

CASTLE POINT AND THROOP MILL

Start: SZ 112 946 Castle Point, Bournemouth, bus stop (one of several) opposite Evershot Road.

Distance: 5 mls, 8 km, easy walking, no stiles, allow 2 - 3 hours.

Maps: Explorer OL22 or Landranger 195.

Buses: To start, many Transdev Yellow buses and Wilts and Dorset M1 Poole / Bournemouth / Castle Point and 15 Poole / Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

Parking: 4 hours' free parking in Castle Point shopping centre.

NB: This area is susceptible to flooding especially in the winter and early spring.



1. On the pavement nearest to the shopping centre, turn to keep the shopping centre on your right and walk towards the roundabout.

Turn right at the roundabout onto Yeomans Road.

Turn left at the next roundabout onto Chesildene Drive.

After the road bends around to the right, go straight ahead past a wide entrance onto a solid track. (This is part of the old Mill Road from Throop Mill to Bournemouth.)

2. Keep straight ahead ignoring a left turn until you meet Throop Road. Turn left.

You come shortly to a narrow entrance on your right. Follow this path through as it goes around the old mill.

Pass over the weir and go straight ahead across a field to a bridge over the River Stour.

3. Turn left along the footpath along the river.

Keep on this path and through two gates.

The path goes into a wood and you come onto the road from Merritown to West Hurn.

4. Turn right onto the lane.

Keep on along this lane (Hurn Court Lane and then Pigshoot Lane) ignoring two roads that go off to your left.

5. The lane bears to the right and you go past a ford crossing the Leaden Stour.

Keep on past some shrubs and trees on your left and soon reach the river on your left.

When you arrive at the bridge you crossed earlier, turn left onto it, and cross the field and the weir ahead.

Follow the path past the mill and up onto Throop Road. Turn left onto the road.

Keep on along the road to the third turning on your right just past a layby.

6. Turn right onto Valley Road.

Go straight along this path until you emerge onto the road running along the back of Castle Point.

Turn left onto the road and turn right off the roundabout onto a path that appears to go straight down to a large, white wall.

Follow this path left and right until you come past a chapel and out onto a road.

7. Turn right onto Woodbury Road and straight across at the next roundabout to return to the start.

Throop Mill was mentioned in the Domesday Book, but there has probably been a mill on the site since Saxon times. The present building dates from the turn of the 20th Century and, although now disused, contains some fine early 20th Century milling machinery. A fire a few years ago (believed to be due to vandalism) made the interior unsafe so it is no longer open to the public.

Updated 23/9/10. Please note that bus routes, car parks and even footpaths can all change!