

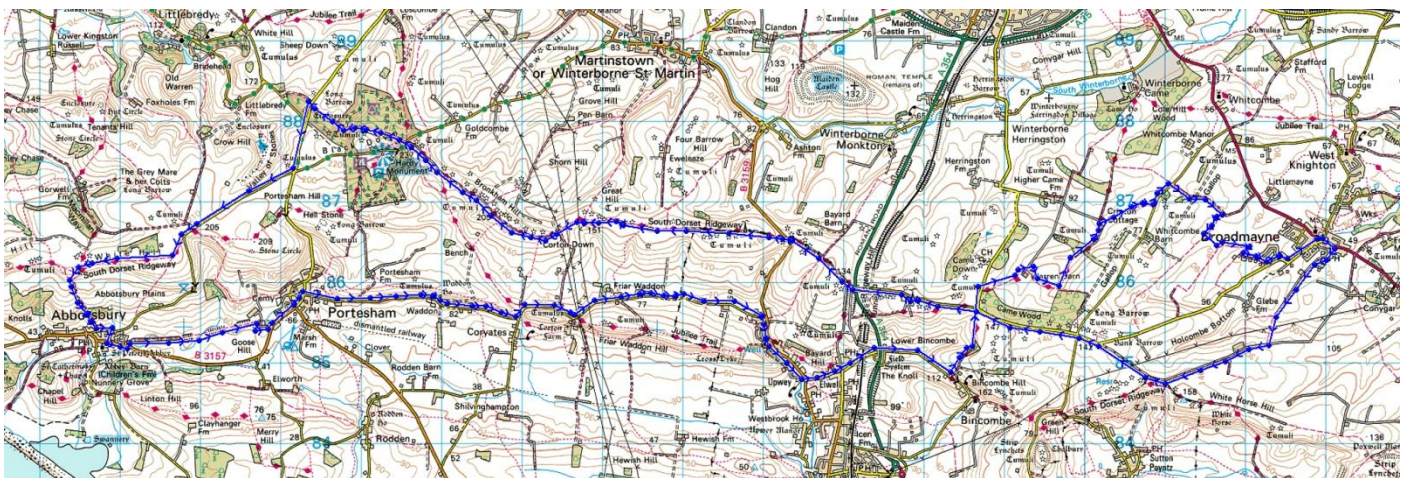
Broadmayne West Route

Summary:

This route goes west from Broadmayne following the South Dorset Ridgeway to Abbotsbury. The return journey is mostly on the road between Portesham, Upwey and Bincombe. It is about 50/50 road/off road, has two significant climbs and can be very challenging in wet conditions or strong winds as you are very exposed on the ridgeway.

The route passes several places to get food or drink, but as always you should take your own as well just in case.

Route length 21 miles. Total ascent 2300ft.



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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.

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 follow the track to right then sharp left at the hedgerow, you are now on the South Dorset Ridgeway. This track is easy to follow while you take in the views north to Dorchester and south across Weymouth Bay. The track runs for about 3.5 miles across the fields (please shut the gates) until you meet the road which leads up to Hardy's Monument. Cross the road into the open space opposite.

In non-Covid times a chap had set up a mobile cafe in this space and did very good coffee, tea and hot/cold snacks. Hopefully he will return in the spring of 2021.

Follow the track straight on out of the open space and after about 100m there is a small track on the left going up a small bank. Take this track and follow it for about 200m until it meets the main track. Go left on this track and follow it. There is a steep descent before the track goes right along the edge of a small wooded area. It then meets the road which goes from Winterbourne Steepleton to Portesham. Go left on the road for a about 0.5 miles until the crossroads then go right (sign posted Abbotsbury).

Follow the road for about a mile until it bends sharply to the left, on the right side of the road is a gate and bridleway. Go through the gate and follow the track to your left and after about 200m you come to a gate and open fields with views down to Abbotsbury, the Fleet and Chesil Beach. Go right along the field on the well marked track for about 0.75 miles. You go through two gates and after the second one go left down the hill past a bench seat on your right and between two banks, follow this trail down to a gate. This is the descent down to Abbotsbury, it is a mixture of grass, rocky track and gravel, take care it is wide (to begin with), steep and fast. After the gate go straight across the grassy field to the next gate. Go through the gate and the track goes slightly to the left and becomes more rocky and bumpy. Another gate brings you to on to a gravel path; take care here as it is a narrow path with hedges both sides and you may meet walkers on the way down. Follow this path down to the road.

You are now in Abbotsbury roughly the half way point. If you want to stop for food and drink turn right and go down to the village centre where there is the Ilchester Arms pub, Abbotsbury Tea Rooms and the village shop.

Else turn left and then right onto Rosemary Lane and then left again when you get to the main road through the village (B3157). Go along the main road in the direction of Weymouth for about 300m, just past The White Swan pub there is a bridleway track on your left next to Glebe Close. Follow this track keeping to the left at the fork, past the old railway building and continue on for about 1.2 miles. This is the old railway line between Abbotsbury and Portesham.

At the end of the track you meet the B3157 again in Portesham. Turn left towards the village centre. There are two places to stop for food and drink here, The Kings Arms pub and just a bit further on from the pub on the main road is Ducks Farm Shop & Cafe.

To continue on the route turn left at the pub onto Front Street, go past the pub and after about 200m turn right onto Winters Lane. From here back to Broadmayne can be all tarmac if you so chose.

Winters Lane is a relatively quiet road which goes for about 3.5 miles from Portesham to Upwey. The first section of the lane is a short half mile climb, but then runs along the side of the valley with views of Weymouth, Portland and the Fleet. Follow the lane until it meets the B3159 near the bottom of Goulds Hill in Upwey.

At this junction there are a number of return routes that can be taken back to Broadmayne, but they all have one thing in common, a climb back up on to the Ridgeway. The alternate options from this point are climb up Goulds Hill on the road and turn right onto the bridleway at the top. Or right opposite the junction is a bridleway which goes up a small valley to the South Dorset Ridgeway.

Following this route though go right and down the hill (very fast descent) into Upwey. The Wishing Well has an excellent cafe and gardens, but I am not sure about bike security there. Go through the village for about 0.5 miles then turn left on to Elwell Street and follow this road up to Dorchester Road. At the junction there is another alternative climb up past the front of The Old Ship Inn pub which follows the Roman Road bridleway up to the bridge over the Weymouth relief road. Not sure what the pub is like as new owners took it over shortly before the pandemic and it hasn't had glowing reviews, when it has been open, since then.

Else for this route turn left and go up the hill on Dorchester Road at the road bridge there is a cycle path on your left which goes up to the bridge over the relief road, however for this route go under the bridge and follow the lane to Bincombe. At the top of the hill at the farm buildings take the bridleway which goes left past the granary and follow this track until it joins the road at the corner of the Golf course and Came Wood.

If you have had enough turn right and follow the road past the wood and enjoy the descent back into Broadmayne on Chalky Road.

If you want a more convoluted off road route home then go straight on for about 200m, with the golf course on your left and the woods on you right, until at the end of the wood there is a gate and bridleway on your right. Go through the gate and enjoy a short but great descent through the woods down to Warren Barn.

Follow the track around the barn to the right. Keep an eye out for Barn Owls which nest in the barn, but do not disturb them, the barn has CCTV cameras in place. Go around the barn and up the hill on the track, descend to the dip and go left at the bottom. Follow this grassy track to Cripton Cottage, beware the last few hundred meters are on a chalky track which can be very slippery when wet.

At the cottage turn right on the bridleway, cross the field to the Whitcombe road. Go left down the road for about 300m to the where a bridleway forms a crossroads. Turn right onto the bridleway and go up the hill and through the gates crossing the gallop track. Follow the track with the hedgerow on your right. When you come to the T junction in the bridleways depending on where you live in the village you can turn left and go up to the road (A352) and go right down into the village centre.

Else go right down the hill and after about 300m you will come to gap in the hedgerow, go left through the gap up a steep bank and across the field with the hedgerow on your right. At the next field go left and then right down the hill towards the barn and farm buildings. At the farm buildings either turn left and follow the track to Bramble Drove or right and go down South Drove to Chalky Road. You are now back in Broadmayne.