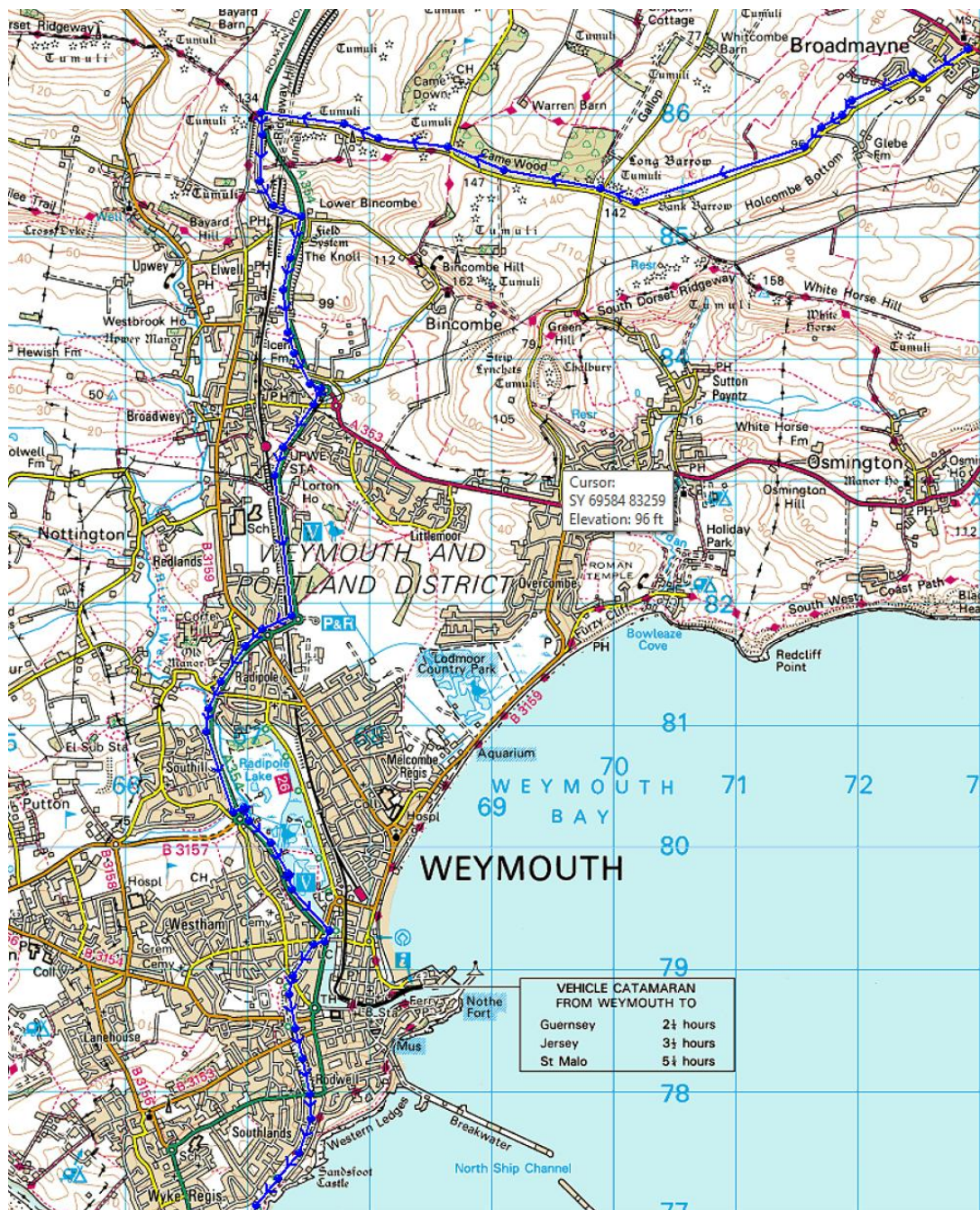


Broadmayne South Route

Summary:

This isn't a true off road "out in the countryside" MTB route, but it links lots of other possible trails and is a good way to learn about the area on a very safe trail. It goes south from Broadmayne following the cycle path between Dorchester and Portland. It is almost 100% tarmac and can be ridden on any type of bike or tyre. It is a "there and back" route, not a loop; however there are plenty of opportunities to go off of the route and have your own adventures. The route passes close to lots of places to get food or drink and I have mentioned some of my favourite stops, but as always you should take your own supplies as well, just in case.

Route length (including return) 28 miles. Total ascent 1200ft.





Route Instructions:

Starting from the centre of village go to the village shop and take Osmington Drove past the village hall and playing field heading south. After passing the houses the track narrows down between two hedgerows.

At the end of this track you come to an open field with a steep climb to the hedgerow at the top. Go through the gap in the hedgerow and turn right along the wide track. After approx 0.75 of a mile you come to a T junction, this is the South Dorset Ridgeway. Turn right and follow this wide track until you meet Chalky Road.

Alternative: If you prefer a slightly easier climb and don't mind the traffic you can use Chalky road to get to the top of the hill. This also applies if you don't have an off road bikes/tyres, the route on the BW's and across the field to get to the top of Chalky Road can be very muddy.

From the BW, once on Chalky Road go left, straight over the crossroads at the top of Combe Valley Road, past Came Woods and at the corner of Came Down Golf course as the road bends sharply to the right go straight on and follow this road to the bridge above the Weymouth Relief Road.

At the bridge go left and follow the tarmac trail down the hill, this is the old Dorchester Road this part of which was decommissioned when the relief road was completed in 2011. At the bottom of the descent stay on the left as the path curves up and around to the right and then goes alongside the relief road. Follow the path down to the Stones on Plinths roundabout where the path bends right then left and then right again up the hill underneath Littlemore Road. At the top of the rise there is a path to the left which goes to Lorton Meadows Nature Reserve if you wish to visit there. Else continue on the path straight on down the hill to a T junction below Morrison's roundabout.

If you go left and follow the path you will be just above the Park & Ride car park and following the path from here takes you through Weymouth Rugby Club and on to Lodmoor Nature Reserve, Lodmoor Country park and eventually on to Preston Beach Road next to the Sea Life Centre.

However for this route go right, up to and across the road to Manor Lane and then on to Radipole Lane. This is all part of the cycle route and is well sign posted. Go left down Radipole Lane until just before the church car park follow the path left, cross Spa Road and go down the short descent, the path now runs alongside Weymouth Way. After about 500m the path diverts into the trees, keep on the left until the path emerges again onto Weymouth Way at a pedestrian crossing where you cross the road.

The path now goes around Radipole Lake. Stay on the path until just after the Swannery Bridge where you turn right and go through a tunnel. If you wish to stop here ignore the tunnel, go on to the pedestrian bridge, cross it and you will be right in the centre of Weymouth.

Else at the end of the tunnel go left up to Corscombe Close, cross the road and after 30m turn left onto the Rodwell Trail. This is the old railway line between Weymouth and Portland

and takes you as far as Wyke Regis. Please take care on the trail as it is used by lots of dog walkers, pedestrians and other cyclists keep your speed low and use your bell if you have one. Stay on the path until at the end it turns sharp right past Smallmouth Cove and you come to a pedestrian crossing on Portland Beach Road.

There is a rough track on the beach side of the road or cross the road to the tarmac cycle path and turn left towards Portland. At the first roundabout go left to the Sailing Academy, Osprey Quay and Portland Castle. The route ends here, but if you have the legs for it there are several ways to climb up to Portland Heights and take in the fantastic views of Chesil beach and the coast line all the way to the Dorset/Devon border. My favourite is Verne Common Road a switch back route up to the prison.

Places to eat and drink before your return, this is by no means a complete list and these are places that I can recommend. Obviously there are countless food and drink option if you go into Weymouth on your return.

- Taste at the visitor centre about midway along Portland Beach Road. Run by Todd & Louise Moffat who also own Taste in Dorchester and are opening the cafe in the new Dorchester Museum.
 - [Welcome to Taste* Cafe Chesil \(tastecafeatchesilbeach.co.uk\)](http://tastecafeatchesilbeach.co.uk)
- Taylor's Mess Deck Cafe on Osprey Quay run by local artist Cathy Taylor whose brilliant paintings are on display in the cafe. The cafe itself is quite small inside, but go outside and take in the views of Portland, the harbour and the coastline going east from Weymouth.
- Just off of Victoria Square (the start of Portland proper) and on Chesil Beach itself is The Cove House Inn.
 - [The Cove House Inn – Great food, great location great company](#)
- Frontline Coffee situated right next to the Heliport near Portland Castle. Founded in 2018, they are a fire-fighter run and owned coffee company roasting speciality coffee and supporting frontline charities.
 - [Frontline Coffee Shop Portland](#)
- The Jailhouse Cafe at The Verne. If you do venture up the hill go through the tunnel into the Verne Prison grounds and follow the signs to the cafe. You will be supporting a good cause and the views are stunning! According to their website the cafe is due to open again on 17th May 2021.
 - [Home - Jailhouse Cafe](#)

The return route back to Broadmayne is the same as the out route, but there are options depending on your fitness levels and cycling confidence/ability/experience. Here are a few of the options:

There are not any off road options apart from the causeway and the Rodwell Trail to get back into Weymouth from Portland so use that route back to the centre of town.

Make your way down to the beach and you can cycle along the promenade (restrictions may apply so please check any signs) and then the alongside Preston road either on the cycle track or up on the beach wall all the way to Overcombe Corner where the Oasis Cafe is situated. Then use the road up to Chalbury Corner Roundabout, there is a lane designated for cyclists on the road.

Alternatively, halfway along the beach road you can cut across Lodmoor nature reserve or through the country park to Southdown Avenue and follow that road up to Chalbury Corner roundabout.

From Chalbury Corner you can use Coombe Valley Road to climb back up onto the ridgeway before descending into Broadmayne. Because of the volume of traffic on Coombe Valley my preferred option is to go a little further up the A353 to the Sutton Poyntz turning (Sutton Road) and use Plaisters Lane from the village centre to climb up to the junction with Coombe Valley Road. At the junction continue on Coombe Valley Road or there is a BW on the right that goes up to the South Dorset Ridgeway and you can return to Broadmayne on the tracks from there.

Another option can be taken if you follow the original route back to Manor roundabout (at the top of Weymouth Way) then go left on Dorchester Road (B3159) towards Upwey. There is a designated cycle lane for quite a long way along the road. Follow the road for about 2 miles until it bends sharp right up the hill, just below The Old Ship Inn pub, at the junction with Elwell Street. From this junction there are three routes to the top of the ridgeway. 1) Go past the pub and follow the old Roman Road BW to the top of the hill. 2) Stay on Dorchester Road until just before the relief road bridge then turn left and re-join the cycle path. 3) Go under the relief road bridge and down Icen Lane towards Bincombe, stay on the lane up to the granary (farm buildings) then turn left onto the BW which will bring you out at the corner of Came Down golf course.

Whichever way you chose enjoy the ride.

Gary Biles - May 2021