

The Priest's Way to Swanage (and return)

Walk 8

Distance - 6 miles

Another outing that follows the same course in both directions and facilitates a visit to a point of interest - Swanage. Here is a resort that exudes Victorian investment and affluence.

The route follows the eastern section of the Priest's Way, so named because of the travels of a priest between Worth and Swanage in times when the former was the more dominant location.

Start/car parking - HPB Langton House

Note: It would be a great help to future walkers if you could record any inaccuracies you come across during this walk and report them to reception so that appropriate amendments can be made. Thank you for your help. Happy walking!

WALK

Leave the Langton House complex, enter Durnford Drove and turn left, towards the sea. Merging with a broad track (Priest's Way) turn left signposted Swanage. Pass a solitary tree, then continue onwards to reach Spyway farm "modern buildings".

At this point either continue along the broad track or walk diagonally across the adjacent field. Whichever route is selected veer right when reaching a wide gate and continue to follow the Swanage indicators.

Where the track veers right towards Verney Farm, continue ahead, passing through a wide gate and proceed as before until arriving at a gate - signposted Herston. Turn left here, and with Swanage in sight descend the field towards a wide gate.

A short distance beyond the gate at a junction, swing right to walk alongside some modern bungalows emerging into an "open" space with an imposing bungalow (built 1989) to your right.

Continue straight ahead to merge with a road and turn left. Follow this road (don't enter Cow Lane) until it merges with the High Street, then maintaining the same direction march into Swanage, passing the Black Swan, a war memorial and the site of Wesley Cottage - destroyed by enemy action in 1941. A plaque is on the left beyond the Purbeck House Hotel.

Make a note of where the White Swan is situated. The return route commences from there. Now explore Swanage at your leisure. The return route is

straightforward enough and needs little narrative. Simply relocate the White Swan and head off along the High Street until reaching the British Legion Club. At that point veer left to enter Priest's Road.

Continue straight on - don't deviate (bungalows on left - 25 Priest's Road confirms the way). Follow the road when it curves left, pass a telephone box then as the road bends to the right, veer left to enter Priest's Way. Soon after the manoeuvre enter an unmade road on the right.

Cross a stile (ignoring Coast Path) to walk straight ahead alongside the bungalows. Where the wall ends turn left to walk uphill, following the Priest's Way sign.

Make towards a long-forgotten building to turn right and pass through a gate. Next simply follow your nose without deviation until the gate a short way beyond Verney Farm is reached. As before either cross the field diagonally, or, follow the wide track around the perimeter.

Pass Spyway farm "modern buildings" soon reaching a fork in the path. Take the right fork and return to Langton House.

The Priest's Way to Swanage (and return)

Distance - 6 miles



Disclaimer: This route was correct at time of writing. However, alterations can happen if development or boundary changes occur, and there is no guarantee of permanent access. These walks have been published for use by site visitors on the understanding that neither HPB Management Limited nor any other person connected with Holiday Property Bond is responsible for the safety or wellbeing of those following the routes as described. It is walkers' own responsibility to be adequately prepared and equipped for the level of walk and the weather conditions and to assess the safety and accessibility of the walk.