

Portesham to Abbotsbury



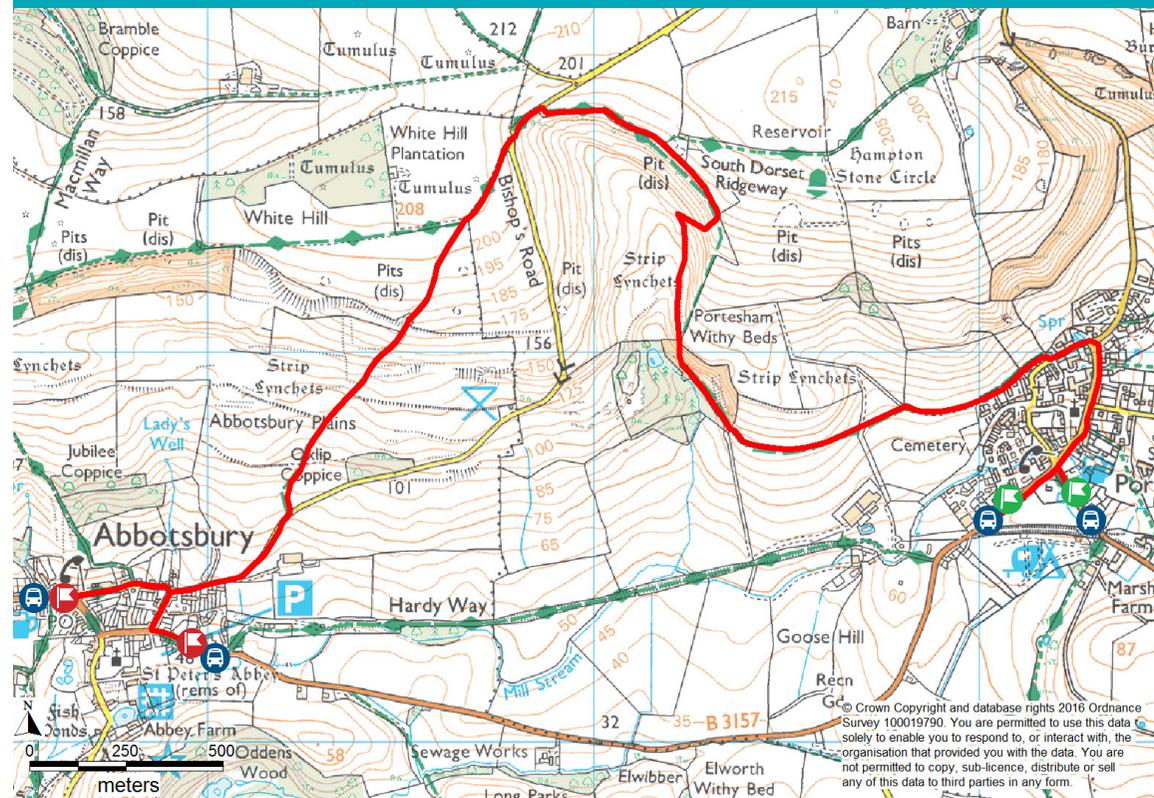
Portesham Withy Beds

- Walk on the pavement by the main road towards the minor road junction by the Kings Arms. Take the road past the pub, a green telephone box, the old school house and St Peter's Church until the right hand bend in the road by the duck pond.
- Turn left along Back Street for 100m and take the signposted footpath to the right for Portesham Withy Beds and along behind the houses.
- Continue to a gate onto a farm road, turn left along the road, then at the junction go straight on, through a gate and along a field path with the hedge to the left, to another gate.
- Go through the gate and take the path which bears right, and down through some trees, with a muddy patch, to a gate into a field. Take the field path to the right for 100m to 2 large stones then do a hard right turn up the hill to a gate and fingerpost marked for Abbotsbury.
- Ignore the gate. Instead, turn left uphill with the fence on the right, then across the field to a path through the bushes. Ignore the stile on the right. Carry on this path to a path junction with a marker stone.
- Go straight on, up to a minor road and gate. Turn left along road for 50m to a gate on the right and farm track which is the South Dorset Ridgeway. Continue along the track to a gate on the left with a fingerpost to Abbotsbury.
- Take this path, leaving the South Dorset Ridgeway, down over the fields. There is no discernible path through the fields but head to the left of St Catherine's Chapel and towards the Fleet and you will find a small ridge of grass which leads to a gate marked 'Abbotsbury Round Walk, Old Railway Walk'.
- Go through the gate and head along a path downhill to a sign for Abbotsbury half a mile away. Turn right down the road to Abbotsbury. At road junction, take Rosemary Lane to the Swan pub bus stop and Back Street to the Ilchester Arms bus stop.

Some of what appear to be manmade terraces or strip lynchets here are the flat tops of ancient clay landslides. Withies grow where water springs from the chalk bedrock; the South Dorset Ridgeway's White Hill is aptly named.

Walk Facts

Start point	Village Hall bus stop or Kings Arms bus stop, Portesham
Distance	2.8 miles / 4.5 km
Walking Time	80 mins not including stops
Difficulty	Moderate



This walk can be made into a circular walk by taking the 1.8 mile Abbotsbury Walk, "Portesham by the Old Railway".



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