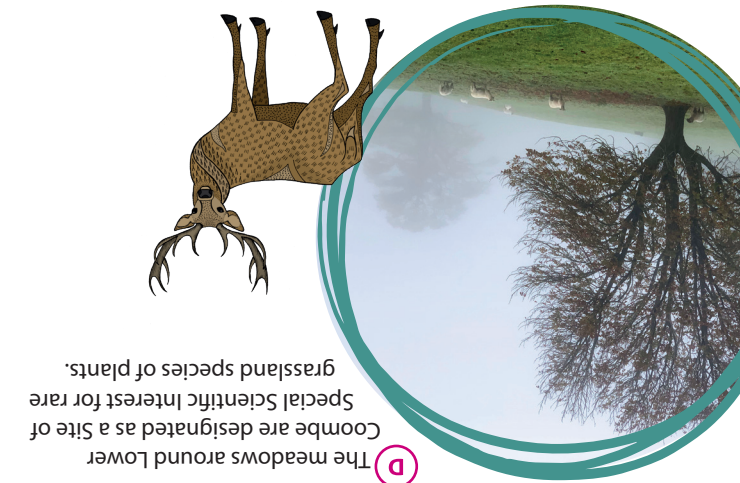




Ludwell Church



(D) The meadows around Lower Coombe are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for rare grassland species of plants.

(A) Ludwell village. Situated to the east of the town of Shaftesbury and within the civil parish of Donhead St. Mary, Ludwell is home to the Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist, built in 1839 in neo-Norman style with a two-tower western façade. It benefits from a primary school that was established in 1875.

(B) Higher, Middle and Lower Coombes. The very pretty hamlets of Middle Coombe and Higher, Middle and Lower Coombe contribute to the outstanding natural beauty of this almost completely hidden landscape that is the highlight of this walk.

(C) The Hardy Way. between Middle Coombe and the centre of Shaftesbury this walk shares its route with the Hardy Way, a long-distance path (217 miles / 350km) which explores the Wessex of Thomas Hardy. The path starts at the author's birthplace near Dorchester and leads through Dorset and Wiltshire to where his heart lies buried in the churchyard at Stinsford.

Points of Interest on this route (see map overleaf for locations)

A circular walk from Ludwell exploring Upper, Middle and Lower Coombes with views to Win Hill and the Oxdrove.

Start Point: The New Remembrance Hall at Ludwell. Ordnance Survey Explorer Series Map 118. OS Grid Reference ST901224 | W3W: trespass.crystals.elephant

Parking: The New Remembrance Hall SP7 0PL. There is no charge made but please park with due consideration for users of the Hall and Donhead Sports Club, especially at weekends and when events are being held at the Hall. Please contact the booking secretary, Ann Rossiter 01747 828252 or email: annrossiter53@outlook.com in advance if you wish to park a vehicle to ensure that there will be sufficient capacity. NB: Vehicles are parked entirely at their owner's risk.

Terrain: Quiet country lanes, bridleways and footpaths with gates and stiles in gently undulating countryside. Some of the bridleways and footpaths can be muddy in parts.

Length: Approximately 3.6 miles / 5.76km.

Approximate time: 2 hours.

Dogs: Please keep on short lead if livestock is present. Cattle, especially if they are accompanied by calves, may perceive dogs as a threat. If they approach you, reduce the risk to both yourself and the dog by releasing it from its lead.

Refreshments: None available on the route.

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



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

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[cranbornechase.org.uk](https://www.cranbornechase.org.uk)



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Ludwell and the Coombes Circular

Exploring the Coombes

WALK #
W31





Directions

- 1 From the New Remembrance Hall turn right along the road until it reaches a T-junction, with a bridleway directly ahead.
- 2 Walk along the bridleway, passing farm buildings until it becomes a track alongside an open field with views across towards Zig Zag Hill and the Oxdrive. Keep the hedge on your right until you reach a gap in the hedge. Go through the gap onto a footpath and walk along the edge of the field keeping the hedge on your left, then through a gap in the next hedge. Turn right along the edge of the field and follow the path over two stiles and past Charlton Fields Farm until reaching the road.
- 3 Turn left along the road to meet and cross the A30 Shaftesbury to Salisbury road. Keep straight ahead into the hamlet of Higher Coombe and follow the road downhill as it bends firstly to the left and then sharply and steeply to the right. Do not go straight ahead here. At the next bend, do not go straight ahead but keep left instead to continue downhill to pass two signposted footpaths on your left and a thatched cottage on your right. Turn right across the front of the next house to find a stile next to a gate into a field.

You will see waymarks along the path to indicate that it is part of the Hardy Way long-distance footpath.

You are also now on one of the paths that forms part of another of this series of walks in the Cranborne Chase AONB, numbered W30. If you wish to extend the circle of your walk towards Shaftesbury and Wincombe, W31 (this walk) and W30 can be combined to give more options.

- 4 Cross the stile and walk directly across the slope to a gate and stile, then another stile into the woodland ahead of you. Follow the footpath uphill along the edge of the wood at Morgan's Hanging to a gate onto a public bridleway along a farm road. Do not cross the stile into the field ahead of you, but instead turn left and walk uphill.
- 5 As you reach a farm on your right, look to the right for a footpath and follow the path over stiles and along the edge of a field to a gate and stile where it meets a track. Immediately to the right is a stile next to a gate onto a footpath. Cross the stile and keep the hedge on left as the path leads downhill over stiles, with views of Lower Coombe ahead and to your left and to Win Green on the distant skyline.
- 6 The path becomes a sunken lane and passes to the left of a white painted thatched house along a permissive path with steps to a gate onto a lane.
- 7 Turn right along the lane and as it bends uphill look for a signposted footpath on the left which climbs steeply to a cross a stile then follows the edge of a field to meet the road at Ludwell.
- 8 Turn right along the road to reach the A30. Cross the road into Charlton Lane and follow the signs back to the New Remembrance Hall.