

KINSON via Longham, Dudsbury Rings and the Stour Valley Way .

Start: SZ 070 966 Junction of Millhams Road and Wimborne Road, Kinson, Bournemouth.

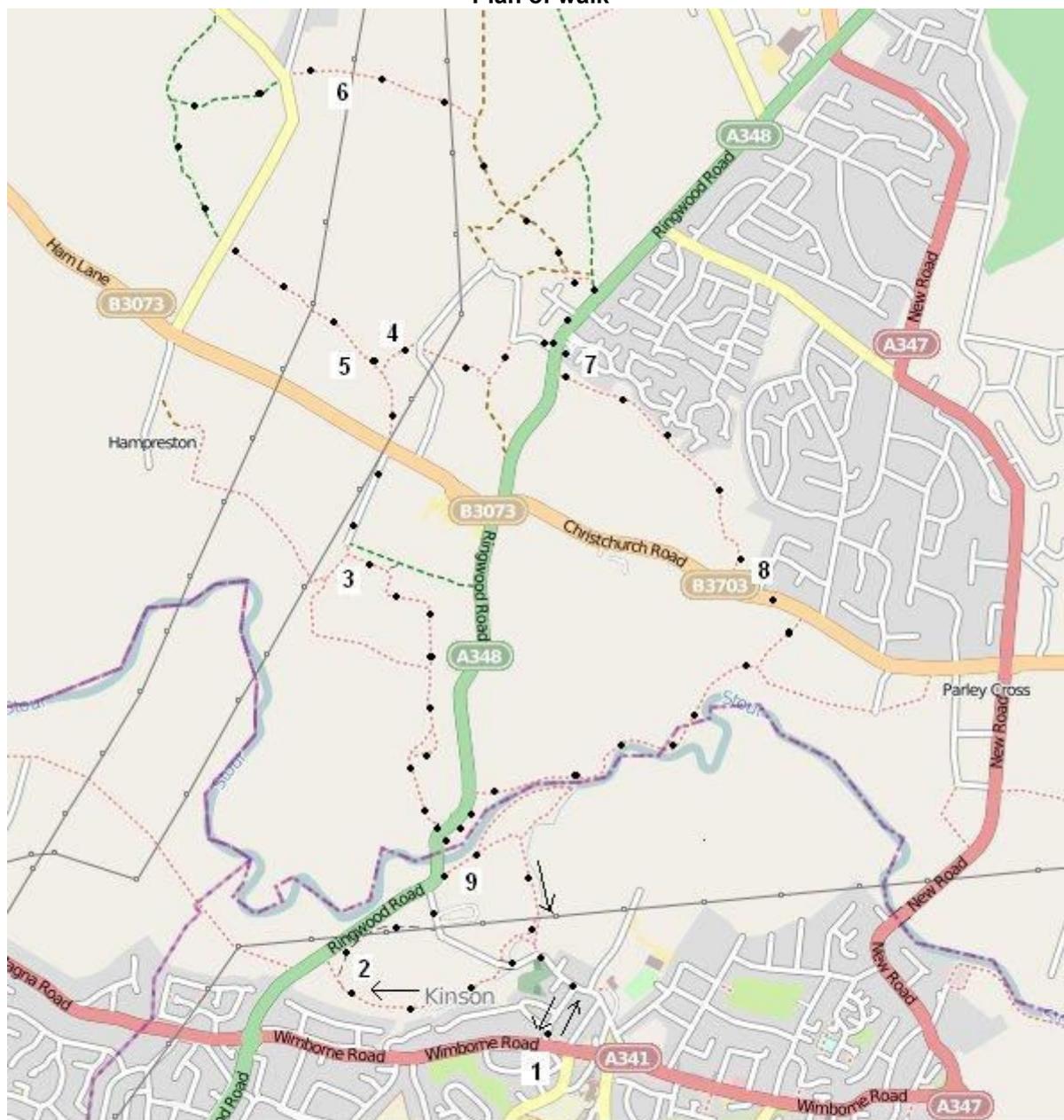
Distance: Option (A) 7 mls, 11 km, Option (B) 8.5 mls, 13 km, easy walking, allow 3 or 4 hours.

Maps: Explorer OL22 (and 118 for Option (B)), and/or Landranger 195. (Note: not all the paths used are on these maps.)

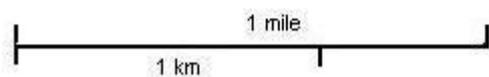
Buses: Transdev Yellow buses 2a, 2b, 4a, 5a, 5b, 27 and 36, stopping at several stops near the junction of Millhams Road and Wimborne Road.

Parking: Side roads in Kinson. Also small car park at St Andrews Church, SZ 067 969, which shortens the walk slightly.

Plan of walk



• • • Route of walk



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Track | Trunk road |
| Byway | Primary road |
| Bridleway | Secondary road |
| Cycleway | Unclassified road |
| Footway | Unsurfaced road |
| Railway | |
| Administrative boundary | |



Map reproduced from www.openstreetmap.org

1. Walk down Millhams Road away from the shopping street.

Pass St Andrews Church on your left, pass through a gate and cross a bridge.

Turn left immediately onto the Stour Valley Way.

2. Just before coming out onto the road, turn right onto a footpath parallel to the road. There are a number of paths. Follow the path that moves away from the road towards the power lines and follow the lines.

As Millhams Recycling Centre comes in sight, edge to the right around the end of the fence and turn left onto the road.

Go up onto the main road (A348) and turn right.

Keep on along the road until you can cross over. If this is difficult immediately, eventually you will come to a traffic island to help, about 400 m after the bridge. If you get as far as this island, you will need to turn back along the road the other side.

Take the footpath that goes alongside house number 13.

Follow the footpath behind the houses and via several stiles, up to the top of the bank of the first (small) lake and keep on to the right.

Passing the second (large) lake on your left, turn left, right and left again along its northern side.

3. Coming up to some bushes ahead, turn right through a gap to cross the hedge, left onto the path on the other side and right onto a gravel track (N).

Cross Ham Lane and take the path directly opposite.

4. Option (A) only: After the path bends around to the left, take a right turn.

Follow this path and turn right to go under power lines and past Coneygar Farm. Approach a wooded area and at the T-junction turn left.

At the next fork take the right hand fork and join the main road (A348).

Turn left and cross over the road at the traffic lights, joining Option (2) at point 7.

5. Option (B) only: Keep straight on at the 4-way junction.

Cross a minor road and keep straight on.

Coming up to the driveway to a house on your left, bear to the right and keep the stream on your left.

When you come to a pretty cottage on your left, take a sharp right turn going upwards.

Cross a minor road and follow the gravel track ahead, perhaps slightly to your right.

6. Option (B) only: Pass through a gate onto access land, and keep straight on.

(There are many paths on this access land. You need to go slightly south of east and then south-east to get to the main road.)

After passing under two sets of power lines, and after passing a gate on your left leading into a field, bear right at the next junction.

Keep going downhill, taking the widest path at each junction and keeping in a south-easterly direction.

Passing some tumuli, turn left at a T-junction and after another couple of hundred metres, turn right at the next T-junction to come out onto the main road (A348).

Turn right onto the road and cross over at the traffic lights, joining Option (A).

7. Both options. After crossing the road, turn right.

Pass the pub and in the lay-by turn left onto a signed footpath that looks like a house

driveway.

Follow this footpath keeping the houses on your left and ignoring paths to your left.

The track widens into a good gravel track. Stay with it until you reach the bottom of the hill and a space appears ahead at the same time as the track turns sharply to your left.

Bear right across the open space to a narrow path.

8. Come out onto the Christchurch Road and turn left.

Cross over the road and after 200 m turn right onto a path signed Dudsbury Guide Camp. Over the fence on your left you might catch a glimpse of part of the Dudsbury Rings.

At a T-junction, bear right and follow the path around to the left down towards the River Stour.

Follow the path, keeping the river on your left.

9. Join the main road (A348) and turn left along it.

After crossing the bridge at Longham, turn left and follow the broad gravel path that starts alongside the river before bending right away from it. Follow this path until it meets a minor road (Millhams Road).

Turn left, go over the bridge and return to the car park on your right or go back up to the Wimborne Road and the bus stops.

The lakes at Longham

Owned by Bournemouth and Hants Water Co and being developed as a facility for walkers and for fishing. Only people fishing are allowed to park in the car park. There is now (2010) an extra small lake south of the large lake on the map, gravel extracted first, the same having happened to start the large one in 2001. The path now turns earlier than on the map, up onto the bank alongside the small lake. Grebes, gulls and cormorants in particular on the lake.

St Andrew's Church

The tower is the oldest part, from at least 1100 but maybe there was an older church there in Saxon times. The rest is Victorian or newer.

Dudsbury Rings

Remains of an iron age hill fort. The area is now heavily wooded so you can catch only glimpses, sometimes in people's gardens.

Updated 14/10/10. Bear in mind that bus routes, car parking and even paths can all change!