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I St Mary's Church - The earliest evidence of a place of worship in Tarrant Gunville can be seen in the arcading set into the wall of the north aisle, which suggests a date of about A.D. 1100. By the beginning of the 19th century the previous church, dating from 1503, was in a dilapidated condition and some of it had been demolished. The architect T H Wyatt followed the lines of the old church, as much as possible, in his rebuild which was consecrated on 2nd October 1845. The 16th century tower remained intact. The opening of the current organ, built by J Stinger & Co of Handley, Staffs, culminated in an evening recital on Tuesday 29th July 1890, which was 'received with rapt attention by a full church. Quite who stencilled the beautiful Arts and Crafts' style design of the chancel is unknown, but the date is thought to be about 1910. The clock was added in 1919 in memory of those who died in the Great War.

G Home Farm - An 1840 title map shows that Gibe Farm, now known as Home Farm, was part of the benefice of Tarrant Gunville. Its name was changed in the late 1950s. The current owner understands that an earlier farmhouse stood on the right as you enter the yard.

H Gunville Manor - Gunville House, now known as Gunville Manor, was first advertised as 'newly erected' in the Salisbury Journal of March 1798. It was built by the Chapman family to replace a former Elizabethan Manor House belonging to the Swayne family, whose memorial is in the baptistry of St Mary's Church. Some of the materials used probably came from the demolished Eastbury House. The manor was later sold to the famous ceramist Josiah Wedgwood 2nd whose brother Thomas, a scientist and pioneer in photography, moved to the remaining section of Eastbury House in 1800. The Manor is in private ownership and has no public access.



A Stubhampton Bottom - During WWII, American soldiers carried out military exercises in the Stubhampton area. On one occasion, prior to the D-Day landings, machine guns were positioned on the slope opposite the point where Stubhampton Bottom joins the road. The troops had to advance along the valley to storm the guns, which were fired over their heads as recounted by local lads at the time.

B Earl's Hill - A late Neolithic to Bronze Age bowl barrow which is a funerary monument constructed as an earth or rubble mound.

C Great Peaky Coppice - Up until the early 20th Century Great Peaky Coppice produced pit props for coal mines.

D Lime Pit Coppice - The use of lime for agriculture dates from the 16th century onwards. There are many lime pits in the area of Tarrant Gunville, the tops of the surrounding hills often having a clay cap over the northern end of Hancock's Bottom (also known as Hancock's Bottom) on the eastern side. It is also thought to have been a Neolithic hunting settlement. The woodlands within Harbin's Park and along Hancock's Bottom are Sites of Special Scientific Interest. They are important due to the rare lichens that grow on the older trees. These lichens have been used, in environmental research, to monitor air quality.

E Green Drove - The word 'drove' derives from the old English 'draef', which means 'beasts driven in a body'; it also applies to the routes along which the livestock were driven. The Green Drove is part of an ancient route, south from Shaftesbury (route 38 on 'The Old Roads of Dorset' by Ronald Good) and runs past Harbin's Park (F) and on towards the coast. A beautiful 'brick and flint' Drove Barn in which the animals could rest overnight, and drink from the deep well in the yard, is situated @ Westbury Farm, just east of the Green Drove.

F Harbin's Park - Known as Tarrant Gunville Park until the 19th century, the earliest reference to this deer park is in 1279. The bailliff's accounts for the park, in 1337, included paying 4 men for 3 days' work, 'mending defects in the fencing around the park; A record of a dispute over its ownership, in 1649, suggests it was used as a deer park well into the 17th century. Of particular significance is the 'Park Pale', a scheduled monument which surrounds the park. It was created by digging a 6' deep ditch with the spoil creating a 6' high bank. On top of this bank hazel fencing was used to create an enclosure to contain the deer that had been enticed in with apple pumtice.

Points of interest



Created with the local community of Tarrant Gunville and Stubhampton for their 'Coronation Pathways' as part of the Ancient Ways project. This is part of the Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership Scheme, with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Tag us @chaseandchalke @heritagefunduk

Tarrant Gunville & Stubhampton Coronation Pathways Hancock's Bottom Hike

WALK # 48

- Start Point:** Tarrant Gunville Village Hall, DT11 8JN
- W3W:** wide.waffle.inhabited
- Parking:** Tarrant Gunville Village Hall, DT11 8JN. Parking is available in the road by the village hall. Please park considerately.
- Terrain:** Fields and grassy paths, moderate difficulty with some steep sections. Some sections can be very muddy in the autumn and winter.
- Length:** 11.5 Km / 7.1 miles
- Approx time:** 3 1/2 to 4 hours
- Dogs:** Must be on leads due to livestock and nesting birds.
- Refreshments:** Available at Home Farm café/bar with delicious home-made meals with locally grown produce.

The information is only intended as a general guide. Please check local arrangements.



Cover photo: Kathleen Child

The Countryside Code
RESPECT • PROTECT • ENJOY

- Respect everyone
- Protect the environment
- Enjoy the outdoors
- Follow advice and local signs





Directions

- 1 With the village hall behind you, turn left along the Valley Road. At the thatched house, turn right up the hill signposted 'Everley Hill 2.5 miles' and 'Church'. Pass the church sign on the left and walk on a little way up the hill.
- 2 Opposite the footpath into the church on the left (H & I) take the pathway through the gate on your right signposted 'Stubhampton Bottom 1.25 miles'. It is known as Church Lane and becomes Church Path. Follow the grassy path, through several gates, keeping Tarrant Gunville on your right.
- 3 At the end of the grassy path, go down the steps and through the gap in the hedge. Opposite the steps go through the wooden kissing gate that leads into a field and proceed straight across the field to the other kissing gate in front of cottages. Follow the path for about one kilometre (keeping the hamlet of Stubhampton on your right). Do not be tempted to join the road after about 500m, but go through a narrow gate by the hedge and turn through 90 degrees directly through another gate. After a few more gates keep right before entering some woods in which the path slopes down towards the road.
- 4 On reaching the road, turn right down the slope for about 50m. At its bottom there is a metal gateway on your left. Take the sharp turn left through metal gate (signposted Washer's Pit 2¼ miles) onto the bridleway which is Stubhampton Bottom. (A)
- 5 With Earls Hill (B) on your left this bridleway eventually leads into Hanging Coppice which is part of Ashmore Wood.
- 6 At a fork in the path, keep left – it is here the pathway joins the Wessex Ridgeway. After about 50m turn left again through a metal gate and up a steep incline. The path brings you out to the edge of the woodland on the right and open fields on your left. Follow the wide path on a gradual downhill slope until you reach the road.

- 7 Turn right here and go up and over the brow of the hill ignoring the gate on your left at the brow. After about 700m you will come to the end of a section of woodland where you turn left through a gap by the gate and back on to the Wessex Ridgeway. Lime Pit Coppice is on your left (D).
- 8 Follow the path through a wooded area for approx. 700m where the path reaches an open field on your right with the wooded area continuing on your left. Here there is a fingerpost signposting Pimperne. Follow the path in the direction of Pimperne, you are just over half-way now!
- 9 Keep on the path for a further 1.9km through intermittently wooded areas. The Park Pale bordering Harbin's Park (F) on the left is very evident beside the path. Keep on through Handcock's Bottom until you reach a metalled road.
- 10 Go straight over the road and re-join the path immediately ahead with Gunville Down on your left and open fields on your right. Continue along this path for about 500m but, beware, this section can be very muddy. At this point, open fields appear in front of you on the left and the path bears left uphill at 90 degrees immediately before a metal farm gate. This where you re-join the "Jubilee Trail".
- 11 Follow the path up the hill for about 100m where it enters an open field with a narrow wooded section continuing on your right. Follow path, beside this wood for a further 700m and turn right onto a narrow path clearly marked " Jubilee Trail ". On the right is Pimperne Woods.
- 12 Follow the track down past Home Farm café/bar which offers welcome respite to weary walkers (closed on Mondays and Tuesdays). (G)
- 13 The track becomes a road. Keep straight on at the T junction, down the hill, past the church on the right (I) and turn left at the T junction back towards the village hall.

