

POINTS OF INTEREST

Originally built in 1720 of brick, King George III then stated he preferred stone, necessitating rapid and expensive cladding of **Kingston House** to maintain patronage!



The Frome's **watermeadows** are Hardy's 'Vale of Great Dairies', where Tess D'Urbeyfield met Angel Clare.



Hardy built **Max Gate** in 1885 and made it his home until his death in 1928. He wrote *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure* whilst here.



Grey's Bridge was financed by Mrs Laura Pitt, neé Grey, of Kingston Maurward, to bypass the Fordington slums. Hardy portrayed it as the place where the melancholic went to contemplate life, whilst looking down into the river.



On display in **Dorset County Museum's** Hardy gallery are many of Hardy's belongings and papers.



St Michael's Church is where Hardy's parents met, his father played in the church band and where they, alongside his heart, are now all buried near the yew tree.



Photo credits:
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KINGSTON MAURWARD WALKABOUTS

WALKABOUT 2

Kingston Maurward to Max Gate 'Park & Stride'

This walk links the Kingston Maurward Estate, on which Hardy was raised, with Max Gate, the home he built from his literary successes. Hardy loved walking these routes, and later wrote their features into the journeys of his characters: the bridge where Fanny Robin collapsed on her way to Casterbridge workhouse, the church of the Mellstock quire and the water meadows where Tess met Angel. Can you spot any others?

There is a choice of two routes - a shorter one (1.6 miles) or an alternative one via Grey's Bridge (2.7 miles).

Parking at Kingston Maurward Animal Park and Gardens is **free** to visitors to the site and users of the Park & Stride.

Appropriate footwear is recommended, since wet or muddy conditions can be encountered at any time.

Kingston Maurward Animal Park & Gardens

Open Daily (Feb – Oct): 10am – 5.30pm (last entry 4.30pm)
01305 215003 www.kmc.ac.uk/gardens/

Max Gate (National Trust)

Open Daily (Mar – Oct): 11am – 5pm (last entry 4.30pm)
01305 262538 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/max-gate

Dorset County Museum

Open Mon-Sat (Apr – Oct): 10am – 5pm
01305 262735 www.dorsetcountymuseum.org/

See websites for **more details** incl. **winter opening hours**. **Admission charges** apply to all three sites.

These leaflets can be downloaded from www.dorsetforyou.com/walkabouts

Working in partnership



KINGSTON MAURWARD WALKABOUTS

Kingston Maurward to Max Gate 'Park & Stride'



KINGSTON MAURWARD TO MAX GATE 'PARK & STRIDE'

A choice of two routes - a shorter one (1.6 miles) or an alternative one via Grey's Bridge (2.7 miles).

STARTING POINT

Kingston Maurward car park, Stinsford

DISTANCE

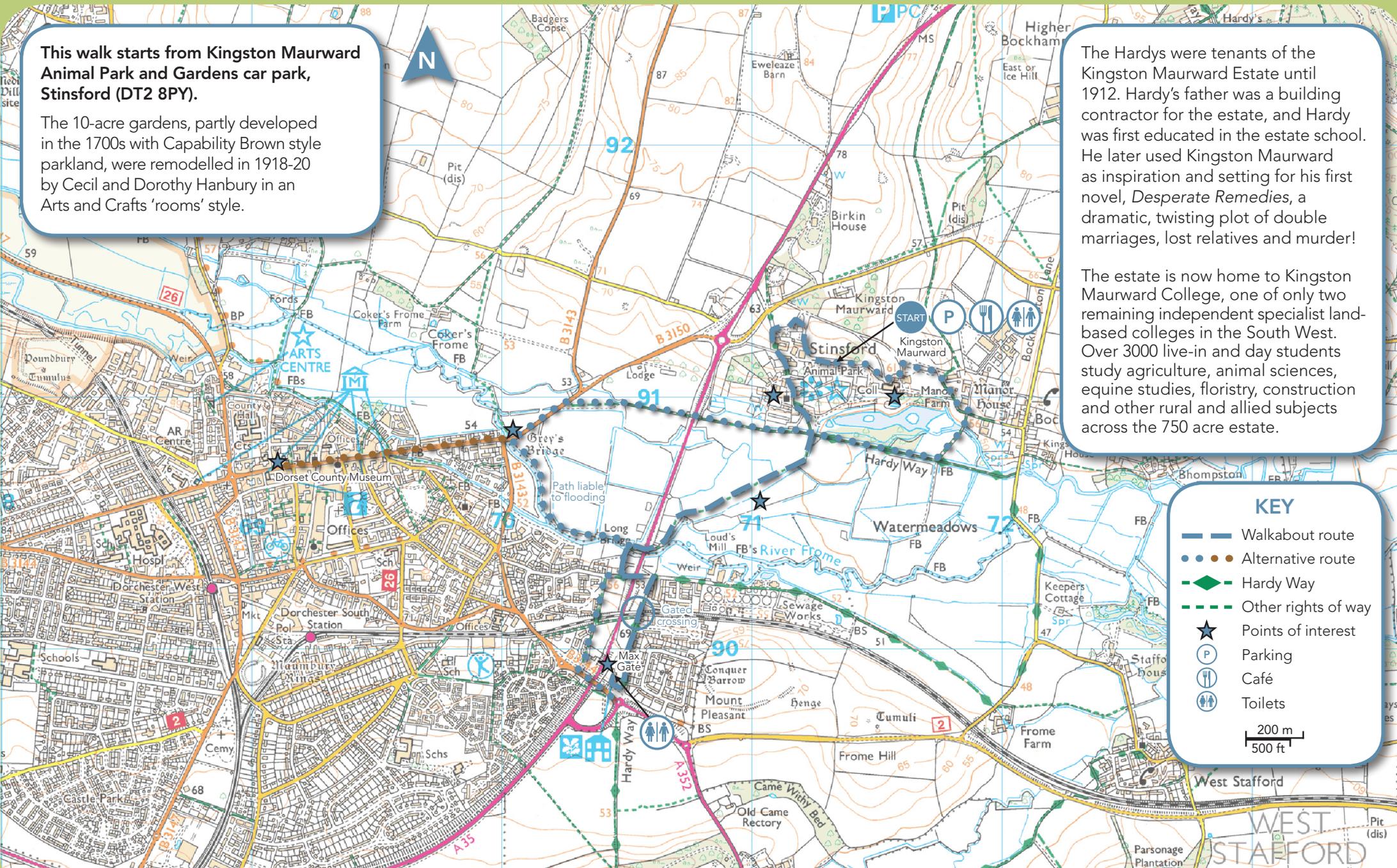
approximately 1.6 miles

This walk starts from Kingston Maurward Animal Park and Gardens car park, Stinsford (DT2 8PY).

The 10-acre gardens, partly developed in the 1700s with Capability Brown style parkland, were remodelled in 1918-20 by Cecil and Dorothy Hanbury in an Arts and Crafts 'rooms' style.

The Hardys were tenants of the Kingston Maurward Estate until 1912. Hardy's father was a building contractor for the estate, and Hardy was first educated in the estate school. He later used Kingston Maurward as inspiration and setting for his first novel, *Desperate Remedies*, a dramatic, twisting plot of double marriages, lost relatives and murder!

The estate is now home to Kingston Maurward College, one of only two remaining independent specialist land-based colleges in the South West. Over 3000 live-in and day students study agriculture, animal sciences, equine studies, floristry, construction and other rural and allied subjects across the 750 acre estate.



KEY

- Walkabout route
- - - Alternative route
- Hardy Way
- - - Other rights of way
- ★ Points of interest
- P Parking
- ☺ Café
- ♿ Toilets

200 m
500 ft