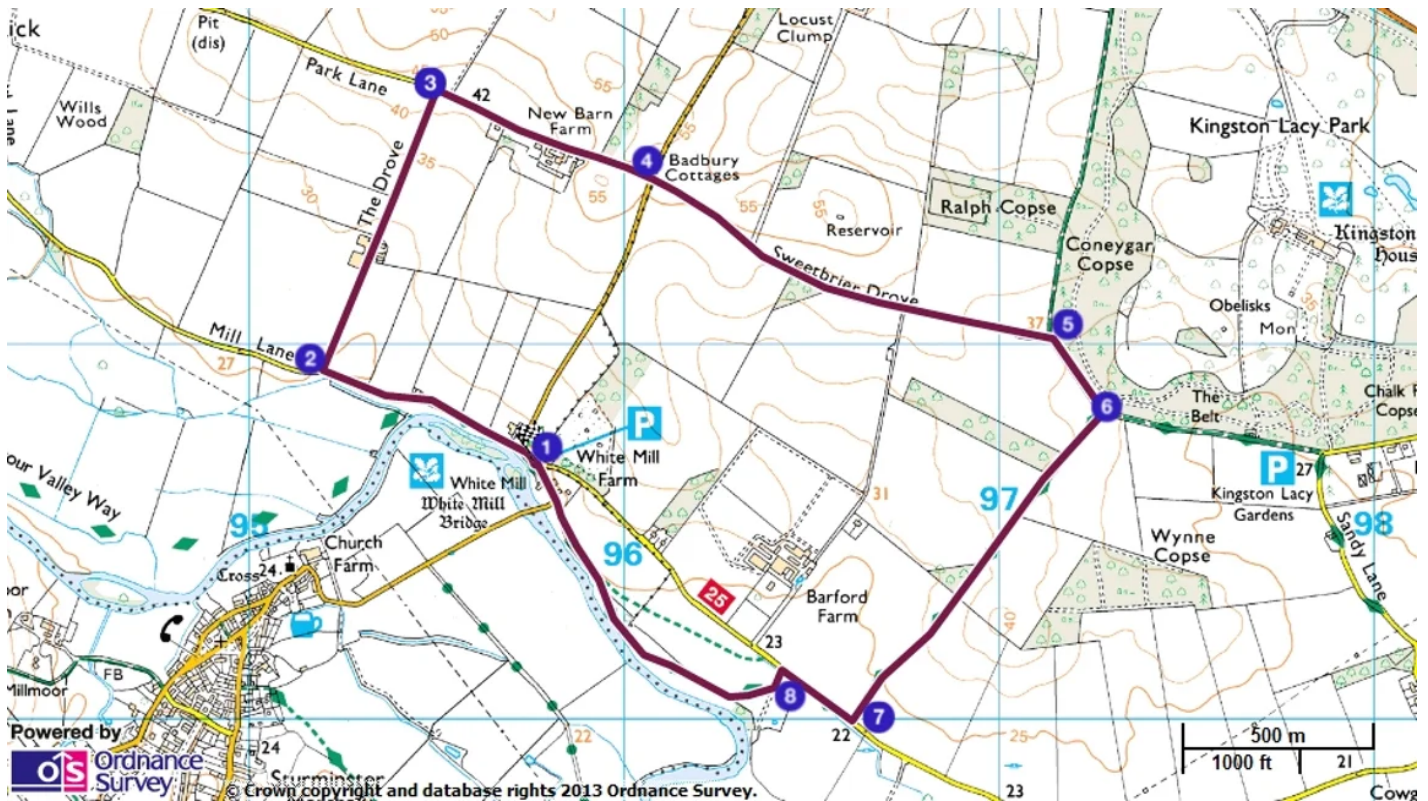


DORSET

## Walk at White Mill and the Drovers, Kingston Lacy

Enjoy this relaxing circular walk through the water meadows by the River Stour, taking in short stretches on scenic country lanes and along gravel tracks.



### Information

Address: Mill Lane, near Shapwick, Dorset, BH21 4BX

OS map: Explorer 118

Activity: Walking

Moderate: Fairly flat walk on grass, gravel tracks and country lanes. For further details, please see Terrain section.

Dog friendly: Dogs welcome; please keep on a lead near livestock and traffic

Full trail: Miles: 3.2 (km: 5.12)

Duration: 1 hour 30 mins

### Terrain

Fairly flat walk on grass and gravel tracks and short distances on country lanes. The path by the Stour will be flooded some of the time through the year.

### Total steps: 8

Start point: Car park opposite White Mill; grid ref: ST958007

1. Turn right as you leave the car park, and then right at the junction onto Mill Lane, walking away from White Mill itself up the straight country lane.
2. Turn right up the waymarked bridleway and continue straight on past farm buildings, until reaching the junction with Park Lane.
3. Turn right and walk down Park Lane, passing New Barn Farm on your right.
4. At the junction, cross the road and continue straight on, following the bridleway Sweetbriar Drove. The walking surface is normally dry, being on chalk. The surrounding farmland is a mixture of arable and of particular value to birds. Continue down to the end of the drive.
5. As Sweetbriar Drove comes to an end, the path forks. Follow the right-hand fork onto Kingston Lacy Drove and the perimeter belt of Kingston Lacy Park. The woodland to the left of the path is known as Coneycar, associated with the breeding of rabbits in the medieval period. Artificial banks may have encouraged the creation of burrows. This section of the walk can be muddy underfoot after rain.
6. Take the first right-hand turning off Kingston Lacy Drove and join the Stour Valley Way as it heads towards Sturminster Marshall. Follow the path straight down until it joins the Shapwick to Cowgrove road.
7. Turn right when you reach the road. After approximately 220yd (200m) cross the stile on your left, next to a metal gate. In the summer, you can continue along the road to make a short diversion to visit longtime tenants of the estate, Barford Farm ice cream garden and shop.
8. Cross the pasture, heading towards a line of trees. Cross a second stile and continue along the footpath as it follows the bank of the Stour back towards White Mill, passing over several stiles. Upon reaching White Mill follow the road a short distance before turning left and then right back into the car park.

