

18km/11¼ miles

4-5hrs

moderate

## CORFE CASTLE

This walk incorporates the Corfe to Chapman's Pool section of the Purbeck Way in a circuit that also includes a visit to the village of Worth Matravers. An optional extension along a superb stretch of coast path takes in the dramatic headland of St Adhelm's Head. By Fiona Barltrop.

### The walk

- From car park, head down West Street to Corfe Common. Follow footpath south, soon forking R along footpath to Kingston. Continue across common, keeping south. Path climbs, reaching woods outside Kingston. Enter wood, turn R on to track, then L on to path up past cottages to main road at Kingston alongside pub.
- Turn R and follow road, church L. After church turn L along track signposted 'Houns-tout cliff'. Follow track into woods and at junction of tracks continue in same direction to emerge into open. A high-level path leads south to Hounstout cliff where views are superb.
- Heading east, it's a steep descent down a long flight of steps. At bottom, waymarked route of South West Coast Path heads inland to Hill Bottom. If you are feeling adventurous, old coastal route goes down to valley just above Chapman's Pool and very steeply up other side. There is also a good track along east side of valley – worth a detour if you have time and energy! Continuing along official Coast Path route, head inland until path turns south to return to coast.
- For main, shorter walk, follow road to Worth Matravers via Renscombe Farm. For longer walk stay on Coast Path, climbing West Hill, then along Emmetts Hill, south to St Adhelm's Head and its chapel viewpoint. Keep to Coast Path until you reach Winspit and its old quarries. A path here heads inland to Worth Matravers, about 1.6km away.
- Both Square and Compass pub and tearooms/craft shop lie just up the road from village centre. Once refreshed, return to village centre, go past church and turn R along path that goes through play area. Head NNW over fields to quarry workings. Follow path as it skirts round Swanworth Quarries into Coombe Bottom. Route now follows signed Purbeck Way which heads north up brideway to B3069. Cross road and continue in NNW direction to meet B3609 again, just south of Corfe. Cross road and follow brideway on to Corfe Common back to West Street.

### DETAILS

**Country Walking ID**  
2708  
**Itinerary**  
Meg Route 3,  
December 2006  
**Region**  
South West  
**Area**  
Dorset  
**Length of walk**  
18km/11¼ miles  
**Time needed**  
4-5hrs  
**Difficulty**  
Moderate

### IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

**Terrain**  
Coast path, common, heathland and woodland  
**Stiles**  
9+  
**Suitable for**  
children, dogs

### PLANNING

**Parking**  
Various car parks in and around Corfe Castle, grid ref SY958818  
**Start grid ref**  
SY959817

### Nearest town

Swanage  
**Refreshments**  
Lots of choice in Corfe Castle, pub and cafe in Worth Matravers

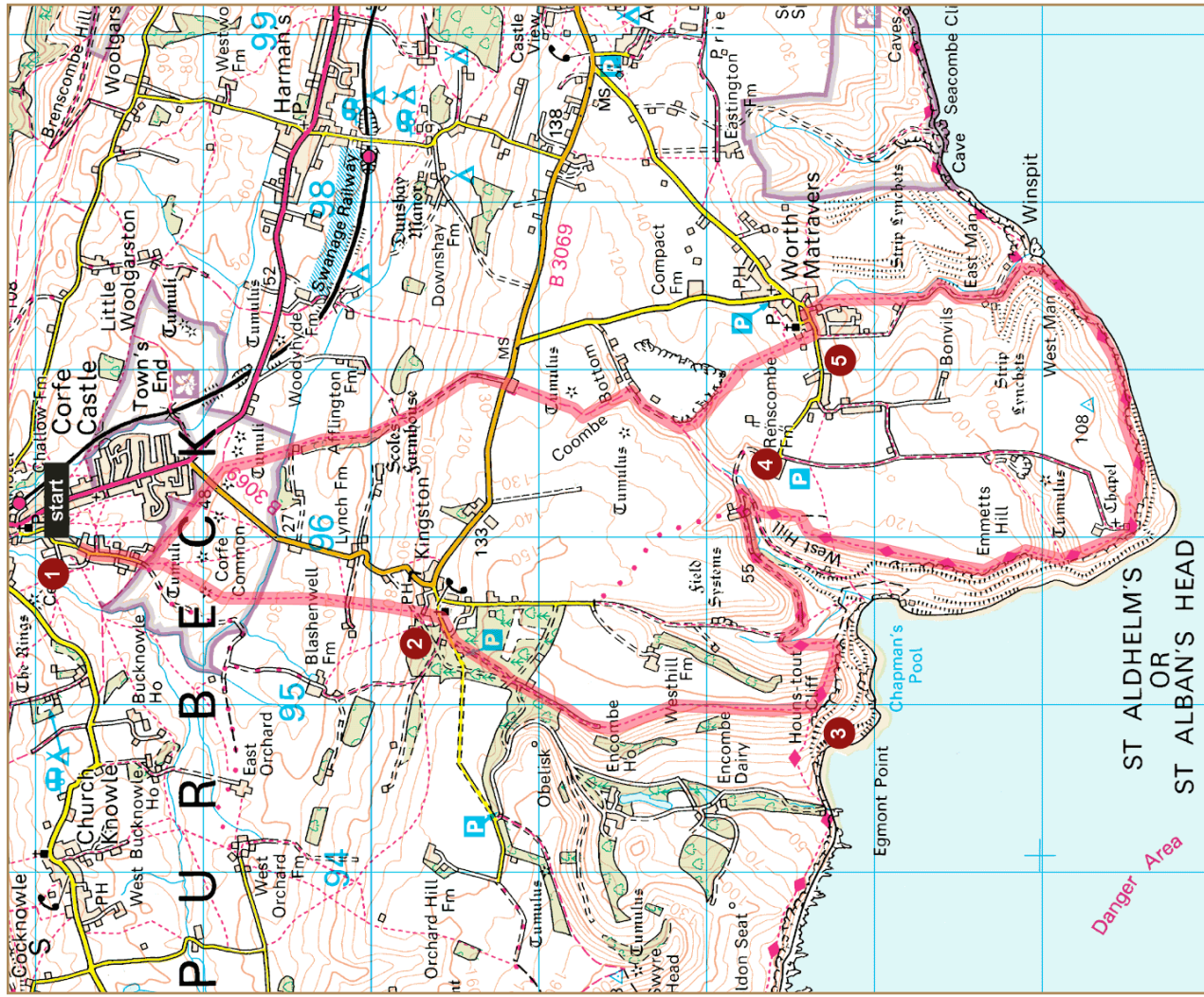
### Public toilets

Corfe Castle  
**Public transport**  
Buses to Corfe Castle, tel: Traveline 0870 608 2608. Also Swanage steam railway, Swanage to Norden, tel: 01929 425800

### MAPS

Ordnance Survey  
Explorer 15

FIONA BARLTROP



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