

Directions for Wessex Ridgeway westwards

Ashmore to Shillingstone

[August 2022]

Maps: OS Explorer 118, Landranger 193

Distance: 9.3 miles (14.9 km)

To arrive at the start of the Wessex Ridgeway in Dorset, from Ashmore's war memorial, turn right down the lane just beyond the pond, and after 25m turn left on a track signposted "Tollard Royal 2 miles". Proceed down a grassy path with fence to left and hedge to right to arrive at a prominent signpost commemorating Priscilla Houstoun, who designed the route, and the official opening of the Dorset section of the Wessex Ridgeway on 16th August 1994, which indicates 'Lyme Regis 62 miles' (100 km).

Retrace your steps to the war memorial and continue along the road, soon turning left off it onto a farm track. Ignore all turnings to left and right, and after just over a mile (1.6 km), and immediately after some barns to right, enter woodland (Ashmore Wood). Continue ahead along a clear woodland track. On arriving at a T junction of paths, turn right and steadily descend on a path just inside the wood. At the bottom of the slope, where there is another T junction of paths, with a barbed wire fence to left, turn right for a few paces, then go through a pedestrian gate. Now steadily ascend on a path which is often muddy.

After a while a field will appear to the left (but with a wood still to the right, with the wonderful name of Great Peaky Coppice). Follow the path through a gap between woods and downhill to a gate onto a road. Turn right along this road for almost ½ mile (0.8 km), then enter the wood on your left, which is called Heth. The path goes gently downhill. On emerging into a field, turn sharp right and walk gently uphill, with Heth now on your right. When the route levels out, join a track which emerges from the wood on your right and walk along the field edge. Arrive at a road (which is surprisingly busy as it provides a better alternative to the A350) soon after.

Cross the road and continue ahead on a farm track for exactly a mile (1.6 km), ignoring all turnings to left and right. The track is initially grassy, but soon joins a stony version which comes in from the left. Much of it is through woodland. When the track bends left down a slope, cross a stile and walk along the right-hand edge of three fields; the first is vast, and there is a steep descent in the

second one. At the bottom of the third one, cross a final stile, then the busy A350, with care.

Proceed down Frog Lane opposite into the village of Iwerne Courtney (also called Shroton) to arrive at a confluence of roads. For the centre of Shroton, the Cricketers pub and bus stops to Blandford or Shaftesbury, turn sharp left. To continue on the Wessex Ridgeway. Go half left between houses on a gravel track, then turn right and left along the backs of houses and past garages (to left), with a field to right. Continue along a road to a gap on the right just past the cricket pavilion. Go through this, then at once turn left and begin your ascent of Hambledon Hill, with a wall to left. After 150m or so, turn right with the track and continue uphill, with vies of Iwerne Courtney to the right.

The angle of ascent soon diminishes but does not level out until you have walked the length of the spine of Hambledon Hill and arrive at a T junction of paths. Should you wish to visit Hambledon hill fort, turn right, otherwise turn left along an enclosed path which gently descends to a bridle gate into an open area. Turn right along the fence, pass another gate to right, and in the corner of the field turn left, with woodland to right, and begin your descent to the bottom of the hill. The gradient gets somewhat steeper after going through a gate-sized gap into the next field. At the bottom, turn right through a field gate and follow the track through woodland and another field gate to a road.

Turn left along this; it bends right almost at once, and soon arrives at a gate giving access to a short grassy track to right, signposted Hanbury School. Go through two field gates close together; these can be difficult to open and might require you to climb over them. Continue through the farmyard of Hanbury Farm, with hedge (and vehicles) to right. At a gap in the hedge, go through it and at once turn left to go through two more field gates and into a field. Walk on with fence to right. Go through a gate and turn left to follow a twisting path through woodland. Pass through a pedestrian gate and turn right to walk along a field edge, with the River Stour flowing to your right. Soon turn right on a very solid bridge over the river, and go through a gate. Turn half left through a field.

A field gate leads to a narrow track called Holloway Lane; walk along this, with woods to right. Pass Holloway Farm to left and go under an old railway bridge. Continue, to arrive at the A357. To visit or stay in the village of Shillingstone, turn right. To continue on the Wessex Ridgeway, cross the road.

Shillingstone to Sydling St Nicholas

[Updated in August 2023]

Maps: OS Explorer 117, Landranger 193

Distance: 19.2 miles (30.7 km)

This is a lengthy stage which does not go through any villages for its whole length. It is also arguably as demanding as the last stage from Sydling St Nicholas to Lyme Regis.

If starting from the centre of Shillingstone, walk along the A357 towards Blandford and enter the field to right, just past the Willow tearooms and opposite Holloway Lane, where you finished the last stage (if applicable). Bear half left across this field and exit through a gate or gap in the hedge. Turn right up the minor road, past houses to right, and at a Junction turn left onto a narrow tarmac road. After 50m or so, take the stony track which forks right off the road and prepare to ascend! This woodland path soon turns right and left, then proceeds upwards more or less in a straight line to arrive at a cross roads of tracks.

Turn right, slightly uphill, and walk ahead, now with the wood to right. On the left is a large field which was full of sunflowers when I walked the route. After almost half a mile (0.8 km) bear right to walk through the wood and past a Forestry England sign onto a track. This takes you to a road. Cross this and walk on past the Okeford Hill picnic area to right. After passing between barns the track becomes enclosed and passes Ringmoor Turnworth Down (National Trust) to left. The path comes out into the open and continues past two successive telecoms masts to left. A few metres after exiting the track via a pedestrian gate, arrive at a road.

Turn left and stay on the road for 2 miles (3.2 km). In the process, pass a turn off to Ibberton (where there is accommodation) to right, a turn off to the Ibberton Hill car park (to left) and after 1.3 miles (2.1 km), a four way road junction where you bear right. Pass two more telecoms masts, which are partially hidden by the hedge to left. You are walking along the top of Bulbarrow Hill, 275m (902 ft) above sea level, and the second highest hill in Dorset, and for almost the whole time you have been able to enjoy panoramic views of the Blackmoor Vale to the right.

Very soon after passing a turning to right, go through a bridle gate to left and walk along the outer ramparts of Rawlsbury Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, with

more spectacular views to the left. Go through a gate and follow the path along the fence to right. At an outcrop of bracken, veer left and downhill to a gate. The route to the next gate is obvious but quite steep, and you might want to make use of an area of exposed chalk to the right beside a small quarry. After the next gate, enter the field to left, then turn right to descend it, aiming for its bottom left-hand corner. Go through a gap here into another field and walk down it, without straying too far from the hedge to left. Enter an enclosed path which crosses a stream before following it for a few metres (you may be walking in it!), then bear left up a shallow slope to join a track. Shortly thereafter arrive at a road.

Cross it and walk past the farmyard of Crockers farm (to right) on a concrete driveway. When this ends, go diagonally left across two fields, then across a third veering to the right. Turn left on the other side, and after 150m enter a wood. Follow the path to right, soon joining a track coming in from the left, to reach a bend in a road. Proceed up the tarmac drive of Melcombe Park Farm, and at the top continue through the farmyard to a field gate. Go through this and turn right, with hedge to right. Pass through double bridle gates and walk along a ridge with views to both sides. Descend a little through a hollow to arrive at another field gate.

A few metres further on is Dorsetshire Gap, which is a confluence of paths; choose the one which veers slightly to the left, not the one which goes sharp left downhill. Follow this through woodland, gently ascending and veering to the left, to reach a field gate. Go through this and follow the green path right and left to a bridle gate. Continue uphill through the middle of a field, with what looks like temporary fencing to right. When you are just past the small breezeblock building next to an oil tank at the top, turn sharp left across the field towards a field gate on the other side. Once there, turn right and follow the hedge to another field gate. (You may be tempted to follow the telegraph poles down the centre of the field instead, but this is not a public right of way). Descend the stony track on the other side of the gate quite steeply to reach a road at Folly Farm.

Cross the road and ascend a steep, stony green lane, going through three pedestrian/field gates to emerge onto the top of Ball Hill. The hill is spread out to the left, but our route is straight ahead with hedge close by to right. Soon enter a track between Hill Wood to right and Watcombe Wood to left. After going through a field gate, continue ahead down the middle of a very long field (Church Hill), gradually drawing closer to the hedge on the right. Pass through a field gate at the end, then continue down a stony track with hedge to right. This goes round a barn, and eventually reaches an EE phone mast.

Fork right off the track, going to the right of the mast, and stay with the hedge to right down to the field corner. Just before the gap in the hedge, turn left on a barely discernible path, through long grass and nettles in the summer, with hedge to right. Take a gate into the next field and continue downhill. The route goes through an enclosed section close to the right-hand hedge, however this is somewhat unpleasant in the summer due to considerable quantities of animal faecal matter, and therefore flies, and intrusive vegetation. It is therefore recommended that you walk round it. Go through the gate at the bottom of the field onto a road and turn left.

After approx. 40m, turn right down a farm access road, signposted Holcombe Farm and Dairy, but just before arriving at the farm buildings fork left up an enclosed track. This steadily ascends, and the ascent continues in the field beyond, with hedge to left. Once at the top there are some very pleasant views to the right, which may be impeded by crops. Pass some farm buildings to left (Black Barn) and continue through two field gates, ignoring a field gate to the left with an artistic signpost beyond it at the end of the first field, to arrive at a pedestrian gate in the corner of the third field. Go through this and turn right to walk on, now with hedge to right. The next gate gives access to the Giant's Head Caravan and Camping Park. The route is enclosed for a short distance by deciduous trees to left and hedge to right. On emerging into the open, turn sharp left uphill through the Park, passing to the left of a line of conifer trees, then past the office to a road.

Cross this, go through a pedestrian gate next to a double field gate, and walk across the (very flinty) field, aiming to the right of a large clump of trees, to a gate. Bear half right in the next field and descend gradually to a small gate in the fence, with a cross track beyond, which you cross. Follow the path round to the right to continue descending through gorse and brambles. This levels out after a short distance and follows the hill's contour, but soon resumes descending through an area of scrub. Go through a pedestrian gate and walk down the middle of a field, aiming for its bottom right-hand corner (a path is normally left by the landowner through any crops). Go through a large gap in the hedge and continue through the next field with hedge to left. Continue on a track which rises a little as it bends round to the left, then goes sharp right.

At a cross roads of tracks, turn left onto a tarmac road and walk down through the hamlet of Minterne Parva. Pass Minterne Parva Farmhouse to left, closely followed by a round building on the left which is thought to be an eighteenth-century cockfighting ring. The remains of the old village cross are just behind it. Just before arriving at the A352 take the short bridleway to left (in preference to the road, which is the official route). Cross the A352 and head up the quiet road on the other side, signposted Up Cerne. At the bottom of the hill turn right on a

tarmac road, with the entrance to Up Cerne Manor to your left. The Manor comes into view behind you as you walk along the road (crops and trees permitting).

At a junction soon after the tarmac runs out, turn left uphill on a farm track. This emerges into a field and continues ascending, with good views to left and right, and behind. This is Wether Hill. The route finally levels out when you arrive at a clump of trees. Continue in the same direction across a vast field and go through a hedge gap to a prominent signpost. Turn left here for 15m on a grassy track to join a stony farm track. Walk along this for 2 miles (3.2 km), all the way with hedge to left and fine rural views to right, soon bypassing a field gate. When the farm track turns right, keep ahead, eventually passing a telecoms mast to left, to arrive at a road. (If staying in Cerne Abbas, turn left along this road for just over one mile (1.8 km)).

Cross the road to Higher City Farm. Just past the second barn, turn right through a bridle gate and walk along a farm track with hedge to left. At the end of the second field, do **not** leave the track to go through a gap in the hedge. Instead follow the track as it turns left, then after 20m fork right off it across a field, aiming for a telegraph pole in the middle. Descend steadily to a bridle gate in the fence below. Continue in the same direction through three field gates, with an embankment to left in the last field, onto a stony track. Continue downhill to a T junction of tracks at the bottom and turn right. Quickly arrive at a square grassy area to left, and turn left at the road junction. This takes you down to the village's main street, where this stage ends.

The Greyhound Inn approx. 120m to the right up the village's main street offers accommodation

Sydling St Nicholas to Beaminster

[August 2023]

Maps: OS Explorer 117, Landranger 193

Distance: 14 miles (22.4 km)

The Greyhound Inn at the northern end of Sydling St Nicholas' main street offers accommodation

In Sydling St Nicholas, take the road up towards the church at the southern end of the village. Go through double gates to see the church should you so desire, otherwise turn right onto a track, with a high brick wall to left, and soon fork left. Follow the track through a copse and turn right downhill then left into open countryside. The route then re-enters a copse and begins to go uphill to a gate into a field. Ascend this field and the next, keeping the hedge/fence to left. At the top of what is appropriately called Break Heart Hill, go left through a pedestrian gate, then immediately right through another to arrive at the A37.

Cross this with care and go down the farm drive opposite. Veer to the left when you reach some farm buildings (New Barn), then go through a field gate to continue on a green lane, slowly descending. The lane joins another and the pace of its descent at once increases. At the bottom pass under the railway line through a short tunnel onto a metalled road. You are now in Maiden Newton and its railway station is up to the left should you need to use it. Otherwise continue along Station Road as far as the war memorial. Continue ahead if you need to visit the town's shops and pubs, but our route takes us up Church Road to the right, thus joining the Macmillan Way.

At the end of the street turn left through a gap by a gate and walk next to the wall round the church, soon turning right away from it along an obvious path. Follow this down to a sturdy bridge over the River Frome. Turn right along its bank, but do not go over the brick bridge by sluice gates, instead follow the path to the left and pass under a railway bridge with an extremely uneven surface. Continue along the river bank on a twisting path, eventually turning left away from the river, leaving the Macmillan Way. Walk along the right hand edge of two fields to reach a pedestrian gate and footbridge in the second one. Turn right here and pass through two small meadows to come out at a bend in a road, with a 1953 coronation bench and church to left. Continue ahead up the road to a cross roads in the village of Chilfrome.

Turn right here onto a part-metalled road and head uphill. Near the top of the hill, turn sharp left onto a bridleway, which brings you out onto a bend in a quiet road. Continue ahead on this road for 1 ½ miles (2.5 km), past Lancombe Farm, to a junction with a major road, the A356. The road you have just walked along is signed “public route to a public path”. Cross the A356 and turn left along it for about 150m to a pedestrian gate in the hedge on the right. Go through this and head diagonally across the field towards a field gate. Continue in the same direction across two more fields, then go through a pedestrian gate into a fourth, where you start descending and have to negotiate your way on a narrow path through often overgrown brambles and nettles. On emerging from this, turn right through a gap into the next field. Pass an oak tree on the left (a good place to rest in the shade!) on your way to the bottom of the field by some farm buildings.

Exit through a field gate and after a few paces join a track coming in from the right, then immediately arrive at a junction, where you go right along a gravel track. This meets a road in the village of Lower Kingcombe. Continue ahead along the road and soon fork right along an enclosed bridleway. This is another public right of way which becomes a stream in winter, and its surface reflects this. At the end, pass through a bridle gate into a field, and veer slightly left, with Kingcombe Coppice to right. Walk through two more fields at the bottom of a valley to arrive at a road. Turn right uphill for a short distance, turning left down a track at the top. Follow this past a farm to left to a field gate. By now the masts at Rampisham Down (apparently pronounced Ransom by those in the know!) will be in your sights.

Walk down the right hand side of the field, past one mast and a field gate giving access to a green lane. At the bottom go through a pedestrian gate and turn half left to continue descending, aiming for a distant field gate in the opposite hedge. Go through this and up the field with hedge to left. The route soon becomes a green track and passes through another field to arrive at a road. Cross this and turn half left to go down an enclosed track with a surface like a river bed, which indeed it becomes in the winter. The track narrows at the bottom with encroaching vegetation, but persevere and it will bring you out beside a house. Bear left down a short track to arrive at another road.

Continue ahead along it; you are now in the village of Hooke, with a large green pond to right. Pass Hooke Court to left and shortly go through a gate on the right into a field. Cross this and go through another gate into the corner of another field. Walk on with Horse Moor Coppice to right, then go through into a field on your right. Proceed gently downhill with hedge to left to a field gate in the corner and go through this onto a road (although there is a well-trodden and more accessible route onto the road some 20m before the gate, which goes over

the low bank to the right). Turn right and take the road to the right at the top of the rise signposted Toller Whelme (which means the source of the River Toller, now called the River Hooke). Follow this past a small lake to left, after which it becomes a stony track, passing houses to right and left. Soon after the tarmac returns, pass Toller Whelme's church to right (which can be hard to see), where the road goes up a slight incline. At the top turn left, and when the tarmac very quickly disappears, fork left over a stone strewn section to arrive at a field gate.

Climb up the field on an obvious path which passes through gate posts to a field gate at the top. Turn left along the road (the B3163) for a short distance, and take the turning to the right. When the road bends left at a farm, continue ahead on a metalled lane, with farm to left, and when this bends sharp right continue ahead along a sandy track. This eventually arrives at a road, which you cross, slightly to the left, and enter a field. Walk on with hedge to left to arrive at another road.

Turn left along this for 500m, then take the track to the left marked by a metal wagon wheel leaning against a post advertising Buckham Down. This descends quite steeply on an uneven surface, but as it approaches a house on the right both aspects of the track improve, and it then becomes a metalled road. Follow this down past Beaminster Secondary School to right and on to Beaminster's square, where this section ends.

Beaminster to Lyme Regis

Maps: OS Explorer 116, Landranger 193

Distance: 20.2 miles (32.3 km)

WARNING: This is a challenging and lengthy walk, taking you up to the top, or near it, of Dorset's two highest hills, and several more as well. There are no accommodation options along it that I am aware of until Lyme Regis.

Take Church Street from the square in Beaminster. Bend right to pass the church on your left and continue down Shorts Street. The metalled surface becomes gravel as you pass the last house on the left, continue through a tunnel of foliage. Cross a road and continue down a long, thin field. Turn left at the end and immediately right along Half Acre Lane. Soon turn left onto a short path opposite house no. 6, pass through a squeeze stile and go half right across a paddock.

Go through a small metal gate and round two sides of a corrugated-iron-roofed barn with 30 solar panels on its other roof. Continue round two sides of a field, then turn left through a pedestrian gate. Head downhill and through a wood to cross a sturdy footbridge. Enter the field beyond via a stile and climb very steeply up to a second stile. Continue climbing up the centre of the field, but less steeply, and follow the worn grass track in the next field up to the beech-tree-clad top of Gerrard's Hill, from where there are magnificent views all around.

Continue gently downhill to cross a standard stile, then a squeeze stile, then turn left to go down, then up, the field in front of the house to your left, thus bypassing it. Go ahead through a series of field gates, gradually ascending to walk parallel to Waddon Hill on your left. Drop down to pass Stoke Knapp Farm (to left) on a curving earthen track and reach a road.

Cross it and follow the track steadily uphill to walk along the northern flank of Lewesdon Hill. This is the highest hill in Dorset but you remain about 35m from its summit at the route's highest point. Before you get to this point, pass an information board about a Belgian Spitfire pilot who crashed on the hill in 1942, with the forgettable name of Jean Verdun Marie Aime de Cloedt. There are glimpses of spectacular views on this section through occasional gaps in the woods and hedges on both sides, including of Golden Cap to the south (left), the highest point on the South West Coast Path. Eventually gently descend to arrive at a road (the B3164) by a corrugated iron-roofed shed. Turn left along it.

After a short distance, turn sharp right at the sign for Courtwood Farm down Sheepwash Lane (a bridleway). This can be very boggy in the winter, and overgrown in the summer, and its surface changes frequently. At a cross track, turn left into a field. Cross it and pass through two hedge gaps onto a track. Follow this left and right to take a permissive path across a small field and through a field gate. Turn right and left to pass Lower Needham Farm and walk up its metalled drive to a road.

Cross it and proceed up the field to a stile in the fence. There follows a fairly steep climb up to a pedestrian gate at the top of the next field. Turn right through this along a short path to another gate on your left which gives access to Pilsdon Pen hill fort. Follow the fence on right up to the outer rampart of the hill fort. Turn right along this for perhaps 150m to reach a wooden barrier. This, and another behind it, are easily walked round. Take the broad path beyond to the bottom right-hand corner of the field containing the hill fort.

Go through a wooden gate to an arrangement of gates a few metre further on and go half right up the next field to a heavy field gate. Go half left through the

large, grassy field on the other side to reach a pair of pedestrian gates almost in the corner of the field. (These are beyond a gap in the hedge to left by a trampled fence, which walkers have mistakenly interpreted to be the correct route). These mark the start of a permissive path which tracks the hedge to left in the next field. At the end, turn left for a few metres, then right to join a track which goes through a hedge gap after 120m. Follow the hedge on right in the next field down to the corner, then left down to another track. Turn right along it to a road.

Continue (right) along the road for 250m, passing two road junctions, and take a gate on the left at the corner of a small wood. Go half right up the field away from the wood to a rickety gate. Bear left with hedge to left and walk along the ridge of Blackdown Hill, with fine views on both sides. Pass just to the left of a pair of pine trees, and continue through the next field in the same direction but inset from right-hand side. After a kissing gate in the corner, proceed downhill past a redundant stile to a meeting of paths. Turn left downhill on an enclosed path to a road.

Turn right for 15m and left at the road junction. Stay on the road going steadily down Venn Hill through the village of Synderford for almost $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Turn left on a metalled road [no PRow sign] and walk up to Yew Tree farm. Bear right through its farmyard and a field gate, and up a bridleway. Ignore a footpath going off to the left and enter a field to right at the top. At once turn left uphill to a gate in the hedge. In the next field turn right and follow the hedge uphill as it bends left past an earthy track. Stay with the hedge as it enters a short section of enclosed (and often overgrown) path, then continues to right in next field towards an old oil depot. Pass to the left of this and go down the right-hand side of the field, with woods right, to a road.

Turn left for 50m, then pass through a kissing gate on the right. Walk diagonally down through the field into a wide path near the bottom created by two sets of wooden posts connected by ropes. Turn left along the concrete drive of Grighay Farm. Just before reaching the house, divert left on a track which bends right past the farm house. Stay on this track, ignoring all paths to left and right, and follow it to right on entering a field. Continue with woods to right, then a hedge, to enter the farmyard of Gashay Farm.

Bear right through this, then left down the side of a field. Soon turn left over a footbridge, then a gate, into a field corner. Follow hedge on left to corner of field, but just before reaching it turn right down a gentle slope and into the next field. Keep the hedge to your left through two more fields, the second of which can be very boggy, to a road. Turn left down this for approx. 200m. Just after a road sign, bear right on a metalled track which is initially side by side with the

road. The track soon becomes stony and muddy. Ascend Hawkmoor Hill to a road (B3165).

Cross this and follow the path up and right, through a wood to a gate which gives access to the top of Lambert's Castle Hill. Follow the wide, grassy path along the top, initially bearing left to pass a trig point to right. There are stupendous views to the left over Marshwood Vale and Lyme Bay. Maintain direction, with glimpses of the view through a line of trees on the left, and descend. Ignore all paths to left and right, and go through a field gate and onto a stony path for a short way to arrive at a road junction. Continue ahead through a second road junction, then stay on the road for almost a mile as it passes a small National Trust car park at Coney's Hill to left, then steadily descends.

At a wooden pedestrian gate next to a field gate right, go though and diagonally down the field to a small gate just beyond a line of trees. In the next field the farmer had left tramlines through his crop of barley where the path should have been when I walked it, otherwise continue along the right-hand edge of the field. Then aim for a field gate in the bottom right-hand corner of the following field, ignoring a gate over to the right. Go through this gate and the next one to reach another gate to left. Pass through this and descend the field (possibly past inquisitive cows!), aiming for the bottom right-hand corner, to arrive at a road.

Turn right along this to enter the village of Wootton Fitzpaine, very soon branching right at a road junction. After about 400m, turn left down Meerhay Lane. Do not enter Meerhay Farm farmyard but turn right along a farm track, as signposted. Soon go through a field gate to right and follow the hedgerow to right to cross a stile/footbridge/gate into another field. Continue along the right-hand edge of the field to go through a small gate immediately followed by a field gate. Pass to the left of a barn, then go diagonally left down the field to a hedge gap in the bottom right-hand corner. At this point you join the Monarch's Way.

Go through the gap, and another beyond, then through a small gate. Turn left, with hedge left, to another gate after 30m, then right with hedge right and across the next field to arrive at small wood. Follow the path through this down to a farm. Pass to the right of a low wall by a lawn behind farm buildings. Take the gravel drive away from the buildings and soon bear left off it into another small wood. Cross a concrete bridge to left over a stream and then turn right, following the stream. Walk through a long thin field which leads to a barn. Turn left with barn to left, thus leaving the Monarch's Way.

Gently ascend the farm track, past a pond to left, to a field gate. Follow the hedge to left to a gap. Go through this and turn right past a decrepit building with a rusty roof. At a signpost, turn left uphill with hedge to left, aiming for a

gate by an oak tree. Go diagonally left through the next field, and continue with hedge to right to a stile. The fence/hedge in the next field is on the right. A small gate marks the entrance to a farm. Ascend to the T junction, then turn left along the drive to join a road with cottage to right. Turn left along this to reach the A35.

Walk left along the A35 for a few metres to enjoy the fabulous view to your left, then cross it to turn sharp right down a track just where a slip road joins it. Pass through a field gate and follow the path through a field to enter woods. The path winds through trees, crossing a boggy section, to emerge into a field via a gate. Ignore the footbridge to right and pass a field gate to right to return to the woods (Hole Common) for over half a mile. The path continues on a clear but winding route to ford a stream, then heads uphill to a clearing. Bear left here to join a metalled road which passes between buildings (at Rhode Barton), then cottages to left.

When the road turns sharp left, go through a gate to right. Follow the worn grass path down through a gap between woods. Bear slightly left in the next field, then pass through two gates. Turn left at a thatched cottage and very soon cross a footbridge to left. Head on across the field through a kissing gate onto a gravel path (the Liberty Trail). Cross the River Lim. The path becomes metalled and bends left and right past Higher Mill Flats, with river to right. Follow the path onto Windsor Terrace, then Mill Green. At the end, bear left onto Coombe Street and follow this round to the right to the main road through Lyme Regis (A3052). Turn right past the Rock Point Inn, then bear left along the sea front (Marine Parade) to The Cobb, where the Wessex ridgeway ends.