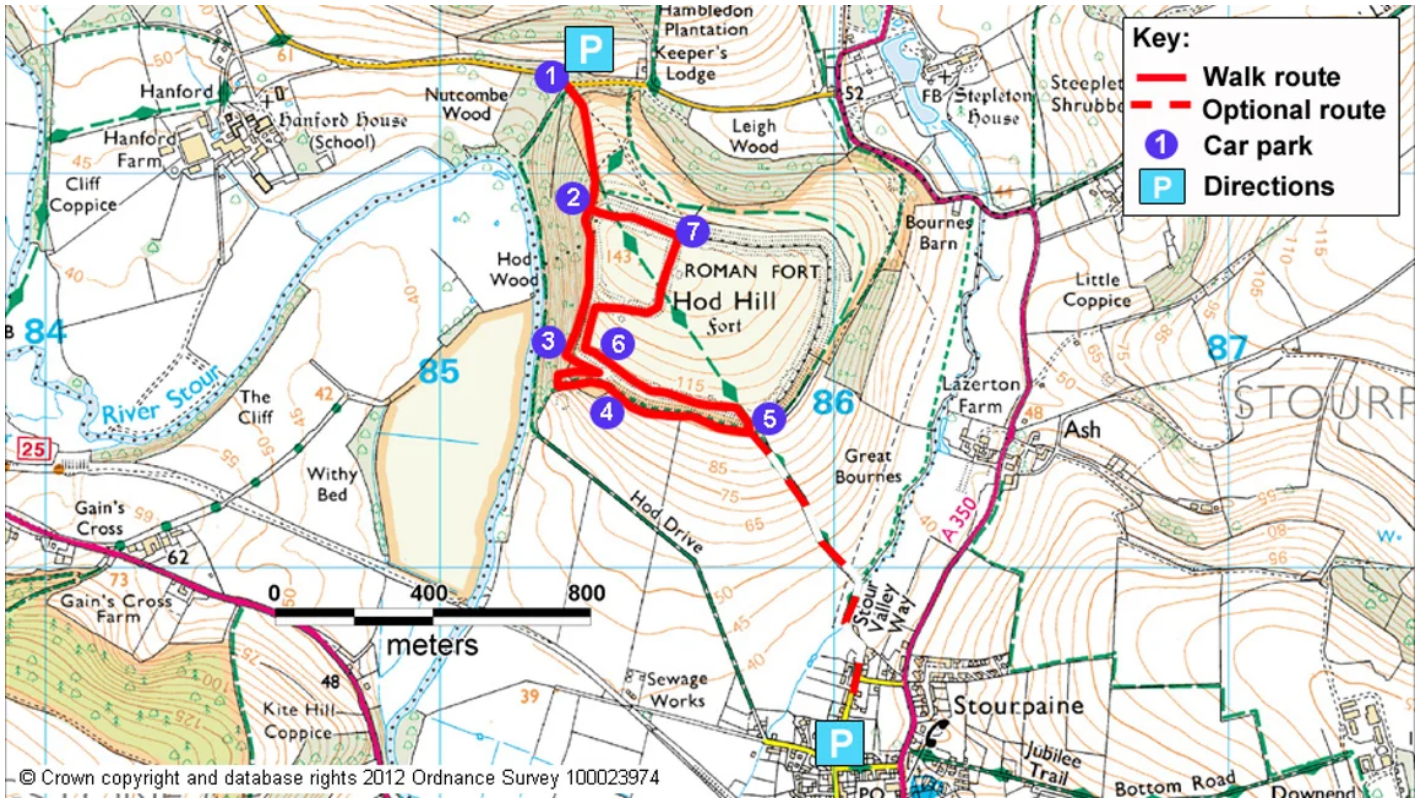


DORSET

Hod Hill butterfly walk

This mile-long trail involves a gentle stroll around the Iron Age fort at Hod Hill, with a special focus on spotting the many species of butterfly that live here. Marbled whites, blues, small heath and clouded yellows can all be found flitting about the wildflowers that grow here in abundance. Look out also for the remnants of the old Roman fort, built within the ramparts of the much older hillfort and one of the best preserved sites of this kind in the UK.



Information

Address: Hod Hill, Stourpaine, Dorset, DT11 8PR

OS map: Landranger 194

Activity: Walking

Moderate: A mostly level walk with one steep climb at the beginning. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs welcome, but please keep under close control as the area is grazed by sheep and cattle.

Full trail: Miles: 1 (km: 1.6)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 30 mins - 40 mins

Terrain

Easiest approach involves one steep slope, alternative approach is gentler but longer. Site itself is level but uneven with little mud.

Dogs welcome, but cattle are on the hill in summer and sheep in winter.

Total steps: 6

Start point: Car park on Hanford Lane, grid ref: ST855112

1. From the National Trust car park, bear left up a steep hill and through a bridle gate, keeping close to the wood edge on your right.
2. Cross the stile onto Hod Hill. Immediately before the main track turns up towards the hillfort entrance, take the grassy track to your right, along the crest of the lower rampart, above the wood edge.
3. At the bottom, turn left along the main rampart ditch bottom, which opens out onto a section of short turf bank.
4. Carry on along the ditch bottom, past the entrance to the hillfort.
5. At the corner, turn into the hillfort entrance and bear immediate left, to head back along the foot of the inner rampart slope. The sheltered pits (borrow pits) here are good for butterflies on windy days and in late summer.
6. Back at the south-west corner, though this time just inside the hillfort, turn right to head north below the crest of the western ramparts, to the old Roman fortifications. Turn right to follow this broad bank of short turf to the east, and then north until you reach the inner slope of the northern ramparts. Turn left, and you'll arrive back where you entered the hillfort.

End point: Car park on Hanford Lane, grid ref: ST855112