

## Walks around Broadmayne

### Walk 2: Osmington Drove to Bank Barrow

Time	Up to 2 hours depending on pace and time taken to look at the views
Distance	5.5 miles / 9 km (approx)
Refreshments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The village shop/post office (click <a href="#">here</a> for opening times)</li><li>• The Black Dog village pub on Main Street</li></ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please leave all gates and property as you find them</li><li>• Sturdy footwear is recommended as this walk can be muddy in winter and after rain</li><li>• The route is on a bridleway so look out for horse riders and cyclists</li><li>• If taking your dog, please act responsibly around livestock in the fields, and when passing horses on the bridleways</li></ul>
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This route runs alongside hedgerows, crosses farmland, and skirts some woodland so you are likely to spot a number of our local birds, mammals, insects and flora. If you are lucky you may see—</li><li>• Rabbits and pheasants in the hedgerows</li><li>• Buzzards sitting on fence posts or circling the hill sides</li><li>• Deer in the open fields</li></ul>

*This walk visits what Broadmayne's Millennium Book describes as "the oldest visible signs of man's activities within what is now the parish of Broadmayne ... the Neolithic Bank Barrow near the top of Chalky Road, the Ridgeway which still marks the southern part of the Parish Boundary, and the scattered round barrows of later date. ... The Broadmayne bank barrow ... constructed by 2500BC at the latest, is a notable historic monument ... Some 600 feet long, it is one of the three only known bank barrows in the country. The walk also makes use of two of the many droves in the area. These routes, many of which are now public rights of way, were used for driving livestock from pastures to villages and markets.*

- From the crossroads in the centre of the village (the junction of the A352 and Chalky Road/Knighton Lane) walk along Main Street (the A352) in a south-easterly direction (i.e. away from Dorchester).
- Shortly after passing the post office/shop on your right, turn right up Osmington Drove (a wooden signpost confirms you are on the right track).
- The first 50m of the track comprise a road so beware of the traffic. Ignore the roads leading to the right and left and continue southwards, passing the village hall and playing field on your right.

- The drove here is wide and passes through an avenue of fine beech trees.
  - *The Beech trees are home (a rookery) to large number of noisy rooks who make their nests among the top most branches.*
- There are a number of properties on the left, including Broadmayne House, Broadmayne House Farm and Charlmont Lodge.
- Shortly after the houses, the path narrows and passes between hedges. (Beware, in the winter and after heavy rain it can be muddy underfoot.) Continue southwards.
- Eventually the Drove opens out to its full width. Continue ahead.
- At the end of the enclosed drove, pass through a gap beside a large horse chestnut tree and continue straight ahead, a steep climb uphill across the field, passing under the electricity transmission line.
- On reaching the top of the slope pass through a bridle gate and turn right.
  - *The gate is good point to stop, look back and admire the view across the village to the far ridgeline that is made up of Puddletown and Moreton forests. Holcombe Bottom and Glebe*

*Farm are to your left; to your right is the Conygar estate.*

- Walk along this broad drove for 300m where you come to Half Moon Coppice (the woods on your right). *[To return to the village on a shorter route see Walk 1].* Ignore the bridleway to your right just before Half Moon Coppice and continue along this broad bridleway.
- Ignore the bridleway to your left shortly after the coppice and continue ahead along the hedged route for 900m (about 10 minutes), until you reach a junction (a crossroads) with the South Dorset Ridgeway trail.
  - *Numerous barrows can be seen along the Ridge from this point onwards.*
  - *To the east, the South Dorset Ridgeway trail drops down to Osmington Mills to link with the England Coast Path. To the west, it proceeds to Bincombe then on to Hardy's Monument, eventually re-joining the coast at West Bexington.*
  - *A path through a gate to the left leads downhill to Sutton Poyntz, an attractive village with a pub—the Springhead—beside a mill pond and stream. For a view of Sutton Poyntz and Weymouth, go through the gate and a short distance (150-200m) down the hill, to the left of the large barrow, and sit*

*for a while on Margaret's Seat. This is stone bench dedicated to Margaret Hobson, a lady from the Sutton Poyntz area who died of cancer in 1996. This was one of her favourite spots and is one the best views in Dorset. This being a wide step-sided valley you will frequently see buzzards and kestrels hanging motionless on the updrafts as well as people hang gliding and flying model aircraft (especially gliders). Although much rarer, peregrine falcons have also been seen here. Retrace your steps back to the main path to continue the walk.*

- Proceed along the broad chalky track which lies before you.
  - *About 100m along this path is a young plantation to the right of the track which was planted by Broadmayne Parish Council in 1992 to mark the further integration of the UK into the European Union.*
  - *To your left the sea and the Isle of Portland gradually come into view.*
  - *To your right is Holcombe Bottom.*
- Eventually you reach a junction with a metalled road—Chalky Road. On the other side of the road is the impressive form of the bank barrow, around which a number of other round barrows are grouped.

- Turn right and walk down Chalky Road for about 500m— there are round barrows on both sides of the road here.
  - *Take care while walking down the road, there is frequent and quite often fast traffic. Walk 'defensively', i.e. keep your eyes and ears open at all times and use the grass verge to avoid passing cars when necessary.*
- Take the first bridleway on your left through a field gate, there are gaps either side of the gate so users on foot need not open it.
- Initially this path follows the field edge with a hedge on the right before crossing the field diagonally, half right, heading for a finger post in the far right-hand corner.
  - *The diagonal path across the field is not always very clear: the field is sometimes planted with crops.*
  - *This area is marked on the OS map as "Poor Lot". This was originally woodland and parishioners had the right to gather wood and furze (gorse) to fuel their bread ovens.*
  - *There are good views of Dorchester and Poundbury to the west from here.*

- Cross the hedge line through a wide gap and turn right to follow a field edge route with the hedge on your right. A number of finger posts confirm you are on the right track which eventually becomes enclosed on both sides by the hedgerows.
- After 1km take a bridleway on your right through a gap in the hedge. This is approximately 150m after the track to the left that goes up to the house at Whitcombe Barn.
- Proceed with the hedge on your right until you reach a fence at right angles to your direction of travel.
- Turn left and then, very shortly, right through an opening in the hedge to follow the field edge, now heading back towards the village.
- The path becomes to a grassy track and the bridleway then crosses diagonally a field to your left. On reaching the far side pass through a bridle gate and turn right on to another grassy track.

- Very shortly turn left on to South Drove, an unmade road which leads out on to Chalky Road.
- Here turn left and follow Chalky Road back into Broadmayne, taking care of the traffic since there is no footway at first, although the grass verge is walkable.

[Broadmayne Parish Council: 2021]

#### Map information

The red line on the map indicates the public rights of way and other highways which form this route and which are described above. The route starts and finishes at the crossroads in the centre of the village.

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