



Route 3: Littlemoor to Weymouth via the Relief Road. (3 miles; Approx 1 hour 30 minutes.)

Turn LEFT out of car park and uphill. Turn RIGHT into Beverley Road. Pass under flats at end of road, then steeply uphill on tarmac path to LEFT, onto Littlemoor 'green bridge'. Cross bridge and turn LEFT down to footpath/cycleway beside Relief Road [Q]. Continue gently uphill to Lorton Lane 'green bridge'. Do not cross bridge, but continue on footpath/cycleway to right of Relief Road. Turn RIGHT at end (NOT through underpass) [R] and continue under railway to next underpass, where you turn LEFT to pass through [S], then RIGHT to reach Dorchester Road at Morrison's Supermarket. Cross road and turn LEFT. [T] *

Shortly turn RIGHT into Icen Road [U]. At end turn LEFT [V] and right into Radipole Park Drive [W]. Continue on right of roadway, to reach Swannery Bridge and Weymouth.

* OR FROM [T&U] keep ahead, turning RIGHT into Roman Close. Round bend, turn RIGHT into footpath, then LEFT. Cross Spa Road into Queens Road, turning RIGHT at Coronation Crescent, then LEFT into footpath to Radipole Park Drive.

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The representation of a track or path is no evidence of a public right of way. This is not a Definitive Map of Rights of Way and has no legal status. Users of all routes shown on this map do so entirely at their own risk. We cannot guarantee that all routes will always be passable.

Walks start from Littlemoor.

From the shoppers' car park: walk LEFT up Louviers Road to the first bus stop (just beyond Canberra Road), then cross road and walk up track to begin WALKS 1 and 2.

These walks explore the newly designated "Lorton Valley Nature Park". This includes: the RSPB's Lodmoor Reserve, Lodmoor Country Park, Two Mile Coppice (owned and managed by The Woodland Trust) and Dorset Wildlife Trust's Lorton Meadows nature reserve.

TRAVEL

There is an hourly train service to Upwey Station from Weymouth, or Dorchester and stations to the north. Footpaths and roads lead from the station to Littlemoor. (See 'Walking Littlemoor' map.)

The Number 2 bus service from Weymouth circulates around Littlemoor and returns to Wemouth. On Louviers Road there are 3 suitable bus stops for walking south, and two small (free) parking areas.

Bus & train information is available from the Traveline: 0871-200 2233
www.travelinesw.com
 See also: www.traveldorset.org

Use Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL15 (Purbeck & South Dorset)

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Malcolm Beeson's
 Walking and cycling around Weymouth from
Littlemoor

Routes to explore the Weymouth countryside

Area 5
Lorton Meadows Nature Reserve

Key

- Route 1
- - - Route 1 alternative
- - - Two Mile Coppice
- - - Route 2
- - - Route 2 alternative
- - - Route 3
- - - Route 3 alternative
- Road

Gradient (Arrows point downhill)

- ← low
- ←← medium
- ←←← steep
- ||| steps

Height in Metres

- 30-60
- 0-30
- Buildings
- Car Park
- ★ Starfish

“Starfish – a Remnant of World War 2”

A short distance to the west of the Legacy Trail viewpoint (to the right, looking towards the sea) is all that is left of a little known part of Weymouth’s wartime defences. The remains of two small brick buildings mark the location of a secret bombing decoy of a type known as “Starfish”.

These decoys comprised of a control unit with a power source, attached by cables to various decoys including coal fires, oil fires, lights and explosions, which could be activated in the countryside at the start of an air raid on Weymouth, to deceive enemy bombers into thinking that this was their intended target.

The brick underground bunker was entered down concrete steps. (PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO ENTER!) From here huge lengths of electric cable led to the decoy elements up to 500 metres away in what was then a largely uninhabited area.

This area is usually known as ‘The Look Out’, a name that dates back to at least 1840. It probably relates to this area being the highest point on a now long-gone farm. Before the present trees, hedges and reservoir were here you would have had a full 360° view of all the surrounding land.



NOTE: paths, and especially gateways, can be very muddy when cattle are on this nature reserve, especially after wet weather.

Route 1: A Circular route through Lorton Meadows, returning along the A354 (Relief Road). (2 miles; approx. 1 hour.)
NOT SUITABLE FOR CYCLES.

From the Legacy Trail viewpoint [A] turn RIGHT on an earth track, with small “Starfish” buildings on the left. (See panel to left.) Very soon bear LEFT into wood [B] and down sloping path. Keep LEFT at junction, to kissing gate into field [C]. (The exact location of paths in these fields can vary from year to year.)

Continue downhill (heading towards the Park & Ride), eventually bearing right to pass through hedge at [D] (stiles and steps). Bear LEFT to far left corner of field. Go through kissing gate on your left and turn RIGHT onto stone bridle path beside Two Mile Coppice [E].

Walk down bridle path, eventually reaching underpass. Go through [F] and turn RIGHT [G] onto pedestrian/cycleway uphill beside A354 (Relief Road). At the Lorton Lane ‘green bridge’ [H] keep ahead on road, then turn RIGHT onto pedestrian/cycleway. Follow path up and cross Littlemoor ‘green bridge’ [J].

To return to shoppers’ car park: follow path ahead and down, to pass under flats into Beverley Road. Turn LEFT when road joins Louviers Road. Otherwise: take steep stone path diagonally up to RIGHT. (NOT sharp right.) Pass through hedge and onto bridleway bearing slightly right, heading to right of water reservoir ahead. Continue through trees to [A].

To explore Two Mile Coppice: Enter through kissing gate between [E] and [K]. (The paths can be very muddy, but there is a boardwalk inside this gate.) Keep ahead and finally exit at [F]. Or: shortly turn RIGHT and follow less well defined path, eventually passing a small pond on right, then crossing ditch, to reach [F]. Look for wild garlic, bluebells, early purple orchids and perhaps broad-leaved helleborine and twayblade orchids too.

Lorton Meadows Nature Reserve covers 75 hectares (185 acres) of unspoilt, wildlife rich meadows and woodland, connected by mature hedgerows, with ponds and seasonal streams. It is managed by Dorset Wildlife Trust to increase the variety of wildlife and encourage people’s enjoyment of nature, through walking, volunteering or joining one of its many events. For more information and the events programme, please go to www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/lorton.

To discover more of the borough’s wild places, try a section, or all, of the Legacy Trail. It starts at Lorton Meadows [A] and passes via Lodmoor to the Esplanade, then inland to Radipole, along the Rodwell Trail and Hamm Beach, up the Merchant’s Incline through the Quarries to Church Ope Cove and along to Portland Bill.

For further information on the trail go to: www.visit-dorset.com and search for ‘Legacy Trail’.

Route 2: A short walk through Lorton Meadows via the Conservation Centre. (1¼ miles; approx. 40 minutes.)
NOT SUITABLE FOR CYCLES.

Use Route 1 via [A], [B] and [C] to [D]. Then walk ahead down next field before bearing RIGHT to [K] at corner. Cross the short boardwalk, then turn RIGHT beside ditch, eventually bearing LEFT through kissing gate to approach Lorton Meadows Conservation Centre [L]. (Car park and cycle racks approached via Lorton Lane from Dorchester Road. Toilets and drinks when Centre is open. Seating in timber barn and picnic area behind.)

To return via Lorton Lane and footpath beside A354 (relief road), walk past barn and turn RIGHT into lane. [M]

OR: return through kissing gate [L], then keep LEFT and through next gateway. Do not go through gateway ahead, but keep LEFT and continue uphill to bench beside wood. Cross stile beside seat [N] and up flight of steps. At top, turn right and follow path back to [B] and [A], bearing LEFT at junction with path from [C]. (To avoid steps, do not cross stile, but turn RIGHT, steeply uphill with wood on your left, to reach [C].)