



Tarrant Hinton and Tarrant Gunville are just two of the eight villages along the 7.5 miles (12km) length of the River Tarrant chalk stream. The river, a tributary to the River Stour in Dorset, is one of England's most productive brown trout locations and is the main spawning ground for trout and salmon in the middle reaches of the Stour.

**(A) Tarrant Hinton:** In 935, land at Tarrant Hinton was granted by King Aethelstan to the nuns of Shaftesbury Abbey under condition that they would pray hard for the king. St. Mary's Church is believed to date from the 12th century but the earliest part of the present building is the 14th century Nave and its south arcade. Further alterations date from the 15th, 16th and 19th centuries.

**(B) Tarrant Gunville:** Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman sites are all within a few miles of the village. The area appears to have been widely settled between 8,500 to 4,000BC, when people began to learn to farm and keep animals.

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

**(C) Harbin's Park Farm and deepark:** originally known as Tarrant Gunville Park, the name was changed in the 19th century to include the name of the then owner. From at least Norman times Craborne Chase formed a royal hunting ground. Deeparks were usually enclosed areas of woodland and grassland which provided both cover and grazing. The deepark at Harbin's Park has existed since at least 1279 and may have stayed in use into the 1600s. About 55 hectares in size and rectangular in shape, much of it is well preserved with a steep 5 metre wide bank rising up to 2 metres in height above an inner ditch also about 5 metres wide. The bank, or pale, would have been either fenced or hedged, serving to contain deer within the enclosed area. The farm itself and the surrounding estate is being managed for the conservation of wildlife alongside the agricultural operations.

**(D) John Vanburgh designed the mansion at Eastbury Park.** Only the service wing survives, as Eastbury House.



The earliest surviving part of the 12th century St. Mary's Church is the 14th century nave and south arcade

2 options for circular walks exploring the rolling countryside around the villages of Tarrant Hinton and Tarrant Gunville.


**Start Point:** Start and Finish: Tarrant Hinton or Tarrant Gunville - OS Explorer 118 (walk directions assume start and finish in Tarrant Hinton). Tarrant Hinton: ST937111 | W3W: covers.mornings.exotic

**Parking:** There are no dedicated parking areas available, so if you arrive by car please park in a safe place where your vehicle will not obstruct other road users and residents.

**Terrain:** Quiet lanes, bridleways and footpaths. No stiles, some gates. No steep hills

**Length:** The shorter option: 6.1 miles / 9.75 km. The longer option: 8.75 miles / 14.0 km.

**Approximate time:** Short route 2.5 hours / longer route 4 hours.

 **Dogs:** Please keep dogs on a lead wherever livestock are present.

**Good to know:** Good to know: Whether you choose the shorter or the longer walk both are equally enjoyable, but the shorter one involves more use of quiet roads than does the longer one..

**Refreshments:** Café and farm shop at Home Farm, 0.9 miles / 1.5km to the west of Tarrant Gunville, is open Wednesday – Sunday inclusive and is on the route of this walk.

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

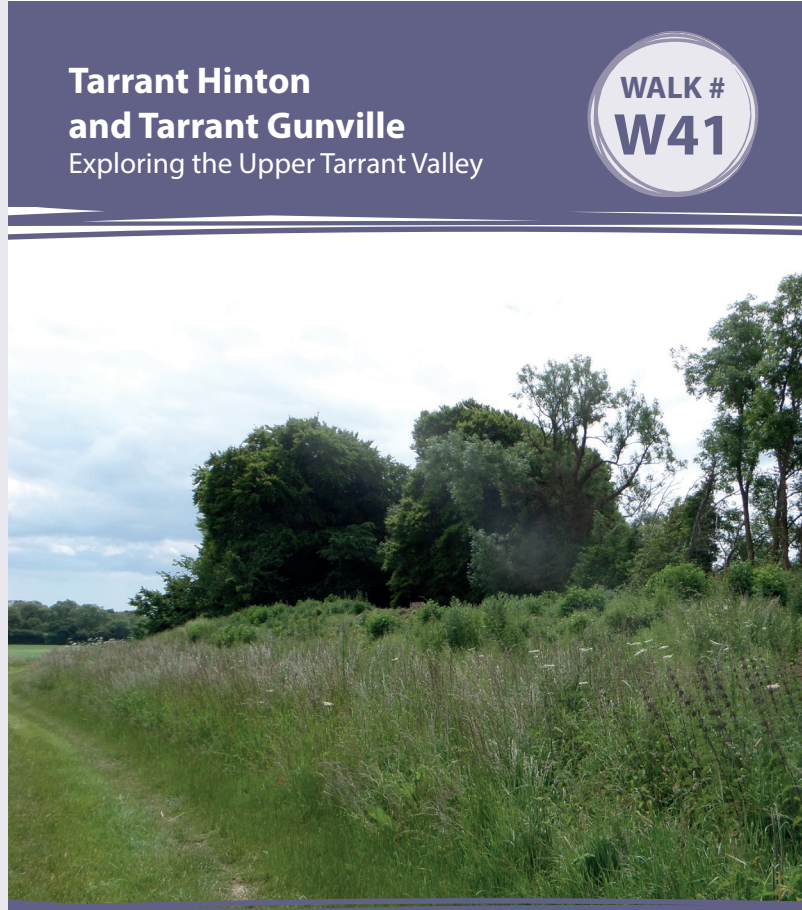


**Respect everyone**  
**Protect the environment**  
**Enjoy the outdoors**  
**Follow advice and local signs**

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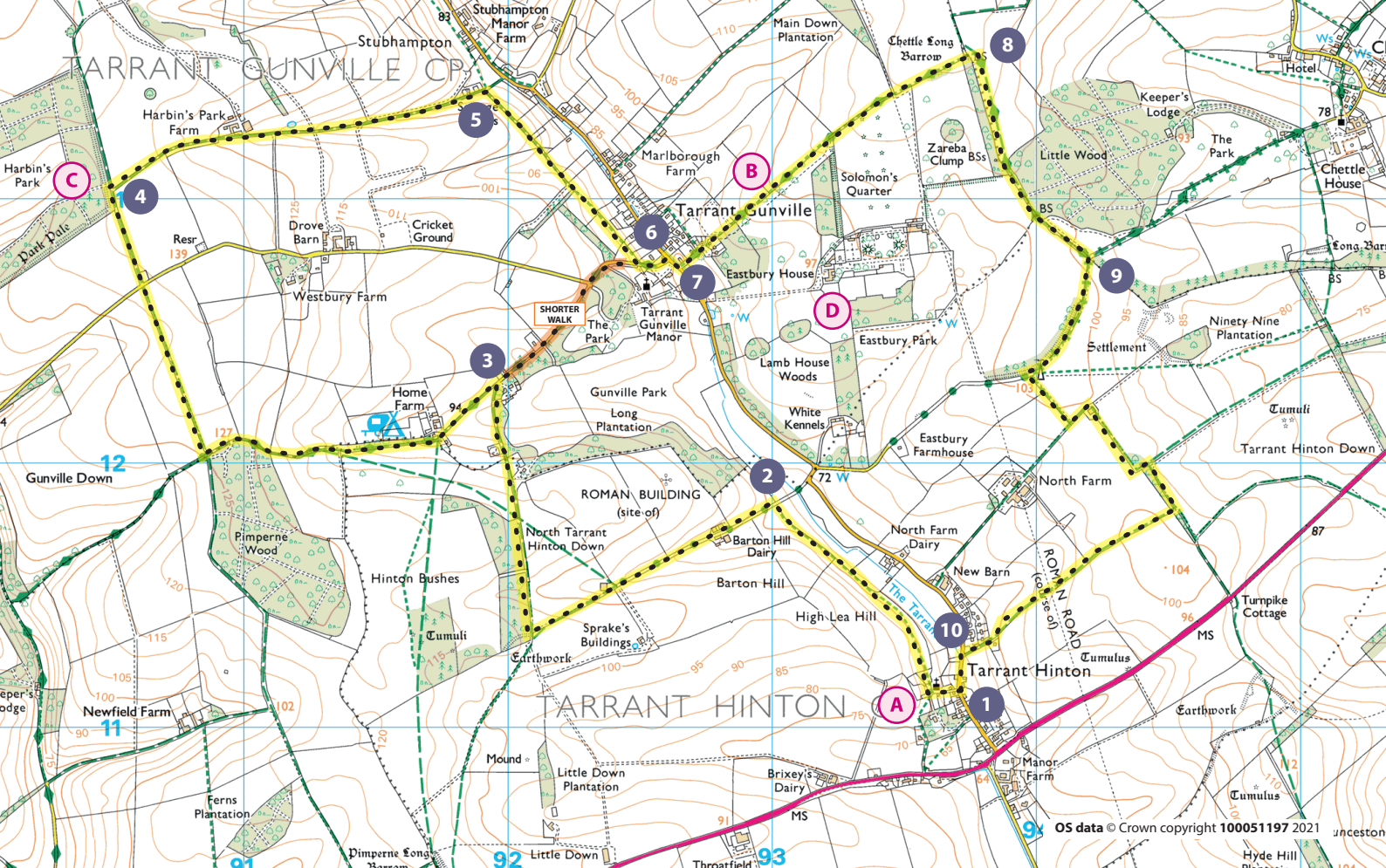
     
[cranbornechase.org.uk](https://cranbornechase.org.uk)



## Tarrant Hinton and Tarrant Gunville

Exploring the Upper Tarrant Valley





## Directions

**1** From the Village Hall in Tarrant Hinton, cross the bridge over the stream on the opposite side of the road and take the signposted public footpath (steep road uphill) past the church and around to the right until it becomes a short access track into the fields. Turn right, alongside the hedge and then left along the edge of the fields until turning left through a gate onto a wide stone track.

**2** The track passes two sets of farm buildings and through a vehicle barrier. On reaching the woods ahead, turn right along the bridleway keeping the wood on your left and into a track between the hedge and the wood. Keep straight ahead to meet the driveway to a small group of houses then straight ahead along the driveway until it reaches the road.

For the **shorter walk**, turn right along the road until you reach the village of Tarrant Gunville. Now go to point 7 of these directions to continue your walk.

To take the **longer route**, continue to follow points 3 to 7.

**3** Turn left along the stone track, and once past the shop and café at Home Farm turn right along the bridleway, between the hedge on your right and fields to your left. The track reaches the woodland ahead and continues alongside the wood to a crossroads of tracks. Turn right past the vehicle barrier onto a wide grass bridleway across the fields. Cross the road and continue straight ahead along the wide grass bridleway.

**4** When you reach a wide stone track, turn right to follow it past Harbin's Park Farm. Go straight ahead as the surface turns to grass then take the permissive path, fenced on both sides, which takes to the higher ground alongside the bridleway.

**5** At the end of the permissive path turn right onto a wide grass footpath, which leads to a gate into a field ahead. Continue through three more gates to reach the road.

**6** Cross the road and take the path through the gate opposite to visit St. Mary's Church, then return to the road and turn right down the hill into the village of Tarrant Gunville.

**7** Turn right along the road through the village, signposted to Tarrant Hinton, Blandford Forum and Salisbury, then turn left onto the signposted footpath along School Road. At the top of the hill bear straight ahead towards a block of three garages and onto the signed 'Footpath to Chettle' through a narrow gate. Continue along the fenced path between fields to a second gate and onto a wide track between hedges, then straight ahead along the edge of a field with the hedge on your right. At the end of the field bear left to a gate into the next field.

**8** Go through the gate and turn right along the public bridleway. Immediately to the left of the bridleway is the mound of the Neolithic Chettle Long Barrow. The ancient monument record reveals that numerous human bones were found when part of the barrow was removed, before 1767. Follow the bridleway along the edge of the fields and through the edge of Little Wood until reaching a gate on the right, at the end of the wood.

**9** Turn right through the gate onto a byway between fields to the left and trees to the right, then on reaching the compound of a telecommunication mast turn left through a gate onto a bridleway along a track, alongside the hedge on the right and with extensive open views to across the fields to the east. Stay on the track to pass a barn, then around bends to the left and right. Do not take the signposted bridleway which leads downhill across the fields. Continue beside the trees on the right, until a bridleway waymark on a post on the right points through a gap in the trees onto a bridleway that takes you downhill to a gate onto a short lane and into Tarrant Hinton.

**10** Turn left along the road to return to the village hall.