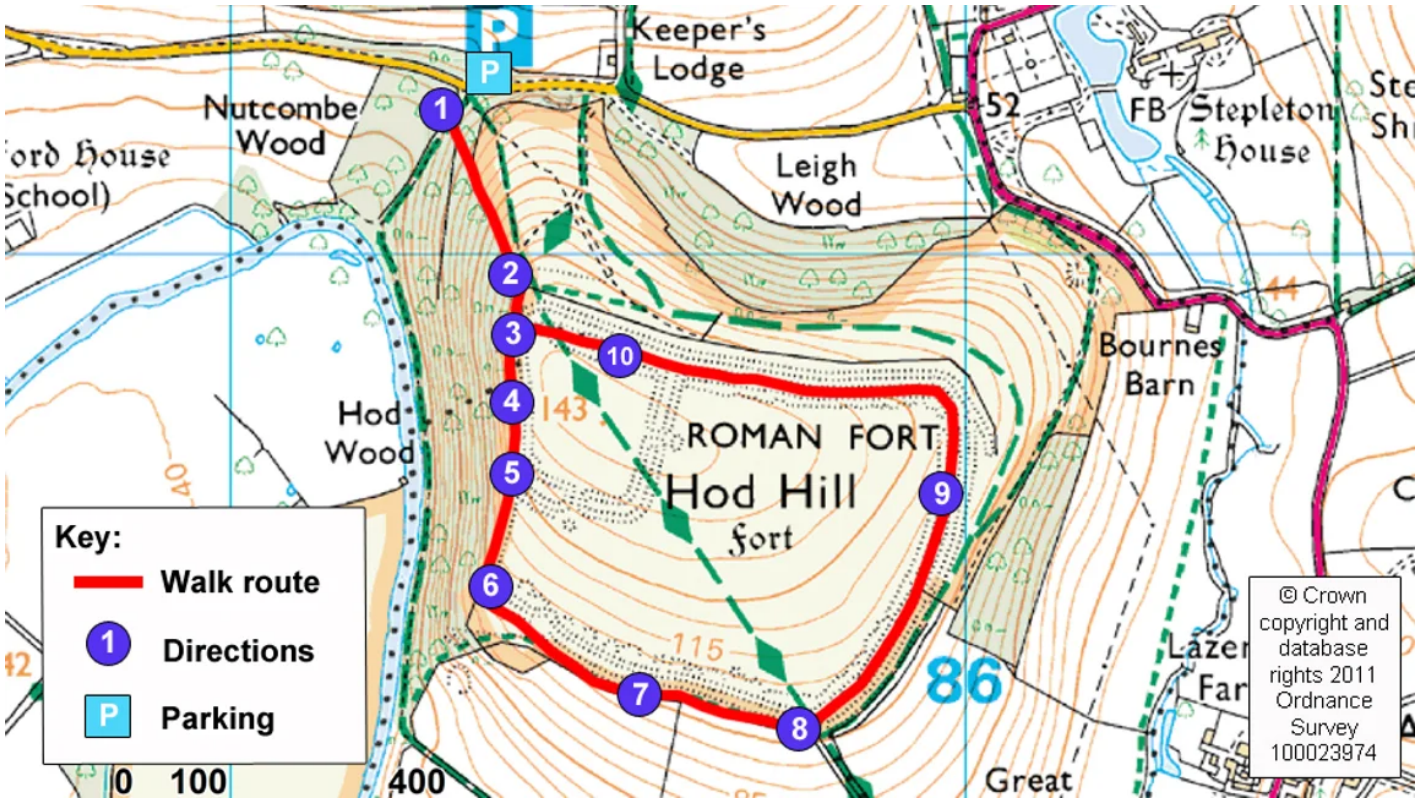


DORSET

Hod Hill circular walk

This short walk skirts the ramparts of the Iron Age fort at Hod Hill. Perched high above a meander on the River Stour, it offers sweeping views over the Dorset countryside and is home to an array of wildflowers and butterflies. You will also be able to see the remains of one of the best preserved Roman forts in the UK, built within the earthen walls that were built some 450 years before the legions arrived in Britain.



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

Hod Hill is a steep climb to the ramparts of the hillfort, followed by a moderately level walk.

Total steps: 10

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

1. From the car park, go through the gate and up the steep grassy field, keeping the woodland to your right.
2. At the top of the hill, go through the gate beside the National Trust Hod Hill omega sign.
3. Turn right (anti-clockwise) along the ramparts.
4. The more sheltered woody edge provides a place for butterflies like the speckled wood. There is a constant battle to prevent scrub from colonising the very important SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) grassland and smothering the chalk flora.
5. Keep going for about 218yd (200m).
6. Continue along the ramparts and have a look down to the River Stour on its route from Stourhead to Christchurch.
7. The next section of ramparts is particularly rich in wildflowers including cowslip, common spotted, pyramidal and fragrant orchid, agrimony and clustered bellflower.
8. Turn left upon reaching the corner of the rampart and continue along its top. There's a path here which drops down an old lane to Stourpaine.
9. Keep going round the hillfort and take in the fantastic views over rural Dorset and the Cranborne Chase towards Melbury Down.
10. Go back through the gate you came through and return down to the car park.

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