

Walks around Broadmayne

Walk 7: The Poxwell circuit

Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two and a half hours depending on pace and time taken to look at the views
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approx. 6 miles
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 in the winter and after rain• 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 bridleways
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 in the open fields

The manor house at Poxwell was built in 1613 by the Poole merchant, John Henning, later passing to the Trenchard family of Wolfeton, near Charminster, in whose hands it remained until the 1970s. King George III is said to have visited the house on a number of occasions. It features in the Thomas Hardy story “The Trumpet Major” where it is referred to as Oxwell Hall.

- From the crossroads in the centre of the village walk south-eastwards along the A352 towards Warmwell. Just beyond the last houses in the village turn right up a track. (A fingerpost on the other side of the road tells you this is a bridleway.) After passing a large house on the left and through a small band of trees, the bridleway branches half left through a gate which is normally open.
- Follow this track past barns on your right and then a pair of cottages on your left. Immediately beyond the cottages the bridleway passes through a small gate in the hedge on the right on the right and proceeds uphill. At the top of the hill pass through two gates and then walk downhill, following the hedge-line.

[Please be aware that some of the paths on the next stretch of the route may be subject to ploughing at certain times of the year.]

- At the bottom of the hill turn left, then very shortly, sharp down to a gate. The path then goes half-right, steeply, uphill across a large field to pass through a gap in the hedge at the top of the incline. Go straight ahead across the field; pass through two more gates and then half-left over a further field towards some trees to meet a track leading towards the manor house at Poxwell. Keeping the hedge on your right.
- On reaching a tarmacked road turn left, then right between farm buildings, eventually approaching a small graveyard which is part of the manor house complex. Turn right slightly uphill and pass through a gate and then along a track with a hedge on your right.
 - *On your right, almost hidden in the hedge is the well which gave the locality its name.*
- On reaching a barn (Pixon Barn), converted into residential accommodation, turn right through a gate (signposted White Horse 1½) and follow the track uphill towards two masts. Pass through a gate and follow the track to the left.

➤ *The sea and the Isle of Portland are now visible to the left, and Dorchester can be seen in the distance.*

- Proceed westwards through a number of fields divided by gates until you reach a bridleway on your right. Pass through the gate and follow the path, downhill then up again, with a fence on your left. On reaching a hedge line, turn left and then, on reaching a track, turn right.
- At a T junction turn right again, passing a small area of woodland (Half Moon Coppice) on your left. Ignore the bridleway on you left immediately after the coppice and continue until you reach a further bridleway on the left. Follow the route through the gate and downhill toward Broadmayne.
- At the bottom of the hill continue straight ahead through a path between hedges. (Osmington Drove), eventually emerging near a barn on to a wide track. Continue ahead, with large houses on the right to pass Broadmayne Playing Field and Village Hall on the left. Ignore roads to the left and right and proceed to the A352. The Black Dog is to the right, and the Corner House Stores, the cross roads and bus stops are to the left.

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 walk starts and finishes at the crossroads in the centre of the village.

