

Walks around Broadmayne

Walk 4: To West Knighton and back

Time	50-60 minutes depending on pace and time taken to look at the views
Distance	2.5 miles / 3.8 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)• If taking your dog, please act responsibly around livestock in the fields, and when passing horses on 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 out in the open fields

This walk is to the neighbouring village of West Knighton, taking in the churches of both villages.

- From the crossroads in the centre of Broadmayne walk westwards along the A352 towards Dorchester. Just before St. Martin's church, turn right along a path signposted to the church hall. Continue past the church hall.
 - *St Martin's Church—The oldest part of the church is the chancel, where the choir now sits, 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*
- Go straight ahead, through a metal kissing gate.
- Follow the path in a northerly direction across a field which contains a number of bumps and ridges—the remains of a medieval village. Cross a stile, turn left and after about 25 metres turn right, and follow the cross-field path uphill. (This field is often cropped but the line of the path is usually apparent.) Keep ahead

through a gap in the hedge and through a second field to emerge on a road in the village of West Knighton.

- On reaching the road, turn left and follow the road which soon turns right to pass the parish church of St. Peter.
 - *St. Peter's church has Norman origins, although it was rebuilt and enlarged in the 13th Century. It contains work from every century from the 12th onwards and there are records of rectors dating back to 1304.*
 - *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.
 - *To make a detour and visit the New Inn, follow the road when it turns left, passing the Victorian*

school (now a private residence). The pub is a few minutes walk downhill.

- Keep ahead when the road turns left, to pass a row of cottages—Hardys Row. (One of these cottages belonged to Thomas Hardy's sister.) Very soon the path passes through a gate and runs between a row of cottages and their gardens. After a cycle barrier turn sharp left up a narrow path between gardens.
- Don't go through the kissing gate ahead. Instead, turn right to follow an enclosed path (fence on your left, garden fences on your right).
- At the bottom of the field cross a stile (beware it can be muddy at this point in the winter and after wet weather). Now continue uphill. The line of the right of way follows the hedge on your right but the path as used runs in a straight line to emerge on to Watergates Lane opposite a large thatched house.
- Turn left then almost immediately right to pass through a field gate into a field. The path follows the field-edge at first, with the hedge/fence to the right. When the hedge/fence turns right, strike out half-right downhill, across the field to a field gate. Pass through the gate and turn right. Proceed with the hedge on your right and pass through a metal kissing

gate. This area can be very wet in the winter. The sewage works is now to your right.

- Keep ahead. After the sewage works ignore a signposted footpath to your right and continue ahead, with woodland on your left, to a second metal kissing gate. Pass through this to enter a field. Keep the hedge to your right. The path eventually passes through a field gate (there is also a stile) and then a patch of scrub before emerging on to Knighton Lane at a metal kissing gate. Turn left to reach the crossroads at the centre of the village.

[Version 2; 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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