

Walk description:

You park at the swannery (free), where there are toilets and an excellent restaurant. Climbing past Chapel Hill (Walk 3354 visits the summit) and through Abbotsbury you use the Inland Coast Path to travel west. The path along the ridge affords superb views in all directions. There is the option to shorten the walk to five miles and miss West Bexington, but the full walk takes you for three miles alongside Chesil Beach. At the eastern end the beach is made up of pebbles whose average size is that of a pea. As you travel east the average size increases gradually. If you were to follow the full 29 kilometres of the beach to Portland, you would find the average there to be the size of an apple! It is said that fishermen lost in fog who landed on the beach could tell where they were from the size of the pebbles. Two other walks from Abbotsbury (3349 and 3354) complement this walk.

Access information:

From the B3157 (Bridport to Weymouth) turn right (south) at the signpost for the swannery. Park there in the free car park.

Start grid ref: SY577847**OS map:** Explorer OL 15**Walk length:** 7.7 miles**Duration:** 180 minutes**Height gain:** 200 metres**Contributor:** Brian and Anne Sandland**Weathercall:** Get a local forecast for this walk.

Call 09068 020 504 from your phone or mobile. Or dial 09065 22 45 02 from your fax machine to receive a fax.
09068 calls 60p/min, 09065 calls £1.50p/min.

Features:

- Hills or Fells
- Sea
- Pub
- Toilets
- Museum
- Play Area
- Church
- Castle
- National Trust/NTS
- Wildlife
- Birds
- Flowers
- Great Views
- Butterflies
- Food Shop
- Good for Kids
- Moor
- Tea Shop
- Woodland
- Ancient Monument



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- 1**  From the swannery entrance take the path signposted 'Village, Tithe Barn and Chapel'. Soon bear left over a wall (signposted 'Chapel and Village Via Rope Walk'). (Grid ref: 577847)
- 2**  Soon cross a footbridge and continue uphill by a stone wall (right). After a gate* continue on a lane to the B3157 and turn right. Then go left into Back Street to a signposted footpath left, just before Spring Cottage. You could detour left first and visit the chapel on its hill if you wish, but this is part of Walk 3354. (Grid ref: 576849)
- 3**  The path climbs quite steeply and soon affords excellent views back. Ignore a signposted footpath right to Lime Kiln car park and continue through two gates to a fork. Take the left fork (signposted 'Hill Fort one and a quarter'). (Grid ref: 578854)
- 4**  At the top of the ridge go left (west) through a gate and on along the clear and fairly level track (excellent views of Chesil Beach, Portland, etc., east and south). Ignore paths forking off left and continue through a gate and across a narrow lane (signposts), then on past a trig point, still along the ridge top (the view west now begins to open out). Your path converges with the B3157. Cross and take the path opposite. (Grid ref: 574861)
- 5**  Follow a wall on your left (and turn left with it if you wish to shorten the walk). Alternatively, carry on parallel to the road on your right. Fork left at the sign for West Bexington. (Grid ref: 551866)
- 6**  Descend to another signpost, then go right beside a hedge (left). At a wall go through a gate (signpost) and continue ahead, following a clear path over Lime Kiln Hill. This path passes a deep shaft. Look down to see beautiful ferns growing in the walls. After another gate briefly rejoin the road, then in ten yards take a track off left, angling down (signposts) to another track, where you turn left for West Bexington (signpost). (Grid ref: 546868)
- 7**  At a road go left and continue downhill to the sea, where you turn left again. (Grid ref: 536873)
- 8**  You will now walk alongside Chesil Beach for around three miles. Note that the pebbles making up the bank of Chesil Beach at this point are approximately the size of peas. As you travel eastwards the average size of the pebbles will gradually increase. In due course your path swings round left away from the beach and within a few hundred yards, you need to take a signposted footpath right off the coast path, which continues round to the left of Chapel Hill. (Grid ref: 531864)
- 9**  Follow the fence on your right, then go through two gates and continue as before with a fence on your right, until the path forks left towards the base of Chapel Hill. Follow this to a stile at a wall. (Grid ref: 566845)

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Cross and continue with a hedge on your right, following it left to another stile and footbridge. Cross both and use a short section of permissive footpath to return to your start point.

(Grid ref: 574843)