

A WALK FROM COMPTON ABBAS TO SHAFTESBURY

1. With the phone box behind you go through the gate opposite to the left of the war memorial. The village lost five men in WW1 and the churchyard contains a Commonwealth War Grave to Private P J Brown.
2. Pass through the grounds of the Church Hall which ceased to be a school in 1933 Walk through the woodland and down the steps.
3. Carry straight on between the Old Reading room where the home guard did shooting practice during WW2 and with The Old Forge to the left walk down the hill.
4. Soon, on your left, you will pass Fanners Field in Memory of Margaret Honour (nee Fanner) who gave it to the village in 1997.
5. Carry on walking and as you descend the hill 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.

6. Follow on up the hill you will pass Lots Cottage one of the oldest dwellings in the village. Pass through Twintown to your right with Gourds Farm to your left. Into East Compton and past the remains of the old beautiful old church tower on the left-hand side.
7. The church 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.
8. Just past the church on the right-hand side is a gateway set back which leads through a long field.
9. At the end of this field is another field gate on the right leading onto a chalky path which ascends the chalk downland.
10. Around halfway up the chalky path there is a small grassy path on the left that takes you to the walkers' gate in the middle of the fence line.
11. Once at the very top by the Beacon, enjoy the view.

12. When you are ready take the stile on the right-hand side and proceed down the hill towards the village of Melbury Abbas. Follow the path down through the fields and out onto the lane.
13. Turn right past the box telephone box and carry on down the lane for a mile.
14. You will see Melbury Abbas village hall on the right-hand side with a lane to the left.
15. Proceed down the hilly lane and at the bottom of the hill you will see a footpath sign on the left-hand side by a big lake.
16. Proceed down the grassy footpath which takes you down beside a lovely big house and out through the fields.
17. Carry on down through the fields following the footpath signs and over stiles until you end up on the A350. This is a busy road so be very careful.
18. Turn right and carefully walk on the verge down the hill and cross over the road walking down the lane which has a bus stop and a signpost to Cann Mills.

19. Walk down the lane past the mill.
20. At the end of the track is a metal gate with the DCC footpath disk on it. Go through it, turn left to the next gate and over the stile.
21. Halfway through the field you will see a gated bridge on the left, go over the bridge, turn right and over the stile next to a metal field gate.
22. Walk through the next field and over the stile at the end which brings you onto French Mill Lane, turn right and walk up the hill
23. Take the first right hand turn at Three Ways Cottage and follow the lane towards Shaftesbury you can either carry on walking down this lane into town or...
24. Take the third footpath sign on the right which takes you into a field and from there walk up to the top of the field and through a small kissing gate.
25. Wander along the small track, through the next kissing gate and cross over the road to the next part of that footpath

26. At the end, turn right and walk up the road then turn left onto Shaftesbury Road which takes you straight into Town. Map below:

