

All walks start at the shoppers' car park on the A353 (Littlemoor Road) at Littlemoor.

## Bus Stop

### Travel

Littlemoor can be reached by rail, bus or car/bicycle. There is an hourly train service to Upwey Station from Weymouth or Dorchester and stations to the north.

Footpaths and roads leading to Littlemoor. (See 'Walking Littlemoor' map.)

The Number 2 bus service from Weymouth terminates at Littlemoor. The number 31 bus service between Weymouth, Dorchester and Axminster travels past Littlemoor Shopping Centre along Littlemoor Road.

Bus & train information is available from the Traveline:  
Tel: 0871 200 2233  
www.travelinesw.com

Use Ordnance Survey Explorer Map  
OL15 Purbeck & South Dorset



## Points of Interest

Radio mast

WW2 Naval Bunker

Memorial stone: "To the Virgin Family of Coombe Farm. 1919-2010"

Bronze-age Barrow

Strip Lynchets



## The Bunker on Bincombe Down

In a small quarry on Bincombe Down is a once secret defence bunker, well-hidden behind high barbed wire fencing. It was probably constructed during World War Two for the Admiralty as an anti-aircraft control room.

## The Grand Old Duke of York

The Grand Old Duke of York, who reputedly marched his 10,000 men to the top of a hill and then down again, was probably Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany, the son of Weymouth's famous patron King George III. Whenever King George was in Weymouth the York Hussars set up camp on Bincombe Down, to protect King and country against the threatened French invasion.



### THE ROYAL STANDARD

01305 812558

Free House ♦ Micro-Brewery ♦ Real Ales  
Home-made Pub Grub ♦ Dogs Welcome

Monday – Thursday: 11.30am – 3pm/ 5.30 – 11pm  
Friday – Sunday: 11.30am – 11.30pm

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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.

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Illustrated by www.allegoric.co.uk © 2013 Yvonne Lee

## The Viking Burial on Ridgeway Hill

When the Weymouth Relief Road was being built in 2009, many skeletons were discovered only a few metres on the Weymouth side of where the green bridge now stands. (The site has since gone, as it was within the cutting that carries the road under the bridge.)

There were 51 skeletons, with the skulls in a separate pile, in what had been a Roman quarry.

The dead people were all male, mostly aged from their late teens up to about 25 years old, together with a very few older men. They had all been killed at the same time, using a large and very sharp sword, or similar weapon. As they did not have battle wounds they were probably captives.

Radiocarbon dating has shown that they died about 1,000 years ago, between 910 and 1030 AD. Isotope studies on their teeth revealed that they came from Scandinavia – probably Sweden.

These men were probably Vikings – perhaps the captain and crew of a raiding long ship, captured and executed at the site where they have been found.

Their deaths may also be linked to the St Brice's Day Massacre, which took place on 13th November 1002, in the reign of King Ethelred II ("the Unready"). He ordered a mass killing of Danes, following continual raids by the Vikings.



Walking and cycling  
around Weymouth from

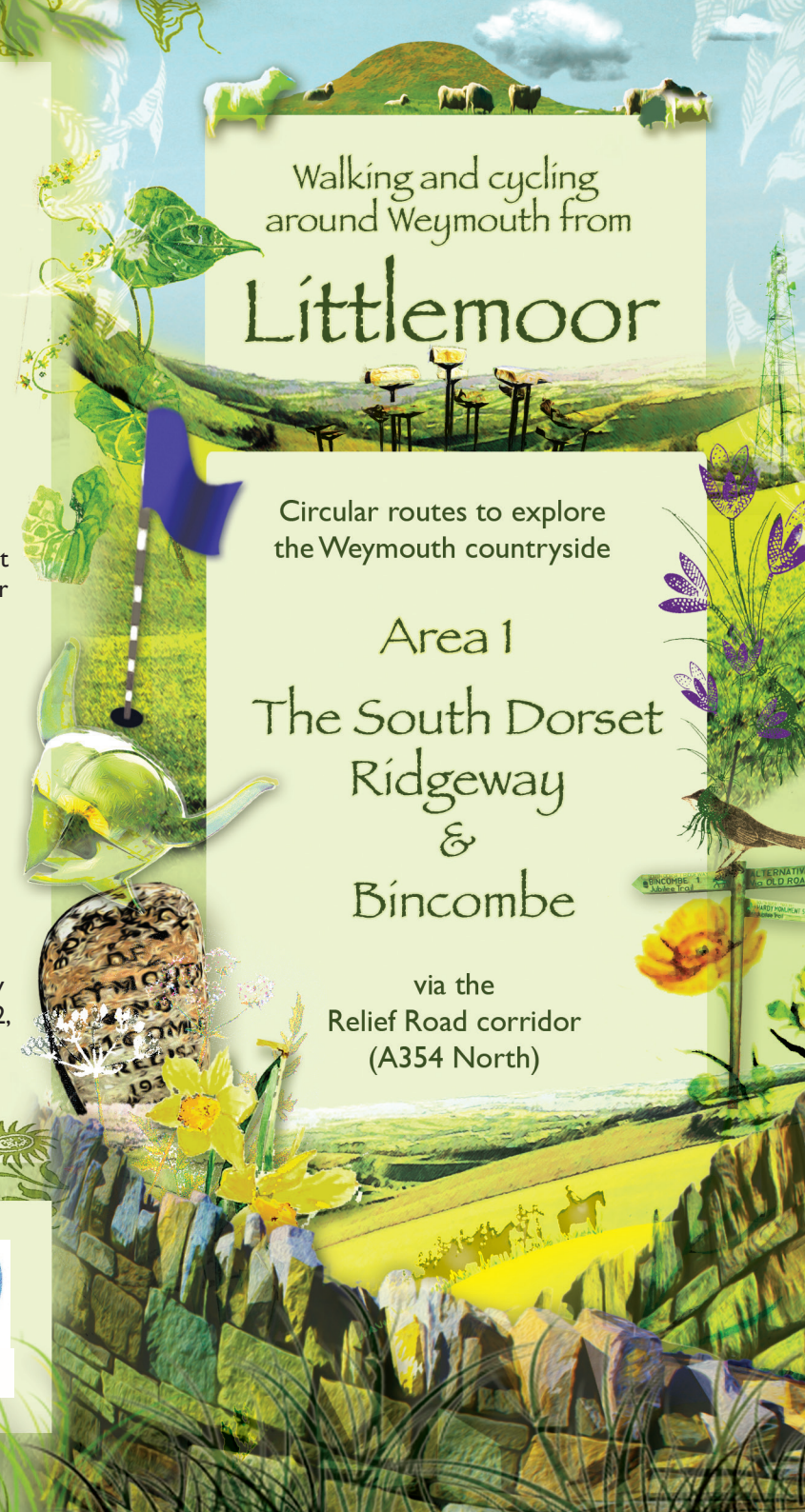
# Littlemoor

Circular routes to explore  
the Weymouth countryside

## Area 1

# The South Dorset Ridgeway & Bincombe

via the  
Relief Road corridor  
(A354 North)







**Route 1: The South-Dorset Ridgeway and Bincombe**  
(5.5 miles; Approx 2 hours 15 minutes)

Turn LEFT by the library [A], onto the A353. At the roundabout keep LEFT and onto the bridge. Cross over on the bridge then turn RIGHT by mast (opposite bus shelter) onto footpath/cycleway down towards ponds. Bear LEFT then cross end of Icen Lane and continue uphill beside Relief Road.

Cross end of Chapel Lane [B]. (Walk down Chapel Lane to left and turn right at main road, to find The Royal Standard.) Continue forward to the Upwey junction [C]. (To find The Ship inn turn down slip road and continue downhill; turn right where road bears left.) Otherwise follow path over junction and bear left onto disused road. (You soon cross the railway where it emerges from a tunnel and runs down to Weymouth, on one of the steepest gradients in the south-west.)

Continue up long gradient to the Green Bridge [D] on the Ridgeway. As you cross the bridge, look left towards Dorchester. (The massive earth construction of Maiden Castle is to the left of the main road.) Look right towards Weymouth & Portland to the south.

Cross over Green Bridge and keep ahead onto unmade-up road for 100m. (Pass on the right the start of a short alternative off-road route towards Came Wood.) Keep ahead on road, passing Down Farm on left. Pass mast and old bunker on right (Bincombe Barn) then downhill with Came Down Golf Course on left.

At crossroads (with Came Wood diagonally across) [E] turn RIGHT through pedestrian gate (can be muddy). Look left to see a glimpse of a Long Barrow (see separate panel). Continue along unmade-up track, eventually joining tarmac road. Pass around gate and LEFT at T-junction [F], then steeply downhill to Bincombe village.

Follow road to RIGHT by East Farm and on downhill. (Pass end of route 3 at [G].) Bear LEFT as you reach Icen Farm, to roundabout. Follow path to LEFT and cross road near church to return to Littlemoor shops. [A]

**Route 2: Upwey Junction and Bincombe**  
(3.5 miles; Approx 1 hour 10 minutes)

As Route 1 as far as the Upwey Junction [C]. Keep LEFT down slip road, cross to opposite verge then RIGHT under relief road. Follow road to join Route 1 above Bincombe. [F]

**Route 3: Coombe Farm and The Knoll**  
(3 miles; 1 hour)

As Route 1 as far as the Chapel Lane farm bridge [B]. Turn RIGHT over bridge and continue ahead through the smaller gate onto bridle path (can be muddy.) Continue uphill, with The Knoll on left. Ignore the path to right (now abandoned) signed 'Bincombe' and continue uphill as Bincombe church and TV mast come into view. Bear left at top and on a few more yards to gate on right.

Turn RIGHT through gate and downhill beside field where hares can sometimes be seen at play. Follow path to right and then left across ditch. Continue ahead and turn back sharply RIGHT onto lane at [G]. Follow on down lane and return to Littlemoor, as in Route 1.

**Ancient Burial Mounds**

The period between 4,000 and 1,600 BC is the Neolithic Period. People did not live in permanent camps, but roamed far and wide. However, during this time they began to bury their dead in specially chosen places.

They built long wood or stone enclosures and as many as 50 bodies were placed within them over a period of time, before being covered with earth. These are known as Long Barrows. They were built between 4,000 and 2,600 BC. There is a long barrow close to the track south from Came Wood. As you enter the track look half-left, towards the hedge that reaches up to the skyline. The long barrow is just discernible behind the top of the hedge.

From about 2,600 until 1,600 BC burial mounds became round and might contain prized possessions as well as human remains, but now the bodies were cremated rather than buried. There are several Round Barrows to the right of the road between the green bridge and Came Wood.