

Walks around Broadmayne

Walk 3: To the Wash Ponds and Back

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Time: | 50-60 Minutes depending on pace and time taken to look at the views |
| Distance: | 2.4 miles / 3.8 km (approx) |
| Refreshments: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The village shop/post office (click here for opening times)• The Black Dog village pub on Main Street |
| Notes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please leave all gates and property as you find them.• Sturdy footwear is recommended as this walk can be muddy (wellington boots may be necessary in the winter and after rain)• Part of the route is on a bridleway so look out for horse riders and cyclists• If taking your dog, please act responsibly around livestock in the fields, and when passing horses on the bridleway |
| Wildlife | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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—• Rabbits and pheasants in the hedgerows• Buzzards sitting on fence posts or circling the hill sides• Deer out in the open fields• Kingfishers in the near the Wash Ponds |

This walk goes from the village centre via the church to the Wash Ponds at the end of Watergates Lane and back again via Friarmayne Farm.

- From the cross roads in the centre of Broadmayne walk westwards along the right-hand side of the A352 towards Dorchester, passing the Methodist Church and what used to be the second pub in the village, The Compasses, (now a private house).
- Just before St. Martin's Church, turn right along a path signposted to the church hall.
 - *St Martin's Church—The oldest part of the church is the chancel at the rear, which dates from the early part of the 13th century. The windows are original, although with Victorian glass, and the original door, now blocked up, can be seen on the south side. There is a Thomas Hardy connection here—the church was restored in 1865 by architect John Hicks of Dorchester for whom Hardy worked and copies of the plans which he drew up for Mr Hicks can be seen in the church*
- Continue past the church hall but do not go through the kissing gate which takes the path into a field. Turn right and follow the path for a short distance before going through a gate and diagonally right across the new cemetery.

- Go through the gate at the far side then strike diagonally right across the field to another kissing gate. Cross this and go down a short narrow, enclosed path to Knighton Lane.
- Cross Knighton Lane with care and turn right. Walk along the pavement for a short distance until you reach a metal kissing gate on your left. Pass through this and, after crossing a small area of scrub land, follow the path through a field gate then around the field edge, with the hedge on your left, to a further kissing gate at the far end of the field.
- Pass through this gate and follow the path alongside a wooded area to your right. Ignore a footpath to your left and continue past the sewage works then through another kissing gate into a field. (This area can be very muddy in winter.) Keep ahead through this field with the hedge on your left, ignoring paths to your left and right.
- At the far end of the field pass through another metal kissing gate and follow the path slightly uphill through a wooded area. (Beware, this section can be very wet in winter.)
- Emerging on to Watergates Lane turn right and follow the lane, passing the entrance to Luckfield Lake on your left and a fish farm on your right.
 - *Luckfield Lake, like many of the pits in the vicinity was dug to provide clay for the making of Broadmayne Bricks, an important local industry prior to 1939. The kilns were closed at the start of the Second World War and never reopened. The characteristic bricks, which can be seen throughout the village and the wider locality, are speckled with black. The lake is now leased and maintained by Dorchester & District Angling Society (DDAS) - <http://www.ddas.com/>*
 - *The fish (Trout) farm is on the site of some old watercress beds.*
- After 220m you reach the end of the track and a signpost. Ignore the footpath which forks to the left just beyond the 16th century Watergates Cottage (this path leads to West Knighton), and take the bridleway to the right to the ford on the river, a locality known as the 'wash ponds'
 - *In the past sheep were washed here and the remains of the large stones used to form the wash ponds can still be seen. This is a good place for paddling around, maybe netting some Stickleback's (and releasing them of course). Look for trout in the deeper sections and the occasional flash of bright blue and orange as a Kingfisher flies along the river.*

- *Two footbridges take pedestrians over this tributary of the Frome—the Tadnoll Brook—which rises as a spring close to the village. The river flows northwest and meets the Frome at Empool Heath before continuing west across Dorset to Wool, then Wareham and eventually meets the sea as it flows into Poole Harbour.*
- Follow the path away from the river, with woodland to the right and a field to your left. Again this area can be very wet and muddy during the winter months.
- At a 'T' junction turn right and follow the track towards farm buildings (Fryer Mayne Dairy Farm).
 - *The bridleway to the left leads to paths which can be followed all the way north to Crossways or west to West Stafford, but those are much longer walks for another day.*
- At the farm, the track becomes hard surfaced. Continue along this track for 400m, then take the waymarked footpath to your right through a kissing gate. (Fryer Mayne Estate Cottages are to your left at this point.)
 - *If you were to continue on the tarmac road you will eventually emerge on the A352 about 200m east of the village (about 400m from the village centre).*

- Follow the path across the field towards a strip of woodland where you re-cross the river. Pass through the gate (another area likely to be very wet in the winter) and head for the telegraph pole where you turn left to re-trace your steps to the sewage works and back to the village.
- On reaching Knighton Lane turn left to return to the cross roads in the centre of the village.

[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.

© Crown copyright and database rights 2021; OS licence number 100050662.

