Maxse Walk

25th to 29th March 2015

5 Circular Walks

Dorset Coast and Hardy’s Hills

**March 25th**

**Near Powerstock.   10.5 miles.   1100 ft ascent.**

We set off from Mappercombe Manor to join the Mangerton river near Powerstock, and follow a remote coombe and nature reserve to South Poorton.   We continue walking through the Mapperton Manor estate, with unspoiled hills, rivers, valleys and a further nature reserve back to Mappercombe.   Picnic lunch.

Half day option (6 miles).   Follow same route for 3 miles to South Poorton, and return by the final section of above to Mappercombe Manor, with optional diversion to 2 local pubs for a laate lunch.

Options in the afternoon to visit stunning Mapperton Manor gardens, or Kingscombe Meadows Nature Reserve."

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**March 26th**

**Abbotsbury 13 miles; 1700ft ascent**

After a bracing climb out of Abbotsbury we walk west along the South Dorset Ridgeway, spectacular sea views over Chesil Beach, to Limekiln Hill. Turning in land we head towards Puncknowle and on to The White Horse Inn at Litton Cheney for lunch.

Continue along valley to beautiful  village of Littlebredy, with renowned gardens, climb round edge of Crow hill  reaching Ridgeway once more and descend back into Abbotsbury with views of Portland Bill, The Swannery and Lyme Bay.

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**March 27th**

**Near Buckland Newton 12 miles. 1400 feet ascent**

We set off across the luscious grasslands of the Blackmoor Vale, past Mapowder and climb up to Nettlecomb Tout (pronounced towt & crossed by Tess of Tess of the D’Urbervilles). Easy going, much above 800 feet eases us down into Lyscombe Bottom with a 350 ft climb over to Plush for a latish lunch (8 miles).

A delightful two hour walk with views across the Blackmore Vale takes us back (4 miles).

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**March 28th**

**Lulworth    11 miles;    1600 ft ascent**

A bracing walk out of Lulworth Cove Car Park onto South West Coast path walking west past Durdle Door, impressive views to IOW and Portland Bill. Passing inland over Chaldon Down to Chaldon Herring(East Chaldon) to The Sailor’s Return for lunch.

Continue on to Winfrith Newburgh followed by gentle climb up to Purbeck way descending down to Lulworth, wonderful sea views once more, with possible detour to Lulworth Cove, depending on stamina.

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**March 29th**

**Purbeck Hills 12 miles 1400 ft ascent**

We set off from Studland Bay and across the Heathland Reserve for a steep climb up the Cretaceous chalk to reach the Purbeck ridge on Nine Barrrow Down, a superb spot for our picnic.

The glorious ridge walk continues down & up to reach the fabulous coast path past the Old Harry rocks to complete a memorable day along Studland Bay.

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