

## WALK 1

## Wednesday April 10th THE BANKS ARMS STUDLAND — 10.30a.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.

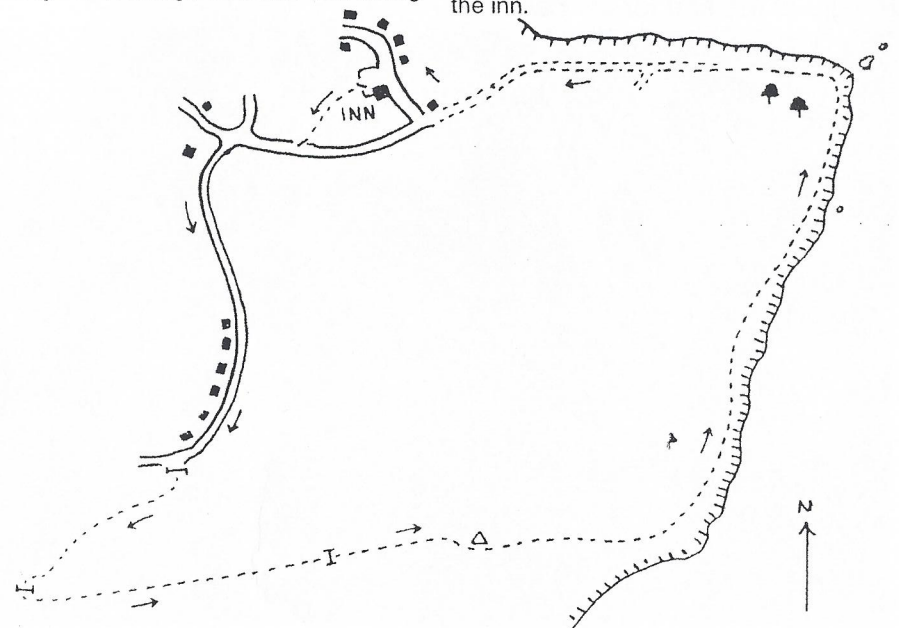
There is a very large car park beside the inn but a charge is levied in summer by the National Trust. Only very limited parking is available outside the inn.

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

Saturday 20th April

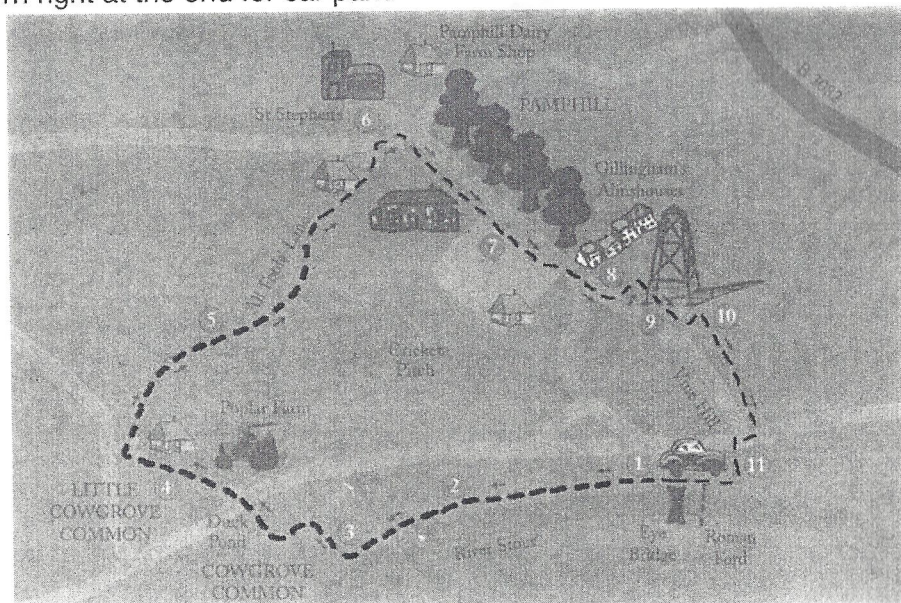
### PAMPHILL & COWGROVE

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 bridledway-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 then turn right at the end for car park.



## WALK 3

Wednesday 1st May

### HENGISTBURY HEAD AND TUCKTON

Distance 3 OR 5 miles — 10.00a.m.

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

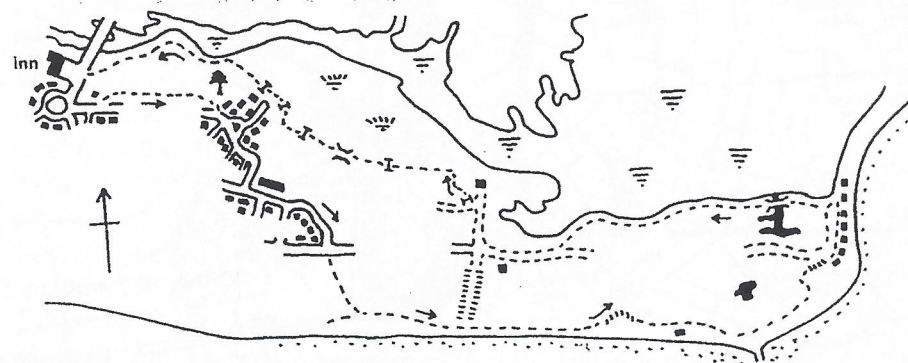
The walk takes you through Wick village to the top of the Head, down to the shore and back through a nature trail and along the bank of the river.

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 4

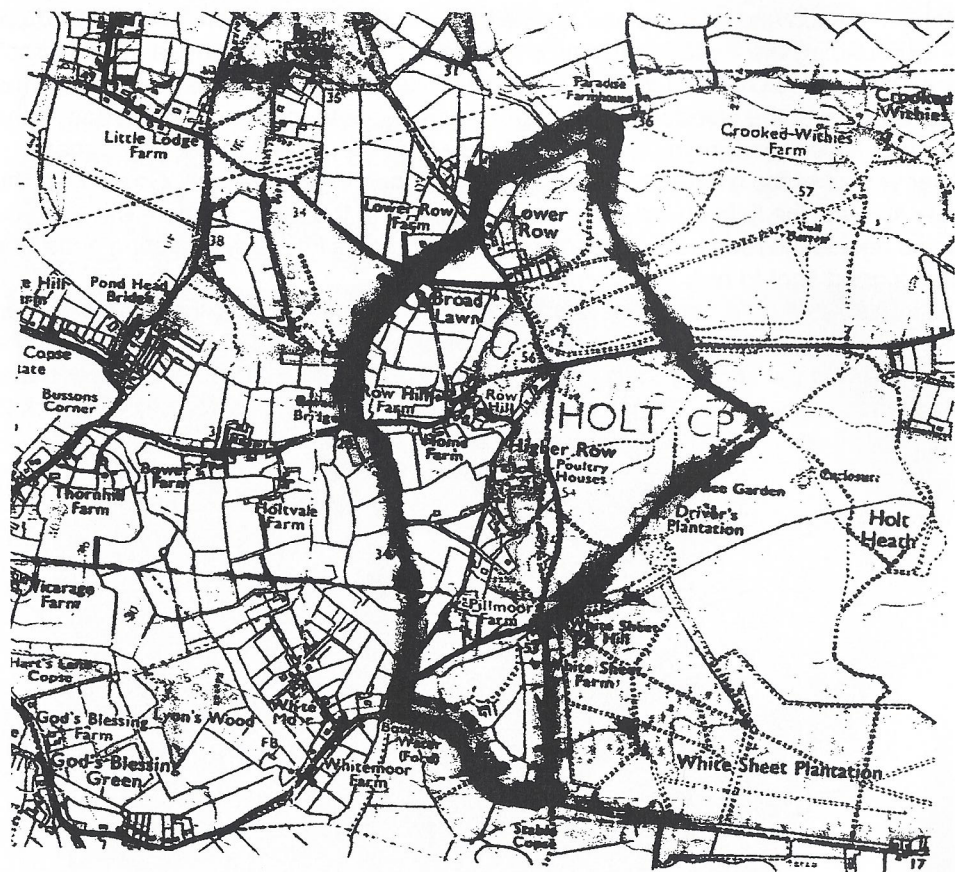
Saturday 11th May

### Around Higher Row

Distance 3 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles 10a.m.

From Wimborne take the Cranborne road. Just outside Wimborne take the first right (Burts Hill) follow this to the T junction, turn left, then immediately right past the Barley Mow, bear left straight over the cross roads, at the top of the hill turn right into Whitesheet car park.

From the car park take small track on right along a fence, on reaching bridleway turn left after <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile at two green gates, turn right down a small track to a road, straight over this track up hill to road approx 1 mile. Turn left then immediately right down a road at the bottom, straight over to the bridleway to Paradise Farm, turn right through gate, keep to the track for <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile to road, go straight over, after <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile at cross tracks turn right, follow this back to car park.



## WALK 5

Wednesday 22nd May

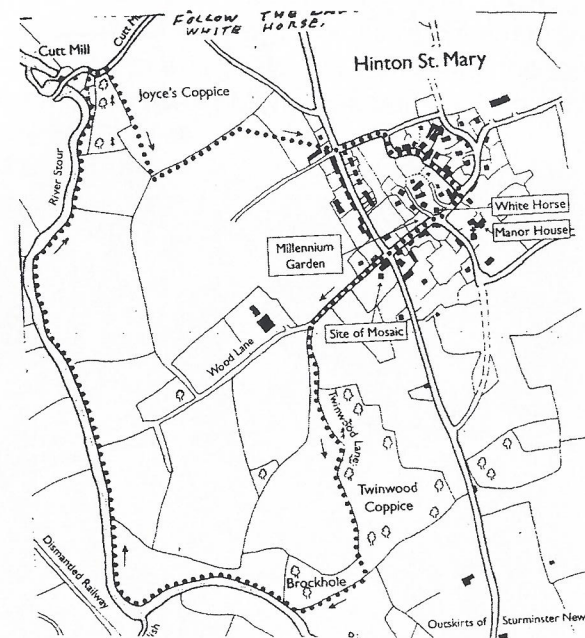
### AROUND HINTON ST. MARY

Distance 3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles — 10.00a.m.

Leave Blandford on the A355 after approx 7 miles turn right on the B3092 to Sturminster Newton, go straight through keep on same road and after 2 miles you will reach Hinton St. Mary. Turn first right, park along the side of the church, if full there is plenty of parking in the village main street.

Meet at church.

From the church, walk back to the main road, cross with care, continue down Wood Lane, turn left after 200 yards, signed Sturminster Newton <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles. The path leads you into woods, cross a little stream, over a stile, turn right on a path to the river, when you reach the river turn right over a stile, follow the path beside the river, cross a stile, two sleeper bridges and another stile, cross out of the field onto the path between the river and wood continue a few paces uphill to follow the sign "Bridleway Wood Lane <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile, pass through the hunting gate. Continue on straight ahead, keeping the new tree planting on your left, to another hunting gate where you turn left and leave the bridlepath. Keep the hedge on your left and head up the hill and you will soon see Hinton St. Mary on the skyline to your right. Turn right, 30m before the hedge ahead, by a gap in the hedge you have been following. Go over the stile and diagonally left across the corner of the field to a double stile in the hedge. Cross the next field diagonally right to a metal gate below the barn to join the Marnhull Road by Turk's Garage. Cross with care and walk up the lane opposite. Turn right follow the lane to the White Horse.



## WALK 6

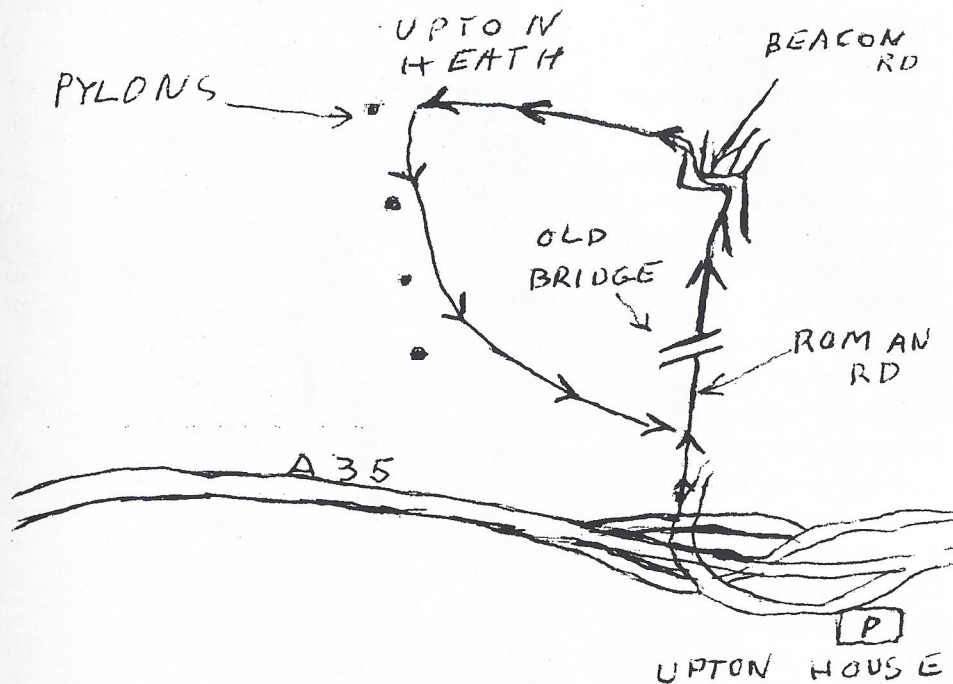
Saturday 1st June

### AROUND UPTON HEATH

Distance  $3\frac{1}{2}$  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.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  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  $\frac{3}{4}$  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 7

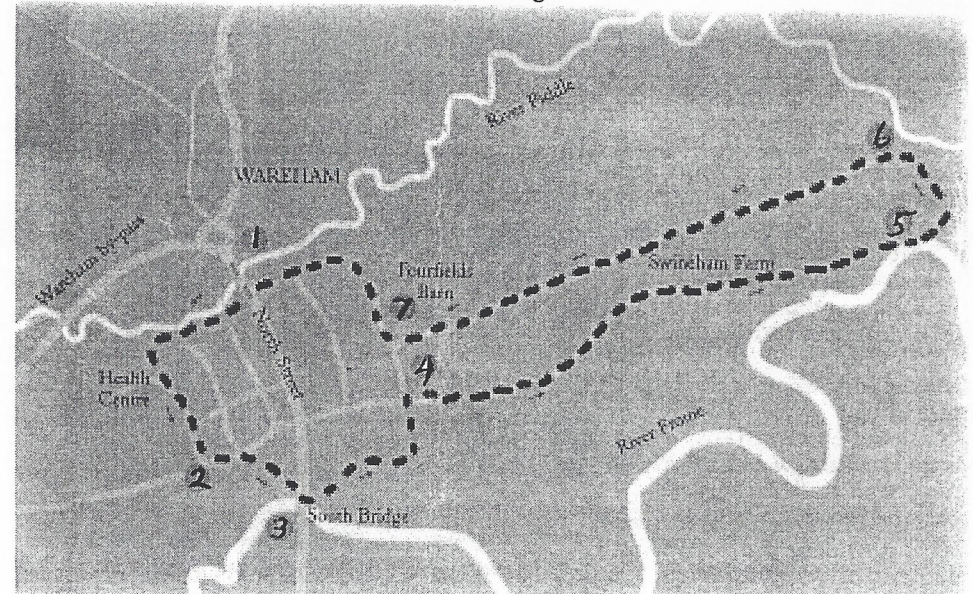
Wednesday 12th June

### WAREHAM AND BESTWALL

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 8

Saturday 22nd June

### AROUND PORTLAND BILL

Distance 4 miles — 10.00a.m.

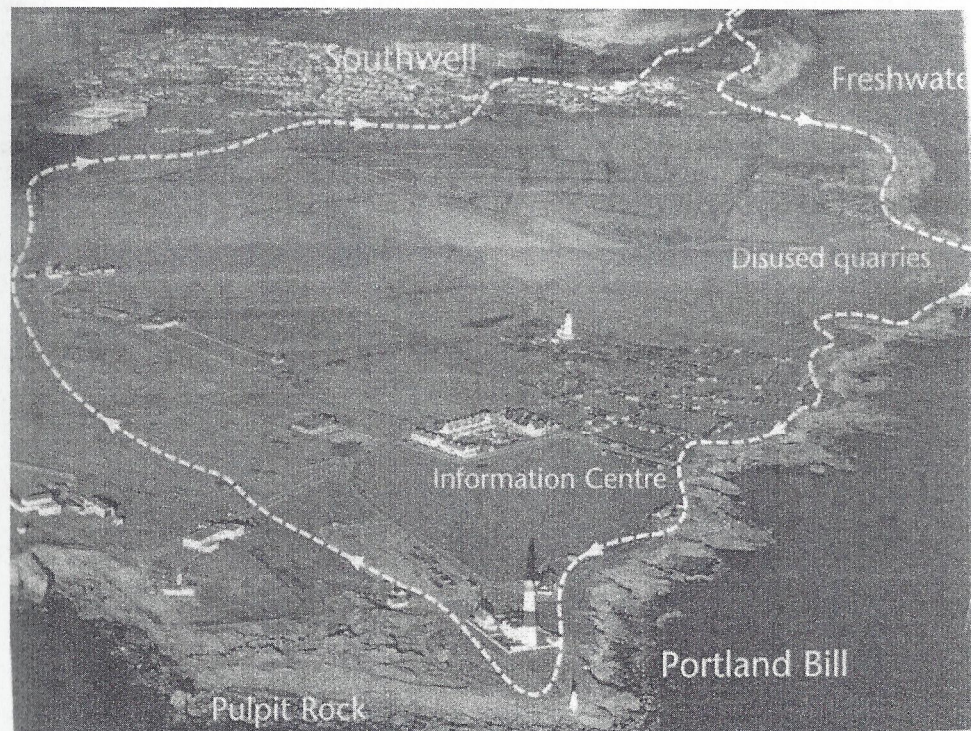
Take the main road towards the Bill, when you come to the Coast (approx 1 1/2 before the Bill) You will find Cheyne Weare car park on your left.

From the car park at Cheyne Weare follow the coast path south toward Portland Bill. You will have to follow the road for a short while before branching off on a track to the left marked 'coast path'. Follow this all the way to Portland Bill, past a number of old quarry sites on the cliffs.

After exploring Portland Bill go round the lighthouse and follow the coast path to the west. Go across the grassy area next to the MoD buildings and then take the path that follows the coast.

At a stone marker just before the large buildings take the path to the right signed 'East Cliff'. Follow this path, keeping left when it appears to split (follow the footpath signs). You will reach a road where you should bear right and then right again after a short while.

At the Eight Kings pub turn left at the mini-roundabout and follow the road back to the starting point.



## WALK 9

Wednesday 3rd July

### Garston Down

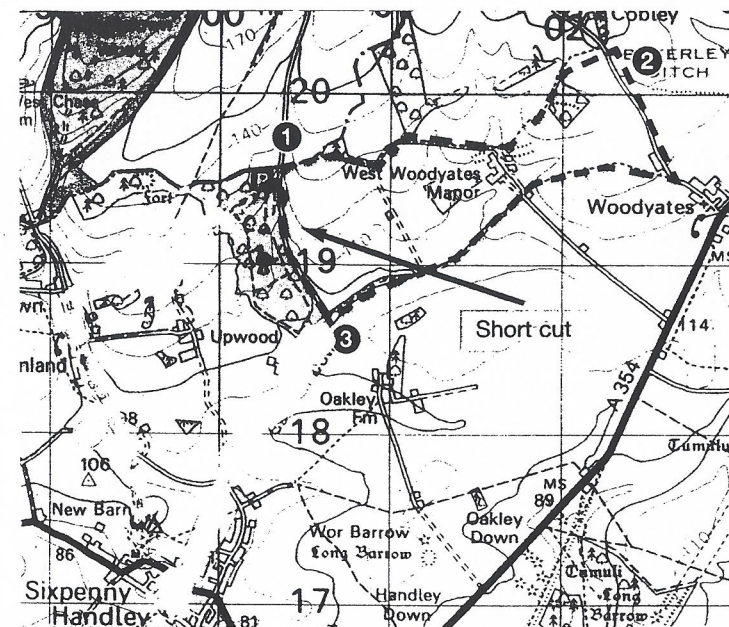
Distance 3 3/4 miles 10a.m.

Leave Wimborne on the B3078 towards Cranborne. Approx 1 mile before Cranborne turn left on the B3081 to Sixpenny Handley, on reaching the village take the first right, keep to the right, after approx 3 miles the car park is on the left.

Leaving the car park, turn left along the lane. In 100 yards, take the right 'Cobley' signed footpath half-gate. Follow the field's left edge up and over on a meandering grass track alongside the left wood. At a vague T-junction, turn left onto the footpath-track through coppice and along the deer fence. When it ends, keep following the track down to West Woodyates Manor. Don't go in! Take the left 'Cobley 3/4' track up against the right hedge, meandering alongside the narrow wood and passing another, arrow-post. At the very end of the wood, go through the footpath arrowed gap and follow the fields left hedge to the roadside half-gate.

Turn right down the lane with Pentridge Hill ahead. Into 'Woodyates', pass several right houses. At the left bend after Primrose Cottage, turn right into the signed footpath along garden fences. Through the end half-gate, follow the right hedge to a footpath-arrowed junction. Take the left grass track down the wide field. Zig-zag left-right past left Bailiff's House straight onto the tarmac track alongside right West Woodyates Manor's grounds. Enjoy this easy track descending the shallow valley for one mile.

Reaching the road, signed back 'Woodyates', with Garston Wood opposite, turn right for the short route back to your starting point.

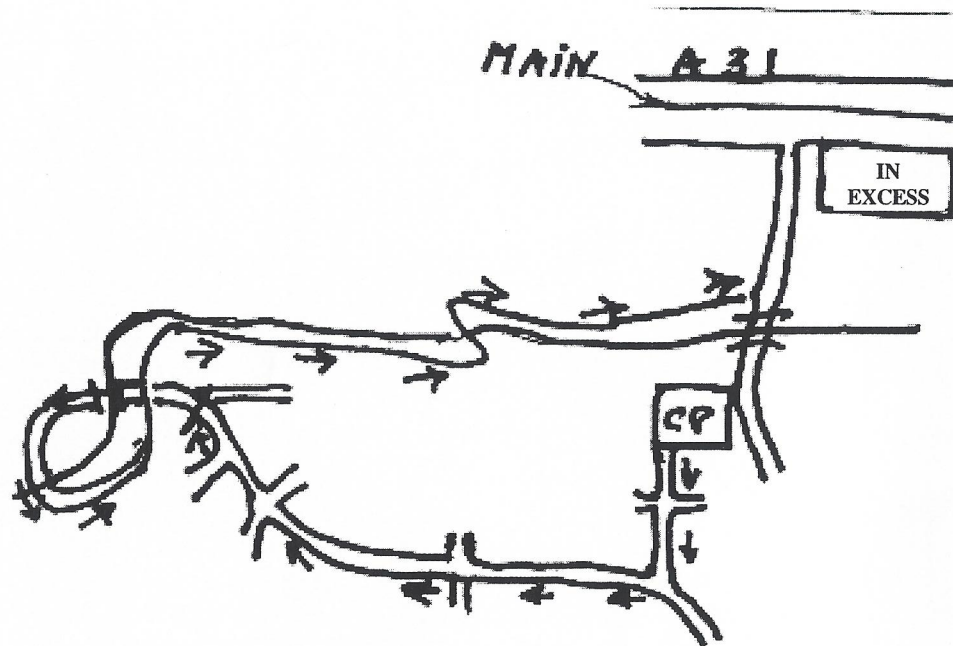


**WALK 10****Saturday 13th July****LINFORD BOTTOM****Distance 3 1/2 miles — 10.00a.m.**

Take the main road A31, 2 miles north of Ringwood, just past IN-EXCESS, turn left signed Shobley and Linford. Be careful not to miss this turn as its a long way round the dual carriageway.

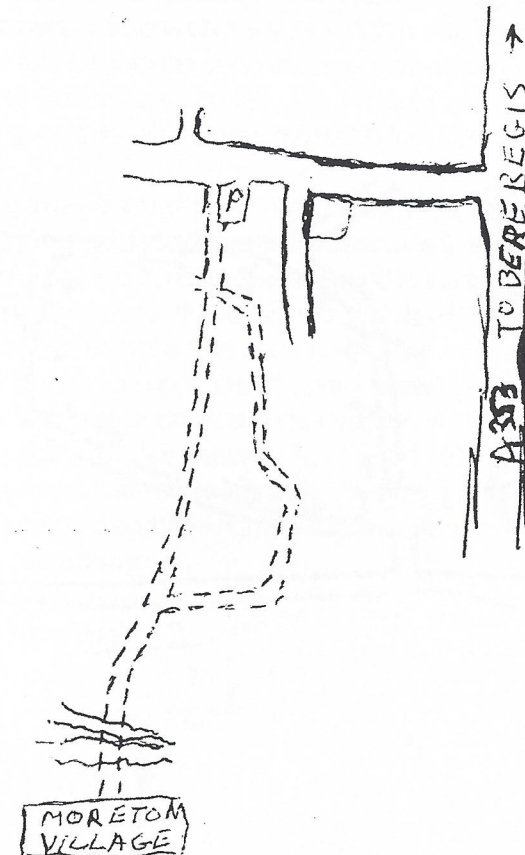
The car park is 1 mile down the road over the bridge on the right.

From the car park turn left through first gate, straight over cross track, at the T junction, turn right, straight over two cross tracks, straight on till you reach a gate, go through follow the track on over the bridge, 30 yards before next gate turn left, go across the river turn sharp left past the pond, Cross over the track and follow river bank to bridge, cross bridge, turn right and follow the side of the river to road, turn right over bridge into car park.

**WALK 11****Wednesday 24th July****Bovington Heath to Moreton****Distance 3 3/4 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 3/4 miles turn right signed Bovington – Tincleton. Follow this road for 1 3/4 miles, just pass a left turn the track and parking will be found on the left.

Follow the track for 1 1/2 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 12

Saturday 3rd August

### LINWOOD AND PICNIC

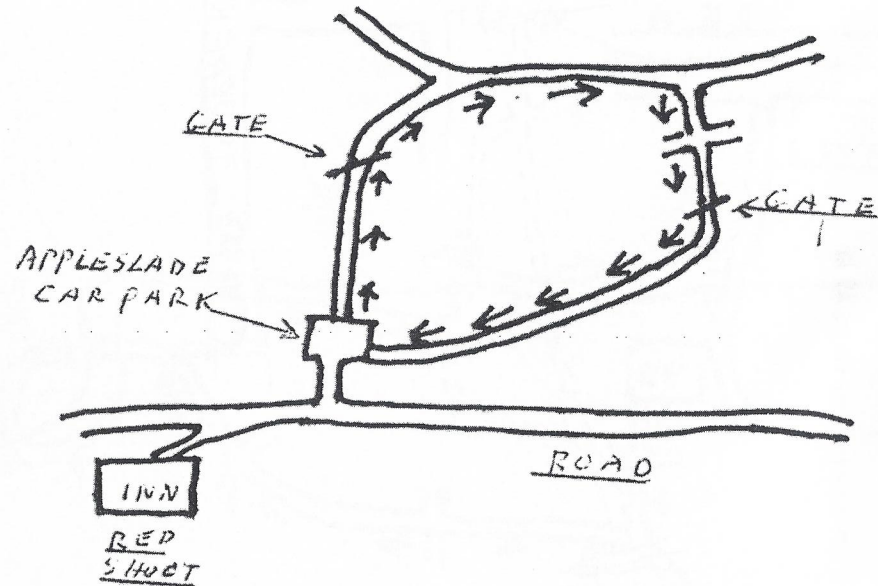
Distance 3 miles

10.00a.m.

We managed it last year so lets try again, bring along any outside games and maybe a bottle or two.

From Ringwood take the A338 towards Fordingbridge, just through Blashford turn right signed Moyles Court and Red Shoot Inn. After approx 2 miles Appleslade Car Park is on the right. (This is about 200 yards before the Red Shoot Inn) park and meet here.

Walk through the Car Park straight up the hill for approx  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, go through the gate and straight on, the track turns right around a high fence, follow this for approx  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. At the junction turn right up the hill to the gate, go through, turn right onto open moorland, follow the track for about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles back to Car park



## WALK 13

Wednesday 14th August

### ROUND ABBOTSBURY

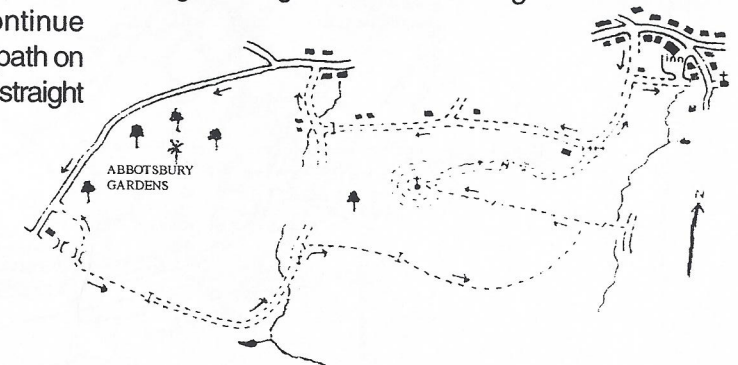
Distance 3 miles — 10.00a.m.

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 14

Saturday 24th August

### SPETISBURY AND TARRANT CRAWFORD

Distance 4 miles — 10.00a.m.

Take the A350 towards Blandford. At Spetisbury take the first turning left past the Woodpecker. The car park is on the left. From the Woodpecker cross the road, turn right and then left (S.W.) up the short track signposted North Farm. Cross Jesty's field ahead, over a wooden stile and across an old railway bridge. Keep walking upwards (S.W.), looking back occasionally to enjoy the view of the Stour Valley and Spetisbury Rings. Keep the woods to your right until you reach the top of the first field - 907024. Turn left (S.E.) walking away from the woods with the fence on your right and head for the far corner of the field to a stile.

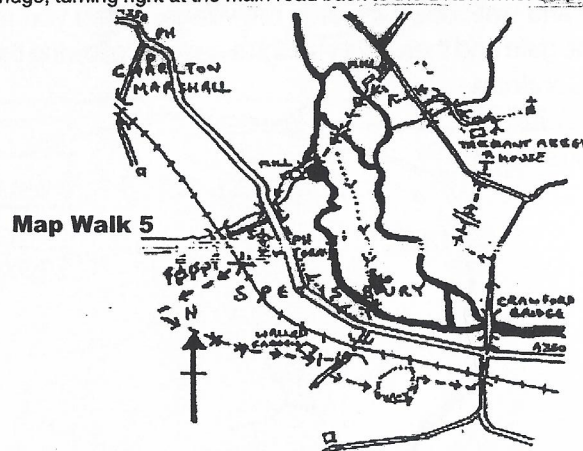
Climb over a second stile and bear left down the field making for the r-hand corner of the walled garden (old monastery gardens). Ahead of you is a gate (with a gap to get through) which will bring you out on to a farm lane.

Turn right and then shortly left through another gate. Walk up the path through the middle of the field and right along the top of the earthworks (Spetisbury Rings) to the trig point-915018. There are fine views in all directions here. Continue along the top of the earthworks until you reach a path leading off to the right and to a stile. Cross the stile and follow the path to a road (Louse Lane). Turn left here.

At the crossroads with the A350 walk straight across and down the lane to the beautiful Crawford Bridge. Keep following the lane until you reach a metal gate on your left marked with a blue arrow - 919023. Follow the brideway signs around the field making for the electricity pylon. Go through two gates before the pylon, over a stile, across a small road and up the field to the back road to Blandford.

Cross the road and continue through the gate onto a brideway which shortly leads downhill and after passing through a second gate comes to a lane. Turn right and cross left over a bridge - 922034 (Tarrant Crawford Church to your right is well worth a visit). Continue on this lane to reach the backroad to Blandford again. Cross the road, go through the gate opposite into what used to be a market garden and follow the field round to the left until you reach the old Keyneston Mill - 914035.

Turn left to the river and cross at a picturesque bridge. Follow the path straight across the valley. After crossing a second bridge you have two options:  
Option 1. Carry straight on past the lovely Spetisbury Mill to the main road, turning left for the Drax Arms.  
Option 2. Soon after the second bridge turn left along the meadows, following the path, eventually reaching the cricket pitch, crossing the river over a bridge, turning right at the main road back to the Drax Arms. ~~map over page~~



## WALK 15

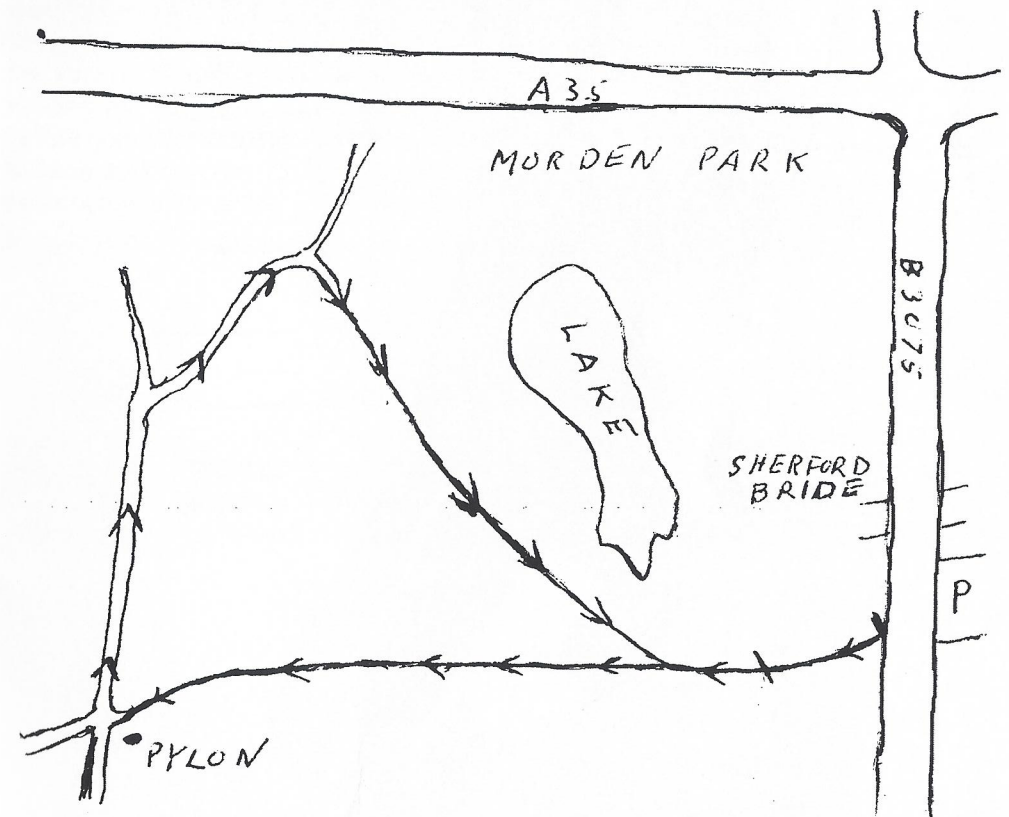
Wednesday 4th September

### 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

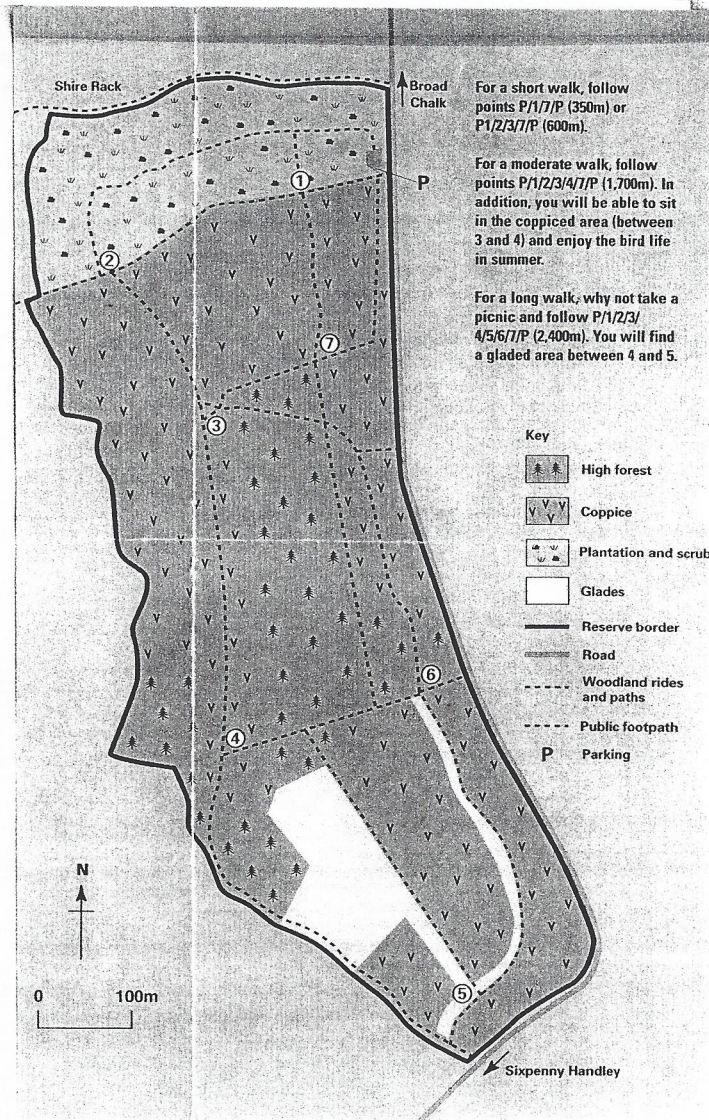




# WALK 16 NEW Saturday 14th September GARSTON WOOD

Distance 3 miles 10.00 a.m.

Leave Wimborne on the B3078 towards Cranborne. Approx 1 mile before Cranborne turn left on the B3081 to Sixpenny Handley, on reaching the village take the first right, keep to the right approx. 3 miles and the Car Park is on the left. From the Car Park follow the numbers 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 on map.

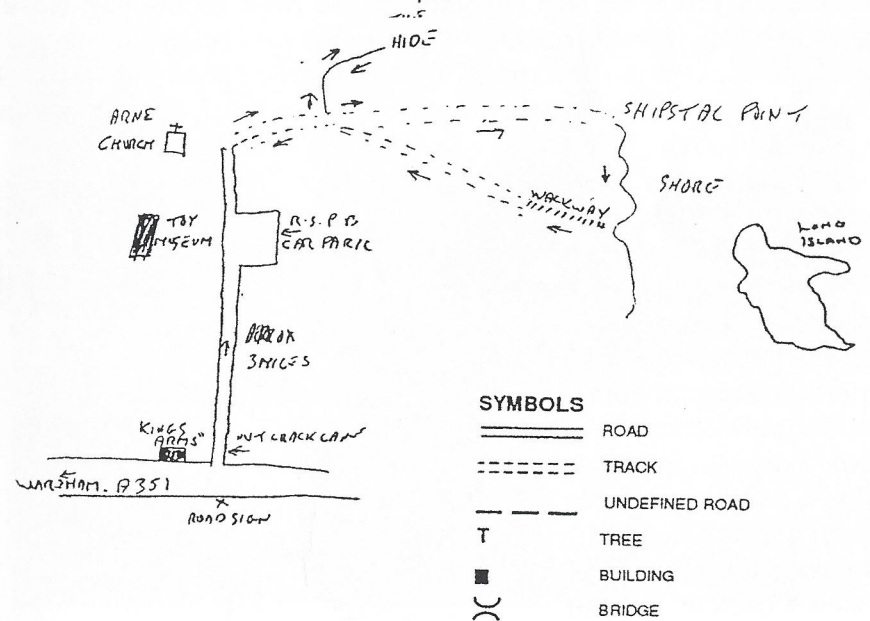


# WALK 17 Wednesday 25th September ARNE AND SHIPSTAL POINT Distance 3 Miles - 10am.

Follow the A351 to Wareham, go through the town and just at the beginning of Stoborough, take the sharp left turn to Ridge and Arne. This sign is not easily seen, so if you miss it, continue along the main road for about half a mile, to the next left turn and follow the signs to Arne. Meet and park at the RSBP Car Park (GR 972880). There is now a charge in this car park.

Turn right, out of the car park and walk to the church, passing the Purbeck Toy and Musical Box Museum on the left. Turn right at the church, onto the bridleway to Shipstal. When an RSBP information board lies ahead, turn left, just before it and follow the path through the wood, bearing right at the fork in about 50 yards. You will soon reach another information board, where you take the path marked 'To the Hide.' This path has planks over muddy places.

Visit the Hide, where in winter months many birds are seen, including oystercatchers, shelducks, redshanks, teal and mallard. Return to the information board and this time follow the path to Shipstal Point. This path meets a crossing path, but carry straight on, up to the highest point, Shipstal Hill, where there is a viewpoint, showing the various landmarks. Carry on towards the harbour, where the cliffs here are eroding and dangerous, so turn right and walk along the top, crossing the track before going downhill and onto the shore. The path bears right and there are planks to keep your feet dry. Continue along this path, which bears right through a wood and soon you will arrive at the first information board. Turn left and follow the track back to Arne Church and left to the car park.



## WALK 18

Saturday 5th October

### 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.

