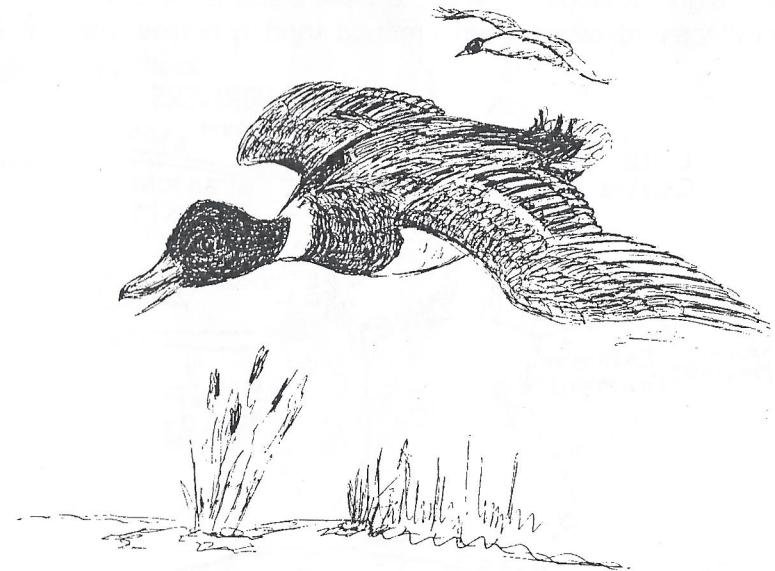
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badger holts on the way.

At the top, you pass a farm cottage and emerge onto the road. Turn right. 100 yards later you reach a T junction. The path bends right through sparse trees to the edge of Pamphill Oak Avenue but, before you go that way, why not visit St. Stephen's Church and Pamphill Dairy Farm Shop first for refreshments and fresh provisions? St. Stephen's is up the gravel path on the left at the T junction. The Dairy Farm Shop is a little further down the road after St. Stephen's drive. 7 Return to the avenue to view / the scattered cottages. Walk down the right side of the avenue to Pamphill Green cricket pitch with its picturesque 1909 thatched pavilion. 8 Then keep straight on down the road, past Gillingham's almshouses on the left of Pamphill Common, and past the right turning. In 100 yards, just before the first cottage, turn left and walk across the grass and under the legs of the electricity pylon. 10 Turn right at the three-way signpost and drop down to a squeeze-stile. Follow the path down to the left. Just before the bottom, turn right alongside a row of trees and a ditch on your left and a bank on your right. In 100 yards, turn left over a stile and cross to another stile and footbridge across a stream. Over the stile, turn right to follow the stream and the hedge to another stile onto the road. Cross the road and go over the stile down on your right.

11 Follow the left hedge towards the river and turn right onto the grassy path which heads towards the cottage over on your right. Just left of the cottage, go over two quite close stiles which lead back into Eye Bridge car park.



Peter Viner

Walk 14

Saturday, 28th August

DANCING LEDGE & LANGTON MATRAVERS

Distance 4 miles — 10.00a.m.

Take the A351 from Wareham through Corfe Castle, turn right on the B3069 to the village of Langton Matravers, just as you enter the village turn right into Durnford Drove follow this past Langton House to the car park.

Pass the last of the houses and turn right over a stile and small footbridge to follow a meadow path with a hedge on the left (ignore narrow paths on the right). When you come to a crosstrack turn left, signed for "Dancing Ledge and the Coast". Keep to the main grassy path as it runs gently up the field ahead to a gate and stile.

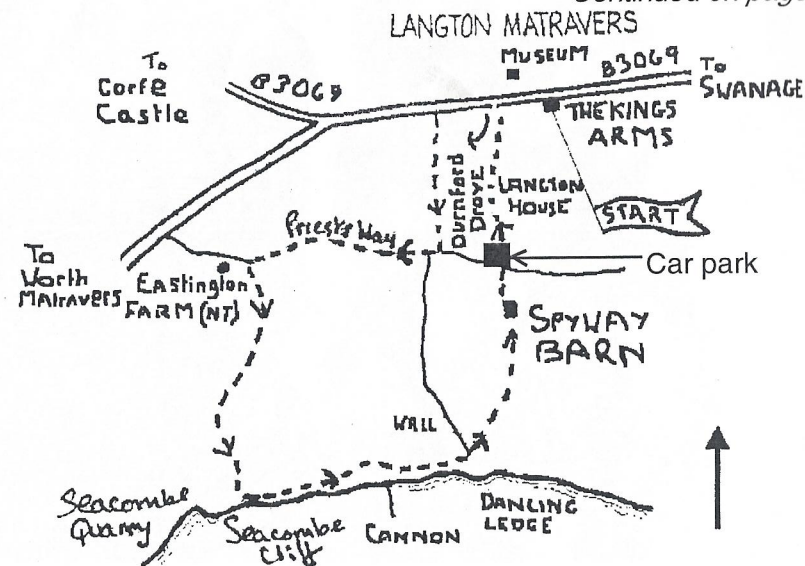
Cross a stile to meet a crosstrack and turn right for Worth, it is known as Priest's Way, keep straight on past a path on the left, signed "Dancing Ledge".

Just before you reach Eastington Farm on the left, turn left over a stile by a National Trust sign and footpath marker for Seacombe and the Coast path. A wide white track leads down the hillside to wind through the lovely Seacombe valley. Keep to this main track as it makes its way past old quarry-working still ringed by a wall, vital in times past to exclude animals. The track traces the valley floor past joining tracks on the right. A stone Coast Path sign indicates the point where our route meets the Coast path.

Continue to a gate not far from the cliff edge. Do not go through the gate, but turn left to climb the grassy slope of the cliff to cross a stile at the top.

Follow the cliff-top path over the turf, cropped short by ponies. The path curves

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round the top of Headbury quarry.

The small swimming pool was made for the boys of Durnford School. Follow the Coast Path to a wall, here the walk leaves the route of the Coast path. Before the wall a marker indicates a path on the left to Langton. Do not take this but, following a sign for Spyway Barn, cross the stile and, bearing a little to the left walk diagonally up the hillside to continue up a clear white path to the top. Go through the gate and keep straight on over the fields for the Spyway Barn. A small gate admits you to the farm buildings, immediately after the gate turn left into a covered area where the National Trust has a placed information board covering the wildlife and history of the area.

Pass the barn and keep straight on for Langton. Cross the Priest's Way and keep to the metalled road past Langton House, once a school. The lane leads to the foot of Durnford Drove. Retrace your steps up the road to meet the B3069 and turn right for the Kings Arms.



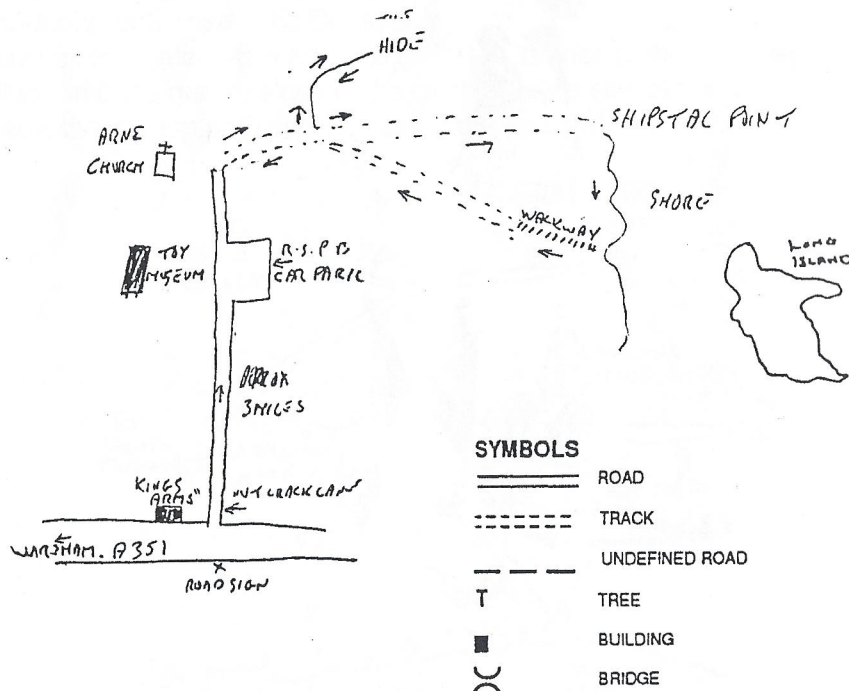
WALK 15

Wednesday, 8th September

ARNE & SHIPSTAL

DISTANCE 2½ Miles — 10.00a.m.

How to get there: Follow the A351 to Wareham, go through the town and just at the beginning of Stoborough, just pass the King's Arms, turn sharp left into Nut Crack Lane to Ridge and Arne. This sign is easily missed, if so continue along the main road for ½ mile to the next left turn and follow the signs for Arne. Meet and park at the R. S. P. B. Car Park.



WALK 16

Saturday 18th September

WIMBORNE & THE STOUR

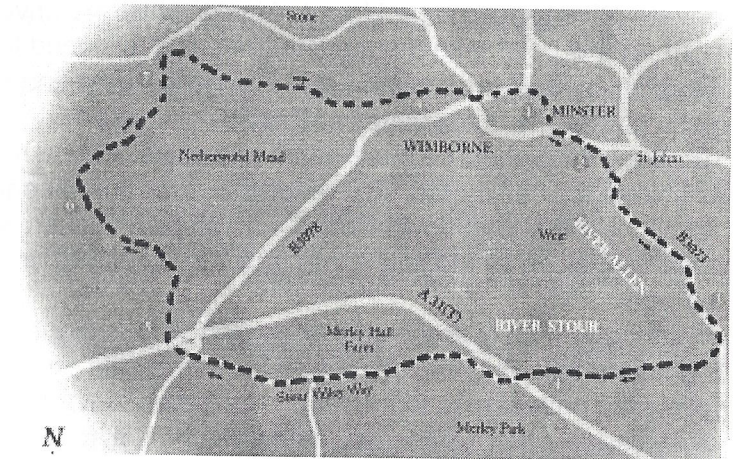
Distance 4 miles — 10.00a.m.

Park in Wimborne and meet at the Minster.

Start at the Minster's door to **1** go right to the High Street. Keep ahead past Gulliver's Bookshop and round the corner to the Clock House. Turn left and cross Eastbrook Bridge.

2 Go right into Poole Road. The Coach & Horses is on the left before the road rises to Canford Bridge.

3 At the town boundary go right along a footpath signed 'Lake Gates'. At a road keep ahead but where it bears left to go forward down a path. Cross a recreation field to a stile. At a second stile the path is above the river before turning inland. Follow the side of the wood to a road.



4 Turn right

down a lane and under a main road to pass Old Merley Hall Farm. At the main Wimborne Road cross over and go right to the roundabout. Cross the left hand road to find a footpath opposite.

5 At the stile bear half right across a field heading for two willow trees. Cross a footbridge to a National Trust sign and turn right. Stay near the fence on the right until reaching a stile.

6. Head over a field towards a white cottage on the hill ahead. On the far side the field narrows to a point by the Stour.

7. Cross the stile and footbridge. Continue up the lane opposite for a short distance to go right through a series of stiles. Later the path is on high ground by the river and through allotments before meeting the main road.

8. Go left along Julian's Road and forward down West Street to The Square. Go right along Church Street to the Minster.

WALK 17

Wednesday 29th September

CHAPMAN'S POOL & SCOTT ARMS

Distance 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles — 10.00a.m.

On the B3069 two miles south of Corfe Castle, the car park is on the left beyond the church.

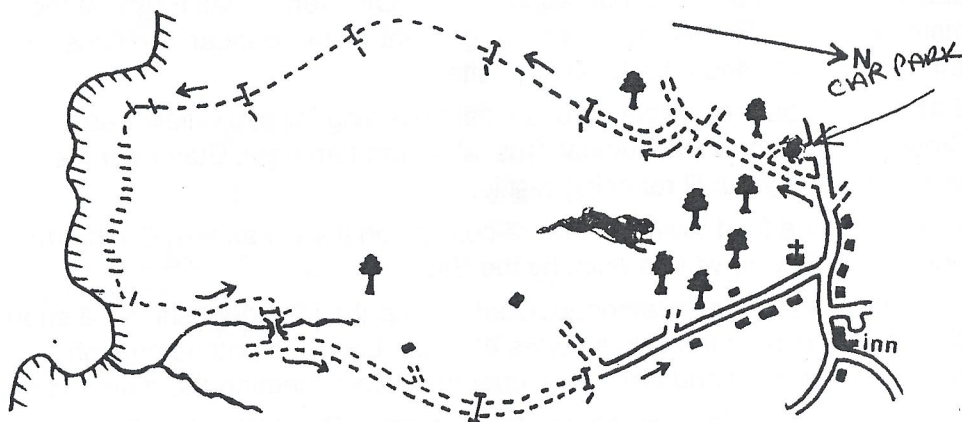
Kingston is one of several small Purbeck villages in this delightful part of Dorset. This popular scenic walk down to Chapman's Pool has long been a favourite of mine, and although not a long walk, it is not at all easy going. The path and steps down Houns-Tout cliff are quite steep and can be very slippery when wet.

From the pub turn right, walk up the lane past the church, turning left into the private drive to Encombe House. After a while the drive bears down to the right. At this point take the track to the left, it is signed to 'Houns-Tout'.

Keep straight ahead over the stile beside the gate and follow the ridge. You get a good view of the valley of Encombe House.

Continue through three more gates and stiles. As you reach the head a seat is provided to enjoy the view west towards Kimmeridge. Go over the stile and continue ahead down Houns-Tout steps. Proceed with care as the path runs very close to the cliff edge, also the steps are very steep and can be slippery.

At the bottom go over the stile on the left and straight across the field heading inland following the stone wall up to the stile on the right. Go over and follow the path across to the tarred track then turn left. Keep straight ahead, over a couple more stiles, past the church back to the village.



WALK 18

Saturday 9th October

CORFE COMMON

Distance 4 miles — 10.00a.m.

Park at Castle View Car Park and 1 Visitor Centre, cross road and use new path Oliver Vye's Lane up to the Square. Turn right into West Street.

2 Through alley way and bear right across Middle Halves. You may be able to get to East

Street through the British Legion car park, through the Chapel gate, or use the next path and wide gate left onto East Street.

3 Across the road and between Pound Barn Cottage and Potters Barn, the footpath leads right onto East Common.

4 Cross road and diagonally right, into the corner gate of Brickyard Common, and eventually leave by the bridlegate hidden in the hollow ways.

Cross road.

5 Around West

Common, passing the burial mounds, the disused sandpit and the square stone slabs, cross the Tarmac track and walk around the boggy areas.

Leave by the kissing gate onto West Halves.

6 This will bring you back to a car park, then use the north-westerly footpath over to the Castle car park.

