

## WALK 1

Saturday 7th April

### THE BANKS ARMS, STUDLAND

Distance  $3\frac{3}{4}$  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:  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles. O.S. Map No. 195 S.Z. 037/825.

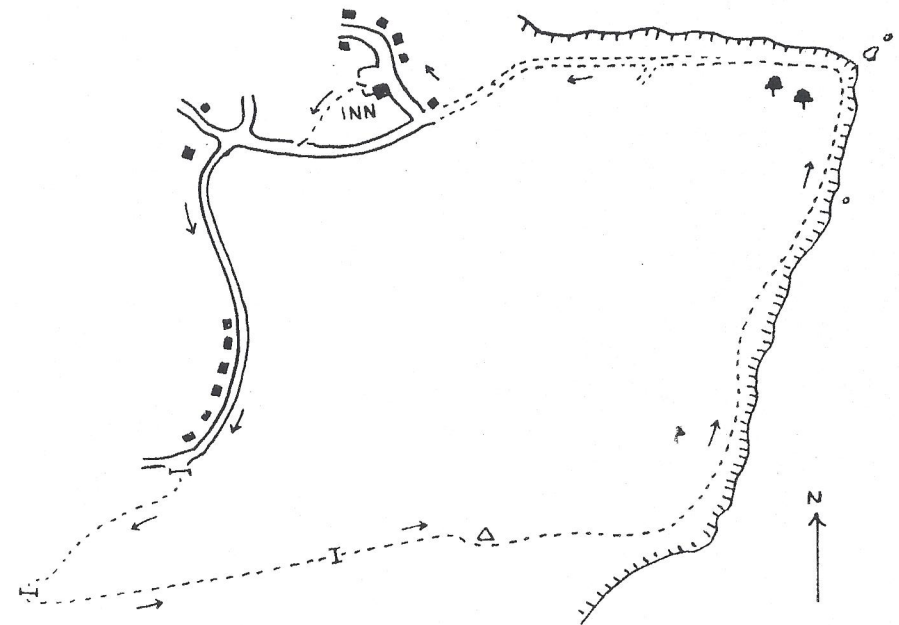
There is a very large car park beside the inn but a charge is levied in summer by the National Trust. Only very limited parking is available outside the inn.

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  $1\frac{3}{4}$  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

Wednesday 18th April

### HENGISTBURY HEAD AND TUCKTON

Distance 3 OR 5 miles— 10.00a.m.

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

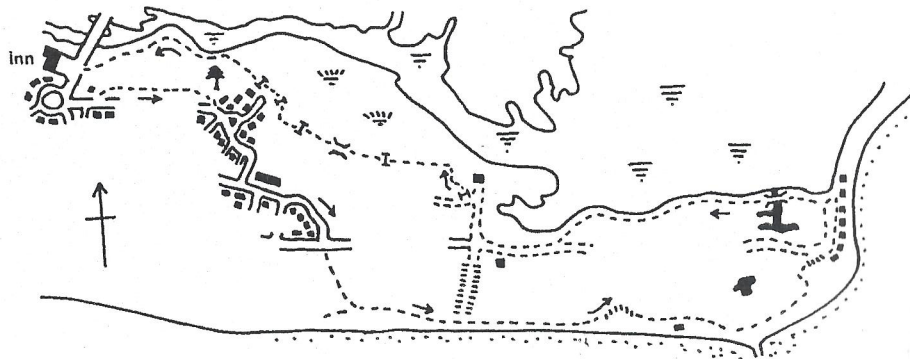
The walk takes you through Wick village to the top of the Head, down to the shore and back through a nature trail and along the bank of the river.

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

Saturday 28th April

### Bovington Heath to Moreton Distance 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles. 10.00 a.m.

Take the A35 and at the roundabout just before Bere Regis, turn left on the 353, signed to Wool and Bovington. After 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles turn right signed Bovington – Tincton. Follow this road for 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles, just pass a left turn the track and parking will be found on the left.

Follow the track for 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles over a long bridge to village. Retrace your steps back to the fork, turn right follow this track, bearing left through the wood. Bear left again up the hill through the woods back to the cars.



## WALK 4

Wednesday, 9th May

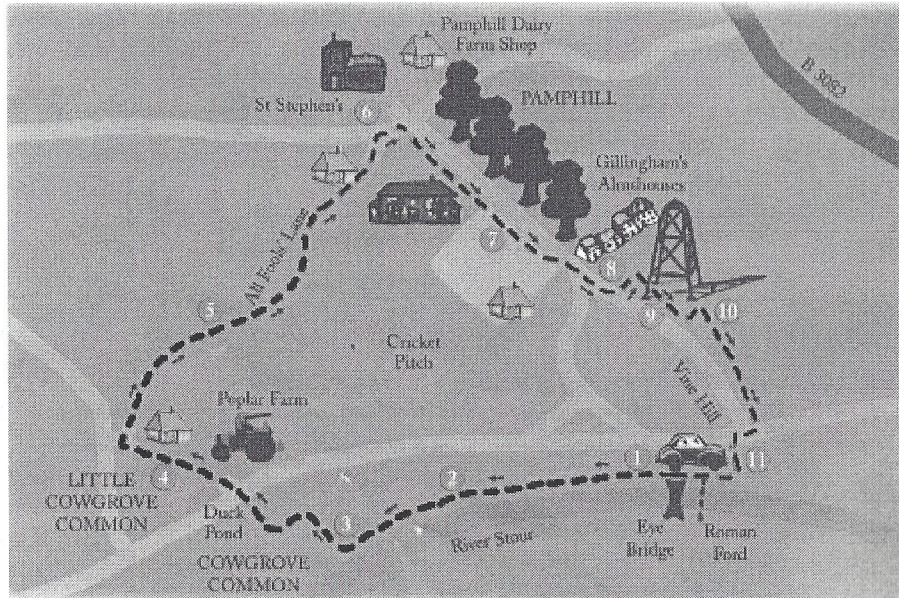
### PAMPHILL & COWGROVE

Distance 3 miles — 10.00a.m.

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

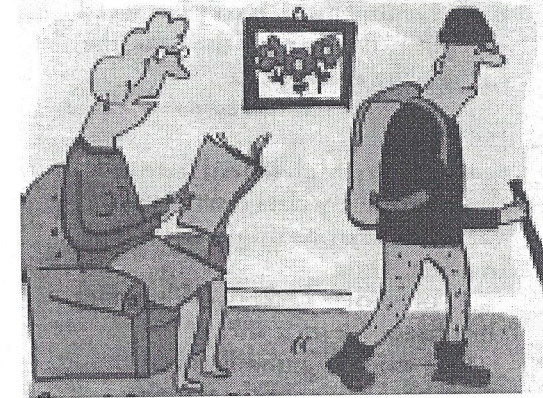
Take the B3082 out of Wimborne, turn left shortly after passing the school, signed to Pamphill, take the next left and the car park is on the left.

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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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-arrowed farm gate, follow the track for  $\frac{1}{4}$  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  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile long, gravelled and verdant path with harts-tongue ferns and



badger holts on the way.

6. 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. 9. 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.



"You're rambling again Cyril"

## Walk 5

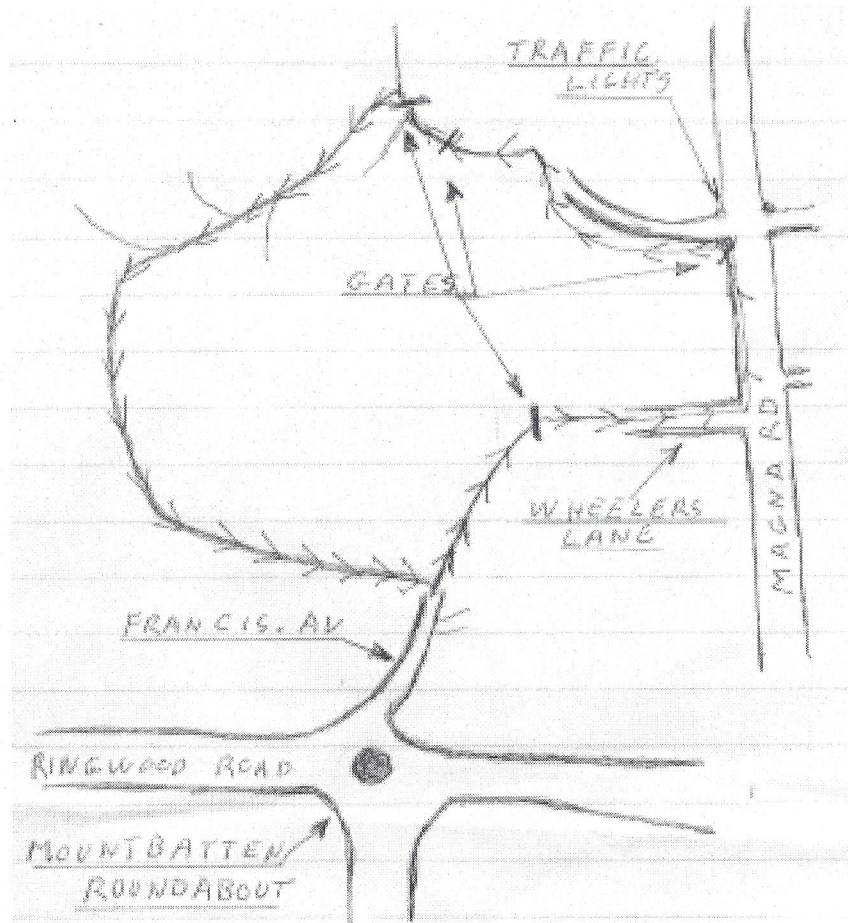
Saturday 19th May

### EAST CANFORD HEATH

Distance 4 miles

10.00am

Take Francis Avenue, off Mountbatten Roundabout. Drive to the end and park on the left, just before the entrance to Northbourne Golf Course. Follow the footpath across the golf course down the hill until you reach a set of gates. Take the right fork and follow this into Wheelers Lane. At Magna Road, turn left until you reach the traffic lights. There is a gate on the left. Go through and circle round the field until you see a signpost. Turn left. Follow this through one gate. At the next gate on the left go through and turn sharp left. Follow this for approximately 1.0 miles bearing left on the main track. This takes you back to the parked cars.



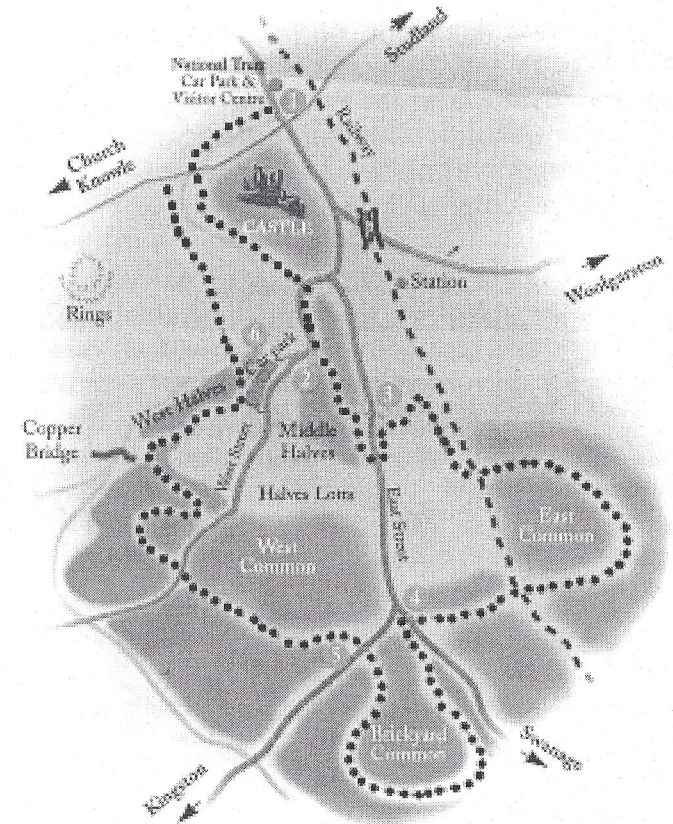
## WALK 6

Wednesday 30th May

### 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 foot-path over to the Castle car park.



## WALK 7

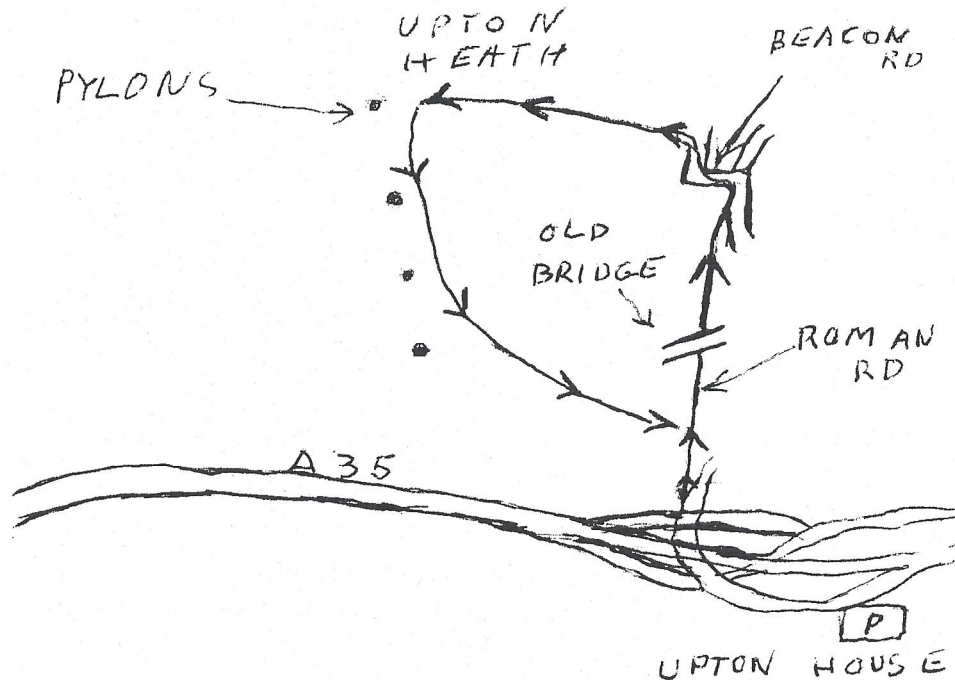
Saturday 9th June

### AROUND UPTON HEATH

Distance 3½ miles — 10.00a.m.

Park and meet at Upton House. The car park is sharp left as you enter the gates.

From the car park go out of the gate and turn left and follow the cycle path under the main A35 towards Creekmoor, This leads to the old Roman road. Stay on this road under the old railway bridge, after approx. 1½ miles you reach a tarmac road, about 100 yards take the first left into Beacon Road, follow this to the end. Turn right, after about 100 yards turn left onto Upton Heath, head out towards the Purbecks, about ¾ mile until you reach a row of pylons, turn left and follow the track back to the Roman road and back to the car park.



## Walk 8

Wednesday 20th June

### Manswood and Crichel Park

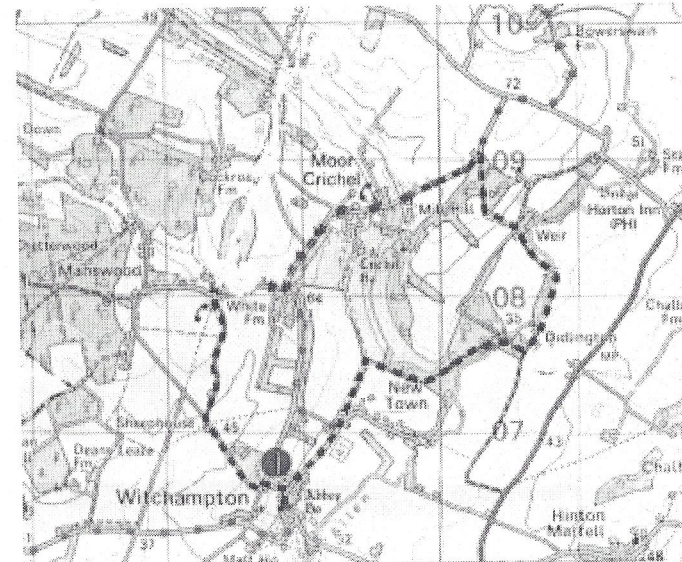
Distance 4.5 miles

10.00am

Take the B3078 out of Wimborne. After approximately 3½ miles, turn left for Witchampton. As you enter the village you will see a recycling centre on the left. Park and meet here.

Leave the car park by the footpath in the left corner. Follow this to the road. Turn right, take the next left down the hill. Just past the Sheephouse Farm turn right into a bridleway. Follow this to the road, turn right, then left at a T-junction. Bear right through the village of Moor Crichel, continue up the avenue to Mill Hill Lodge gates. Through here, turn sharp right onto the 'No Vehicles' drive into Crichel Woods. Continue through to the high field and, round the left bend, descend the track alongside the River Allen and over the first of several irrigation tributary bridges you will find in the next mile. The white building on the left horizon is Horton Inn. Over the Allen bridge, turn right along the riverside track.

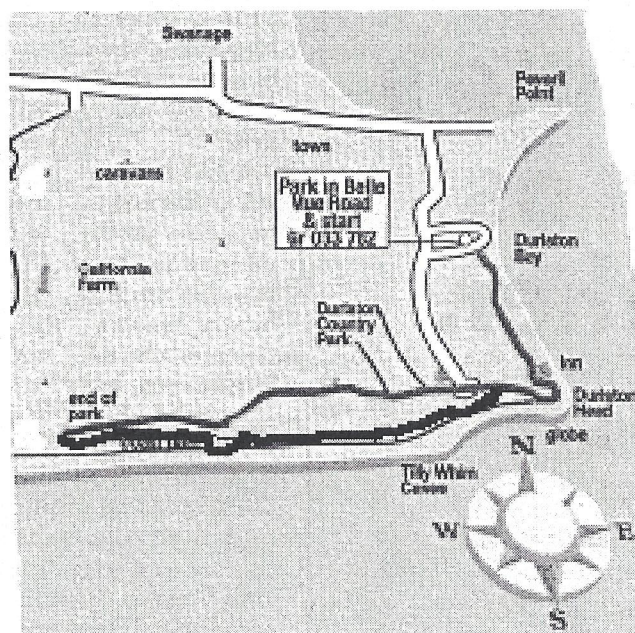
Reaching Didlington Farmhouse to your right, keep straight on into the Witchampton bridleway track. Immediately past the right barn, take the right footpath, through the gate. Follow the green track over another bridge and bending left into woodland. Over the Allen Bridge, stay on the main track, soon passing through white gates and with parkland trees on your left. Crichel House and lake may be glimpsed through the right trees. At the house drive, turn left across the park to the elegant gateway. Then keep straight on along the lane to your starting point in Witchampton.



**Walk 9** **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June**  
**DURLSTON HEAD AND COASTAL PATH**  
**4 miles** **10.00am**

Take the Durlston Country Park road out of Swanage, take a left turn at the top of the hill into Belle Vue Road. Park and meet here. If there is any difficulty, there is good parking in Bon Accord Road, opposite.

From the car park take the main road for a further quarter of a mile towards Durlston Country Park. At the sign turn right through the gate, then left up the side of the hedge to the next gate into Sopworth Meadow. Cross the field diagonally to the gate. Go through into the Park. Turn right. Follow the path for approximately three quarters of a mile until you reach a large open area. Turn left out on to the top cliff path. Turn left again through the gate down the hill to the coastal path. Follow this back past the lighthouse and Durlston Head, back to the car.



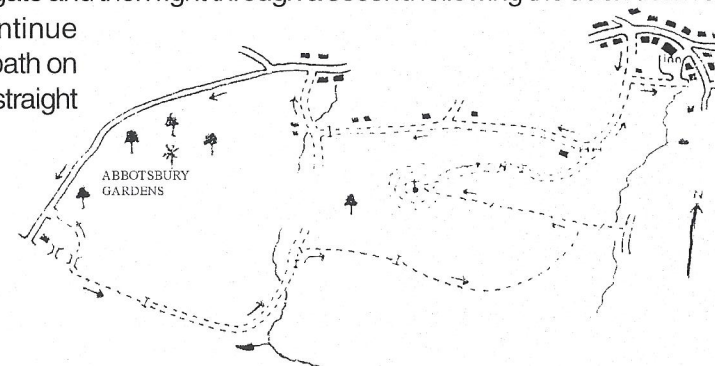
**WALK 10** **Wednesday, 11th July**  
**ROUND ABBOTSBURY**  
**Distance 3 miles — 10.00a.m.**

Take the B.3157 road from Weymouth. Just as you enter Abbotsbury there's a public car park on the left. Park and meet here. Abbotsbury is a pretty Dorset village, peacefully situated in a sheltered valley close to the well known Chesil Beach. The walk takes you past the world famous subtropical gardens, along the Dorset Coastal Path overlooking Abbotsbury Swannery and up to St. Catherines Chapel, high on the hill. The scenery is stunning and although quite hilly it is fairly easy going but can be muddy during bad weather.

Turn left from the inn walking a short distance up West Street until you reach Chapel lane on the left. Follow The track, turning right when you reach the barn, and left when you come to another track. The track leads down to a wooden farm gate. Go through onto the bridleway and turn right, walking up to meet the main road. Turn left and after a couple of hundred yards take the road on the left, signed to Chesil Beach. You pass Abbotsbury Gardens on the way, worth a visit if you have the time. At the bottom of the hill turn left into the car park, walk across to the bridge on the right, go over on to Chesil Beach and turn left. The Dorset Coastal Path runs beside the hedge and then goes through a wooden gate on to a track beside the Fleet sanctuary.

Continue walking away from the beach until you reach a stile on the right, it is signed to the Swannery. Go into the field up and across close to a wartime fortification to the small gate in the far corner. Continue ahead round to the far side of the hill where you will find a path marker stone. If you wish to visit the Swannery or are not into hill climbing, turn right, go over the stile and down to the road, it takes you back to the village. Our route takes you up to the Chapel. Follow the sign up the hill. About half way up go over the stile and continue in the direction of the sign to the Chapel. It was built by the Benedictine Monks between 1371 and 1401.

Leave the Chapel and walk down towards the village. When you reach the stone wall, go through one gate and then right through a second following the track down to one last gate. Continue ahead looking for a path on the right, it leads you straight into the car park.



## WALK 11

Saturday 21st July

### WORTH MATRAVERS — WINSPIT

Distance 3 miles — 10.00a.m.

**HOW TO GET THERE** Leave Wareham, heading south along the A351. After driving through Corfe Castle village bear right along the B3069 for Kingston. In Kingston keep to the B3069 as it turns left for Swanage. After about a mile turn right for Worth Matravers. In just over a mile the car park is on the right.

**PARKING** In the large public car park at the approach to Worth Matravers, a few yards from the Square and Compass.

**LENGTH OF THE WALK** 5 miles. Easy walking apart from one steep climb. I include an optional route, not quite so pretty, but avoiding the climb. Map: OS Landranger 195 Bournemouth, Purbeck and surrounding area (inn GR 974776).

#### THE WALK

From the car park in Worth Matravers turn right down the road to pass the Square and Compass. At the road junction bear right to continue along the main street of the village past the post office. A small duckpond is on your left. On your right a path leads up to the church of St. Nicholas. Built mainly around the year 1100, the church possesses a wonderful chancel arch, richly decorated with typical zig-zag carving, and a fine south doorway. In the churchyard you will find a plaque in memory of Billy Winspit and the grave of Benjamin Jesty, the first known person to inoculate his family against smallpox.

Past the church, the road again bears to the right. Continue along the road (ignore the footpath sign to Winspit) towards a farm. Beyond the fields on the left you will see the hillsides bordering the Winspit valley, deeply scored with strip lynchets. These long, narrow strips were ploughed to grow grain during the land-hungry 12th and 13th centuries. Just past the farm turn left, following the footpath sign for St. Aldhelm's Head. After about 50 yards turn right, signed for Chapman's Pool. Keep ahead, following the next sign for Renscombe. The path leads to a crosstrack.

At this point, if you wish to take the optional non-hilly route, turn left along the crosstrack, following the sign to St. Aldhelm's Head, and continue for about 1½ miles to rejoin the route of Walk 17 by St. Aldhelm's Chapel.

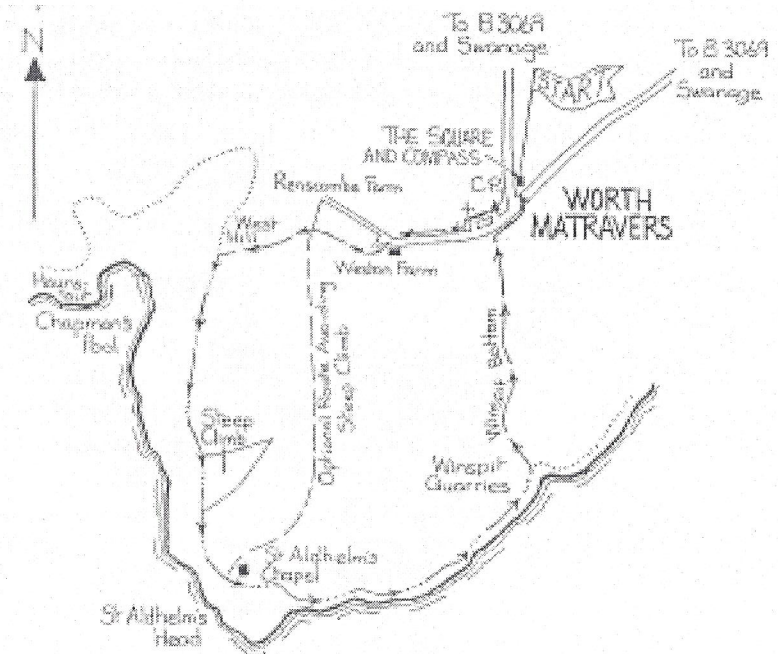
For the main route, cross the track and continue over the field ahead, following the sign for Chapman's Pool. Keep ahead over the next field to meet the Coast Path on the top of West Hill. Turn left to follow the cliff-top.

On your right you have a magnificent view over the tiny, scallop-shaped bay of Chapman's Pool dominated by the smooth crest of Houns-tout. Below

Houns-tout, landslips have created a different world of shrubs and trees, known as Molly's Garden.

Continue along the clifftop. The path drops steeply before gaining the top of the cliff once more by a flight of steps. Continue round the clifftop to St. Aldhelm's Head and the tiny Norman chapel dedicated to St. Aldhelm, 8th-century Bishop of Sherborne, famous for his saintliness and scholarship. Follow the path past the coastguard station. The ruined buildings to the right of the path are the bombed remains of a wartime Telecommunications Research Department where experimental work on radar was carried out. Just after the ruins, the path bears right to continue closer to the cliff edge. Follow the path round the top of Winspit quarry and down steps to the small bay.

After descending the side of the quarry, the path meets a crosstrack. Turn left to leave the Coast Path and walk up the wooded Winspit valley. The attractive woods, dotted with wild apple and cherry trees, surround a lonely cottage, once the home of Billy Winspit. The trees thin as the path climbs higher to run between hillsides of smooth turf. When the path divides, take the right-hand path, signed 'Worth'. A lane leads you past a row of cottages to meet a road in the village. Turn right past a garden on the left and follow the road left past the pond to the main street. Bear right for a few yards, then left, signed 'Kingston', to pass the Square and Compass pub and return to the car park.



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## WALK 12

Wednesday 1st August

### LINWOOD AND PICNIC

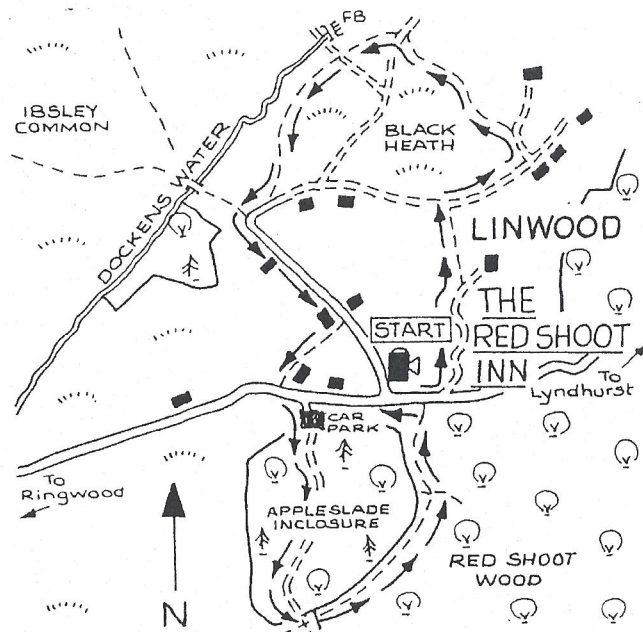
Distance 2½ miles — 10.00a.m.

After the success of last years picnic, we have decided to repeat it. (Weather permitting) so bring your chairs and picnic and maybe a bottle or two !! Last year some of us stayed until about 3.30 p.m. playing Boules, so if you have Swing Ball, Badminton, Boules or any other outside game bring them along and make a day of it.

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.

THE WALK Go through the car park and fifty yard on bear left to the road, Cross the road, turn right and after 100 yards to a gravel track on left, follow this past buildings and house, straight on to a stile across the field over another stile turn right on gravel track. Follow this past bungalows bearing left down to a gravel cross track go straight over. At the river, go left along the bank for about ½ mile until you reach a road, turn right and follow the road back to the Red Shoot Pub and Car park.



## WALK 13

Saturday 11th August

### HAMPTON RIDGE

Distance 3¾ miles

10.00a.m.

Take the A.338 towards Fordingbridge, turn right at the cross roads for Hungerford, follow this road for approx. 2 miles until you come to Frogham Cross Roads, turn right past the Foresters Arms, the car park is ¼ mile on the right

Leave the car park by the road entrance and turn right downhill. Just before the corner note the well, which gives its name to the area: on the right hand side of the road. At the corner go straight ahead on the wide gravel track past the sign Cycle Route to Fritham only.

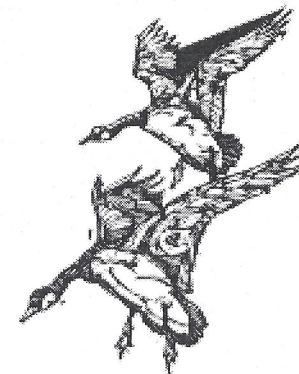
From the summit of the ridge you have wide views of Latchmore Bottom and Hasley Inclosure to your right. Continue along the main track, ignoring smaller ones to left and right, for about 1½ km (1 mile). After passing a clump of small trees (mainly holly) the track bends to the right. Note a solitary tree (a birch) silhouetted ahead and to the right. About 120m further on take the right fork and head for the birch tree.

About 80m beyond the tree the track swings left and you see Alderhill Inclosure ahead in the valley with your path clearly visible. Enter by the gate and after 130m turn left onto a gravel track.

After about 400m turn right to cross a footbridge and head for the gate ahead, by which you leave the inclosure. Turn right onto a wide grassy area and continue for about 400m to the corner of the inclosure. Bear right to enter the open valley bottom where your path runs roughly parallel to Latchmore Brook for about 1¾ km (1 mile) to bring you to Ogdens car park.

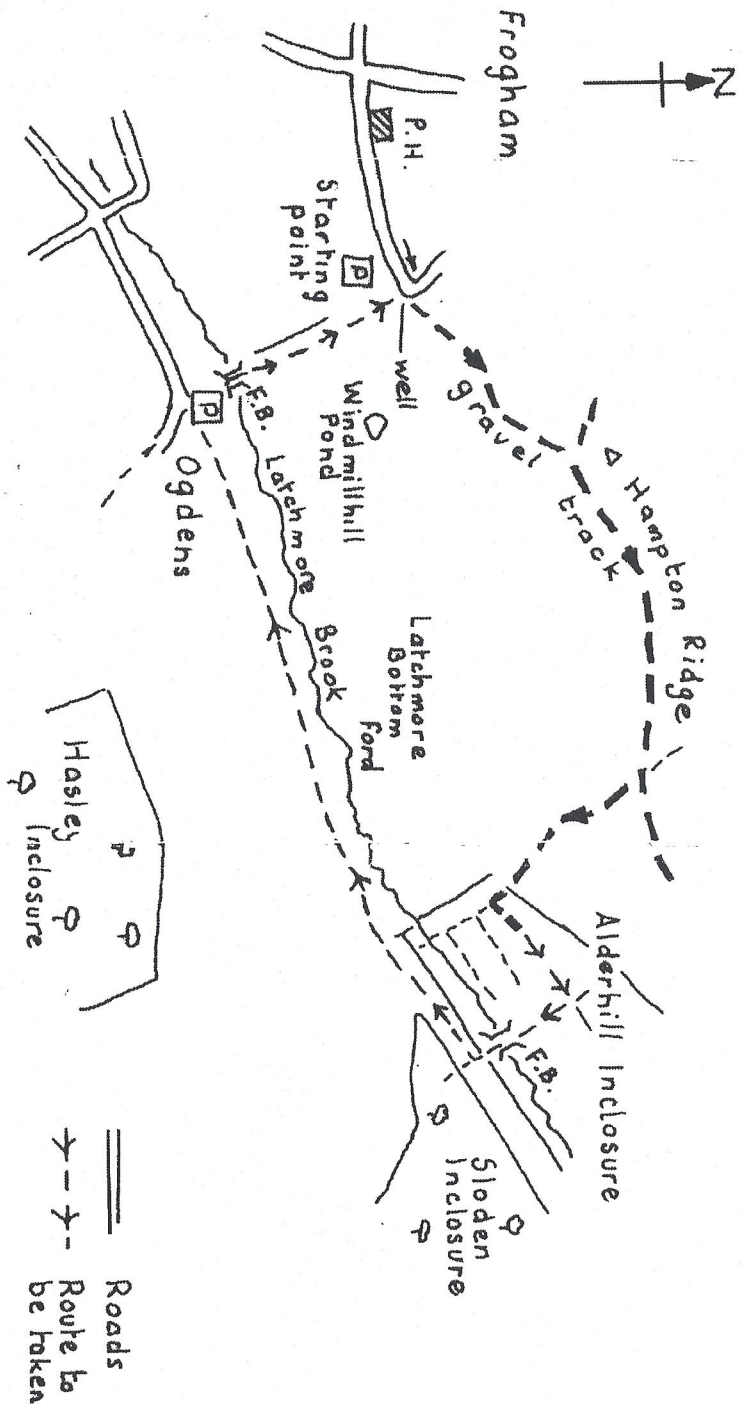
Turn right over the footbridge and ascend the gravel road ahead to arrive at the tarmac road at the corner by the well noted at the beginning of the walk. Turning left soon brings you to the car park.

Map page 18





NOT TO SCALE



# WALK 14

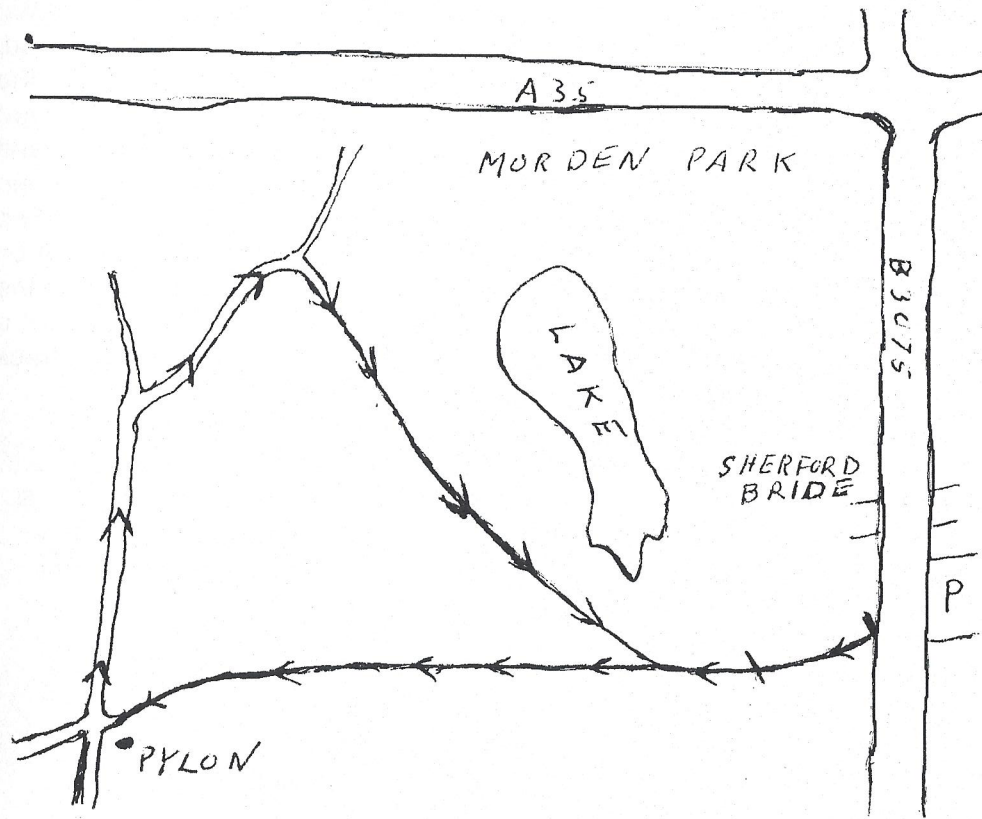
Wednesday 22nd August

## Morden Forest

Distance 4 miles 10.00 a.m.

Take the A35 towards Dorchester, turn left at Morden Park Crossroads onto the B3075 signed Wareham and Sandford. After  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile you will see a large pull-in on your left, park and meet here.

Cross the road, go through the gate, across the field to another gate, go through on to a track, follow this for approx  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Under a pylon you will find crossroads. Turn right. Bear right after  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Follow on a further  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile when two tracks merge, turn right back on yourself, follow this back to join the original track back to the cars



## WALK 15

Saturday 1st September

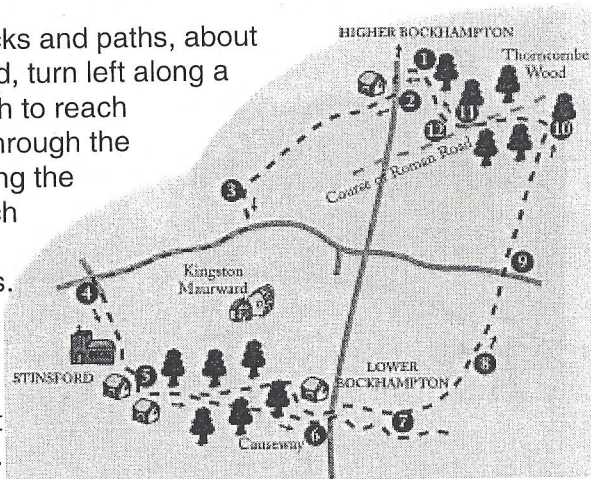
### STINSFORD AND KINGSTON MAURWARD

Distance 4½ miles — 10.00a.m.

Take the A35 towards Dorchester, turn left off the main road just after Puddletown to Higher Bockhampton. Park and meet at Hardy's cottage main car park on the left.

(1) From the car park, walk back to the minor road and turn left. Go past two bungalows, on the left, then turn right along a farm track.  
(2) Go past a house, on the left, and farm buildings, on the right, following the track to its end. Go through the gate ahead and follow a path downhill across two fields to reach a broad clear track. (3) Turn left along the track, following it to a road. Ahead is the entrance to Kingston Maurward Park.  
(4) Turn right along the road for ½ mile to reach a signed lane, on the left, for Stinsford Church. Take this, following it through the hamlet and past the church (which is to your right). (5) The track becomes a narrow, tree-lined path: continue along it to reach a T junction of paths. Turn left to follow a causewayed, tree-lined path above water meadows. This is one of the best sections of the walk, with streams on both sides of the path and, in winter, Kingston Maurward visible through the trees to the left. (6) Follow the path to a minor road and turn left into Lower Bockhampton. Now turn first right along a track between farm buildings. (7) Where the track bears right, go through the waymarked gate ahead and cross the field beyond, with the River Frome now close on the right. Go over a stile and go half-left across the field beyond, aiming to the left side of a house to reach a gate. (8) Go through and turn left along (9) a track, following it to a road. Go straight across, continuing along the track through several gates.

(10) At the cross roads of tracks and paths, about 800 yards from the minor road, turn left along a path which edges Black Heath to reach Thorncombe Wood (11) Go through the wood: the path is now following the course of a Roman road which went north-eastwards from Dorchester to Badbury Rings. (12) Bear right at a path fork, following a path downhill into woodland again. When the path reaches a track, turn left and follow it back to the start.



## Walk 16

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September

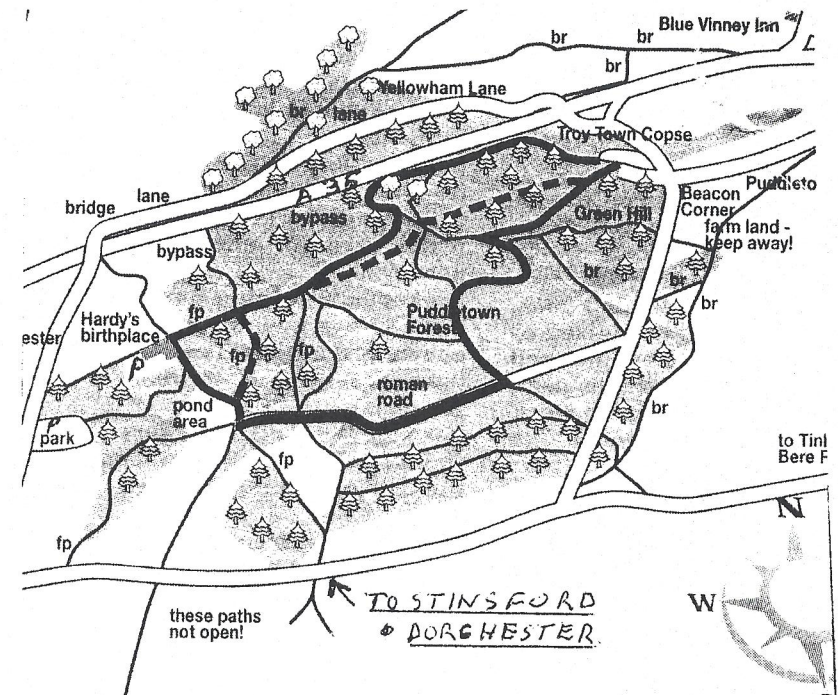
### Puddletown Forest

Distance 4¼ miles. 10.00 a.m.

(One Steep Hill)

Take the A35 towards Dorchester. Turn left off main road just after Puddletown to Higher Bockhampton. Park and meet at Thomas Hardy's cottage main car park on the left.

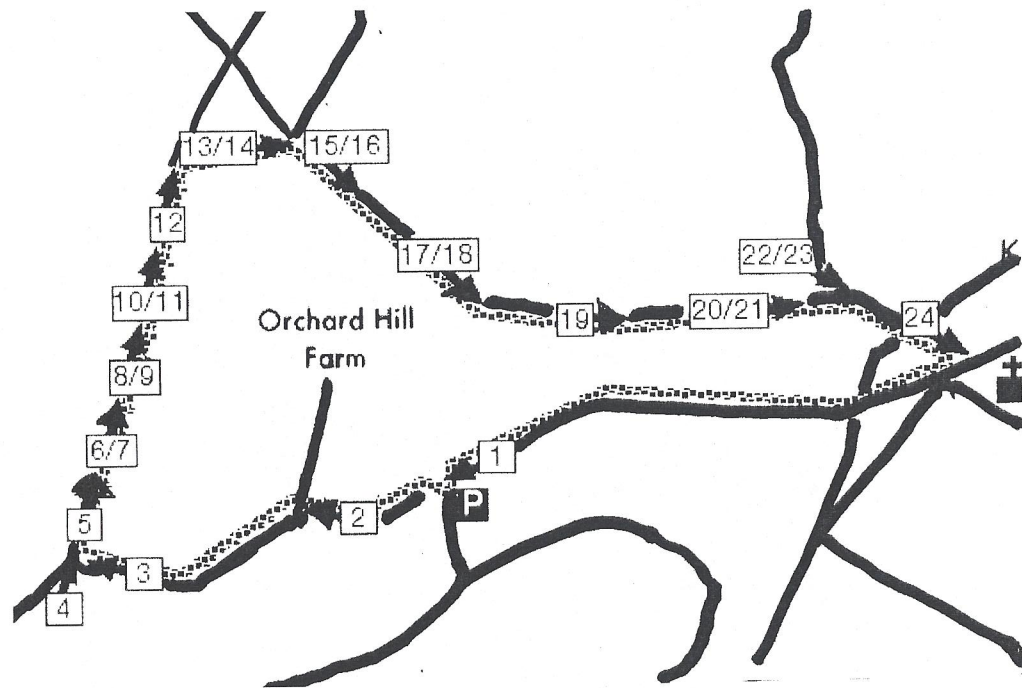
From the car park take the track to Hardy's cottage. Go straight on for approx 1 mile ignoring the first crossroad. When you reach the second, bear left, follow this track until it turns right down hill. At the next junction turn right back on yourself on a well-made track downhill for approx ¼ miles. Turn right up a steep hill, right again at the top. Follow this path back to Hardy's cottage. Turn left through the woods to car park.



**WALK 17**                      **Saturday 22nd September**  
**Kingston and Corfe Castle Views**  
**Distance 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles. 10.00 a.m.**

Go through Corfe Castle, take the B3069 to Kingston, turn right through the village. The car park is on the left beyond the Church.

Turn left out of the car park along the road, which turns into a track. At the first junction turn right. After approx <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile turn right again. After another <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile turn right, follow this track until you reach the road. Turn right once again, this will take you back to the car park.



**WALK 18**                      **Wednesday 3rd October**  
**THE WOODS AND LYTCHETT**  
**Distance 4.5 or 3.25 miles      10.00a.m.**

Take the A.35 towards Dorchester. At the Baker's Arms roundabout turn right past the pub. After 3/4 mile turn left into New Road. (This is almost opposite the St. Peter's Finger). 100 yds. up New Road on the left is a large pull in. Park and meet here

This is a very pleasant wooded area between the two Lytchetts (Minster & Matravers). Start by the pub (this is where you find the first footpath on the left).

Take this path, on the left, to follow the wood edge along westerly across the fields to reach another wood.

Go through the wood and then all along the wood-side to reach Foxhills Road.

Just walk up the road a short way to find the lovely bridleway on the right. Go all along east into more woodland and find a path on the left (to turn north).

This follows wood-side up to matravers for a good mile bearing left at the top to reach the road (Huntick Road) in matravers. Should you like a lunch break here just go left to find The Rose and Crown Inn, then go right walking all down the Huntick Road through woods to find farms and a footpath on the right.

This footpath goes straight down and through more woods to reach a lane. Should you wish to reach Post Green quickly, turn right and then left and you will be back.

Otherwise go straight on ahead, passing the school and on down into Minster near the church. There is a little path through the churchyard and a field to reach the lane that just goes up to Post Green, or just go straight down to the pub area where you are parked. A pleasant area!

