

Lulworth Cove Circular via Tyneham and Durdle Door			Lulworth Cove Circular – Wool Station Start and Finish		
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Lulworth Cove Circular via Tyneham and Durdle Door

Start & Finish: Lulworth Cove bus stop

Lulworth Cove bus stop, map reference SY 822 800, is 178 km south west of Charing Cross, 16m above sea level and in **Dorset**.

Length: 22.7 km (14.1 mi).

Cumulative ascent/descent: 975m.

For a shorter walk and an Alternative Start or Finish at Wool Station, see below **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 8 out of 10

Time: 6 ½ hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 13 ½ hours.

Transport: Wool Station is on the Waterloo to Weymouth Main Line, with one train per hour (journey time 149 mins Mondays-Saturdays, 154 mins on Sundays). The following buses connect Wool Station to Lulworth Cove: Purbeck Breezer 30 and 31 (daily in summer); X50 (daily in summer, else weekdays only).

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take a train no later than 8.05 hours.

OS Landranger Map: 194 (Dorchester & Weymouth) & 195 (Bournemouth & Purbeck)

OS Explorer Map: OL15 (Purbeck & South Dorset)

Walk Notes:

This is a dramatic but very challenging walk with five long and steep ascents and a further two not quite so long and steep, along a stunning stretch of the world-famous Jurassic Coast, including the iconic shell-shaped Lulworth Cove, the natural arch of Durdle Door (in a vertical limestone band jutting out into the sea), Purbeck's dramatic coastal scenery of steep cliffs and remote bays and the abandoned and ruined coastal village of Tyneham, evacuated at very short notice in December 1943 at the behest of the War Office to prepare troops for D-Day.

The route consists of two independent loops which can be walked by themselves. Furthermore, the Tyneham Loop is a figure-of-eight shape itself, with a Link Route from Wool Station to Arish Mell joining near the middle of the loop (this link route has been described in both directions). This makes the walk independent of the seasonal bus service and/or taxis, while enabling variations of the walk, cutting out some of the steep ascents.

Warning: the Tyneham Loop goes through the Lulworth Live Firing Ranges. Access is only permitted along the marked Range Walks and only at certain times (most weekends and assorted holiday periods). See the SWC webpage for exact dates.

Walk Options:

The walk route is a figure-of-eight, with the start at the junction of the two loops. **You can therefore walk just one of those loops**, or walk them in a different order than the directions suggest, or even over two days (there are plenty of accommodation options in West Lulworth):

- The **Tyneham Loop** is 17.3 km/10.8 mi long with 748m ascent/descent;
- the **Durdle Door Loop** is 5.4 km/3.3 mi long with 227m ascent/descent.

Sections of the Tyneham Loop:

- **Lulworth Cove to Arish Mell: 4.6 km/2.9 mi with 228/236m ascent/descent;**
- **Arish Mell – Tyneham – Arish Mell: 8.6 km/5.3 mi with 380m ascent/descent;**
- **Arish Mell – Lulworth Cove: 4.1 km/2.6 mi with 140/132m ascent/descent.**

The path along the beach at Lulworth Cove can be impassable in very high tides. In that case you would either have to walk the Durdle Door Loop first, or reverse-walk (map-led) the route up to the Access Land of Bindon Hill and to the easterly end of Lulworth Cove to pick up the route there.

The ascent of Gad Cliff can be avoided by following the Hardy Way from Warbarrow to Tyneham.

Short Extensions are described: one **to a viewpoint on Gad Cliff** before descending to Tyneham, and one **a circular route in Tyneham** past most of the ruined cottages and to the church.

A link route between Wool station and the walk route at Arish Mell beach has been described in both directions, so you can reduce your reliance on a bus or a taxi at start and finish and can also combine this route with parts of the full walk. This route is 8.4 km (5.2 mi) long and has minimal ascent/descent.

Car Drivers can park at Povington Hill or even in Tyneham village and walk just a short loop via Rings Hill/Flower's Barrow hillfort, Worbarrow Bay, Gad Cliff and Tyneham village.

Taxi Numbers: [Expect fares of about £15 (£22 for an 8-seater).]

Lulworth – 01929 400864/07949 522 533, 01929 444 546, 01929 400 409; Wool – 01929 463 395, 01929 558 119, 01929 500 604, 07751 769 833.

Lunch/Tea in Lulworth Cove, Tyneham and Durdle Door (details last updated 04/07/2023)

Finley's Café and Ice Cream Parlour, The Coffee Bar at Lulworth Cove Visitor Centre.

Lulworth Cove Inn Main Road, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5RQ (01929 400 333, <https://www.lulworth-coveinn.co.uk/>). Open every day 11.30-late. Food served every day 12.00-21.00 (-20.00 Sun). A Hall & Woodhouse pub.

Jakes Café, The Saltwater Grill, The Doll's House, Lulworth Lodge Hotel & Bistro, The Beach Café and Kiosk/The Old Boat House, The Boat Shed Café.

The Salt Pig Main Car Park, Tyneham, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5NY

(<https://www.thesaltpig.co.uk/>). Open every day the Lulworth Range is open (in most weathers).

Durdle Door Corner (<https://www.lulworth.com/visit/food-drink/durdle-door-corner/>). Open 10.00-16.00 every day (longer in fine weather).

Tea in East Lulworth (on the Arish Mell to Wool Link Route) (details last updated 04/07/2023)

The Castle Tearoom East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QQ (01929 400 211, <https://lulworth.com/tearoom/>). The Tearoom is located 6.7 km/4.1 mi from the end of the walk. Open Sun-Thu 10.30-16.00 Mar-Dec only.

The Weld Arms East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QQ (01929 400 211, <https://www.theweldarms.co.uk/>). The Weld Arms is located on a loop off the main route, 6.5 km/4.0 mi from the end of the walk. Open all day every day. Food served all day every day.

Past and Presents The Old School, 1 Cockles, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QN (01929 400 637, <https://www.pastandpresents.co.uk/>). Past & Presents Gift & Coffee Shop is located on a loop off the main route, 6.4 km/4.0 mi from the end of the walk. Open 10.00-16.00 every day (closed in core winter).

Tea in Wool (details last updated 30/08/2022)

Black Bear High Street, Wool, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 6BP (01929 405 541, <https://the-black-bear-pub.business.site/>). The Bear is located 300m before the train station. Open all day. Food served 12.00-20.00 daily (-15.00 Sun).

Ship Inn Dorchester Road, Wool, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 6EQ (01929 462 247, <http://shipwool.co.uk/>). The Ship Inn is located 400m beyond the train station. Open all day. Food served 12.00-21.00 daily.

Notes:

Lulworth Cove

Lulworth Cove is one of the world's finest examples of a cove and is a World Heritage Site with about 500,000 visitors p.a., of whom about 30% visit in July and August. It was formed as a result of bands of rock of alternating geological resistance running parallel to the coastline. On the seaward side a narrow band of Portland limestone rock forms the shoreline, while the clays and sands behind it have been eroded away. At the back of the cove is a 250-metre-wide band of chalk, which is considerably more resistant than the clays and sands, but less resistant than the limestones. The narrow gap in the limestone bands has been formed by wave action and weathering and the unique shape of the cove is a result of wave diffraction (the narrow entrance causes waves to bend into an arced shape). Stair Hole, just to the west, is an infant cove which suggests what Lulworth Cove would have looked like a few hundred thousand years ago.

South West Coast Path

The SWCP is a 1,014 km (630 mi) linear waymarked long-distance footpath and the longest National Trail in the UK. It follows the coastlines of Dorset, Devon, Cornwall and Somerset from Poole Harbour to Minehead and is considered to be one of the more challenging trails as it rises and falls crossing every river mouth. The path originated as a route for the Coastguard to walk from lighthouse to lighthouse patrolling for smugglers. As a result, the path closely hugs the coast providing excellent views.

Lulworth Ranges

The more than 2,830 ha of the Lulworth Ranges are part of the Armoured Fighting Vehicles Gunnery School, an important training establishment of the Army and were established in 1917. They include the coast west of Kimmeridge Bay to east of Lulworth Cove, as well as the village of Tyneham and Worbarrow Bay. The ranges are used for static and mobile live-firing practice by tanks and other armoured vehicles and access is restricted to specific times (most weekends and holidays when no firing is taking place).

Hardy Way

The Hardy Way is a 354 km (220 mi) circular waymarked long-distance footpath largely in Dorset (with a short stretch in Wiltshire). It is named for the writer Thomas Hardy and runs through his version of Wessex as portrayed in his books. <http://www.thehardyway.co.uk/>

Bindon Hill/Flower's Barrow

Bindon Hill is an extensive univallate Iron Age earthwork, with the main rampart and external ditch running for 2.5 km along an east-west ridge parallel to the coast. The cliffs to the south are up to 120m high. The large enclosed area (110 ha), lack of evidence of interior settlement, and the impossibility of effectively defending it, all suggest it was an enclosed pasture for domesticated animals, not a strategic tribal hill fort. Flower's Barrow is a multivallate Iron Age hillfort above Worbarrow Bay in Dorset, rising behind the beach at Arish Mell. Possibly more than half of it has already fallen into the sea due to coastal erosion. Hut circles are visible within the interior of the fort. In modern times it was used as a place for horse racing. This only stopped when a horse bolted and took its rider over the cliff...

Lulworth Estate/Castle/Park

The Lulworth Estate in central south Dorset has been owned by the Weld family since 1641. It includes Lulworth Cove, a stretch of the Jurassic Coast, Grade II listed landscaped gardens as well as Lulworth Castle, an early 17th century hunting lodge, originally built for a grandson of the 3rd Duke of Norfolk. It was home to the Weld family until 1929, when the interior was ravaged by fire. Rebuilt internally, it is now kept empty. In the grounds there are the 15th century St. Andrew's Church and the 18th century St. Mary's, England's first freestanding Roman Catholic Chapel after the reformation (permitted on the condition that it "...must not look like a chapel."). Several waymarked Estate Walks allow strolls through the park itself and through surrounding woodlands and pastures and to the estate's lake.

Castle Opening Hours: Easter to December daily 10.30-17.00 (last entry 16.00) except Saturdays and during special events, Gardens also open Sunday to Friday in winter (check <https://www.lulworth.com/>).

Tyneham

The village and 30 km² of surrounding heathland and chalk downland were requisitioned just before Christmas 1943 by the War Office for use as firing ranges for training troops for D-Day. 225 people were displaced in what was meant to be a temporary measure for the duration of WW II, but in 1948 – in light of the coming Cold War – the Army placed a CPO on the land and it has remained in military use ever since. Public Access to the village and the footpaths has only been given reluctantly, after public protests and from 1975 onwards. Tyneham is now accessible whenever the Lulworth Ranges are open to the public.

Durdle Door

Durdle Door is one of the Jurassic Coast's most iconic sights: a natural arch, formed from a layer of hard limestone standing almost vertically out of the sea. Originally a band of resistant Portland limestone ran along the shore (the same band that forms the narrow entrance to Lulworth Cove). In it, the rock strata are almost vertical and the bands of rock are narrow. At Durdle Door nearly all of the limestone has been removed by sea erosion, whilst the remainder forms the small headland which includes the arch, where erosion at the western end of the limestone band has resulted in the iconic looks.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the bus stop at **Lulworth Cove** in a large car park and walk either of the two loops that form this walk.

Tyneham Loop (16.8 km/10.5 mi, 747 ascent/descent)

Turn back towards the road that the bus travelled down along. *Turn right* along the road towards the sea. You pass **Finley's Café and Ice Cream Parlour**, the **Visitor Centre** with its **Coffee Bar**, the **Lulworth Cove Inn**, **Jakes Café**, **The Saltwater Grill**, **The Dolls House**. You cross a stream on the road and pass the **Lulworth Lodge Hotel & Bistro**. In another 100m you reach the beach by **The Boat Shed Café** on the right and **The Beach Café and Kiosk** on the left. Ignore the footpath turning up left (closed anyway due to a cliff fall) and *turn left* with the **South West Coast Path** along the shingle beach of the shell-shaped **Lulworth Cove**. In 550m *turn left* up some wooden then stone steps up the flank of the steep cliff. At the top of the rise in some bushy growth *turn right* at a three-way junction past a National Trail marker stone ('**Pepler Point, Fossil Forest, Little Bindon, Range Walks**'). In 30m you come out of the bushes and are in open hillside and in another 40m [!] *turn right* with a marker stone, immediately ignoring a left turn in the previous direction.

In 20m continue along a boardwalk through a boggy section and *turn right* with it. In 30m from the end of the boardwalk a gap in the growth on the right reveals stunning views back towards the cove and in another 120m *turn right* towards **Pepler Point** 70m away (named after Sir John Lionel Pepler). By his memorial stone bench, *turn left* with the path and in another 30m, a right turn leads out for 90m to **East Point**, a fantastic vantage point above the cove (along a narrow ledge in places, at your own risk!). But *turn left* with the path, with **The Channel** on your right below, either along a narrow path right by the drop or a little to the left along grass. In 140m *turn left* with the path along the boundary fence of the **Lulworth Ranges**. In 50m *turn right* through a metal gate (with a sign displaying the opening times of the range) to enter the MOD Range past a fence post with **National Trail** and **Hardy Way** markers and then a map of the **Lulworth Range Walks** (if the red flag here is flying, the range is shut to the public!).

[**Warning Note** for the Range Walks: **stay between the yellow markers** (sand-filled hard plastic tubes just short of a metre high) **at all times.**]

You follow a barbed wire fence on the left and ignore a stepped descent on the right towards the **Fossil Forest**. In 400m *veer up to the left* with the path to then *bear right* again with the path. In 170m you pass a small Radar station on the right. In 60m *turn up to the left* with the path. In 25m ignore a right fork and in 30m *turn right* through a dip. In 90m by a metal field gate *turn right* with the path, and in 50m *curve left* with the path. In 120m *veer left* to stay with the fence and in 30m *turn left* with it. In another 30m the terrain levels out and you get splendid easterly views along the coast. In 100m the path curves to the right between bushes and in 170m you are in the open again. In another 160m *turn left* by some stone steps leading down to **Mupe Bay**. In 30m *fork right*, signed on a marker stone for '**Coast Path**' and '**Kimmeridge 4 ¾**', ignoring the left fork towards a metal field gate with a stile to the left of it ('Bindon and Radar Hill').

In 250m the gradient increases substantially and you begin the prolonged steep ascent of **Bindon Hill** along a chalky path. This is the **first of five prolonged steep ascents** on the Tyneham Loop. At the top of the rise *turn right* at a T-junction along a car wide track on the top of the ridge, with **Mupe Bay** down below on the right behind a barbed wire fence. [The following stretch to Flower's Barrow hillfort also forms part of the return route.] You get first views of **Lulworth Castle** away on the left across the plain

(SWC Walk Wool Circular via Lulworth Cove and Castle) and can spot some rusty target tanks in the plain below. In about 330m the track veers away from the cliff edge, 40m before passing **Bindon Plantation** on the left. Eventually you descend very steeply to **Arish Mell** cove, finally along a stepped path. The cove is off-limits anyway as a live firing range, but it is also where the effluent pipeline from the Winfrith Nuclear Research Site enters the sea. At the bottom of the descent a car wide track joins from the left, this comes in from **East Lulworth** and is **the walk route from/to Wool Station**.

*) You continue in the same direction steeply uphill and in 170m the terrain levels out temporarily by a **barrow** on the left and the scenic **Halcombe Vale** on the right, and in 180m you start to ascend **Rings Hill**. In 300m and in another 50m ignore left forks and in 20m turn left along a barbed wire fence this side of the outer ramparts of **Flower's Barrow** hillfort. In 40m walk through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and follow the path through the hillfort site as clearly marked with yellow posts: you pass a well-weathered 'No Digging'-sign, indication the site of a tumulus, and in 15m *turn right* through the outer ramparts and *turn left* with the path. *Turn right* with the path through two more bank-and-ditch ramparts and in another 300m reach the highest point of the hillfort site by an info panel (text missing) and by a steep drop down towards **Worbarrow Bay**. Continue in the same direction through an inner rampart and in another 30m by another info panel (on Flower's Barrow Iron Age hillfort site) and a marker stone (ahead 'Whiteways Car Park 1 ½', to the right 'Coast Path, Worbarrow ¾') *turn right* through the outer ramparts and follow the coast towards Worbarrow.

In 40m go through a wooden gate and head steeply down the hill towards the distant beach. At the bottom of the drop go through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction along a grass path, with a barbed wire fence on your right. In 400m you go through another wooden gate and pass a marker stone in 25m where the path turns left and in 25m it turns right again. In 60m walk through a fence gap by the pebble beach on your right and *turn left* with a marker stone ('Coast Path Kimmeridge 2 ½', 'Tyneham 1') along the fence on the left. In 10m walk across a boardwalk and in 40m *turn left* up a gravel track. [!] In 30m by a marker stone *turn up to the right* along a short, stepped path. You emerge in a car park/picnic area with an info panel on the history of **Worbarrow** settlement on the right.

Here you have a choice:

To cut out the imminent ascent of Gad Cliff, *turn left* with **The Hardy Way** along the track leading away from the car park and follow it to Tyneham village and the first of many info panels. Continue two paragraphs below.

Or else continue in the same direction through the picnic area and go through a wooden kissing gate to then follow a barbed wire fence on the left, up **Gad Cliff**. Near the top the path curves to the left and you continue along the ridge, with the steep drop always a little away on the right. You can see some buildings in **Tyneham village** on the left below – foliage permitting, but anyhow can see the large car park next to it. Late on this stretch you get part-views of the coast line further east, just before – after 1.3 km – a wooden gate. Beyond the gate a path turns left down the hill towards a wooden gate by a metal field gate 30m away. The route continues that way.

But for a **recommended out-and-back** (850m each way) to a little knoll providing **excellent views along the coast to Kimmeridge** continue in the previous direction. Whether with or without the out-and-back, go to the gate 30m below and *turn left* through it and follow the clear grass path down the flank of the hill towards Tyneham. In 170m *turn right* with the path (now car wide gravel) and in 250m *turn left* with it. In 250m go through a kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate where the **Hardy Way** re-joins from the left along a car wide track from Worbarrow Beach, and continue in the

same direction. In 40m you cross a stream and in another 40m go to the left of a wooden field gate and pass a large car park, with **The Salt Pig** café and kiosk (in a converted horse box) on the left. In 160m ignore a right turning tarmac lane by a pond on the left and a row of cottages on the left with an old phone box and continue in the same direction along a car wide gravel track into the **abandoned hamlet** of **Tyneham** past the first of many info panels.

Here you have a choice:

For a short loop through Tyneham, past and through most of the cottages and the church, *turn left* towards the **Post Office Row Cottages** past the phone box and study the info panels in the cottages (left-to-right: Shepherd's, Post Office, Labourers plus School House). At the end of the row turn left with the path and in 40m by **The Old School** on the left and the **Rectory Cottages** 10m ahead, *turn right* up some steps to **The Church of St. Mary the Virgin**. Leave the church straight ahead (i.e.: *turn left* from the previous direction) and in 25m *turn right* along a tarmac path. In 30m *turn left* and in 60m reach **The Old Rectory** and *turn left* with the path past some benches. In 30m at a three-way fork, *fork right* and in 50m reach the (fenced) **Laundry Cottages**. Pass them to their right-hand side and in 40m reach the two-storey (fenced) **Gwyle Cottages**. Beyond that runs the stream crossed earlier and you *turn left* between the cottages and the stream, in 80m reaching the end of the loop by the pond.

For the Main Route, continue in the same direction along the car wide gravel track and in 50m *turn right* to stay to the right of the church yard. In 50m *turn left* at a T-junction by another cottage ahead and in 100m you go through a wooden kissing gate to the left of a metal field gate and start the ascent of **Whiteway Hill**, initially gently so. The track curves to the right and continues more steeply up the flank of the hill. In 350m you pass stone bench on the left and in another 30m reach the top of this ascent at a four-way junction with a road about 40m ahead. **[!]** *Turn hard left* along the ridge, ignoring the wooden kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate on the right and the left turn down to the road. In 30m go through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate and continue gently along a grass path uphill the ridge. In 500m you pass a bench and a trig point on the right, this is **Whiteway Hill**, and – at 185m above sea – the highest point of the walk. You can see the coastline in the west all out to the **Isle of Portland**.

In 500m continue in the same direction along the ridge where the car wide track curves down to the right. From this stretch of the ridge, you again have good views on the right of **Lulworth Park and its restored Castle**. In 270m – just after passing a disused pit on the right – go through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction to the right of a bramble bush area. In 330m go through the outer ditch-and-bank of **Flower's Barrow hillfort** and in 50m pass the info panel and marker stone seen earlier (the outbound route turned left here). You continue in the same direction, signed 'Coast Path Lulworth Cove 2 ½'). **You re-trace your steps** now for 2.4 km/1.6 mi, through the hillfort, down the steep flank with Halcombe Vale on the left **to Arish Mell** cove (a live firing site and also rumoured to be the site of past discharges from the nearby Winfrith experimental nuclear reactors).

Here you have a choice:

For the walk route to Wool Station *turn right* along a car wide track and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Arish Mell to Wool Station**.

****)** **For the continuation of the route back to West Lulworth**, re-trace the outbound route further, steeply up **Bindon Hill**, initially along an engineered stepped path, then a chalky track to the right of the drop. In 1.1 km/0.7 mi from Arish Mell cove, at a three-way junction of paths with **Mupe Bay** down below on the left, the

outbound route comes up from the left. You continue in the same direction and in 70m go through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction gently uphill. You go over **the top of Bindon Hill** (at 168m above sea), in 250m passing a couple of tumuli away on the right (with a weathered 'No Digging'-sign) and a bench and a **memorial for soldiers** died in action on the left, and in another 60m a flagpole and some warning lights (flashing when the range is in use). Parts of the hillfort rampart now are visible on the right below, parallel to the path.

You gently descend Bindon Hill along its ridge and in 340m go through some earthworks. In 500m a track joins from the left behind just before you pass a fenced **Radar Station** along its right-hand side (note another **tumulus** on the right). In 180m leave the Lulworth Range by another flagpole and warning light and an info panel by going through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate into a large grassy slope. This is **Access Land**. Continue straight down the top of the whaleback ridge in a westerly direction. Clearly visible ahead: **Hambury Tout** and the engineered path across it towards Durdle Door. In 220m walk through remnants of ancient earthworks. In another 280m, where the gradient increases and as you walk through the remnants of the outer earthworks and with the Lulworth Cove Car Park visible, *bear right* along one of several chalky tracks in the general direction of **West Lulworth village** (340°). In 60m *turn down to the left* along a clear chalky path steeply down towards the corner of a wood 60m away, ignoring the continuation towards West Lulworth.

At the wood by a signpost, *turn right* ('W. Lulworth ½') with the **Coast Path Diversion**. In 75m *fork left* and in 115m go through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate with a yellow marker and down a fenced path between hedges. In 50m by a four-way signpost, **leave the Access Land** through a metal gate onto a car wide gravel track and *turn left* along it (W. Lulworth ¼'). In 65m, just before meeting the main road through West Lulworth, *turn left* through a wall gap with a Coast Path Diversion marker and along a tarmac path past some shady benches. The path is shielded from the road by trees initially and in 90m it continues as pavement a little above the road into Lulworth Cove. In 200m, the pavement joins a tarmac drive above the road, by some houses on the left. The lane joins the road by the car park and **bus stop**, where the walk started. **For lunch and tea options**, continue down the road. **For the Durdle Door Loop**, *turn right* into the car park to the right of **Finley's Café to the bus stop** and continue with below text.

Durdle Door Loop (5.4 km/3.3 mi, 227 ascent/descent)

You gently ascend with the **South West Coast Path** through the large car park: the safest route and avoiding most traffic is to stay to the right of a hedge 30m away, separating a smaller part of the car park on the right from its main body, and at the end of the hedge go through a gap and follow a grassy path between wooden fences further up. In another 100m go through either of two metal gates and follow a clear wide paved path up the flank of **Hambury Tout** (hill). You have a barbed wire fence on your left and *bear right* with it at the top of the rise (Hambury Tout's top and trig point though are away higher up to the right). [The continuation of the Coast Path straight ahead as still shown on the OS maps is closed due to cliff erosion.] Over the brow you get fine views of **The Man o' War Bay** (and of a large caravan park on the right). In 570m go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate and – at a multi-path junction by a caravan park and a car park and the **Durdle Door Corner** café on the right – *turn left* steeply downhill, signed 'Durdle Door'.

The path is usually very busy with tourists from the car park by the caravan park and in 200m it almost levels out. In 100m you have the drop down to the bay on your left and in 140m ignore a right turn of the Coast Path by a marker stone ('Swyre Head ½') to proceed for another 25m to where – on the left – some steps descend to **Man o' War cove**, and – 10m ahead – other steps descend to **Durdle Door** beach. *Turn right* along the path, with views west along the coast past the beach to **Swyre Head and Bat's Head** (with its small imitation Durdle Door hole), and beyond to the **Isle of Portland**. In 120m the Coast Path joins from the right behind and you gently ascend with the path, in 20m ignoring a stile on the right in the fence line, leading the waymarked **West Lulworth Country Trail** into the steep Access Land of the **Newlands Warren** (hill). In 70m you go over the brow of this rise and in 60m ignore a metal gate on the right, where another path leads into the Access Land. You descend further and in 150m – by a steep chasm on the left leading down to the beach – you **[!]** *turn right* through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate 10m away, signed for 'Campsite' and 'Newlands Fm', ignoring the continuation of the Coast Path to Ringstead and White Nothe.

You enter **Scratchy Bottom**, a scenic coombe between **Newlands Warren** on the right and **Swyre Head** on the left with the **West Lulworth Country Trail** and follow the left-hand fence up this beautiful vale (Access Land), curving right with the fence. In 440m ignore first a metal gate, then a metal field gate on the left and *turn right* with the fence. In 300m in the far corner of the fenced area, walk through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate to leave the **Access Land** and continue in the same direction along a wide grassy track between fences (85°), still uphill (i.e. **do not** bear left across this field as per the right-of-way on the OS maps). In 110m go through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate and *bear left* (40°) uphill across this field to its top far left corner, (if freshly ploughed or overgrown: skirt along the right-hand boundary). You have the other end of the large caravan park seen earlier away on the right. In 200m in the top field corner leave it through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate and *turn right* along a car wide chalky track. **Hambury Tout, Bindon Hill, Arish Mell** (gap) and Flower's Barrow on **Rings Hill** are visible ahead.

In 170m *turn right* with a signposted footpath and **Lulworth Estate Walk 6** along a tarmac drive at a T-junction, opposite **Newlands Farm Cottage**, and in 20m *turn left* with it by **Newlands Farm**. In 60m you *turn right* at a bend in the road along its right-hand grassy margin. In 110m, just after going through a metal gate and just before the lane veers right into the caravan park, **[!]** *turn left* across the lane into a small coach drop off area. In 20m *turn right* through a (missing) gate into a wooded strip and follow the meandering path through the wood for 380m to emerge in a large grassy car park.

Here you have a choice:

To go over the top of Hambury Tout, continue in the same direction for 30m and *turn left* between wooden poles to ascend the hill – initially in a straight line – and descend on the other side to pick up the outbound route and retrace it to the bus stop.

For the main route, skirting Hambury Tout, *turn left* along its left-hand boundary (100°). In 150m go through a wooden gate to the left of a double wooden field gate and continue in the same direction through the next grassy field along its left-hand boundary fence, with **Hambury Tout** (hill) rising on the right. In 125m the path starts to descend and in 270m you walk through a metal gate 10m to the right of a metal field gate by a two-way signpost (your direction 'Lulworth Cove and Village ½'). *Veer right* with yet another left-hand field boundary fence and in 300m by a three-way signpost on the left, ignore the left turn, and *curve right* with the barbed wire fence ('Lulworth Cove and Car Park'). In 250m at the bottom of the engineered path from the large car park up Hambury Tout you *turn left* through either of two metal gates and retrace your steps down through the car park to the **bus stop and lunch/tea options**.

Wool Station to Arish Mell (8.4 km/5.2 mi, 121/123m ascent/descent)

Alight on platform 2 at **Wool Station** and walk through a gap to the left of the station building in the middle of the platform into a car park and to a road with a **bus stop for services to Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door** away to the right. *Turn left* along the pavement. In 150m ignore **Bindon Lane** on the left and *bear right* with the road (**High Street**). In 60m, just before the **Black Bear** pub, *fork left* along **Spring Street**, signposted 'The Church of the Holy Rood'. In 40m the pavement discontinues and in 40m you have a stream on the left and in another 40m ignore a right turn back to High Street. In 60m, where Spring Street bears to the right with the stream, you *turn left* along **Church Lane**, crossing the stream. In 170m you pass **The Church of the Holy Rood, Wool** on the right (usually open) and in 100m reach the end of the tarmac lane.

Ignore signposted footpaths to the right into a pasture and go straight ahead through a wooden gate with a **Hardy Way** marker to the left of a metal field gate into another pasture, by a signpost ('Cole Wood 1/3', 'Bindon Abbey 1/3') and follow its right-hand boundary (105°). In 250m at the far field corner go through a set of wooden gates either side of a wooded strip and continue in the same direction through the next pasture. In 120m in the far field corner go through a wooden gate by a three-way signpost and continue in the same direction through the next pasture ('Colewood'). In 75m *turn right* through a wooden gate into **Cole Wood** (bluebells in season) and in 20m *bear left* along a clear path through the wood. In 15m *turn right* with a marker post (190°), ignoring a faint path to the left to the boundary, and in 20m – having ignored another left turn – *turn left* with a marker post (135°), ignoring the continuation in the same direction. You walk very gently uphill along the meandering, slightly overgrown path and in 160m go through a dip.

In another 300m pass a marker post with a yellow marker on the reverse and continue towards a signpost 25m away at a four-way path junction. *Turn left* ('**Woodstreet ¼**') with the public footpath along a barbed wire fence (170°) and in 125m at a T-junction with a tarmac lane *turn right* along the lane. In 30m *turn left* along a signposted bridleway through a wooden gate and along a pasture's right-hand boundary. In 100m go through a wooden gate and continue in the same direction along a car wide farm track to the right of a fenced wood. In 70m go through a gap to the left of a metal car barrier and *turn left* with the track, still with the wood on the left, gently ascending. In 350m the track levels out and you get far views in the back towards dome distant hills (330°) and in 50m – through a break in the hedge on the right - of the **Purbeck Hills** ahead. In 100m you pass a gate post with bridleway and Hardy Way markers, as you enter **Haremere Wood**. Take either of three paths through it (the middle one (the right-of-way) lies lower and is more flood-prone though) and in 180m you emerge from the wood at a three-way junction of car wide tracks by a four-way signpost.

Continue in the same direction ('Shaggs 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ') along a gravel track, crossing the **Purbeck Way (West Route)** in the process, , soon passing signs for 'Coombe Heath Cottage' and 'Oaktree Farm'. In 280m ignore a right turn to Coombe Heath Cottage and cross a stream on the track. In 40m ignore a **Permissive Route** on the right ('Lulworth Estate - Walk 3') and a left turn to Oak Tree Farm. You go through a wooden gate into **Coombe Heath Nature Reserve (Access Land)**, still along a public bridleway with a barbed wire fence on the left. In 75m you are in open heathland with some scattered trees and gorse bushes, with the Purbeck Hills dominating the views ahead. In 40m *turn left* at a T-junction of tracks and in 20m curve to the right with the track. You have several flagpoles away on the left along the boundary of the MOD's **Lulworth Ranges**.

In 270m *turn right* at a signposted bridleway three-way junction ('Shaggs 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ '), now walking close to the fenced boundary of the Military Range. In 230m cross a stream on

an earth bridge and go through a wooden gate to leave the Nature Reserve and the Access Land and continue in the same direction along a grassy path between trees, in 10m ignoring a right turn through a wooden gate into a pasture ('Lulworth Estate Permissive Path – Walk 3'). In 240m you *turn hard right* with the path, now moving away from the Military Range, with a wood on the left and a pasture behind a fence on the right. In 250m go through a bridle gate and continue in the same direction along a gravel car wide farm track (ignore a metal field gate away on the left). In 100m by a metal field gate on the right you get some views of a large man-made lake on the Lulworth Estate on the far side of the pasture (foliage permitting) and in 280m you continue in the same direction along the wide track, where on the left over a metal field gate and back across a pasture, you can see **Wareham** (on 55°).

In 90m *turn right* through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and continue in the previous direction along the car wide track ('Lulworth Estate Permissive Route Walk 1') towards some farm buildings (**Home Farm**, part of the Lulworth Estate).

[!] Unless the permissive route is closed (it will be on several days a year at least), in which case [!] you turn right with yellow Walk 3 and blue bridleway markers along another car wide track, ignoring the continuation towards the farm and pick up the directions at the end of this text under Home Farm Diversion.[!]

The track leads along **New Barn Plantation** and in 75m you pass some large farm buildings and in 100m leave them behind. In another 450m you reach a road at a T-junction with a quiet country lane with a gate house (East Lodge) leading into **Lulworth Park** opposite. The Alternative Route joins from the right. *Turn left* along the lane.

*) The lane starts to descend towards **East Lulworth**, with **Lulworth Park's** boundary wall on the right. In 350m you pass some farm buildings on the left and in another 50m a large walled two-storey building and in 30m at the far end of the wall by a triangular green ignore a left turning cul-de-sac (Mount Pleasant), opposite **Linden's Cottage** on the right. In 200m you reach a triangular green in East Lulworth at a junction with the **B3070** through the village. A bus shelter on the green indicates a **disused bus stop**. Stay to the left of the green and cross the road a little to the left and continue along **Cockles**. [Note the pyramidal WWI Memorial Stone on the raised green.] In 150m *turn right* with the lane and in 160m you pass **Past & Presents Gift Shop and Café** on the left in the Old School House. In 50m you continue in the same direction along the B road at a bend by **The Weld Arms** on the left. In 160m *bear right* with the road at a junction with a road from the left, now following the Lulworth Range boundary again.

In 70m you have a high wooden gate on the left, with a large green metal **Range Walks Open/Shut-sign** and a sign with the **Closure Dates of the Lulworth Ranges and Tyneham Village** on it. **[!] If** the sign shows the **Range Walks are OPEN** and the gate is **not** padlocked and the flagpole behind the gate is **not** hoisting a red flag (unlike the ones further along the military range), you *turn left* (signposted 'Arish Mell 1m – Access to SWCP only') **into the Lulworth Ranges** along one of the permitted **Range Walks**. On the other side of the gate go through a wooden kissing gate and adhere the warning sign that asks you to **stay between the yellow markers** (sand-filled hard plastic tubes just short of a metre high) **at all times**.

Continue along a left-hand grassy field boundary with a barbed wire fence on the left. in 40m you walk between the first of the plentiful yellow marker tubes and in 150m enter the next field through a hedge gap and continue along its left-hand boundary. You have trees on the left and then a wood (**Old Marl Plantation**) and follow the path along the wood's boundary to the right. After 240m – at the corner of the wood and fence on the left – you *turn left* with the path, still along the wood, now with **Bindon Hill** visible ahead and a shallow valley on the right. In 110m go through a wooden kissing gate to

the left of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction, still along the wood. In 130m by the corner of the wood and a set of yellow tubes, you continue in the same direction across the grass (160°), with **Flower's Barrow** hillfort now visible ahead on the left. The gash between the two hill ranges is our aim: the beach at **Arish Mell**.

In 110m ignore (if evident at all) a right fork towards a metal field gate and *fork left* (i.e. continue more or less in the same direction) along some bushy growth on the left. In 60m go through another set of yellow tubes and in 10m continue between rows of bushy growth. In 50m go through a wooden gate and in 40m by another set of yellow tubes, continue in the same direction along a car wide gravel track joining from the right behind. In 170m cross another car wide gravel track (passing a **Python Launch Site** sign) and in 50m another track joins from the left behind. You have some rusty target tanks dotted about the hillside on the left, and in 25m ignore a right fork ('Military Live Firing Range – No Entry' sign) and continue in the same direction. In 280m you reach the **South West Coast Path** National Trail at a T-junction by **Arish Mell** beach ('Military Firing Range - No Entry!') and by a picnic table some 100m away on the right.

Here you can pick up the directions in the Tyneham Loop chapter:

- **either** *turn left* and pick up the directions at the single asterisk *) for the route **eastbound to Tyneham**;
- **or** *turn right* and pick up the directions at the double asterisk **) for the route **westbound to Lulworth Cove**.

Home Farm Diversion

In 40m *turn left* along the track with a 'Walk 3' marker and with a wood on the left (**New Barn Plantation**), ignoring a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate leading into a pasture and to the lake with 'Walk 1'. In 35m go through a wooden gate to the right of a rusty metal field gate. In 200m the track bears to the right and in 280m you pass a metal car barrier, by the corner of the wood. In 40m cross a stream on the track and in 30m *turn left* with the track ('Walk 1' joins from the right). In 70m you reach **Shaggs** at a T-junction with a road by a phone booth opposite and with **The Old Forge** on the right. Estate Walks 1 & 3 continue ahead a little to the left into **Lulworth Park**, along a drive to **Park Lodge**. *Turn left* uphill along the quiet tarmac lane, with Lulworth Park's boundary wall on the right. In 400m at the top of the rise by East Lodge on the right, a track on the left joins from Home Farm, Estate Walk 1 leads along it.

Continue in the same direction. Pick up the directions above at the asterisk *).

Arish Mell to Wool Station (8.4 km/5.2 mi, 118/116m ascent/descent)

Warning Note for the Range Walk: **stay between the yellow markers** (sand-filled hard plastic tubes just short of a metre high) **at all times**.

You have the towers of **Lulworth Castle** in the distance ahead and some rusty target tanks dotted about the hillside on the right and in 280m a track joins from the left behind ('Military Live Firing Range – No Entry' sign). In 25m *fork left* to pass a set of yellow tubes in 10m and in 40m cross another car wide gravel track (by a **Python Launch Site** sign). In 170m, by a set of yellow tubes and just before the gravel track curves to the left, you *fork right* (20°) off the car wide gravel track with a low 'Range Walk'-sign across grass towards a wooden gate 40m away. Go through the wooden gate and continue gently uphill between rows of bushy growth and in 50m you have an open rolling landscape on the left and continue along the bushy growth on the right. In 180m

at the corner of a wood by another set of yellow tubes, continue in the same direction along the wood (**Old Marl Plantation**).

In 130m go through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate and continue along the wood, now with a shallow valley on the left. In 110m – at the corner of the wood and fence on the right – you *turn right* with the path, still along the wood. You follow the path along the wood's boundary to the left and then along a row of trees and after 240m enter the next field through a hedge gap and continue along its right-hand boundary, with a barbed wire fence on the right. In 190m go past a flagpole (with the red flag lowered, unlike the ones further along the military range) and through a wooden kissing gate by a signpost 'Arish Mell 1m – Access to SWCP only' and then through a high wooden gate **to leave the Lulworth Ranges** onto a road, the B3070.

Turn right along the road's grassy verge towards **East Lulworth** and in 50m *bear left* with the B road ('East Lulworth Village'), ignoring a minor road in the same direction ('Tyneham 4, Wareham 6 ¼'). In 30m pass the car entrance to **Lulworth Castle Park** and continue with the park wall on the left. In 160m pass **The Weld Arms** on the right and continue in the same direction along a minor lane where the B road turns left and in 70m pass the **Past & Presents Gift Shop and Café** on the right in the Old School House. In 160m *turn left* with the road and in 120m *fork left* towards a main road. Note the pyramidal WWI Memorial Stone on the raised green. In 40m cross the B road and continue in the same direction to the right of a triangular green along a quiet tarmac lane through East Lulworth with a **disused bus stop** on it. In 180m by a triangular green ignore a right turning cul-de-sac (Mount Pleasant) and continue in the same direction along the lane, gently uphill past a large walled two-storey building on the right. You have Lulworth Park's boundary wall on the left and trees behind it.

In 480m by a gate house (East Lodge) on the left, a track on the right leads to **Home Farm** and a Lulworth Estate Permissive Route leads along it. **If the Permissive Route is open** (see the sign to the left of the track), *turn right* along the track.

[!] But if the permissive route is closed, continue along the tarmac lane and pick up the directions at the end of this text under Home Farm Diversion. [!]

The track leads through **New Barn Plantation** and in about 450m you pass some large farm buildings on the right (**Home Farm** on the OS map) and in 100m leave them behind. In another 75m at the corner of the wood on the left, you reach a metal field gate where another car wide farm track joins from the left. The Alternative Route joins from the left. Go through a wooden gate to the left of the wooden field gate and continue in the previous direction along the farm track with a bridleway marker.

***)** In 90m by a metal field gate into a pasture (the conurbation over the gate in the distance (on 55°) is **Wareham**), you continue along the track. In 280m by a metal field gate on the left you get some views of a large lake on the far side of the pasture (foliage permitting) and in 100m you go through a bridle gate and continue in the same direction along a grassy path (ignore a metal field gate on the right), with trees on the right. In 250m you *turn hard left* with the path, now walking along the MOD's **Lulworth Ranges** boundary, between trees along a grassy path. In 240m ignore a left turn through a wooden gate into a pasture ('Lulworth – Walk 3') and in 10m go through a wooden gate to enter the **Coombe Heath Nature Reserve (Access Land)** and cross a stream on an earth bridge and continue in the same direction through some trees. In 80m you continue through open heathland with some scattered trees and gorse bushes.

You have several flagpoles away on the right along the boundary and in 160m *turn left* at a signposted bridleway three-way junction ('Wood Street 1'), away from the fenced boundary of the Military Range. In 270m curve to the left with the track and in 20m *turn right* at a junction of tracks. In 40m you leave the open heathland and continue in the same direction along a barbed wire fence on the right and in 75m go through a wooden

gate out of the Nature Reserve and Access Land and continue in the same direction along a public bridleway. Ignore a **Permissive Route** on the left ('Lulworth Estate Walk 3') and a right turn to Oak Tree Farm and in 40m cross a stream on the track and ignore a left turn to Coombe Heath Cottage to continue along a gravel track. In 280m you reach a wood at a three-way junction of car wide tracks by a four-way signpost. **The Purbeck Way (West Route)** crosses left to right.

Continue in the same direction ('Wood Street ½') along a narrow earthen path into **Haremere Wood**. Take either fork in 10m (the right one lies lower and is more flood-prone though) and ascend through the wood and in 180m you pass gate posts with bridleway and **Hardy Way** markers on the reverse as you leave the wood. In 100m the track levels out (fine views to the Purbeck Hills in the back) and in 50m you get far views ahead towards some distant hills (330°) and start a gentle descent on the track. In 350m, now with a fenced wood on the right, go through a gap to the left of a metal car barrier and *turn right* with the track. In 70m **[!]** *bear left* to go through a wooden gate into a pasture where the track bears to the right further along the wood and follow the pasture's left-hand boundary.

In 100m go through a wooden gate by a bridleway signpost and *turn left* along a tarmac lane, gently uphill. In 100m at the top of the small rise, a path joins from the right out of **Cole Wood** and in another 20m you *turn right* through a wooden gate in a hedge and *bear left* through a large pasture along a clear path towards a clump of trees (305°). In 300m go through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and *turn right* along a right-hand field boundary. In 90m in the field corner go through a set of wooden gates either side of a wooded strip and *bear left* (320°) along a clear path towards a wooden gate 100m away in the boundary hedge. Go through the gate and *veer right* through a large field along another clear path heading somewhat to the right of a church tower.

In 350m leave the field through a wooden gate to the left of a double wooden field gate and *turn left* along **Church Lane** into **Wool**, ignoring signposted footpaths to the right into a pasture. In 90m you pass **The Church of the Holy Rood, Wool** on the right (usually open) and in 170m cross a stream on the lane (a great opportunity to clean the boots, and – being spring-fed – the stream giving Wool its name, from Saxon 'Wyllon' = well). *Turn right* along **Spring Street** and in 60m *turn left* towards the **High Street** and *turn right* along it and then Station Road to **Wool Station**, 370m away, en route passing **Williams the Baker**, a **shop** (open to 22.00 every day) and the **Black Bear** (cream teas and coffees to 18.00). The **Ship Inn** is located 400m past the station. London bound trains depart from the far platform 1, reached via the overbridge.

Home Farm Diversion

Continue in the same direction gently downhill and in 400m you reach **Shaggs** hamlet by the concrete drive to **Park Lodge** and a phone booth on the left, where a car wide track joins from the right. Lulworth Estate Walks 1 & 3 cross from the right and continue on the left into **Lulworth Park**. *Turn right* along the car wide gravel track. In 70m *turn right* with the track and in 30m cross a stream on the track. In 40m by the corner of a wood (**New Barn Plantation**) you pass to the side of a metal car barrier, and in 280m the track bears to the left along the wood's boundary. In 200m go through a wooden gate to the left of a rusty metal field gate. In 35m ignore a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate leading into a pasture and to the estate's man-made lake with 'Walk 1' and *turn right* along the track with a 'Walk 3' marker and with the wood on the right. In 40m *turn left* with yellow and blue markers through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate, where a car wide track joins from the right from Home Farm.

This is the main route. Pick up the directions above at the asterisk *).