

Abbotsbury Walks



Beach & Gardens / Around Chapel Hill

Start Point

- If starting at the Swan Inn, head west down the main road, round the right hand bend and continue up to the Ilchester Arms pub. From the Ilchester Arms, head west for 50m and take the path to the left by the village shop.

Long Route

- Continue along this path to a barn, gate and path junction. **Here you can take an excursion off the route by going through the gate signposted "Chapel" and up the hill to St Catherine's Chapel.** Otherwise go right, signposted "Chesil Beach".
- Stay on this lane taking the left turn at the Y-junction. Follow the path downhill, passing a thatched cottage, before going through a gate to reach a road.
- Turn right, signposted "Abbotsbury Village" continue up to the main road.
- Cross the road to the pavement and head west out of village for 50m until the pavements run out. Cross the road again and take the footpath running parallel to the road for 100m until you reach a minor road marked for Chesil Beach and Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens.
- Go down this road passing the Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens on the left, to the beach. At the beach there is a car park, cafe and toilets. There is a walkway up onto the top of Chesil Beach and some more information about the beach and environment.
- Join the South West Coast Path at the end of road by a mini-roundabout, and continue south east on the shingle path and then footpath to reach a stile and path on the right marked 'Swannery 3/4'.

Short Route

- Take this path to a direction marker stone. At the South West Coast Path marker take the right hand path marked "Swannery" over a couple of stiles/gates, a footbridge and on to a gravel road. The Swannery and car park is a short way to the right.
- Go left up the gravel road, signposted "Village, Tithe Barn, Chapel", passing some cottages and the Mill House. Continue up the road to a road junction, bear left up past the ancient Tithe Barn and Children's Farm, Old Abbey and Church on the right, returning to the main road corner and centre of Abbotsbury.

No cliffs form behind the mighty Chesil Beach, born from landslides that eroded after the last ice age, 20,000 years ago. As the sea claws against the shingle, rich wildlife nestles in protected habitats behind the beach and hopeful anglers cast their lines into the waves.

Walk Facts

Start point	Ilchester Arms or Swan Inn, Abbotsbury
Distance	3.4 miles / 5.5km or 2 miles / 3.2km
Walking Time	70 or 40 mins not including stops
Difficulty	Easy

