



Sutton Poyntz and Osmington's White Horse

A coastal and inland walk with one steep ascent rewarded by spectacular views - and a unique chalk figure

Essential Facts

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Route distance: | 16.2 km (10.1 miles) |
| ▪ Approximate time: | 4 hours 30 mins |
| ▪ Approx. total ascent: | 300 metres |
| ▪ Start point Grid Ref: | SY 706 838 |
| ▪ GPS Ref: | SY 70650 83822 |
| ▪ Recommended O.S. Map: | Explorer OL15 |
| ▪ Toughness Rating | Dorset 3 |

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

**Up For A
CHALLENGE ?**

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Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

Today's walk starts from Sutton Poyntz, just north-east of Weymouth. Set out from the village centre, **S. Facing** the pond, and with your back to the Springhead pub, turn left along the village street. Pass the mill on the right and then turn left along a footpath between houses. Go through a kissing-gate to cross a field, turn right and then left, to keep a stream on your left, through two fields. High up on the hill to the left is the famous Osmington White Horse. Now cross a stone stile and in the next field go half right to a stile. Cross a track and then climb to the top right hand corner of a field. Turn right and then left to keep a hedge on your left. At the end of the field turn left to cross a stile and walk through trees to the street in Osmington, **A.**

Turn right and at a junction keep straight on along Church Lane. Turn right to walk through the churchyard with the church on your left. Go through two gates and then veer left towards houses. Go through a gate on the left leading to the A353. Turn right and walk a few metres along the pavement then cross over to follow a path beside a barn, signed to Redcliffe Point. At the end of the enclosed section go diagonally right to a stile. Cross and fork left to drop down to a stile just beyond a building on the right. At the next gate go diagonally left to meet the Coast Path at **B.**

Turn left and follow the Coast Path for about 2 km along the back of Pontins Holiday Camp and onto the road at Osmington Mills. Turn right along the road and at the toilet block and Car Park turn left to follow the Coast Path to Ringstead. Walk directly in front of the pub and turn right at the end of the building. After about 750 metres turn left signed to Spring Bottom, **C.**

Cross a track and continue along a narrow path to a bridge. Cross it and turn left and right, go through a gate to Upton. Climb steeply through woods to a stile. Cross it and continue straight ahead to a road. Keep straight ahead on the road through Upton and up to the A353. Turn right along the pavement until you reach Lower Dairy Farm. Cross the road and go through a gate opposite to follow a sunken track. When the track ends keep straight ahead with a lone tree on your right. Once past the tree veer right to cross between two telegraph poles. When Pixon barn comes into view on your left head towards it. Go through a gate to the right of the barn at **D.**

Now follow the track across White Horse Hill for about 2.4 km, through numerous gates, enjoying the sea views towards Weymouth and Portland. Ignore the first turning to Sutton Poyntz. Pass a triangulation pillar on the left and at the next junction of paths take a left fork, **E.**

Go through a gate and turn left to follow a path downhill to Sutton Poyntz. At the bottom turn right to go through two gates and follow a track to the Water Pumping Station. Turn left to return to the Mill Pond, **S.**



Sutton Poyntz Mill Pond



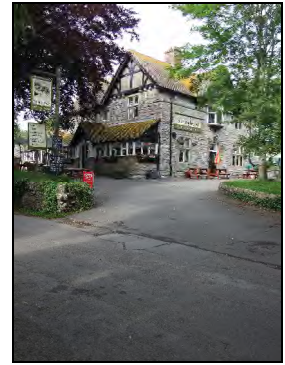
The Dramatic Coastline

Refreshment

The Springhead
Public House
Sutton Poyntz
Tel: 01305 832117
Meals, Large garden

Smugglers Inn
Public House
Osmington Mills
Tel: 01305 833125
Meals and Real Ale
Outside seating

The Sunray at
Osmington
Public House
Osmington
Tel: 01305 832148
Meals and Real Ales
Garden



The Spinghead Pub

LOCAL INFO

Sutton Poyntz is a charming village with thatched cottages clustered around the Mill Pond. The Victorian pumping station still supplies water to Weymouth. It has a museum outlining the history from Roman times to the present day, but is only open by appointment. The village is the Overcombe of Thomas Hardy's Trumpet Major. Poxwell Manor, passed at point **D** was also featured in the book as Oxwell.

Osmington White Horse is unique amongst chalk horse figures in that it is the only one with a rider. It was cut in 1808, representing King George III who was a regular visitor to Weymouth. It is said that he did not like being depicted riding away from Weymouth and never visited again. He must have been mad.

John Constable honeymooned in the Vicarage in Osmington in 1816. He painted the picture of Weymouth Bay which now hangs in the National Gallery.

Osmington Mills is one of the best places along the Jurassic Coast to find fossils. The nineteenth century landlord of the Smugglers Inn was thought to be the ringleader of the most notorious gang of smugglers.

SUTTON POYNTZ & OSMINGTON'S WHITE HORSE G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
SUT S	S	SY 70650 83822	29
SUT A	A	SY 72387 83229	54
SUT B	B	SY 71758 81932	32
SUT C	C	SY 74386 81401	26
SUT D	D	SY 73564 83851	110
SUT E	E	SY 71006 84772	141



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IN BRITAIN

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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..