

BBN – Weymouth: 19th Aug – 23rd Aug 2026



Weymouth originated as two settlements, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, located on opposite sides of Weymouth Harbour. The area was first noted in the 10th century, with Weymouth becoming a chartered borough by 1252. Melcombe Regis developed separately and was recognized as a licensed wool port in 1310. Both towns were significant in trade, with Weymouth importing wine and Melcombe exporting wool. Melcombe Regis is believed to be the first port through which the Black Death entered England in 1348. Weymouth gained popularity as a seaside resort in the late 18th century, particularly after King George III visited in 1789 for health reasons. His royal patronage significantly boosted the town's reputation, attracting visitors seeking the health benefits of sea bathing. The arrival of the railway in 1857 further facilitated tourism, making Weymouth a holidaymakers destination.

We have the luxury of a 5-Day holiday starting on Wednesday afternoon with a Weymouth town circular walk once you've driven and parked in Weymouth. Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday will be all-day walks following established long distance paths with opportunities along the way to break off and shorten the walk length. Some are linear walks and require a **Bus Pass** or **£3** to travel on the bus.

Car Parking: Long- Term car parking can be arranged online through sites like JustPark. Hotel has no parking concessions - £8 per day at Royal Yard, Gloucester Mews DT4 7DU.

This programme gives information about the walks and their starting points. If anyone has difficulty in getting to the start points or is delayed please contact me:

Roy Carter 07784 208997

Accommodation is booked at the **Royal Hotel**, The Esplanade, Weymouth, **DT4 7AX**.

Walks are all on Explorer Map OL15 'Purbeck & South Dorset'.

It's 175 miles from Milton Keynes to Weymouth and takes 3½ hours to drive, outside rush hour. The motorway route being: M1>M25>M3>M27>A31>A35.

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Day 1: Royal Hotel – Wednesday 19th August – 1:00pm – 8.0 miles – Town Circuit

The walk starts outside the Hotel on the Esplanade and heads to the Oceanarium. Then inland through Radipole to the River Wey before returning downstream to the remains of Sandsfoot Castle and the new and old ports of Weymouth.

Walk Start: Explorer Map OL15 W3W: poems.follow.dive Postcode: DT4 7AX



Weymouth old harbour on the River Wey

Sandsfoot was constructed in 1539, on Henry VIII's orders, to provide with Portland Castle, a defence from attack from the continent via the sheltered waters of Weymouth after his break with the Roman Catholic Church. The castle was in bad repair by 1584 due to undermining by the sea. Remedial works were undertaken in 1610/1611 and again in 1623. It was held for the King during the Civil War until 1644/1645 when the Royalists withdrew considering it of no further use to them. During this period it was probably used as a mint for striking coinage. The harbour forms the mouth of the River Wey. The original Roman port upriver at Radipole was lost to silting (forming Radipole Lake), and the current harbour further downstream, lying between Weymouth Old Town and Melcombe Regis, started to develop in the 12th and 13th centuries. It now has a 17th-century waterfront.

Parking Information:



There's no parking at the Royal Hotel only the dropping-off of luggage. Long-term parking will need to be secured elsewhere in Weymouth. See Page 15 for parking options.

Start Time 1:00pm
From the hotel. DT4 7AX.

An 8 mile circular around Weymouth. If late arriving, call because you'll be able to join the walk at other points.

Evening Dinner begins at 6pm.

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Weymouth Circular Walk – Wednesday 19th August



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Day 2: Weymouth: Thursday 20th August – 9:15am – 14 miles – White Horse

The walk today begins by catching the 09:32 train from Weymouth station to Dorchester West. We are walking to Maiden Castle and onto Bincombe for lunch before passing the Osmington White Horse down to Preston. A bus can be caught here to Weymouth, otherwise the walk will continue to Redcliff Point to follow the South West Coast Path into Weymouth.

Walk Start: Explorer Map OL15 What3Words: poems.follow.dive Postcode: DT4 7AX



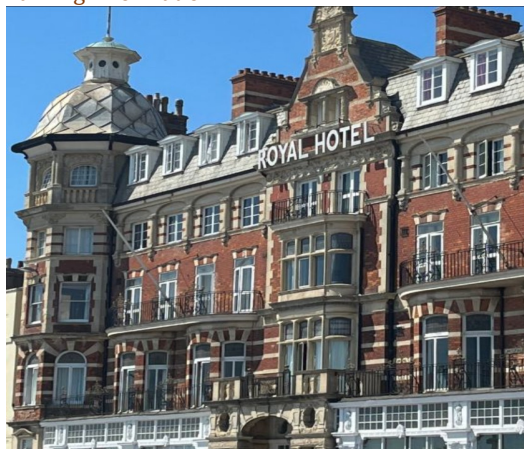
Maiden Castle



Osmington White Horse

Maiden Castle is one of the largest and most complex Iron Age hillforts in Europe – the size of 50 football pitches. Its huge multiple ramparts, begun about 2,400 years ago, once protected hundreds of residents. When it was first built, the gleaming white chalk ramparts would have towered over the surrounding landscape. The Osmington White Horse was cut into the chalk hill just north of Weymouth in 1808 and depicts King George III riding his horse and can be seen for miles. The king was a regular visitor to Weymouth which made it 'the first resort'. The figure is 280 feet (85 m) long and 323 feet (98 m) high and is best viewed from the A353 road. In 2012, it was announced that for the Olympics 2012, the horse would be cleaned and slightly recut to make it look like the original. Restoration was completed on 11 March 2012, and Princess Anne attended a ceremony at which a new plaque made of local stone was revealed.

Parking Information:



Assemble after breakfast promptly at 09:15 to walk to Weymouth Station.

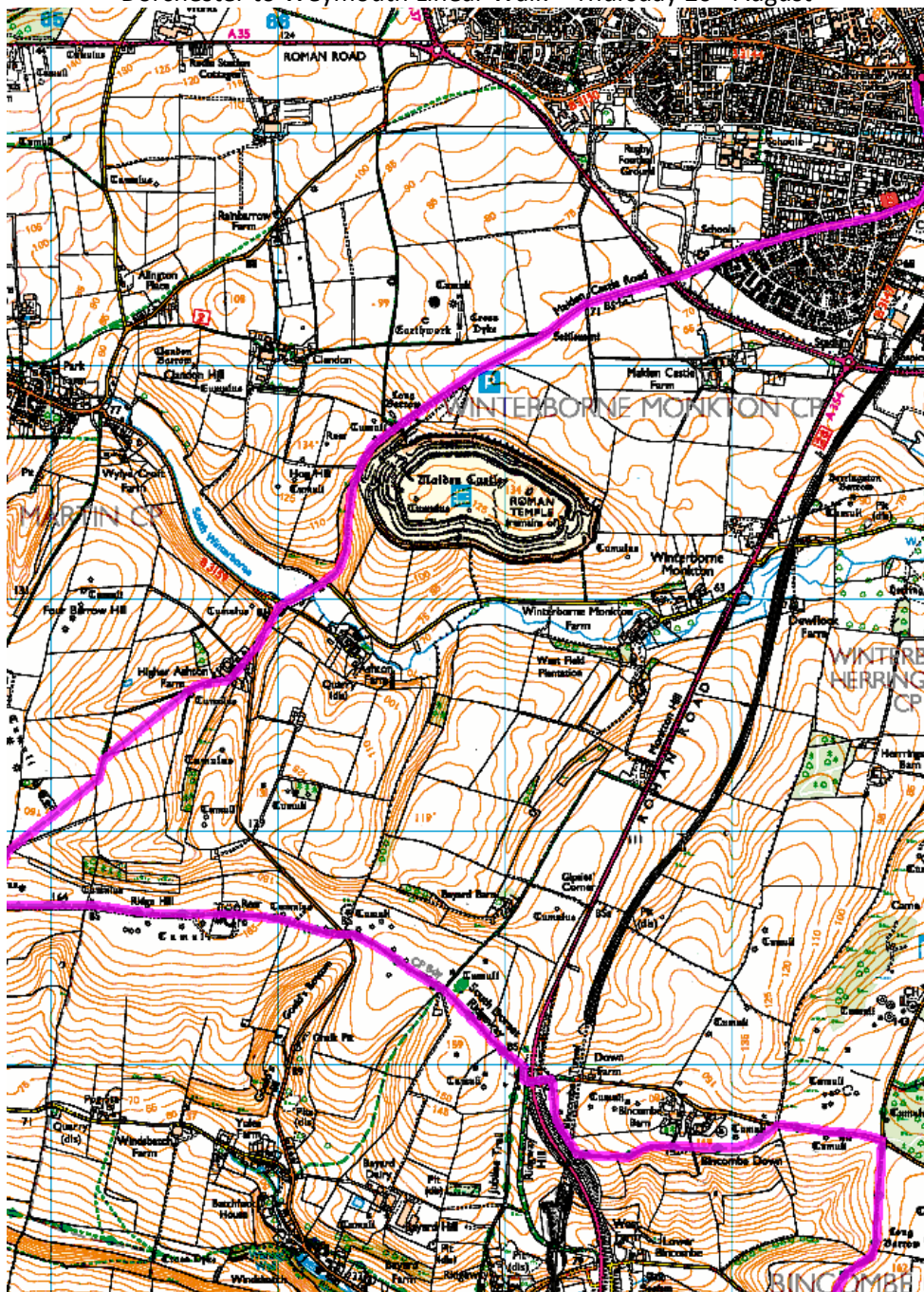
The train to Dorchester West departs at 09:32 arriving at 09:45.

Single fare is £6.00 (No Railcard)
Return fare is £6.10 (No Railcard)

Options to shorten the walk to 7 miles exist halfway at Upwey train station or by bus from there.

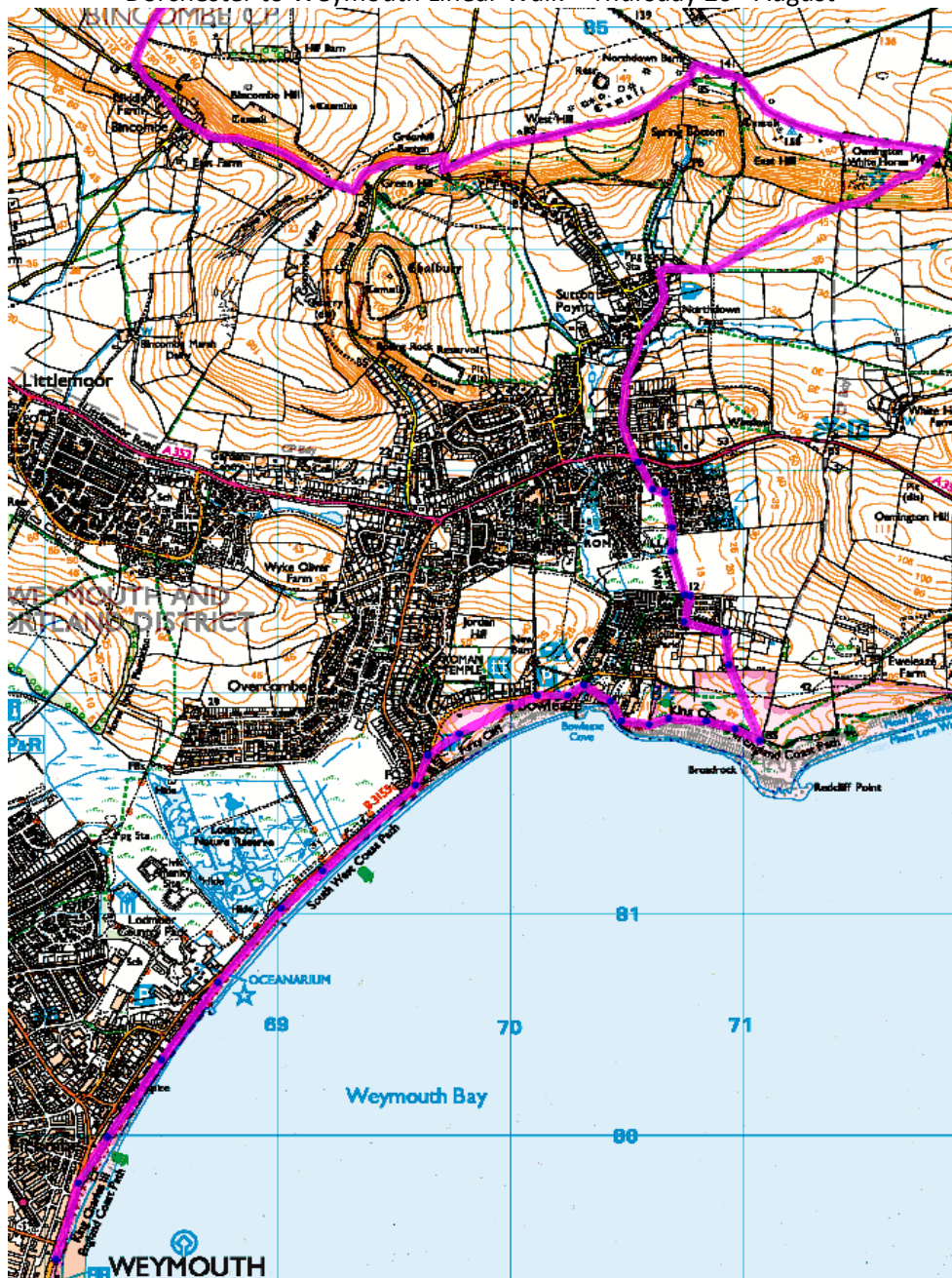
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Dorchester to Weymouth Linear Walk – Thursday 20th August



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Day 3: Weymouth: Friday 21st August – 09:45am – 10 miles – Lulworth Cove

The walk today starts from Kings Statue bus stop K5 to catch the X54 bus at 10:00 to Lulworth Cove. From here there's a popular walk to Durdle Door and following the SWCP we continue to Osmington Mills for an afternoon lunch break. Then it's a short walk into Osmington to catch the X54 back into Weymouth.

Walk Start: Explorer Map OL15 **What3Words:** united.libraries.cycle **Postcode:** DT4 7RN



Lulworth Cove & Stair Hole



Durdle Door

Lulworth is considered one of the best places in the world to study geology with its amazing landforms and five types of rock. Formed by the combined forces of the sea and a river swollen by melting ice at the end of the last Ice Age, Lulworth Cove has unique geology and landforms which include the Lulworth Crumple, Stair Hole and Fossil Forest.

Durdle Door is one of Dorset's most photographed landmark and is part of the Jurassic Coast. The coastline is of such international geological importance that it was designated England's first natural World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2001 and is now part of a family of natural wonders including America's Grand Canyon and Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

The magnificent natural limestone arch was formed when the power of the waves eroded the rock and forged a hole through the middle. The name Durdle is derived from an old English word 'thirl', which means to pierce, bore or drill.

Parking Information:



Assemble after breakfast promptly at 09:45 to walk and catch bus X54 at 10:00 from Kings Statue bus stop K5

Alight in Lulworth Cove car park.

We return on bus No. X54 from Osmington village.

Start Time 09:45am
From the Royal Hotel

A 10 mile linear walk

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Lulworth to Osmington Linear Walk – Friday 21st August



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Day 4: Portesham – Saturday 22nd August – 09:15am – 15 miles – Thomas Hardy

The walk today starts by catching the X52 bus at 09:26 from Weymouth station to Portesham. We walk to visit the Admiral Hardy monument and return towards Abbotsbury on the South Dorset Ridgeway. Two walks can be formed from here with a shorter option into Abbotsbury to visit the abbey or a longer walk to West Bexington and back along the coast. Both walks join at the abbey and follow the Hardy Way into Portesham to catch the bus back to Weymouth.

Walk Start: Explorer Map OL15 What3Words: poems.follow.dive Postcode: DT4 7AX



St Catherine's Chapel, Abbotsbury



Hardy Monument

In the 10th century a charter of King Edmund records granting land at 'Abbedesburi', a name which indicates the land may have once belonged to an abbot. In the 11th century King Cnut granted land at nearby Portesham to the Scandinavian thegn Orc, who took up residence in the area with his wife. The couple founded Abbotsbury Abbey and enriched it with a substantial amount of land. Abbotsbury Abbey existed for 500 years, but was destroyed in the dissolution. Admiral Hardy lived in Portesham and his family owned the Portesham estate which stretched from the middle of Portesham to Black Down. The site for the monument, a hill overlooking the English Channel, was chosen because the Hardy family wanted a monument which could be used as a landmark for shipping. The monument has been shown on navigational charts since 1846 and is visible from a distance of 60 miles (97 km).

Parking Information:



Assemble after breakfast promptly at 09:15 to walk to Weymouth station to catch X52 bus to Portesham at 09:26.

You can drive to Portesham by car if preferred.

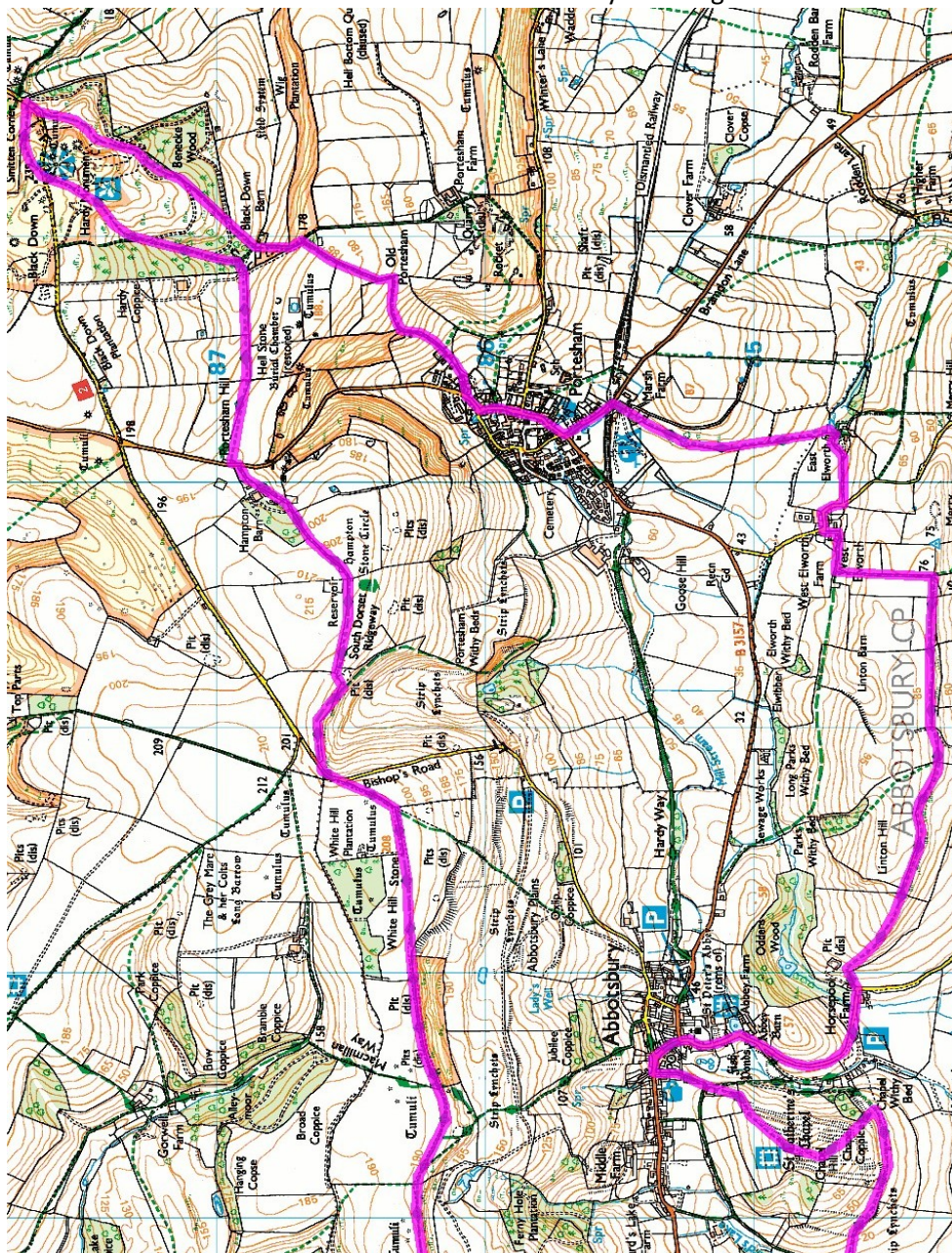
Park in Brandon Close DT3 4LX.

Near to what was the Kings Arms where those on the bus will alight at 09:48.

A shorter walk can be made from Abbotsbury to the Hardy monument.

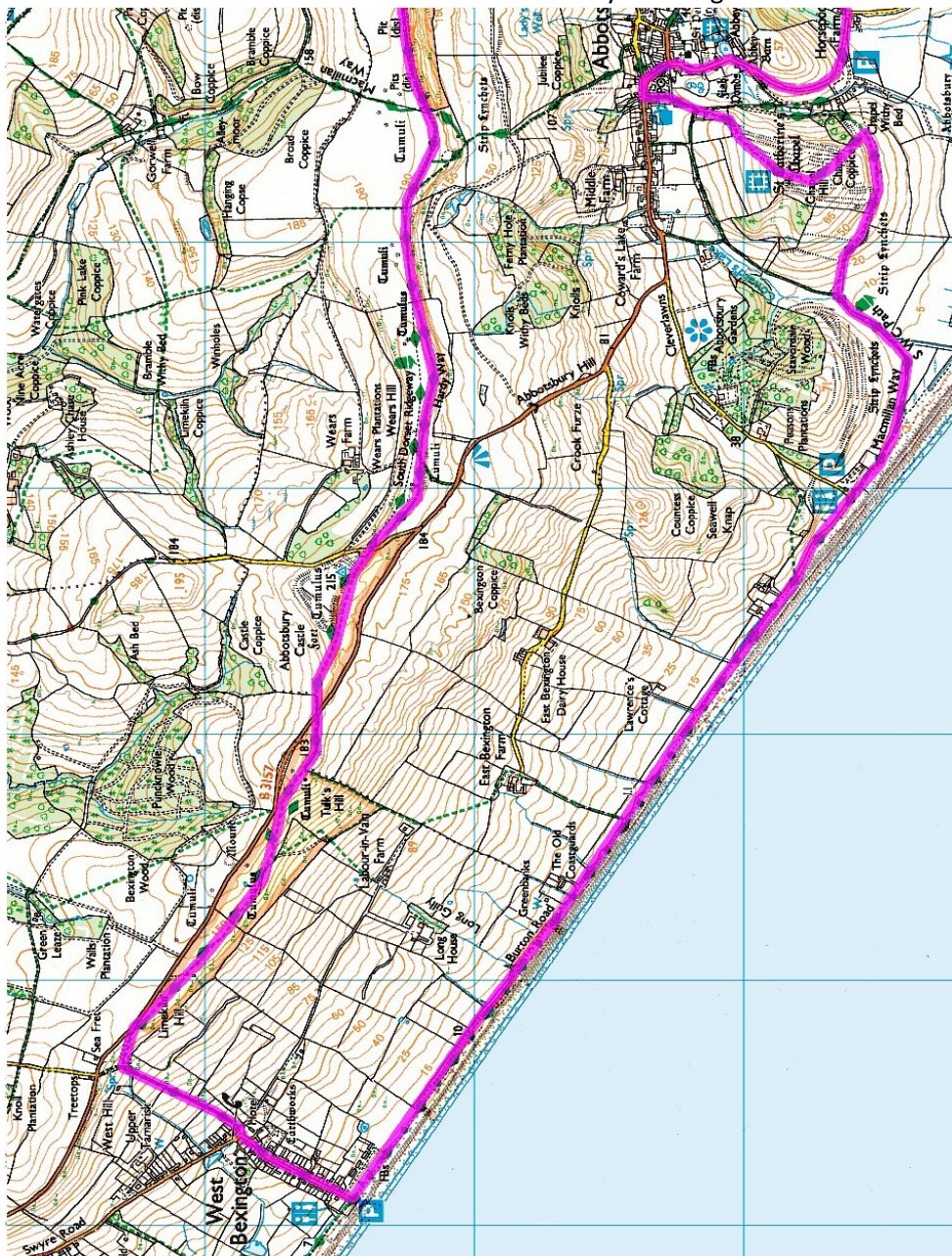
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Portesham Circular Walk – Saturday 22nd August



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Day 5: Portland – Sunday 23rd August – 10:30am – 9 miles – Isle of Portland

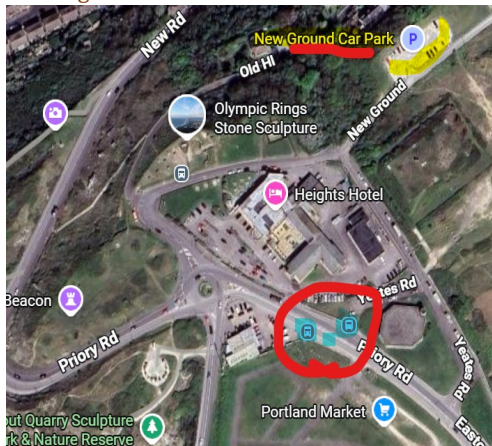
The walk on the last day starts from the New Ground car park, Portland DT5 1LQ at 10:30. All meet to walk the best and most interesting coastal and inland parts of the Isle of Portland. Visiting various quarries, the Tout Quarry Sculpture Park and Portland Bill. Then it's home for teatime.

Walk Start: Explorer Map OL15 **What3Words:** [pickle.argue.channel](https://www.what3words.com/pickle.argue.channel) **Postcode:** DT5 1LQ



Tout Quarry Sculpture & Nature Reserve is an interesting and unusual site to visit with its mix of rare wildlife, art and natural history. The quarry was worked commercially from 1780-1982 and now limestone remnants leftover from this work, are being used to create sculptures including 'Still Falling' by the internationally renowned sculptor Antony Gormley. Where the rock hasn't been quarried, there is a chance to see the natural rock layers of the Jurassic age. The reserve also offers stunning views over Chesil Beach and Portland Harbour. Rabbits have long been associated with bad luck on Portland. Use of the name is still taboo - the creatures are often referred to as "underground mutton", "long-eared furry things", "bunnies". The origin of this superstition is obscure but it is believed to derive from quarry workers. They would see rabbits emerging from their burrows immediately before a rock fall and blame them for increasing the risk of dangerous, sometimes deadly, landslides. If a rabbit was seen, quarry workers would go home for the day, until the safety of the area had been assured.

Parking Information:



Drive after breakfast to Portland and the New Ground car park DT5 1LQ. The carpark should be free.

Or

Catch Bus No.1 at 10:06 from outside the Railway Station (West - Bound). Alight at Portland Heights at 10:28. See map for bus stop and car park.

The walk starts from the car park when we all arrive either by car or by bus.

Start Time 10:30am
New Ground car park, Portland.
DT5 1LQ

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Portland Circular Walk – Sunday 23rd August



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Weymouth Car Parking Information

Weymouth offers a variety of parking options including public car parks, street parking, and pre-bookable private spaces, with rates from free to around £2.70 per day.

Public Car Parks

Weymouth has numerous council-managed car parks suitable for both short and long stays. Popular options include:

- **Pavilion Car Park (Main):** 479 spaces, long stay, pay by cash, card, or app, open 24 hours, free after 6pm, close to Weymouth Pavilion and beach. [↔ 2](#)
- **Swannery Car Park:** 894 spaces, long stay, near the beach, free after 6pm, suitable for extended visits. [↔ 1](#)
- **Park Street Car Park:** 152 spaces, short stay, convenient for town centre access. [↔ 2](#)
- **Royal Yard Car Park:** 31 spaces, short stay, free after 6pm, near the harbour. [↔ 2](#)
- **Harbourside Car Park:** 86 spaces, short stay, close to the harbour and shops. [↔ 1](#)
- **Nothe Car Park:** 184 spaces, long stay, secure and monitored, near Nothe Fort. [↔ 1](#)

Other options include Melcombe Regis, Lodmoor, Beach, Overcombe, and Pavilion Forecourt car parks, offering a mix of short and long-term parking. [↔ 2](#)

[↔ 6 Sources](#)

Street Parking

On-street parking is available throughout the town, especially near the Esplanade and town centre. Metered parking is common, with rates varying by location. Free street parking is limited and often subject to time restrictions, so checking local signage is essential. [↔ We Are Weymouth +1](#)

Online Car Parking Map prices - Aug 19 through to Aug 23

JustPark Help Login

Park at: Weymouth Station

From: 19th August at 11:00

Until: 23rd August at 10:30

Recommended Cheapest Closest

WEYMOUTH Jubilee Close Car Park
★★★★★ (1) 10+ bookings
7 mins to destination
Reserve for £31.99

Parking on Abbotsbury Road, DT4
★★★★★ (1) 10+ bookings
10 mins to destination
Awaiting images Reserve for £19.48

Asda Weymouth Car Park
★★★★★ (13) 1000+ bookings
16 mins to destination

Map locations and prices:
SOUTHILL: £23.39
MELCOMBE: £58.44
Greenhill: £34.39
GREENHILL: SOLD OUT
WESTHAM: £21.44
Abbotsbury Rd: £28.48
Abbotsbury Rd: £19.48
Abbotsbury Rd: £101.99
Abbotsbury Rd: £30.39
Abbotsbury Rd: £10.09
Nothe Fort: SOLD OUT
Nothe Gardens: SOLD OUT