

Access Opportunities on the Defence Estate

Lulworth Dorset



Coastal and inland paths, encompassing the historical Tyneham village and the spectacular Dorset coastline.

Walk 1: Circular route

Distance: 3½ miles (5.6km)

Duration: 3 hours

Grade: ▲▲

Walk 2: Easy-going Trail

Distance: 2½ miles (4km)

Duration: 1½ hours

Grade: ▲

OS map sheet(s)

OS Landranger Sheet 194 (1:50,000)

OS Outdoor Leisure Sheet 15 (1:25,000)

Starting Grid Reference:

Walk 1: GR 888 812 **Walk 2:** GR 882 802

Site description / history

The Bindon Range at Lulworth has been used as a tank firing range since 1916 while Heath Range and the Tyneham Valley were taken into use during the Second World War.

The Lulworth Range comprises more than 2,830 hectares. Although its foreshore continues for some ten and a half kilometres, only certain areas are accessible due to sheer cliff faces and unstable rock and chalk formations. The Range is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Amongst the grasslands abutting the walks lies a multitude of wild flowers including cowslip, milkwort, scabious and wild parsnip. In the summer months, the whole area abounds with a variety of wildlife and insects. As with much of the Dorset coast, this section of the coastline is important for its geological interest. A mixture of limestone and chalk sands and clays can be seen, including spectacular formations of folding rock strata.

Walk description - Walk 1

At the start of the walk at Whiteway car park **A** (GR 888 812) you will see a stone signpost for Lulworth, Flower's Barrow and Tyneham. Follow this route southwesterly along the ridge, always staying between the yellow marker posts. Continue along this path until you reach a gate and stile. Cross over the stile, and continue along a gravel track, passing a Trig Point on your right. Where the track turns right downhill, continue straight along the grassy track, crossing over another stile on to Flower's Barrow **B** (GR 866 805).

At Flower's Barrow, follow the signs for Worbarrow Bay **C**, heading south easterly. Cross over a stile and follow the signs for the 'Hardy Way', (a section of the South West Coast Path). This path takes you down a steep grassy slope. At the bottom of the hill, cross another stile. Following the coastline, continue along the path crossing another stile and passing some ruined cottages. This will take you on towards the beach at Worbarrow Bay.

At the beach, walk across a small bridge and turn left on to a track. Shortly after this track, turn right, up some steps to an information board overlooking Worbarrow Bay (GR 871 797). From here, follow a gravel track inland, which is signposted to Tyneham, keeping the wooded area on your left. Approximately 10 minutes along this track (GR 879 801), you will reach a gate and a sign post for a 'woodland walk' which takes you on to the car park at Tyneham **D** (GR 882 802). (It is also possible to follow the easy-going trail to the car park from this point, by continuing along the gravel track). At the car park **D**, turn left and head towards the village of Tyneham. In the village, follow a track around the back of the church to meet up with a gravel road. Continue along this road, gently ascending the hill back to the Whiteway car park **A** (GR 888 812).



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Walk description - Walk 2

Easy-going Trail

Leaving the car park at Tyneham **D** (GR 882 802), walk past the toilets on the left and turn right continuing along the gravel track. Continue along this track, with the woodland on the right, until reaching the information board overlooking the beach at Worbarrow Bay **C**. This track is suitable for access by wheelchair and pushchair users.

Points of interest

- Geological interest of the limestone/chalk coastline, contributing to stunning cliff scenery.
- Given the diversity of heathland, bog, grassland, woodland, seashore, cliff, stream and pond habitats, the Ranges play host to many native (some rare) plant and animal species, including wild cabbage, the dark green fritillary, skylarks, kestrels and sika deer.
- Tyneham Valley - listed in the Domesday Book. The remains of a Medieval settlement and strip fields can be found in this area. A permanent exhibition is on display in Tyneham Church and the School House tells the history of the valley. Tyneham Village was taken over by the Army in 1943.
- Flower's Barrow is an Iron Age hillfort covering approximately 6 hectares.
- Worbarrow Beach is open to the public when the Ranges are open and it is safe for bathing.

Restrictions / access times

Lulworth Range walks are normally accessible every Saturday/Sunday except for six weekends in the year. They are also open during Christmas, Easter, all of August and all Public Holidays. Access information can be gained by contacting the Range.

Safety

- The paths for walks around the Range have been cleared of explosives and are clearly marked by plain wooden posts with yellow bands. Please keep to these way-marked paths and within the fences at all times.
- Do not touch or pick up any metal objects lying on the ground.
- Please keep away from all buildings, except for Tyneham Church, the School House and toilet facilities.
- Never stray from the paths. Stay away from cliff edges and overhangs. Cliff top walking can be dangerous in high winds.
- Do not sit under cliffs or climb them.
- Please protect the wildlife. It is an offence to collect specimens of flowers, birds' eggs, insects or fossils without permission.

How to get there

For information on local public transport, call Traveline on 0870 608 2608 (local call rate) www.traveline.org.uk

Local facilities

There are car parking facilities at Whiteway **A** and Tyneham **D**. Picnic facilities are also available at Whiteway car park. There are public toilets at Tyneham **D**, including a disabled toilet.

Useful contact details

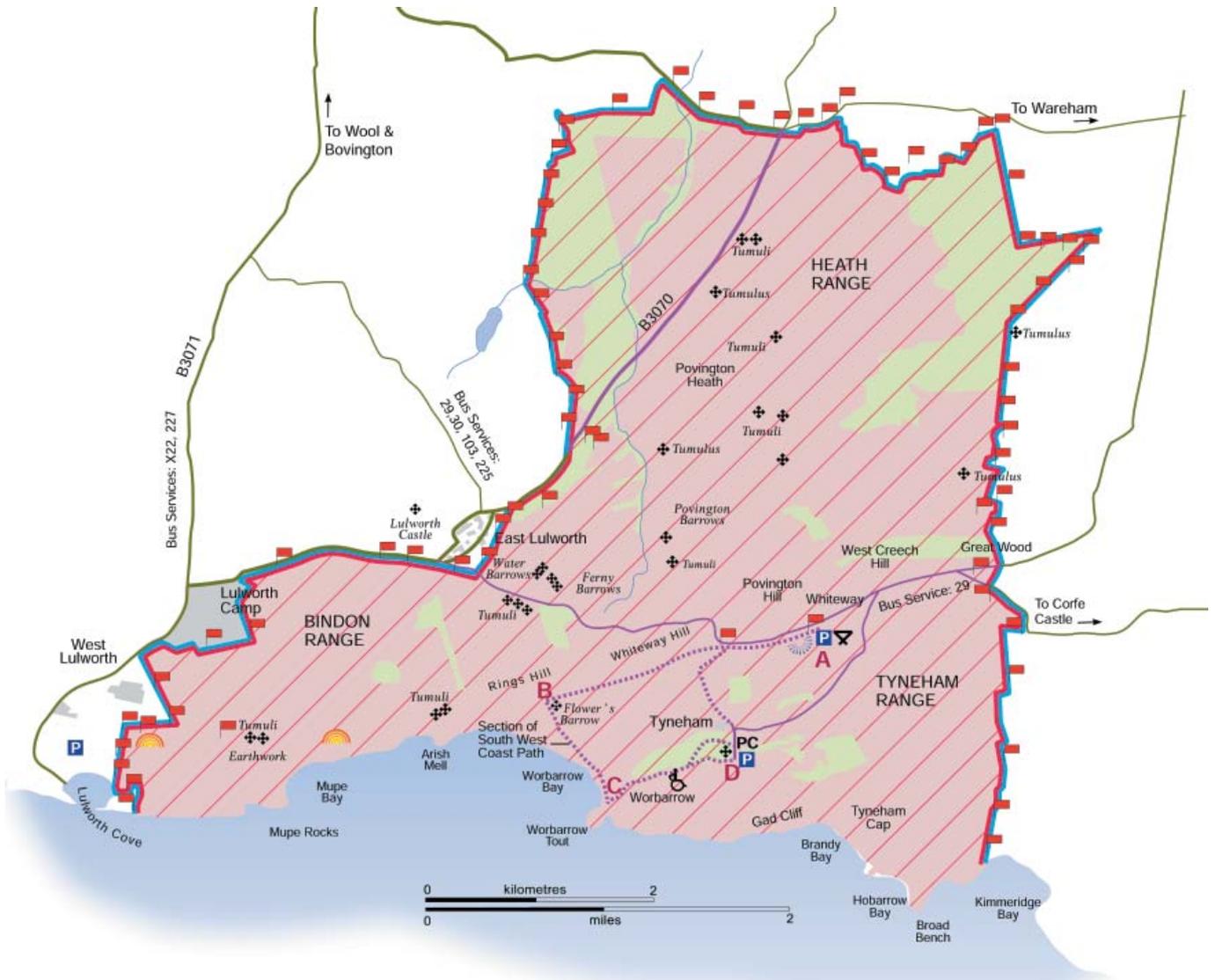
A recording of up to date information can be heard on 01929 462721 Ext. 4819.

For information on walking/transport in the area contact the Purbeck Tourist Information Centre in Wareham on 01929 552740.

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| ACCESS AT ALL TIMES | NO ACCESS IF RED FLAGS FLOWN/LAMPS LIT | MOD LANDS | Historic Sites |
| Roads | Roads | Training Area | View Points |
| | Footpaths | Woodland Training Area | Car Park |
| WARNING SIGNS | FLAGS - Day | Live Firing Range Danger Area | Picnic Facilities |
| | LAMPS - Night | Training Area Boundary | PC Public Conveniences (Including Disabled Toilets) |
| | | | Easy-going Trail |

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