

Walks around Broadmayne

Walk 9: The Culliford Tree and Whitcombe

Time	Up to 2.5 hours depending on pace and time taken to look at the views
Distance	7.8 miles / 12 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 in 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

This walk, an extension of Walk 2, visits the Culliford Tree Barrow (this was an old meeting place or ‘moot’ for the local ‘Hundred’, an early Medieval administrative area) and is also within sight of the Neolithic Bank Barrow near the top of Chalky Road. Constructed by 2500BC at the latest, this is a notable historic monument. Some 600 feet long, it is one of the three only known bank barrows in the country. It also passes close to Whitcombe, a small walled hamlet, with a manor house and cottages dating largely from the 17th century. The church has associations with the Dorset poet William Barnes, and contains important wall paintings, some dating from as early as 1300. It is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

- 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.

- Continue ahead along Chalky Road for about 250m and take the first road on your right. There are round barrows all around you here.
 - *Take care while walking along these roads, 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. The *Culliford Tree Barrow* is on your left in this field. This path runs diagonally across the field and then enters Down Plantation via a gate. Deer can often be seen here. There is a distinct path through this woodland. Follow this path which exits the wood and follows an enclosed path in a northerly direction.
- The path turns left to run along the northern boundary of Down Plantation. At a junction turn right. You are now using the Ramblers Jubilee Trail.
 - *The Jubilee Trail is 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 in a roughly northerly direction between open fields, passing Cripton Wood on your left and Cripton Spinney on your left. At Cripton Barn take the left hand fork, staying with the Jubilee Trail. This is a broad track through farmland. Ignore paths to your right and then left, proceeding northwards until you eventually pass some cottages on your left. These are part of the Came Estate.

➤ *Came House, a Palladian country mansion is through the trees on your left. The house isn't open to the public although it is available for weddings.*

- Beyond the cottages, stay with the Jubilee Trail as it turns right and passes uphill, passing a chalk pit on your left. Pass through a band of trees and then use the path which crosses the field diagonally towards Whitcombe. (Some Ordnance Survey maps show the path running to the left around the boundary of the field but that is an error.) Pass through two gates to reach the A352.

- Cross the A352 with great care as the traffic can be very fast. Turn left and pass the church and turn right on to a footpath which passes around the church yard and the Whitcombe hamlet boundary.
- Cross a track and stay ahead with the Jubilee Trail which at this point is enclosed with a hedge on the left and a fenced field on the right. After a slight left turn the path continues in an easterly direction.
- Take a footpath on your right, shortly before a road junction, and walk slightly uphill towards West Knighton. On reaching a narrow road continue ahead. To visit the New Inn at West Knighton turn left past the Church but to continue the walk carry on in a southerly direction. Ignore the first footpath to your right (which runs in a westerly direction) and 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. (Crops are grown regularly in these fields; paths should be restored after ploughing and kept free of crops but if you experience any problems here or elsewhere on the public rights of way network report the situation to Dorset Council

via their website ([Report a problem on a public right of way - Dorset Council](#))).

- 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. The route starts and finishes at the crossroads in the centre of the village.

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