

Route 3: A short route through Lorton Meadows. (2 miles. Approx. 45 minutes.)

(This is suitable for pedestrians only)

Use ROUTE 1 through Littlemoor Meadow from [A] to [B]. As you pass through the gateway keep RIGHT and follow down the right-hand edge of Horse Lynch Meadow. When you reach a gate on your RIGHT go through into Rodway Mead and cross to pass through the gate in the opposite hedge, into Cowleaze. Cross this field to the next gateway, into Old White Roughit. A short distance to the LEFT is point [M]. From here you can turn RIGHT up the far edge of the field, to return to [A].

These are ancient fields, recently restored by re-seeding with wild flower and grass seed, harvested locally to create organic hay and grazed meadows – a nationally disappearing habitat. In summer look out for a great variety of butterflies and dragonflies.

Route 4: From Littlemoor to Weymouth town centre via Lodmoor and Greenhill. (3 miles. Approx. 1 hour 30 minutes.)

From the third bus stop on Louviers Road: cross the road and walk up the field path opposite Primula Close. Keep ahead through the gap in the hedge and on to the summit of Southdown Ridge. Continue downhill until you cross a ditch at [D].

Keep ahead through Lodmoor bird reserve to [H] and [J]. At [J] keep ahead onto stone path. BEAR LEFT to cross ditch [O] and follow path past activity areas to enter Car Park. Continue down left hand edge, then cross Preston Road and turn LEFT then RIGHT to join promenade. Turn RIGHT and continue to Weymouth.

Alternatively, starting from water reservoir [A]: follow Route 1 via [B] and [C] to [D], then continue over ditch, as above. Cyclists use cycle route 1 via [Q], [R] and [C] to [D], as above.

Walks start from Littlemoor.

From the shoppers' car park: walk LEFT up Louviers Road as far as the first bus stop (just beyond Canberra Road) to begin WALK 1.

These walks explore the newly designated "Lorton Valley Nature Park". This includes: the RSPB's Lodmoor Reserve, Lodmoor Country Park, Two Mile Coppice (owned and managed by The Woodland Trust) and Dorset Wildlife Trust's Lorton Meadows nature reserve.

Bus Stop

TRAVEL

There is an hourly train service to Upwey Station from Weymouth, or Dorchester and stations to the north. Footpaths and roads lead from the station to Littlemoor. (See 'Walking Littlemoor' map.)

The Number 2 bus service from Weymouth circulates around Littlemoor and returns to Weymouth. On Louviers Road there are 3 suitable bus stops for walking south, and two small (free) parking areas.

Bus & train information is available from the Traveline: 0871-200 2233
www.travelinesw.com
See also: www.traveldorset.org

Use Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL15 (Purbeck & South Dorset)



TravelDorset
Check before you travel



Lorton Meadows Nature Reserve covers 75 hectares (185 acres) of unspoilt, wildlife rich meadows and woodland, connected by mature hedgerows, with ponds and seasonal streams. It is managed by *Dorset Wildlife Trust* to increase the variety of wildlife and encourage people's enjoyment of nature, through walking, volunteering or joining one of its many events. For more information and the events programme, please go to www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/lorton.

To discover more of the borough's wild places, try a section, or all, of the Legacy Trail. It starts at Lorton Meadows [A] and passes via Lodmoor to the Esplanade, then inland to Radipole, along the Rodwell Trail and Hamm Beach, up the Merchant's Incline through the Quarries to Church Ope Cove and along to Portland Bill.

For further information on the trail go to: www.visit-dorset.com and search for 'Legacy Trail'.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the permission of the publisher and copyright owners.

The representation of a track or path is no evidence of a public right of way. This is not a Definitive Map of Rights of Way and has no legal status. Users of all routes shown on this map do so entirely at their own risk. We cannot guarantee that all routes will always be passable.

Conceived and written by Malcolm Beeson for the Littlemoor Community Action Group (Charity Number 1089523) Tel: 01305 832572

Illustrated by www.allegoric.co.uk

Malcolm Beeson's
Walking and cycling
around Weymouth from
Littlemoor

Routes to explore
the Weymouth countryside

Area 4
**The Lorton Valley
Nature Park**



Route 1: Lorton Valley Nature Park.

(5 miles. Approximately 1 hour 30 minutes)

From the first Number 2 bus stop on Louviers Road, cross the road and walk up the drive (small car park) to the start of the Legacy Trail [A] with its Portland stone seat and extensive views to Weymouth and Portland.

Turn LEFT and follow the widest grass path, heading for the left corner of Horse Lynch Plantation (the long wood on the skyline). Follow the path through the gateway [B], then keep LEFT and down the side of the wood. Pass through the gate on your left, into the wood and through, to exit through gate at far side [C].

Cyclists - stay on the bridleway by the hedge. At the corner of the field [Q] turn right, go downhill until you reach a gateway on left [R] Follow path around the top side of the wood, through the open gateways to [C].

Keep ahead, and then turn RIGHT through the gateway. Bear LEFT, diagonally down field. Pass through kissing gate and onto stone path over ditch [D]. For ROUTE 2 shortcut, keep ahead. Otherwise, turn LEFT (signed 'Preston') along stone path.

Shortly join grass verge beside Southdown Avenue. Continue ahead (joining Hazeldown Avenue from left) then turn RIGHT through gate onto stone path through RSPB's Lodmoor reserve [E]. (Dogs must be kept on leads in the reserve.)

Continue ahead along 'Beachdown Way' and at end [F] pedestrians turn sharp RIGHT onto stone/grass path. **(Cyclists continue a few yards further, to turn RIGHT onto cycleway.)**

[To continue travelling into Weymouth, cross the main road and up ramp onto sea wall. Turn RIGHT.]

Look for common spotted orchids in the grass between May and July, as you approach a covered bird-spotting area. After passing this, cyclists and pedestrians merge to cross a stream, then separate again. Shortly reach [G] where you can exit to road.

[To continue into Weymouth, cross main road, up ramp and continue to RIGHT along promenade.]
Pedestrians turn RIGHT at [G] and continue on stone path through reserve. **Cyclists dismount.** (Or from [G]: cross service road, then LEFT and RIGHT onto shared cycleway/footpath along Preston Road. Enter car park by The Lodmoor pub. At far right corner of car park join stone path, keeping LEFT and pass exercise areas. Cross ditch and bear RIGHT [O] to re-join route at [J].)

When you reach a T-junction, turn LEFT [H]. Where path forks, with small building ahead, keep RIGHT [J] onto tarmac footpath and cycleway. Follow path to RIGHT around rugby pitch (a camping site in summer).

Continue ahead on tarmac path to roundabout on access road to Park & Ride site [K]. Cross access road and turn LEFT downhill past ponds, to underpass below Relief Road [L]. **Do not go into underpass**, but instead turn SHARPLY BACK RIGHT onto tree-lined stone path along the edge of Two Mile Coppice. At the end of the wood, keep ahead through gate [M].

The path ahead gets steep and narrow. **Cyclists** should use the bridleway along the right side of the field, go through a bridle gate ahead [S], continue by the hedge until you reach the top of the hill and another bridleway [T], turning left to point [A].

Pedestrians: Continue uphill on grass path from [M], keeping the hedge on your left. Pass through a kissing gate as gradient gets steeper. Your starting point [A] lies ahead, as the path gets narrow and very steep.

Route 2: A shortcut, to by-pass the Lodmoor nature reserve. (Reduces approximate length of circular walk to one hour.)

After crossing the ditch at point [D], continue ahead onto stone path, passing [H] and re-joining ROUTE 1.