

Walks around Broadmayne

Walk 8: To West Knighton via the watercress beds and old quarry workings

Time	1.5 to 2 hours depending on pace and time taken to look at the views
Distance	4.3 miles / 7 km
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• The New Inn, West Knighton
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)• 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• Deer out in the open fields

This walk is to the neighbouring village of West Knighton, taking in the watercress beds and with views of the old quarry workings between West Knighton and Crossways, now being developed as the luxury holiday resort of Silver Lake.

- From the crossroads in the centre of Broadmayne walk south-eastwards along the A352 towards Warmwell. Take great care as there is no footway along much of this road. Shortly after the last houses take the bridleway on your left. This is a hard-surfaced track, used by cars and farm vehicles. After 300m pass some metal gates on your right.
- *This is the entrance to Fryermayne House. Largely hidden by trees, this is an Elizabethan manor house, with links back to the Knights Hospitaller who built a Preceptory (a ‘daughter chapel’) there.*
- Continue past these gates, keeping to the main track, with a field on your left, eventually reaching Fryer Mayne Dairy Farm (no longer functioning as a dairy). Here the hard surfaced track finishes but continue in the same direction, past a large barn. Ignore the track on your left which leads to the wash ponds.
- *At this point you are following the line of the Jubilee Trail—a long distance route across Dorset created by the Dorset Area of the Ramblers in 1995 to mark the*

Association's Diamond Jubilee. For more information visit:

<http://www.dorset-ramblers.org.uk/the-dorset-jubilee-trail/>

The route runs from Forde Abbey on the Somerset border in the west, across Dorset to Bokerley Dyke in the north-east on the Hampshire Border.

- Continue on the main track, passing through an area of woodland, known as Black Hill, then between fields, eventually reaching a crossroads. Turn left, once again on a hard-surfaced track, towards the watercress beds. This watercress farm is still active so keep dogs on leads as the path runs through the farm, passing the remains of an old mill. The cress is grown on gravel beds, fed by water from the Tadnoll Brook which rises in Broadmayne.
- After passing diagonally across the working area of the farm, the track runs quite steeply uphill. Here the vegetation starts to change and is largely gorse. At a T-junction turn left. There are warning notices from the quarry company advising of the dangers of quick sand, cold water and adders but most of these dangers are safely behind fences and thick gorse bushes. After 300m the path turns sharp right (ignore a path through the woodland straight ahead).
- The next stretch of path can be muddy in winter. To the right, glimpsed through the trees, is one of the lakes which are the remnants of the intensive quarrying activity in this area.
- *The sand and gravel quarrying has now finished and the entire site is now being developed as a luxury holiday resort (see [Silverlake | Habitat Escapes](#)). When the path takes a sharp left-hand turn the holiday homes which are being built as part of the development can be glimpsed across the water to your right.*
- Follow the enclosed path, with woodland on your right and a field on your left. After the first field the path becomes broader with a hedge on the right and a field on the left. At a gate, just before a T-junction, turn left. Follow this track around fields. When it joins a surfaced track turn right and head downhill.
- On reaching Highgate Lane (just beside a Wessex Water installation), carefully cross the road and continue on the bridleway opposite (alongside Crook's depot on your right).
- *To make a detour and visit the New Inn, turn left and walk uphill.*

- To continue the walk, take the first path on the left and walk slightly uphill towards West Knighton (ignore the footpath on your left which is another way of reaching the New Inn). On reaching a narrow road continue ahead. Carry on in a southerly direction. Ignore the first footpath on the right, running in a westerly direction. Instead, take the second footpath on your right which runs in a southerly direction across a field, towards Broadmayne. After passing through a hedge, carry on in the same direction across a second field, now taking you downhill.
- On reaching the hedge line turn left and climb over a stile. Pass through a field, walking towards St. Martin's church. Pass through a kissing gate. Ignore the path to your left and continue ahead on a surfaced path between the church and church hall

until you reach the A352. Turn left to return to the cross-roads in the centre of the village.

[Broadmayne Parish Council: 2022]

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.

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