

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

A **Blandford Forum** has been a fording point on the River Stour since Saxon Times, when it was recorded as Blaeu-y-portage and as Blaneford in the Domesday Book. By the 13th Century it had become a market town. In the 18th Century, the author Daniel Defoe is quoted as having expressed his view that ribbon trim made in the town was "the best bonelace in Britain..." In the 1700s and 1800s Blandford was a maling and blending focal point of some importance (source: Blandford Forum Town Council).

B **Durweston** appeared in 1086 in the Domesday Book in which it was named as both Derwinstone and Derwinestone. There were 15 households recorded, and 2 acres (0.8 hectares) of vineyards.



Millpond, River Stour
at Durweston Mill

D **The North Dorset Trailway:** Between Sturminster Newton and Spetsbury, the 14 miles / 22.5km North Dorset Trailway follows sections of the former Bristol to Bournemouth Railway which was closed in the 1960s. It is now extremely popular with walkers, runners, cyclists and equestrians.

C **Stourpaine:** The name means "Estate on the Stour" and is named in the Domesday Book where a gift of land to the church is recorded. The present Church of the Holy Trinity dates from 1190.



Blandford
Forum



Circular walk from the centre of Blandford Forum exploring the countryside and returning through Durweston and Stourpaine along the North Dorset Trailway.

Start (opt 1): The Station Court Car Park in Blandford Forum.
OS Explorer 117 | ST887066 | W3W: encoded.elbowing.permanent

Start (opt 2): Stourpaine Recreation Ground Car Park in Stourpaine:
OS Explorer 117 | ST858095 | W3W: renew.pursue.dome

Parking: See above.

Terrain: Roadside footways, lanes, bridleways, footpaths and shared footpath/cycleway/equestrian trail through undulating countryside. Stiles and gates. Muddy in parts.

Length: Approximately 8 miles / 12.5 km.

Approximate time: 3.5 hours.

Dogs: Please keep on short lead if livestock is present.

Good to know: If parking at the Recreation Ground Car Park in Stourpaine, this will add approximately 1 mile / 1.6km to the overall distance of this walk.

Refreshments: Usual town centre facilities in Blandford Forum. Shop and Public House (The White Horse Inn) in Stourpaine.

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

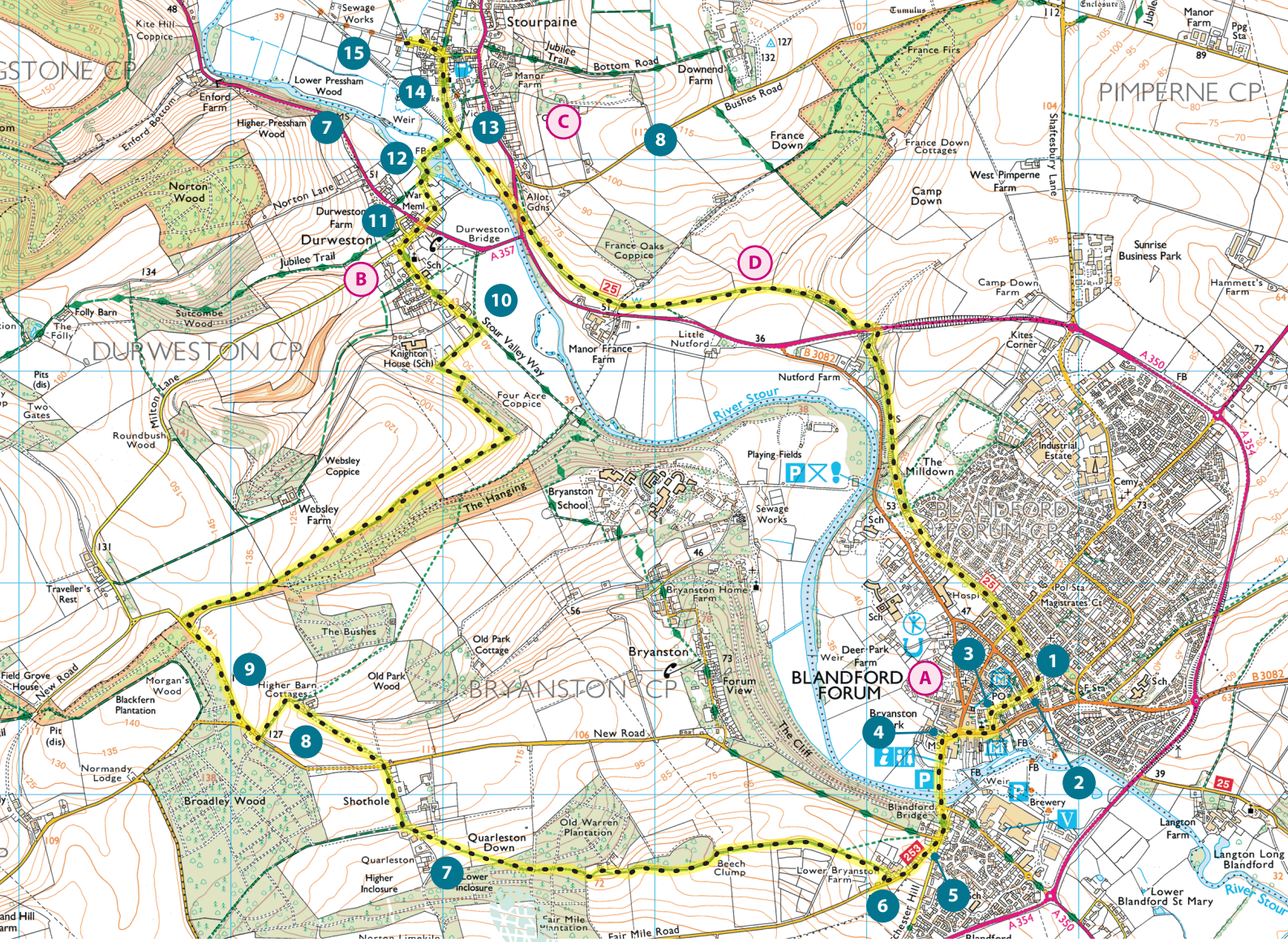
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Blandford Forum, Durweston and Stourpaine Railways, Ribbons and Malt

WALK #
W33





Directions

- 1 These directions start from the northern end of the Station Court car park, at the access point to the North Dorset Trailway. If you have chosen to start the walk at Stourpaine, please go straight to Point 15.
- 2 From the Station Court car park, do not go onto the Trailway but instead turn left along a short footpath into Oakfield Street. Turn left and at the B3082 road go straight across into The Close.
- 3 The Close continues past Dorset Street, into The Tabernacle. Continue around to the left, past The Plocks and downhill along Sheep Market Hill to East Street at the bottom of the hill. The church of St. Peter and St. Paul is immediately on the right. Turn right to enter the Market Place.
- 4 From the Market Place follow the road around to the left, along West Street. Cross the bridge over the River Stour and continue past the gateway of Bryanston School.
- 5 Cross New Road then turn right into Fair Mile, which has no footway so beware of traffic. After about 160 yards / 250 metres, turn right onto the bridleway at Lower Bryanston Farm.
- 6 The bridleway turns left through a gate at the farm and continues between fields then alongside a wood before passing a farm and on through another wood to a gate into a field.
- 7 Cross the field to a bridlegate beside a lone tree, and then to a gate at the farm buildings. Keep straight ahead through the farm then right along the farm lane to the road at Shothole.
- 8 Cross the road onto the signposted footpath down across the fields to Walnut Lane at Higher Barr Cottages. Turn left along the lane until reaching New Road again.

- 9 Turn right and go uphill along New Road. There is no footway, so beware of traffic. Keep right at the next junction to pass a wood, and as the wood ends turn right through a gate onto a signposted bridleway along the edge of fields beside the wood. Continue through a short stretch of woodland then through a gate and along the top edge of a field to go through a gate on the left. Follow the edge of the field, alongside the wood, then turn right through another gate, down to Church Road
- 10 Turn left along the road into Durweston, past the village hall and the church. Turn right at the crossroads, along Milton Lane to the main A357 road.
- 11 Cross into Water Lane and keep straight ahead until reaching a footpath on your left. Go along the path and through a gate then turn right along the edge of the field and through another gate.
- 12 Turn right and go past the mill onto a footpath that follows the edge of the millpond then continues between two fields, towards Stourpaine. Cross the bridge over the River Stour to meet the North Dorset Trailway which joins from the right.
- 13 To return to Blandford Forum and the Station Court car park, turn right here along the Trailway.
- 14 If you started this walk at the Recreation Ground car park in Stourpaine, keep straight ahead and then retrace your steps back through the village.
- 15 If you are starting this walk at the Recreation Ground car park in Stourpaine, walk back along Havelins then turn right along Manor Road to the church and follow the Trailway signposts to Point 14. Turn left along the Trailway to Blandford Forum and pick up the route directions from the Station Court car park, where you will need to turn right onto the footpath to Oakfield Street.