



Broadwindsor, Lewesdon Hill and Pilsdon Pen

A moderate walk, with ascent to the summits of Dorset's two highest hills

Essential Facts

- Route distance: 12.3 km (7.7 miles)
- Approximate time: 4 hours
- Approx. total ascent: 300 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: ST 437 026
- GPS Ref: ST 43747 02621
- Recommended O.S. Map: Explorer 116
- Toughness Rating: Dorset 3

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

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CHALLENGE ?

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An Individual Walk
A Team Effort

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

This route goes from the village of Broadwindsor, west of Beaminster.

From the little square in the centre of Broadwindsor, **S**, take the road down hill, signed for Axminster, leaving the Post Office over on your left. At the bottom of the hill turn left along a track past the Old Toll House. Climb through three fields and in the fourth keep the hedge on your right to reach a stile at the base of Lewesdon Hill. Follow the wooded path ahead to the summit at **A**. Take a breather - and take in the view.

Continue down the other side to a National Trust sign. Now keep left to follow a bank to a T-junction. Turn right to reach a concrete track. Turn left and after a few metres go through a gate on the right. Turn right to follow the field edge, at the end go diagonally left to a gate. Go diagonally right across the next field to a gate onto a road, **B**.

Turn right and immediately right again. Keep ahead to reach a fence, turn left and follow the fence to a gate gap. Continue in the same direction to reach a stile on the right. Go down some steps, cross a boardwalk and climb to a stile. Go diagonally left across a field to a gate gap, then keep straight ahead to a stile in the fence opposite. Cross a track and continue to cross another track to a stile. Cross a field to a fingerpost and follow the sign to Pilsdon to reach a gate.

Now follow an enclosed track to a road. Cross to a footpath and keep the field edge on your left. Go through a hunting gate to cross a footbridge, then continue with the hedge on the left. Go through a gate and veer right, with farm buildings on your left, to a gate to the left of a barn. Turn right along a track to a road, **C**.

Turn right and walk along the road until you reach a gate on the left beside a barn. Go through and veer left to a gate in the opposite hedge. In the next field climb diagonally left to a gate. Turn left and keep a hedge on your left to reach a stile just below a large house. Turn left and follow the garden perimeter to a waymarked gap in the hedge on the right, go through and veer left to a stile on to a road. Turn left to a T-junction at the parking area for Pilsdon Pen. Cross a stile by the National Trust sign and follow an obvious path to the triangulation pillar at **D**.

Now walk along the elongated centre to a gap in the embankment, walk forward to a fence and turn right to reach a hunting gate. Turn right to walk along the top of a plantation. When this ends descend diagonally left to a gate. Follow a fenced track to a road, cross over and continue to Lower Newnham Farm. In front of the farmhouse turn right and left through barns to reach a track.

Follow this track to a waymarked gate, go diagonally left to a gate in the top left hand corner. Cross a field to a gate on your left in the opposite hedge. Cross a green lane and walk straight ahead across a field to a gate. Turn left to reach a road. Turn right along the road to a junction with the B3164, turn left to return to Broadwindsor Square. **S**.



View From Lewesdon Hill



Pilsdon Pen Hill

Refreshment

The White Lion
Public House
The Square,
Broadwindsor
Tel: 01308 867070
Meals and bar snacks
available
Real Ales

Broadwindsor Craft and
Design Centre
Licensed restaurant and
tea rooms
Broadwindsor
Tel: 01308 868362
Lunches, light snacks,
cream teas



The White Lion

LOCAL INFO

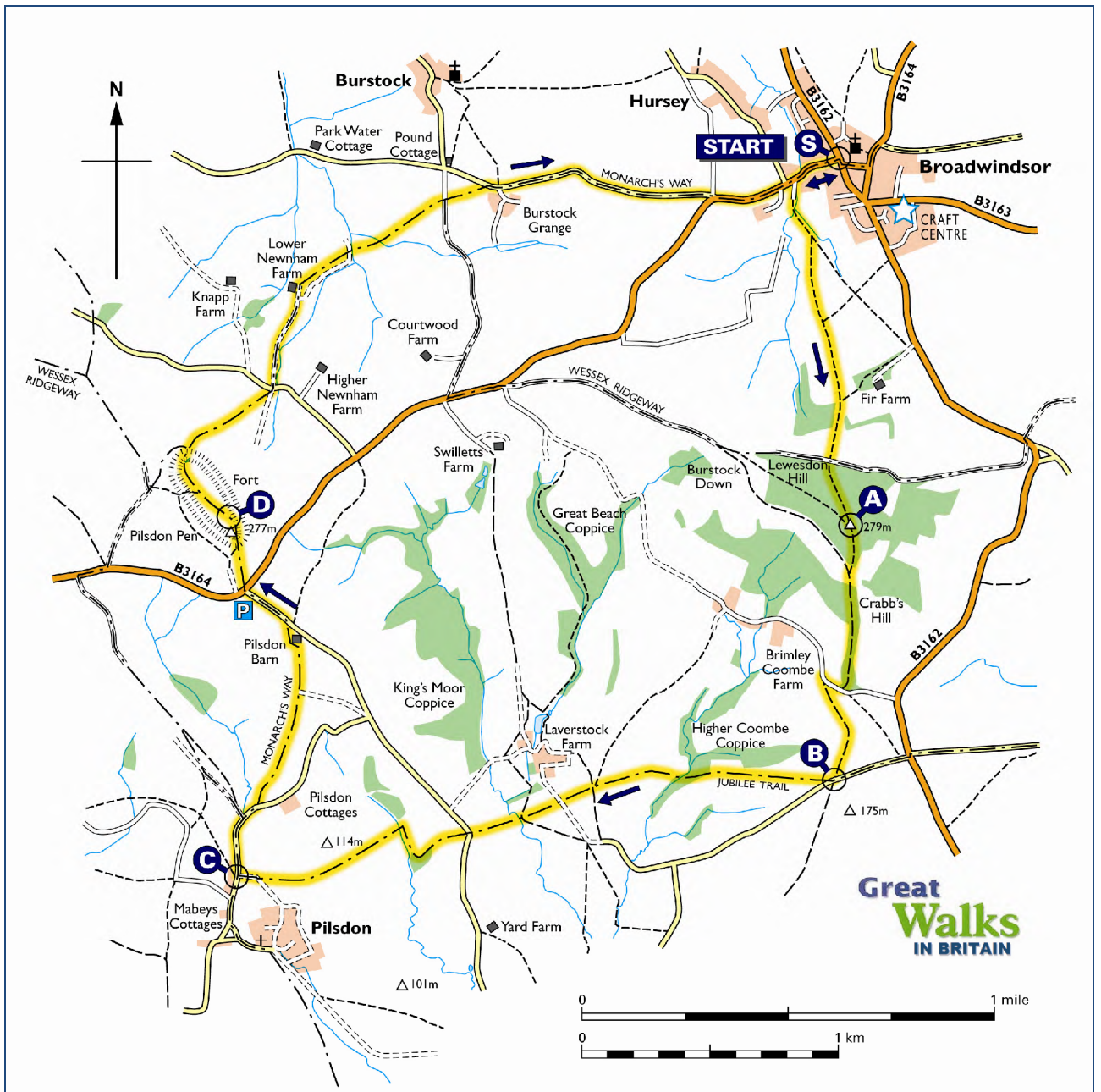
Broadwindsor is an attractive village sitting at the foot of Lewesdon Hill. There is a Post Office and General Store and a public house. The Craft Centre was established in 1986 in a range of redundant farm buildings on the edge of the village.

Lewesdon Hill and **Pilsdon Pen** - the competition: For many years there has been debate as to which hill is the highest in Dorset, with the most popular opinion being that Lewesdon is about 2 metres taller than its near neighbour. Both hills dominate the surrounding landscape and have commanding views over Marshwood Vale with its rolling patchwork of fields and hedgerows. Unlike the rest of Dorset this valley is formed of clay, which gives it its distinctive bowl shape. It is a refuge for rare species of plants and animals. The view over Marshwood Vale is said to have been described as the best in England by William Wordsworth who lived in nearby Racedown Lodge during the 1790s.

The second half of this walk follows the **Monarchs Way**. This is a 610 mile trail following the escape of Charles II after the Battle of Worcester in 1651. After his attempt to flee to France from Charmouth failed Charles headed inland and spent the night of 23 September 1651 at the Castle Inn in Broadwindsor. The inn burnt down in 1865, but the cottage in the Square that now stands on the site has a plaque commemorating his stay.

BROADWINDSOR, LEWESDON HILL & PILSDON PEN G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
BRO S	S	ST 43747 02621	193
BRO A	A	ST 43775 01186	280
BRO B	B	ST 43710 00198	185
BRO C	C	SY 41388 99817	118
BRO D	D	ST 41366 01149	280



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Dorset** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Dorset may be equivalent to a moderate route in Devon & Dartmoor..