

Wool Circular (via The Warren, Lulworth Cove & Castle)			Wool Circular (w/o The Warren but via Swyre Head)		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check	1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
Current status	Document last updated Monday, 25 th November 2019				
<p>This document and information herein are copyrighted to Saturday Walkers' Club. If you are interested in printing or displaying any of this material, Saturday Walkers' Club grants permission to use, copy, and distribute this document delivered from this World Wide Web server with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document will not be edited or abridged, and the material will be produced exactly as it appears. Modification of the material or use of it for any other purpose is a violation of our copyright and other proprietary rights. Reproduction of this document is for free distribution and will not be sold. This permission is granted for a one-time distribution. All copies, links, or pages of the documents must carry the following copyright notice and this permission notice: <p>Saturday Walkers' Club, Copyright © 2019, used with permission. All rights reserved. www.walkingclub.org.uk</p>					
This walk has been checked as noted above, however the publisher cannot accept responsibility for any problems encountered by readers.					

Wool Circular (via The Warren and Lulworth Cove and Castle)

Start & Finish: Wool Station

Wool Station, map reference SY 844 869, is 173 km south west of Charing Cross, 15m above sea level and in **Dorset**.

Length: 30.9 km (19.2 mi). **Cumulative ascent/descent:** 707m.

For a shorter or longer walk and an Alternative Start in Winfrith Newburgh or Durdle Door or a Finish at Lulworth Cove, see *below* **Walk options**.

Toughness: 9 out of 10

Time: 7 hours walking time.

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

Transport: Wool Station is on the London Waterloo to Weymouth Main Line, with one train per hour (journey time 149 mins Mondays-Saturdays, 154 mins on Sundays).

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take a train no later than 8.35 hours.

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

OS Explorer Map: OL15 (Purbeck & South Dorset)

Walk Notes:

This Dorset walk leads mainly through the large Lulworth Estate, owned for centuries by the Weld Family, initially through the Thomas Hardy Country of rolling pastures, large woods and dairy farms, then – on a choice of routes – through remote, scenic coombes to a fascinating stretch of the Jurassic Coast, with its steep chalk cliffs, rock stacks rising out of the sea, natural limestone arches, caves and beautiful coves.

The stretch around Durdle Door and Man o' War beaches can be very busy with day-trippers but the route then follows quieter coastal paths to the fascinating coves of Stair Hole and its larger – and geologically older – cousin Lulworth Cove for lunch in West Lulworth. Having had the Purbeck Hills in view for a while, stretching out to the East, an optional afternoon extension then routes over one of them – Bindon Hill.

All walk routes climb up steeply from West Lulworth to the ridge separating the Dorset Plain from the Coast and descend through a very pretty coombe past Bellhuish Farm and then lead along Lulworth Park, before meandering along permissive routes through the park to Lulworth Castle (possibly the most beautiful castle in the South) and its tearooms and church, and back through Bowling Green Wood.

Coombe Heath Nature Reserve and Haredene and Cole Woods lie ahead en route back to Wool.

Note 1: Lulworth Park & Castle are closed to the public after 17.00 hours, all day Saturdays and on selected other days. At those times the afternoon shortcut avoiding the park will have to be walked.

Note 2: This is a long walk with an option to make it even longer. It is therefore well suited to be broken at the halfway stage with an overnight stay in Lulworth Cove or West or East Lulworth.

Walk options:

Several buses connect Wool (and Weymouth) **to Winfrith Newburgh** (6.9 km into the walk), while also calling at **Durdle Door Park** (a little off route, 15.0 km into the walk) and in **Lulworth Cove** (16.4 km into the walk): Purbeck Breezer 30 (late May-late Sep: daily, but weekdays only most of June); X54 (Oct-Mar: Mon-Fri, Apr-Sep: daily); 55 (summer weekends only, but daily during Dorset summer holidays).

A Variation in the morning leads to the Coast Path on a different route, via Dagger's Gate to Swyre Head, closer to Lulworth than The Warren.

An Extension after lunch in Lulworth Cove leads along the cove's beach and over Bindon Hill to West Lulworth (adds 1.1 km and 132m ascent).

A Shortcut avoiding Lulworth Park in the afternoon cuts 3.7 km/2.3 mi. [**Lulworth Park & Castle are shut** after 17.00 hours, all day every Saturday and on selected other days, **in which case you have to take this shortcut.** Check <https://www.lulworth.com/> for details.]

A Diversion avoiding the Permissive Route past Home Farm is described, should the route be closed.

The route through Coombe Heath with its tumuli and barrows can be cut by 820m and 23m ascent.

There are two finishes described into Wool: one through a bluebell wood (mud-prone after rain) and one through open pastures.

Early Lunch (the pubs are 640-900m off route): (details last updated 27/10/2019)

The Countryman Inn East Knighton, Dorset, DT2 8LL (<http://www.thecountrymanindorset.com/>, 01305 852 666). Lunch served 12.00-14.30. Located 900m off route, 7.3 km/4.5 mi into the walk.

The Red Lion Inn Winfrith Newburgh, Dorset, DT2 8LL (01305 852 814, <http://winfrithredlion.co.uk/>). Lunch served all day. Located 640m off route, 7.5 km/4.7 mi into the walk.

The Sailor's Return Chaldon Herring, Dorset, DT2 8DN (01305 854 441, <http://www.sailorsreturnpub.com/m/index.php>). Lunch served 12.00-14.00 Wed-Sat and all-day Sun. Located 670m off route, 9.4 km/5.8 mi into the walk.

Lunch (from 16.0 km/10.0 mi to 17.2 km/10.7 mi into the walk): (details last updated 27/10/2019)

The Boat Shed Café Main Road, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5RQ (01929 400 810, <https://www.lulworth.com/visit/food-drink/boat-shed-cafe/>). Open every day (weather-dependent) 09.30-16.00 (-17.00 in summer). Lunch served 12.00-14.30.

The Beach Café and Kiosk/The Old Boat House Main Road, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20

Rudds Restaurant Main Road, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5RQ (01929 400 552, <https://www.ruddslulworth.co.uk/>).

Lulworth Lodge Hotel & Bistro 38 Main Road, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5RQ (01929 400 252, <https://www.lulworthlodge.co.uk/>).

The Doll's House (<https://www.lulworth.com/visit/shopping/the-dolls-house/>).

Jakes Café Main Road, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5RQ (07935 247 208). Open to 17.00.

Lulworth Cove Inn Main Road, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5RQ (01929 400 333, <https://www.lulworth-coveinn.co.uk/>). Open every day 11.00-22.30. Food served every day 12.00-21.00. A Hall & Woodhouse pub.

The Coffee Bar, Lulworth Cove Visitor Centre Open 10.00-17.00 daily.

Finley's Café and Ice Cream Parlour Main Road, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5RQ (01929 400 711, <http://www.finleyscafe.co.uk/>).

The Castle Inn Main Road, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5RN (01929 400 311, <http://www.castleinn-lulworth.co.uk/>). The Castle Inn is located 150m off route.

Tea in East Lulworth: (details last updated 27/10/2019)

The Lulworth Castle Tearoom East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QS (<https://www.lulworth.com/visit/food-drink/lulworth-castle-tearoom/>). Lulworth Castle is located 7.5 km/4.7 mi from the end of the walk. Open 10.30-16.30 when the castle is open (i.e. daily Easter to December, but **closed on Saturdays!** and on selected other days).

The Weld Arms East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QQ (01929 400 211). The Weld Arms is located on a loop off the main route, 7.3 km/4.6 mi from the end of the walk. This pub is **currently closed** but slated for a re-opening soon.

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, 7.3 km/4.5 mi from the end of the walk. Open 09.00-17.00 every day (closed in core winter).

Tea in Wool: (details last updated 27/10/2019)

Black Bear High Street, Wool, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 6BP (01929 405 541, <https://www.blackbear.website/>). The Bear is located 300m before the train station. Open all day. Food served 12.00-21.00 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 10.00-21.00 daily.

Notes:

Wool

The village lies at a historic bridging point on the (Dorset) River Frome, half-way between Dorchester and Wareham. Woolbridge Manor, a 14th century building, is a prominent feature just outside the village and the location of Tess's honeymoon in Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. To the east of the village are the ruins of Bindon Abbey (Cistercians, 12th century). Demolished in the Dissolution, its stone was used to build castles in Portland, Lulworth and Sandsfoot. Access to the area is by permission of the current tenants only. The place-name 'Wool' is first attested in Anglo-Saxon writs from 1002 to 1012, where it appears as *Wyllon*. The name means 'springs' in the sense of the related word 'wells' and refers to the spring-fed stream walked along twice, towards the start and the end of the route.

Purbeck Way (West Route)

The Purbeck Way West Route is an up to 18.9 km (11 ¾ mi) waymarked extension of the popular Purbeck Way, although not directly linked with it (see below). It begins in West Lulworth on the Jurassic Coast and heads north west to Winfrith Newburgh, east to Coombe Keynes and then either back to West Lulworth or north east to East Stoke.

To combine it with The Purbeck Way, use the South West Coast Path (when the Lulworth Range Walks are open) or the X54 bus to Wareham to link the two routes.

Winfrith Newburgh

The name derives from the river Win, which runs through the village, combined with Newburgh, the name of the medieval Lords of the Manor (the Lordship was bought in 1641 by the Weld Family, who are still residing on the nearby Lulworth Estate).

Winfrith is most famous though as the site of the Winfrith Atomic Energy Establishment, or AEE Winfrith. It was set up on Winfrith Heath to the north east of the village in the 1950s in order to test a variety of new nuclear reactor designs with the intention of selecting a new design for power generation and other tasks. All the reactors have now shut down and the last ones are being de-commissioned.

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.

Jurassic Coast

The Jurassic Coast is a World Heritage Site stretching from Exmouth in Devon to Studland Bay in Dorset, a distance of about 154 km (96 mi). The site spans 185 million years of geological history, coastal erosion having exposed an almost continuous sequence of rock formations covering the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. At different times this area has been desert, shallow tropical sea and marsh, and the fossilised remains of the various creatures that lived here have been preserved in the rocks. Natural features seen on this stretch of coast include arches, pinnacles and stack rocks. In some places the sea has broken through resistant rocks to produce coves with restricted entrances, and the Isle of Portland is connected to the land by a narrow spit. Landslides are common, and these have exposed a wide range of fossils, the different rock types each having their own typical fauna and flora, thus providing evidence of how animals and plants evolved in this region. The area around Lulworth Cove also contains a fossil forest, and 71 different rock strata have been identified at Lyme Regis, each with its own species of ammonite.

The highest point on the Jurassic Coast, and on the entire south coast of Britain, is Golden Cap at 191m between Bridport and Charmouth.

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. 'Durdle' is believed to derive from the Saxon 'thirl', meaning pierced hole/opening.

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.

Bindon Hill

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.

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/>

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/>).

WALK DIRECTIONS

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 with a **bus stop for services to Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door and Winfrith Newburgh** away on the right. Continue to a road and *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, *bear right* with Spring Street and the stream, ignoring the left turning **Church Lane** (the return route comes down that lane).

In 80m *turn left* along the **B3071's** left-hand pavement and in 160m continue along the main road, without a pavement, ignoring a left-forking residential drive parallel to the road. In 300m – by the last house on the left (Topps End) – *turn right* and continue down a tree-lined car wide gravel lane, a public footpath signposted 'New Buildings'. In 60m continue in the same direction along a grassy track, where the gravel lane turns right into allotments. The track curves to the left and after 650m, by some farm sheds on the left (the 'New Buildings' on the OS map), a footpath joins from the right through a metal gate out of a field. Walk past a car barrier and in another 25m continue in the same direction along a quiet tarmac lane at a bend. In about 1.0 km you meet the B road again at a T-junction, opposite an **Army Ranges Warning** sign, indicating whether the roads through the Lulworth Ranges, as well as the Range Walks are open. *Turn right* along the right-hand grassy verge. In 160m *turn right* along a car wide gravel farm track with the **Purbeck Way**, a signposted bridleway ('Winfrith 2 ¼, W. Lulworth 5 ¼').

In 150m ignore a right turn into a field and continue along the now earthen track. In 270m, just before entering an arable field through a wide gap in the boundary growth, **[!]** *turn left* with a bridleway marker post along a wide grassy field margin this side of the boundary. In 60m *turn right* with the Purbeck Way by a two-way signpost ('Winfrith 2, W. Lulworth 5') along a wide grassy margin between the arable field on the right and **Coombe Wood** on the left. In 80m the path curves to the left to enter the wood and in 30m you pass a marker post to continue along a sandy track through the wood. In 50m *turn right* with a marker post and in 350m you reach a four-way junction of forest tracks. The public bridleway is crossed here by another bridleway (permissive and open to Permit Holders only to the right, but public to the left).

The public bridleway ahead is good to walk (although temporarily closed at time of writing), but it leads right through the large and busy **Newburgh Dairy** with heavy machinery at work most times. So, **[!]** *turn left* along a wide grassy path, and in 200m *turn right* with a signpost ('Purbeck Way Permissive Bridleway, Winfrith Newburgh') along a narrower grassy path, still through the pleasant wood. In 90m you get views of the dairy on the right through the trees, of the Dorset Plain beyond it, and of the last remaining **Nuclear Reactor** at the **Winfrith Atomic Energy Establishment**, currently being decommissioned. In 20m pass a bridleway marker post and in 100m emerge from the wood and follow the right-hand boundary of an arable field. You are now walking **through five large arable fields**, either along their grassy boundaries or along usually well-cleared and -ploughed paths, more or less in the same direction.

In more detail: in 230m pass a two-way signpost and then cross a car wide farm track, up from the dairy on the right, and follow a ploughed path; in 240m go through a gap into the next field and follow a clear path through a dip; in 240m go through a gap into the next field and follow a clear path gently uphill; in 250m continue along a left-hand upper field boundary; in 310m by a Purbeck Way marker post on the left, *veer left* with the field

boundary (the public bridleway from the dairy joins unmarked from the right); in 70m stay to the left of a wooden fence, continuing along the hedge on the left.

In 30m you continue in the same direction between hedges and through a wooded area and in 160m emerge from the trees by a house on the right (**Claypits Farm**). Continue in the same direction along the (deteriorated) tarmac drive. In 200m *turn right* with the drive, ignoring a left turning public footpath into a field.

In 60m by a triangular green you have a choice:

For the first early lunch stop [The Countryman Inn](#) (900m each way), *turn right* and follow the route as shown on the route map and return to this point.

For the Walk Route, *bear left* at the green and follow a road into **Winfrith Newburgh**. In 150m pass **Draytons Dairy** and then the first houses of the village. In 200m you reach the busy main road through the village (the westerly route to Lulworth Cove) at a T-junction, by a **bus stop for services to/from Weymouth or Wool** and by a shop on the right (open 08.00-18.00 Mon-Sat and 08.30-12.30 Sun).

Here you have a choice:

For the second early lunch stop [The Red Lion Inn](#) (620m each way), *turn right* along the road and follow the route as shown on the route map and return to this point.

For the Walk Route, cross the road and continue in the previous direction along a wide grassy path between houses, signposted 'Thornicks ¼'. In 40m you pass the **village pound** on the left just before crossing the **Win River** on a railed wooden footbridge. *Turn left* with a sign for 'Church, Village Trail' with the river on your left, and in 20m merge with a concrete path along the waterway. In 350m go through a metal gate back onto the main road at a bend, opposite **St. Christopher's Church**, with a minor road turning right. *Turn right* along the minor road, signposted 'East Chaldon', 'West Chaldon'. In 75m you get fine partial views of the church beyond a row of cottages on the left and in 40m the river emerges from under a high wall on the left (it will run close to the road until you turn off it, but always out of sight).

You continue – largely between hedges or high banks, i.e. with restricted views – and in 270m pass the large converted **Rectory Farm** (on the OS map), now called '**Azrea**'. In 250m the views open out to hills on the left and ahead. In 80m you pass the **Chaldon Booster Distribution Station** on the left and in another 550m a car wide gravel track turns up to the left, just before the village sign for **Chaldon Herring** (East Chaldon).

Here you have a choice:

For the last early lunch stop [The Sailor's Return](#) (670m each way), continue along the tarmac lane into Chaldon Herring and follow the route as shown on the route map and then return to this point.

For the Walk Route, *turn left* up the gravel track (past the signed New Close Car Park) and in 70m by **New Close Bungalow** on the left, *turn left* with the track. In 120m at the top of this little rise, ignore a right turn to **Limekiln House** and go through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate. *Turn right* with the chalky track, ignoring another metal field gate ahead. Descend gently on the track, which continues scenically between low ridges (**Winfrith Hill** on the left, unnamed on the right). In 80m go through an often-open metal field gate and in 200m the fence on the left discontinues and you follow the track along the

bottom of the curving valley. In 140m you pass a marker stone on the right: to the right a permissive footpath ('Chideock Farm ¾ and The Warren & Coast Path 1 ½'), ahead a bridleway ('Dagger's Gate 1').

Here you have a choice:

For the Morning Variation, continue in the same direction along the track with the bridleway, with **Access Land** behind the hedge on the left and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Morning Variation**.

For the Main Walk, *turn right* with the permissive footpath to Chideock Farm and follow a broad grassy track at the bottom of the scenic coombe and in 280m walk through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate into the **Access Land of Chaldon Down** and follow the grassy track curving to the left with the valley. In 570m go through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate in a fence line and *veer right* with the track. In 350m at a T-junction with a car wide chalky track, you *turn left* with a barbed wire fence on the right, gently uphill. In 30m ignore a metal gate on the right, just before a permissive footpath marker stone ('Chideock Farm ¼, The Warren & Coast Path 1').

The gradient increases as you approach the farm and in 330m go through a metal field gate and through another one in 80m (leaving the Access Land) and in 50m pass through the farmyard. Ignore a track turning hard left ('No Public Access'-sign) and keep uphill, in 80m going through another metal field gate. As you ascend further on the track, you may be able to see the **Round Pound** away over the shoulder on the left, a chalk-and-earth bank and ditch Iron Age enclosure). In about 250m from the farm – just before the track levels out – you pass the fenced **Wardstone Barrow** on the right just by the track (a bowl barrow, Late Neolithic period to Late Bronze Age, whose sister barrow nearby has been flattened), and in 50m there is **another barrow** away in the field on the left.

In 180m go through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate at a T-junction with a car wide drove, a restricted byway, by a marker stone on the left. Continue in the same direction along a permissive footpath ('The Warren & Coast Path ½') with a barbed wire fence on the right initially. In 50m continue in the same direction where the fence discontinues, gently descending, while staying on the top of the whaleback ridge. You are heading for a metal gate in a barbed wire fence 160m away and enter the coastal Access Land through it. Cross a narrow track (a public footpath as per the OS map) and continue towards the coast, late on along a clear car wide grassy track. You have scenic shallow coombes on the left and right, dropping down to the sea (Middle Bottom on the right, unnamed on the left) and the chalky headlands of **White Nothe** (right) and **Bat's Head** (left), with **Swyre Head** rising beyond the latter.

You go through a dip and re-ascend to a gate in a fence line to reach the **South West Coast Path** National Trail at a T-junction by a marker stone. *Turn left* ('Lulworth Cove 2') along the path. In 190m you pass a stile in the fence on the left, just before descending a little more steeply. In 100m you have the **Bat's Head headland** on the right (it is just 70m to the mesmerising tip of it) and start the very steep descent into the Bottom. From the bottom of the descent, by a stack of rocks out in the sea and with the beach below and with views ahead to **Durdle Door**, start the re-ascent up **Swyre Head**, ignoring another metal gate on the left. At the top of the rise walk through a fence gap (a missing gate) by a metal gate on the left.

The Morning Variation joins from the left down the whaleback ridge of Swyre Head.

*) In 15m you pass a National Trail marker post and begin the steep descent from Swyre Head (there are several paths, some closer to the unstable cliff face than others). Just before the bottom of the drop a public footpath joins from the left through a metal gate and in 50m you ignore a path turning left through a metal gate into the scenic clifftop dry valley of **Scratchy Bottom** (second in a 2012 poll for 'Britain's Worst Place Name'). You ascend with the coast path and in 150m the terrain levels out somewhat by a metal gate on the left leading into the Access Land of **Newlands Warren**, revealing vistas ahead of **Durdle Door** and its beach. The path ascends gently for another 65m and then it descends to Durdle Door. In 170m ignore a left fork (the SWCP) and in 70m reach an info panel about **Durdle Door's Geology**.

Turn left past the steps leading down to **The Man o' War beach**, ignoring another gate on the left into the Newlands Warren Access Land, and **join the sea of humanity** (in high summer) ascending this wide chalky path up towards the main Durdle Door car park. In 200m pass a stone sign explaining that the subsequent right fork (the old route of the Coast Path) is closed due to dangerous levels of cliff erosion and follow the waymarked **Coast Path Diversion**: in 75m you pass a marker stone (this is where the now blocked old path forked off to the right) and in 250m – near the top of the rise and with the car park just ahead – *turn right* through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate with a Coast Path Diversion marker, in the process losing most of the people, who are heading on to car park or caravan park.

You are now more gently ascending the flank of **Hambury Tout** (hill) and in 250m – where the path bears to the right – a blocked path joins from the right below. In 200m the path almost levels out by a marker stone where the old Coast Path joins from the right. In another 70m you go over the brow (Hambury Tout's top and trig point are further up away to the left), now with views of **Lulworth Cove**, **Bindon Hill** rising to the left of it and **Flower's Barrow hillfort site** and **Gad Cliff** in the distance (SWC Walk 54 Lulworth Cove Circular via Tyneham and Durdle Door). In 30m at the corner of the fence on the right, you could just follow the direct route down into Lulworth Cove along the tourist path, but **for a far more interesting route**, *bear right* along the fence, steeply downhill. In 110m a chalky path joins from the left and in another 60m where another path joins from the left, you *turn right* through a wooden gate by a wooden bench on the other side, looking out to the rocky beach at **Dungy Head**.

Turn left along the barbed wire fence and in 20m *turn down to the right* along a faint path to a junction with a clear path a bit lower down: in 40m en route to the lower path take the middle of three paths, in another 20m cross the lower path by a house away on the left and continue up a grassy rise. In 50m you go under a wind-shaped tree and follow this up-down path through the rolling scenery. In 10m *fork left* by another house on the left and in 50m *turn left* at a T-junction, now walking parallel to the coast. Ignore a couple of faint paths joining from the left in 110m and in 50m, and in another 100m you *bear left* away from the cliff face by a sign blocking the route ahead. You are soon walking under tree cover between garden fences and in 100m *turn right* at a T-junction with a tarmac lane (**Britwell Drive**).

In 120m the views open out ahead to Lulworth Cove and an engineered viewpoint to the right of it. In 60m *turn right* along a chalky path uphill at a four-way signpost ('Coast Path, Stair Hole, Lulworth Cove ¼') and in 50m the path levels out, with a secretive cove down on the right below. In 30m you reach the first of two viewpoints (with an info panel) looking down into **Stair Hole**, with its stack, blowhole, arch, caves and three-parted cove. [Geologically younger than Lulworth Cove itself, Stair Hole gives a good idea of what Lulworth Cove may have looked like hundreds of millions of years ago. The folded limestone strata known as the *Lulworth crumple* are particularly visible here.]

In 50m more of the houses in **West Lulworth** come into view and in 70m by a large **stone boulder memorial** to the inscription of this stretch of coast as a **World Heritage Site**, you *turn right* up the stepped path to the large viewing platform overlooking Stair Hole and Lulworth Cove. Turn back on yourself down the steps and past the memorial stone and follow a stepped path down towards the beach. Ignore closed paths off to the right to descend more steeply down a stepped section and *curve right* with it to meet the beach by **The Boat Shed Café** on the right.

Here you have a choice:

For the afternoon Extension, *turn left* to cross a stream and continue along the beach and pick up the directions below under **Afternoon Extension**.

For all other lunch options and the Main Walk route, *turn left* to cross a stream and *turn left* up **Main Road** into West Lulworth. You pass **The Beach Café and Kiosk** in the Old Boat House on the right and in 80m **Rudds Restaurant** on the right, in 25m the **Lulworth Lodge Hotel & Bistro**, opposite a pond on the left. In 60m pass **The Doll's House** sweet shop, **Jake's Café** and a gift shop on the left and the **Lulworth Cove Inn** on the right, before continuing along the road (the **B3070**), by **The Coffee Bar** in the Visitor Centre on the left and you *bear right* along a higher tarmac path parallel to the road as you pass **Finley's Café and Ice Cream Parlour**.

The **bus stop for services to Wool or Weymouth stations** is away on the left in the main car park and in 50m you continue along a tarmac drive parallel to the road below, with Hambury Tout (hill) towering on the left. In 100m you can see a couple of **transmission masts on the ridge ahead**, this is the immediate aim: in 50m continue in the same direction along a tarmac path where the drive joins up with the road and in 20m ignore a permissive footpath coming down steeply from the right down from **Bindon Hill**. In 180m *fork right* with Coast Path Diversion and National Trail markers along a raised tarmac path between trees. In 75m by a stone and then a wooden bench *turn right* with a signpost for the 'Hill Ranges Walks $\frac{3}{4}$ ', through a gap in a stone wall and **[!]** *turn sharply left* immediately down to the B road.

****)** *Turn right* along the B 3070, in 30m with a pavement. Ignore **Church Road** forking left (there is a store 50m along it though) and mind the at times busy traffic as you follow Main Road past the thatched cottages of West Lulworth. In 120m you pass the **Limestone Hotel & Restaurant** on the right (evenings only) and in another 130m by a **war memorial** on the left and a **bus stop** ahead, and with **The Castle Inn** another 150m along Main Road, **[!]** you *turn left* along **West Road**. In 90m *turn right* up some steps with a **Purbeck Way** signpost ('Coombe Keynes $3\frac{1}{2}$, Wareham $10\frac{1}{4}$ ') into trees and in 40m continue in the same direction with a public footpath and a Purbeck Way marker post, uphill along a car wide track. In 10m you pass a marker stone ('Winfrith 3') and in 70m pass a redundant stile and emerge into the open, steep hillside. Head up the hill through three paddocks/fields along their right-hand boundaries to a four-way signposted Footpath/Purbeck Way junction by the transmission masts seen earlier.

Cross the car wide gravel track and continue in the same direction past a stone memorial bench in 25m and then past a Purbeck Way, footpath and Lulworth Estate Walk 4 marker post and along a pasture's right-hand boundary. You have fine back views on the left to the **Isle of Portland and Weymouth** and in 300m go through a hedge gap into the next pasture and follow its right-hand boundary, gently descending, now with grand sweeping views towards **Winfrith Newburgh** and into the **South Dorset Plain** on the half left. In 150m, through a hedge gap on the right, you get fine views along the **Purbeck Hills to**

the east. In a further 170m in the far-right corner go through a gap in the boundary growth onto the grassy car wide **Winfrith Drove** at a signposted three-way junction. The Lulworth Estate Walk 4 and Purbeck Way turn left ('Winfrith 2', 'Coombe Keynes 4 ½').

You [!] *turn right* ('Coombe Keynes 2 ½', 'Wareham 9 ¼', 'Bellhuish ½') along a path between trees (bluebells in season). In 110m *turn left* through a wooden gate, ignoring the continuation of the sheltered path. **The Hardy Way** has joined from down the path. Walk down the left-hand field boundary of a scenic valley dropping down towards **Bellhuish Farm** (out of view initially). In 220m you pass **Bellhuish Coppice** on your left behind a high wire fence and 80m along the coppice *veer a little to the right* towards a two-way signpost in the bottom field boundary, 30m to the right of the left corner. In 75m go through a wooden gate by the signpost and continue downhill towards some fenced farm buildings. At the farm buildings curve to the left of the fenced farmyard and *turn right* by a Purbeck Way signpost ('Coombe Keynes 2'). In 40m go through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and continue along a car wide farm track in the valley bottom towards **Bellhuish Farm**, in 20m ignoring a Permissive Route to the left ('Lulworth Estate Walk 4').

In 230m by the farmhouse *fork right* through a metal field gate with a Purbeck Way and Lulworth Walk 4 signpost. The track continues as a tarmac drive and you follow it past the farm and then up the hill steeply. In 350m the terrain levels out and you can see **Coombe Wood** away on the left below, walked through earlier in the walk. In another 250m cross the Lulworth Cove to Wool **B3071** road. Continue along a chalky track, with the Purbeck Way and with **Burngate Wood** on the right. In 400m you pass a small 'Lulworth Private Woodlands – No Access Permitted'-sign a little on the right, 110m before a left turn to **Limekiln Cottage**. In 70m the track turns left around a pond hidden by trees to eventually continue in the previous direction. In 120m you reach **Clare Tower**, an old gateway into **Lulworth Park** ('Towers' on the OS map).

Here you have a choice:

For the Shortcut, cutting out the route through Lulworth Park and Coombe Heath Nature Reserve, *turn left* along the park boundary with bridleway, Purbeck Way and Lulworth Estate Walks 2 & 4 markers and a signpost and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Lulworth Park Shortcut**.

For the Main Walk, proceeding through Lulworth Park (**closed to the public after 17.00** every day – even if this gate does not look shut, **on all Saturdays** and on selected other days) and then through the Coombe Heath Nature reserve, continue in the same direction past the tower and a metal car barrier along a car wide gravel track, gently downhill. You have a barbed wire fence on the left with a pasture behind and views of the Purbeck Hills in the distance on the half left. In 230m at the bottom of the descent, ignore a permissive bridleway turning right into the wood and *turn left* through a wooden field gate and follow the track along the bottom of this shallow valley. With pastures either side, on the half left in the park's upper corner, you can see the imposing **North Lodges** by another park exit. In 310m you pass a fenced wooded area on the left (mostly new plantings) and in another 350m by a three-way signpost continue in the same direction through a wooden field gate ('To the Castle'), where Estate Walks 3 & 4 join from the left above, from North Lodges.

You have **Park Lodge** on the left behind a hedge and in 60m *turn right* with a signpost at a three-way track junction, with Estate Walks 1 & 2 having joined down the third track. On top of the rise ahead you can see the top of **Lulworth Castle** and – to the right of it – **St. Mary's Chapel**. In 30m go through an often-open wooden field gate and in 400m you enter trees along the fringe of **Bowling Green Wood**. In 100m the track almost levels out as you walk through an often-open wooden field gate and in 120m you pass a blue two-

way signpost, where Estate Walk 1 to Lulworth Lake turns left across the grass towards the wood. This is the return route after the visit to the Castle and Tearoom. In 75m go through a metal field gate and in 25m ignore a (private) track turning left. In 100m you reach the entrance to **Lulworth Castle**. The Castle, its gardens and the Catholic Chapel require a ticket to visit. Continue in the same direction to the far corner of the castle and *turn right* through the free-to-enter part of the garden to **The Lulworth Castle Tearoom** (10.30-16.30). From the tearoom, you *turn left* from the previous direction (i.e. go straight ahead if coming out of the tearoom) along a gravel path for a visit of **St. Andrew's Church** and in 50m go through a hedge and across a grassy strip into the churchyard.

At the church you have a choice:

For a loop through East Lulworth past its pub and tearooms, leave the churchyard through the front gate (i.e. not towards the Castle) and *turn left* along a gravel drive. Pick up the directions at the end of this text under **East Lulworth Loop**.

For the Main Walk, leave the churchyard through one of the rear gates (i.e. towards the Castle) and pass the castle to its right and **re-trace your steps to the blue two-way signpost** where Estate Walk 1 forks right across a grassy area towards **Bowling Green Wood**. *Fork right* with Estate Walk 1 and in 70m go over a stile to the right of a wooden field gate into the wood. Follow a narrow earthen path through the wood, with occasional views on the right through the trees to the Purbeck Hills across the Lulworth Ranges. The path widens to a car wide track, initially earthen then gravelly, and meanders through the wood, always close to its right-hand boundary. After about 500m, with the park wall visible about 30m ahead, you *turn left* at a T-junction of tracks. The track runs parallel to the wall and in 150m at a T-junction, you *turn right* towards the **East Lodge** 30m away and leave the park through its gate onto a tarmac lane, with a car wide gravel track (a Lulworth permissive route) continuing opposite.

If it is open (see the sign to the left of the track), *cross the road and follow the track*. **If the permissive route is closed**, *turn left* 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 **Lulworth 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 Lulworth – Walk 3 turns left through a wooden gate into a pasture.

Here you have a choice:

For a shorter route through Coombe Heath Nature Reserve, continue in the same direction 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 and pick up the directions three paragraphs below ("...and in 40m you leave the open heathland...").

For the Main Route, *turn left* through the gate and follow the right-hand field boundary. In 125m you pass an overgrown and part-collapsed stile and wooden bridge on the right, just before a metal field gate. *Turn right* through a wooden gate just beyond the metal field gate and **[!]** ignore the obvious left turning fenced path, but **[!]** *turn right* through a metal field gate into another pasture and head gently uphill along its right-hand boundary, with a wood behind the fence. In 300m – near the top-right field corner – *turn right* through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate with a well-weathered Lulworth Estate Walk 3-marker. You cross a clearing between parts of the wood and in 40m enter trees.

In 60m pass a marker post in open heathland and in another 20m, at a T-junction with a broader track in front of a heathery rise (**Coombe Beacon**), *turn left* along the track, gently uphill. In 110m, 30m before the top-left corner of the fenced heathland and a wooden gate and metal field gate, *turn right* along a car wide track, initially through bracken. In 80m the track curves to the right, still with somewhat higher ground to the right. In about 350m you can clearly see **two Iron Age barrows** on the half-right ahead, with the Purbeck Hills in their background. In about 450m you pass the barrows and in 125m you reach a three-way junction of tracks. The shorter route joins from ahead.

Turn left and 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** 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 and mud-prone though) and ascend through the wood and in 180m pass gate posts with bridleway and **Hardy Way** markers on the reverse as you leave the wood and follow a car wide track between a hedge on the right and a fence on the left. In 100m the track levels out and you get last views back to the Purbeck Hills. In 50m you get far views ahead towards some distant hills (on a clear day, 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 along the wood and follow the pasture's left-hand boundary. In 100m go through a wooden gate by a bridleway signpost onto a tarmac lane.

For the finish to Wool there are now two routes:

- **Either through open pastures** – *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.

- **Or through a fine bluebell wood** – *turn right* along a tarmac lane. In 30m *turn left* with a signposted footpath ('Bindon Abbey', 'Wool') along a narrow path, soon into a wood. In 60m ignore a faint right turn at a fence corner and in another 60m by a three-way signpost at **Cole Wood's** boundary, *turn right* into the wood ('Wool ¾'). In 25m pass a yellow marker post and follow a meandering path through the wood. In 270m go through a dip and in another 160m *turn right* with a marker post. In 10m ignore a right fork and in 15m *turn left* at a T-junction to in 30m leave the wood through a wooden gate and *turn left* in a pasture to its near corner. In 75m go through a wooden gate by a three-way signpost and follow the left-hand boundary of two large pastures (120m and 250m). Leave the second field through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and follow **Church Lane** into **Wool**, ignoring signposted footpaths to the left into a pasture.

In 90m you pass **The Church of the Holy Rood, Wool** on the left (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.

Morning Variation

In 70m go through an often open metal field gate and in 250m by a two-way signpost on the left, *turn left* off the chalky track with the bridleway through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate ('Dagger's Gate 1') and *turn right* along a wide grassy track at the bottom of the curving flank of **Winfrith Hill** with the hedge now on your right. In 200m the chalky track beyond the hedge turns to the right gently up a coombe. In 170m leave the Access Land through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate by a two-way signpost ('Dagger's Gate 4/5') and follow a clear path at the bottom of the coombe end. In 120m the path veers to the right and commences a gentle ascent towards a metal field gate. In 130m you pass a disused pit on the left (on the OS map) and in 80m go through the metal field gate and continue along the car wide farm track, curving further uphill to the left.

In 150m you pass the corner of a fenced wooded belt (fantastic back views from here along the valley just walked up along) and ignore a first metal field gate away on the right. Keep uphill to the upper right-hand field corner and in 50m *turn right* through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate and follow the farm track, now almost on the level. In 150m you reach some farm buildings (**Sleight Buildings** on the OS map) by a two-way signpost and **[!]** *turn left* along a bridleway to 'Dagger's Gate', still uphill. In 130m the track levels out with views ahead to the coastal hills to the east (Hambury Tout, Bindon Hill, Flowers Barrow). In 180m you go through a hedge (a field boundary) and in 300m pass some large farm sheds. In 90m by a metal field gate leading onto a main road (Winfrith Newburgh to Lulworth Cove), **[!]** *turn hard right* back on yourself, gently uphill a car wide gravel track, an ancient drove road. In 450m you reach the brow of the rise by a perpendicular field boundary on the right and in 300m go through an often-open metal field gate.

[!] **Immediately** *turn left* over an unmarked stile into a pasture and follow its left-hand boundary (a permissive path). From the brow in 50m you get fine views on the right of the **Isle of Portland**. In 80m in the left-bottom field corner go through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate and descend a few steps to a wide grassy ledge along the rim of a very scenic clifftop dry valley: **Scratchy Bottom** (second in a 2012 poll for 'Britain's Worst Place Name'). **On the left** it is flanked by Newlands Warren and leads to a large caravan site and then Hambury Tout (hill), this side of Lulworth Cove, with Bindon Hill visible beyond Lulworth Cove. **On the right** the coombe is flanked by Swyre Head, your route to the Coast Path. *Turn right* along the grassy ledge along a clear grassy path, curving slowly to the left **without losing height**, heading for a metal field gate 430m away (i.e. ignore the metal gate at the left-hand bottom of the fenced area). Go through a metal gate to the left of the metal field gate and follow a barbed wire fence along the whaleback ridge of **Swyre Head** towards the coast (the proto-germanic 'swyre' means 'vale').

In 110m the terrain drops a little and you get first views of some chalky cliffs on the right. In 15m a public footpath crosses by a marker stone on the right (towards 'The Warren' to the right) as the top of **Durdle Door** comes into view on the left. [*The area to the left and right of the fence is **Access Land**, you can therefore also walk to the right of the fence with better views towards the West. There is a metal gate at the bottom of the area to re-join this side of the fence.*] In 440m leave the fenced area through a metal gate with a Lulworth Estate Permissive Path Walk 6 marker onto the **South West Coast Path** (SWCP), here running along this stretch the **Jurassic Coast**. The Main Walk joins from the right. The route now turns left towards Lulworth Cove, but first **[!]** *turn right* for 30m for the best views of **Bat's Head and its natural arch** (similar to Durdle Door, if somewhat smaller), **rock stack and beach**.

From the gate *turn left* along the coast and pick up the directions above in the main text at the asterisk *).

Afternoon Extension (Lulworth Cove Beach and Bindon Hill Loop) (add 1.1 km and 132m ascent)

Turn left along the shingle beach of the shell-shaped **Lulworth Cove**. Ignore the footpath turning up left (closed for a few years due to a cliff fall) and in 550m *turn left* up some wooden steps up the flank of the steep cliff. At the top of the rise continue in the same direction at a three-way junction by a marker stone on the right and in 10m emerge from the thicket and continue along a clear path towards the boundary fence of the **Lulworth Ranges** a bit higher up. In 100m ascend **Bindon Hill** along a long, stepped section and in 50m you have the boundary fence on your right. You pass a two-way signpost en route uphill ('West Lulworth, Youth Hostel') and at the top of the steepest bit of the rise go through a wooden kissing gate by a marker stone on the left. Ignore a left turn along the fence and keep ascending the hill along the boundary fence.

In 100m by a metal gate on the right into the MOD Range, **[!]** *turn left* away from the fence ('West Lulworth ¾'), straight down the top of the whaleback ridge (275°) and in 220m walk through remnants of ancient earthworks. In another 260m, on a grassy ledge just before a steeper descent (the outer earthwork around Bindon Hill), *turn right* along the ledge. Ignore a first left fork (335°) and in another 20m, where the ledge curves further to the right, you continue in the same direction off the ledge, gently downhill along a chalky track to the bottom corner of the Access Land by **West Lulworth village** (350°). You leave the Access Land through either of two metal gates (20m apart) with National Trail and footpath markers and continue along a grassy path between bushes. In 50m go through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate by a Coast Path signpost and *turn left* along a car wide gravel track. In 70m, just before a T-junction with the **B3070**, the Main Walk joins from the left along a tarmac path through a gap in a stone wall.

Go down to the B road and pick up the directions above at the double asterisk **).

Lulworth Park Shortcut (cut 3.7 km/2.3 mi)

You have a wooded strip on the right and in 350m – just after a field boundary on the left – pass a marker post. In 250m the track turns left by Lulworth Park's **North Lodges** on the right (on the OS map) by a multi-directional marker post. *Turn left* ('Lulworth Estate Walk 3' and Purbeck Way) and in 160m pass a fenced reservoir on the left and in 170m ignore a right turning footpath along a field boundary. In 180m go past a small wood on the track, passing a metal bollard and starting to gently descend, with **Coombe Keynes and its church** visible half left below (foliage permitting). In 320m *turn right* uphill at a T-junction with a tarmac lane (the Purbeck Way, signed for 'Haremere Wood 1') and in 250m at the top of the rise by the thatched **Kick Hill Farm** you start to descend on the lane.

In 60m where the lane turns to the right by an **Army Ranges Warning**-sign, you continue in the same direction along the **Purbeck Way**, a car wide gravel track, ('Haremere Wd ¾'). In 50m pass a metal car barrier to its right and continue in the same direction between hedges. In 320m go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate into an open rolling pasture and follow bridleway and Lulworth Estate Walk 3 markers along a clear car wide track a little to the right (i.e. ignore a faint left fork up a little rise). In 350m go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate and continue along the track in the same direction through another pasture. In 120m you have the fenced **Haremere Wood** (recently re-forested) on the left and in 130m go through a small

wooden field gate into the wood, with a barbed wire fence on the right. In 250m you reach a signposted four-way junction of tracks and paths.

Turn left ('Woodstreet ½') uphill through the mature part of the wood and pick up the directions in the main text at the quintuple asterisk *****).

East Lulworth Loop

You pass the Estate Office to its right and ignore any right turns into the large car park. In 380m from the church leave Lulworth Park onto a B road at a bend. *Turn right* along it. In 130m by **The Weld Arms** *turn left* along a minor lane (Cockles) 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 along a quiet lane through East Lulworth to the right of a triangular green 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 closed (see the sign to the left of the track), continue along the tarmac lane and pick up the directions below under **Home Farm Diversion**.

If the Permissive Route is open, *turn right* along the track and pick up the directions above at the triple asterisk ***).

Home Farm Diversion

Follow the lane 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 quadruple asterisk ****).