

A CIRCULAR WALK TO FONTMELL MAGNA &

TWYFORD



The Walk

1 Facing the phone box go down the lane between the wooden pedestrian gate and the church gates. On your return have a look at the war memorial. The village lost five men in WW1 and the churchyard contains a Commonwealth War Grave to Private P J Brown. Carry on down the slope and bear right to keep to the footpath.

2 At the end of the path turn left. Carry on straight down the lane until you see the sign to Gore Clump to the right. Take this and you will pass through Watery Lane. Don't worry it is only muddy for a short way! Carry on until you reach a gate and pass through it. Walk across the field hugging the boundary on your right. Climb the small hill until you reach the sign explaining the permissive footpath. PLEASE KEEP TO THE MARKED FOOTPATH.

3 Go through the kissing gate and follow the pathway through the woods. The end of the path slopes up the hill to the left where there is a clearly marked gate.

- 4 Go through the gate onto the National Trust open land turn right and walk roughly along the fence line to the to the end of the neighbouring field where you will find a gate to the right which leads into another field.
- 5 Follow the left-hand side of the field being sure to keep dogs on a lead as sheep graze in these fields. You will come to a break in the hedge line in front of you and a slope which you go down, turn left and walk to the end of the field and then turn right keeping near the fence-line on the left.
- 6 You will come to a stile at the bottom of the field and then another stile almost immediately go into another field. Look diagonally to the left and see a stile in the top middle of the fence-line. If there are animals or crops in this field, please be respectful and walk around the left edge of the field, if not you can walk diagonally across the field which is slightly quicker.
- 7 Cross the stile here and follow the path through the last field which brings you to another stile and onto the lane. Be careful of the traffic! You have arrived at Mill Street Fontmell Magna. In front of you is Collyer's Brook which gives the Font part of the village title.

- 8 Turn right toward the centre of the village and be incredibly careful when you cross the road towards the Fontmell pub. Either rest for some refreshment or carry on along West Street with the pub on your right and pass through the village out into the country again - this time a bit flatter! You could even get the bus back.
- 9 Carry on for a mile or so until you come to a crossroads.
- 10 This is Bedchester crossroads. There is a defibrillator in the phone box so you will know you are in the right place. You are at the halfway point. Turn right and enter the hamlet of Twyford. To the right you will see Brach Farm.
- 11 After about a half mile you will see a turning to the right which is Hawcombe Lane. This is signposted as the St. Edwards Way. This is part of the pilgrimages of the British Pilgrimage Trust. The whole route is three days long and goes as far as Wareham.
- 12 Quite soon you will see a No Through Road to your left with a gate which is almost always open except when the farmer is moving livestock. You are now on Drones Lane. Pass Drones Farm go up the hill and emerge in front of a newly constructed and reimagined house.

13 Pass by the house and keep to the the track from where you can see West Knoyle some 14 miles away.

14 The track widens, and you will need to pass through a very wide gate to proceed and eventually you will go up the last part of the track where you will see remains of Iron Age fortifications to the left. Eventually you will arrive at the A350 main road. Be incredibly careful and cross strait across. You are now back in East Compton.

15 Gourds Farm to your right dominates the village and by following the lane you will walk all around it.

16 Having passed the farmhouse you can see the remnants of the old St Mary's Church which was constructed in the 13th century. Stay a while and imagine that in 1866 the village decided to reposition the whole church from where you are to where you started this walk. The whole thing took only 15 months including the bells.

17 As you bear right at Lower Lane House very soon the white cottages of Twintown will appear on your left. Keep going and you will pass Lots Cottage one of the oldest dwellings in the village. Another few steps and you will pass Horders.

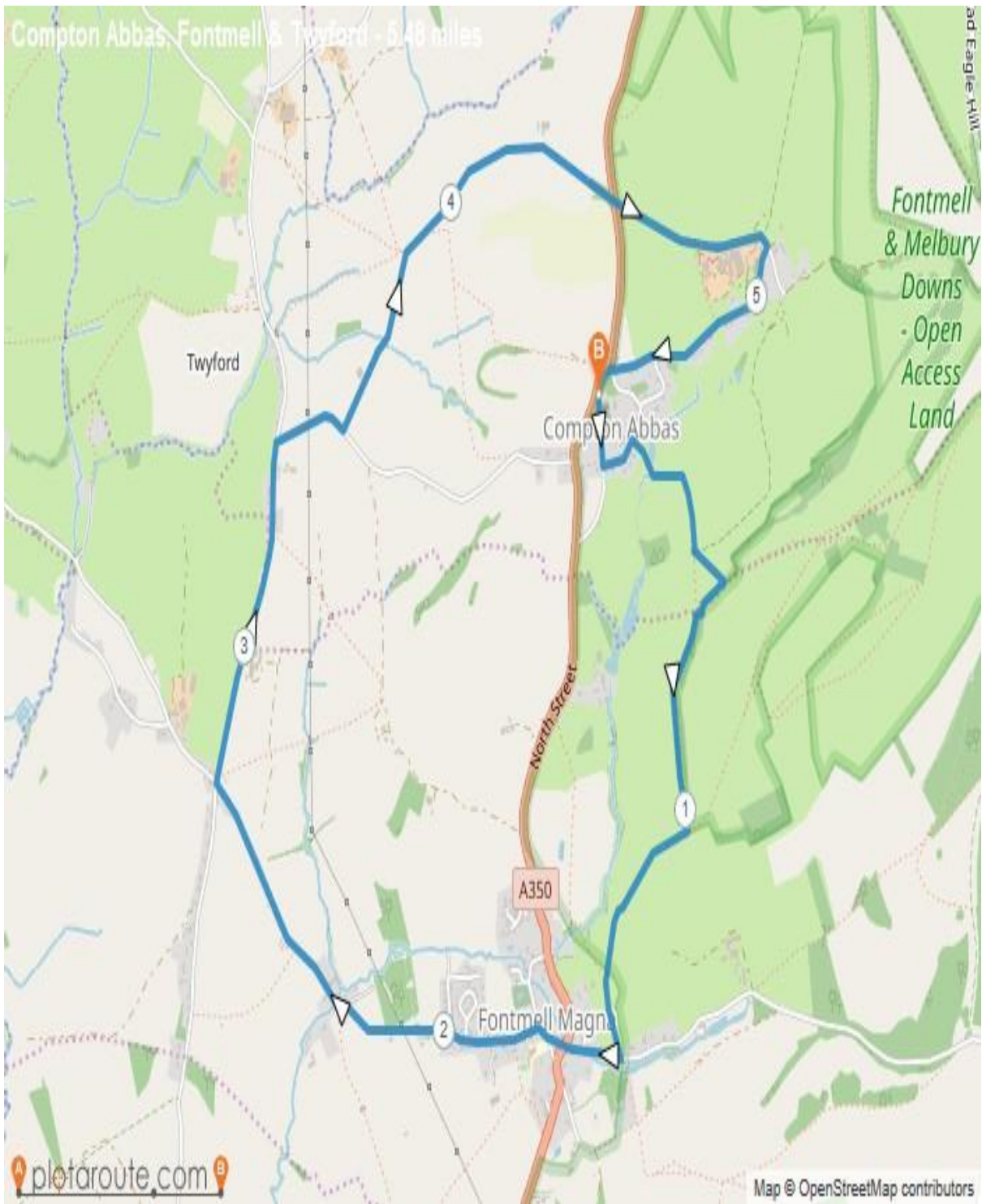
The Horder family lived in the village continuously for some 700 years. In all that time all male Horders used only six names.

18 Soon, on your right, you will pass Fanners Field in Memory of Margaret Honour (nee Fanner) who gave it to the village in 1997. A little further you pass the Old Reading room where the home guard did shooting practice during WW2 and the Old Forge to the right. Excellent glamping here! To the left before the main road, you will see a “Footpath” sign up some steps. This will lead you back to the start of this walk. Hope you enjoyed it!



Map below:

Compton Abbas, Fontmell & Twyford - 5.48 miles



plotaroute.com

Map © OpenStreetMap contributors

ad Eagle HW

Fontmell & Melbury Downs - Open Access Land