



## Information

Distance: 3.6km (2.2miles)

Average Time: 1 hour (time may vary depending on pace)

Gradient: Gentle

Starting Point: Swannery Car Park

Public Transport: N/A

Parking: Swannery Car Park

Accessibility: Most of the walk is accessible to people of all abilities, including wheelchair users. The route is also a cycle route so care to be taken to keep the left.

## Facilities

Café: There is a café open most year-round at Sandsfoot Gardens

Toilets: The only toilets are those at the Swannery Car Park unless you continue onto the longer route.

Cycling: Cycling is allowed on the Rodwell Trail which is a dual use, although no cycling is allowed in any Gardens or Parks.

Dog: Dogs are allowed on this route BUT must be kept on leads at all times.

1. From the Swannery Car Park walk towards the corner where the path leads under the bridge, continue along the path, you should be able to see some swans and other birds on the water. Continue along the path until you reach the Westham Road Bridge.
2. Turn right and cross over the bridge, turning right again after about 100 metres towards the underpass. When you come out of the underpass take the left-hand path. Follow the path as it turns right across two small roads on either side of a Church.
3. You should then reach the twin pillars which indicate the start of the Rodwell Trail. You will be following the Rodwell Trail for about 2 kms until you reach the turning point for Sandsfoot Castle.
4. You will cross over Newstead Road bridge from which point you can have views towards Weymouth Harbour. This part is first incline on the path although the second incline is more gradual. You might be able to spot a variety of butterflies along this section of the trail.
5. Once you pass under the first bridge you will be able to see remains of the railway station that was once here. You then walk along a shaded area which is enjoyed by the more secretive animals, such as frogs, badgers and foxes. You might see a wren flitting around in the undergrowth.
6. You will come to a junction which will direct you to Sandsfoot Castle. Take care as this is also an access road to houses, so ensure children keep to the pavement.
7. You will then see the entrance to Sandsfoot Castle on your left-hand side. You can take a break enjoy a cup of coffee and cake or an ice cream. Sandsfoot Castle has spectacular views across Portland Harbour, more information about the Gardens and Castle can be found on the **website**. Then either retrace your steps, or if you prefer a longer walk follow the route below via The Nothe Gardens, and take in a couple of our **Mural Trail** images.