




# 02 DORSET HAMBLEDON & HOD HILLS

▶ Distance: 7¼ miles/12.2km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate 

SEE  
FEATURE  
ON PAGE 16

The view from  
Hambledon Hill.



PHOTO: ROBERT HESKETH

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Child Okeford, the Cross, grid ref ST835127, postcode DT11 8ED. More space at Shillingstone Trailway car park, DT11 0QZ, near Pt 5  
**Is it for me?** Footpaths, cycleway, quiet lanes. Two steep ascents/descents  
**Stiles** 2

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Blandford Forum  
**Refreshments** Baker Arms, Saxon Inn, Child Okeford; White Hart, Stourpaine (01258 453535); Station Café, Shillingstone (limited opening)  
**Public toilets** None  
**Public transport** Bus X10 Yeovil-Blandford to start (Mon-Fri, firstbus.co.uk)  
**Maps** OS Explorer 29, 117 & 118; Landranger 194




### CHOSEN BY...

#### ROBERT HESKETH

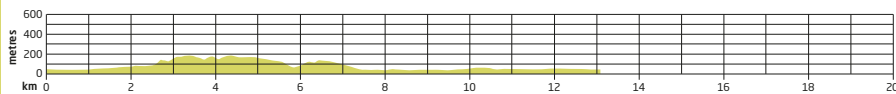
The highlights of this stimulating walk are Hambledon Hill (6344ft/192m) and Hod Hill (469ft/143m), both superb viewpoints. Along with Spetisbury Rings, Buzbury Rings, Badbury Rings and Double Dykes on Hengistbury Head, they are Iron Age hillforts, part of a chain in East Dorset. Recognising an excellent defensive site, the Romans built a fort within the ramparts of Hod Hill. Hambledon Hill's steep sides made it hard to attack and wide views made any hostile advance easy to observe. First occupied during the Neolithic period, it was developed in the Iron Age into

a formidable hillfort with tiers of ramparts. Hambledon Hill saw conflict in August 1645 during the English Civil War between local Dorset Clubmen (who refused to take sides, but defended their homes) and Parliament's New Model Army. Despite the advantage of position, the Clubmen proved no match for highly trained, well-armed and battle-hardened Parliamentarians. Today, Hambledon and Hod Hills are peaceful wildlife havens, their unimproved lime-rich grass supporting rare wildflowers and butterflies.

**1 Start**  
Face north, with Baker Arms on L, Cross on R. Take lane R 50m ahead 'Iwerne Minster'.

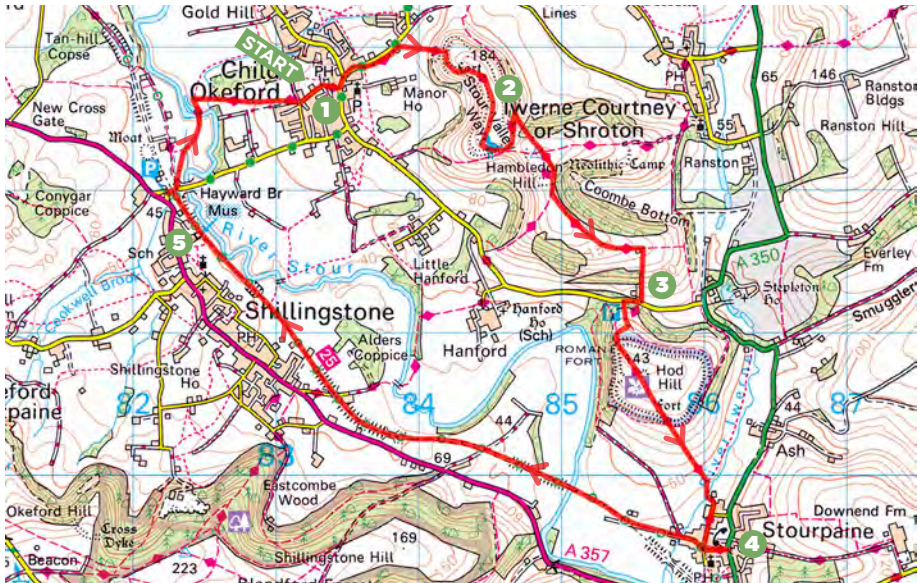
Continue for 500m. Turn R onto footpath. Continue steeply uphill to summit. 

## GRADIENT PROFILE



02 DORSET  
HAMBLEDON & HOD HILL► OS Explorer map 29,117 & 118 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

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## DON'T MISS...



**Shillingstone station, beautifully restored in period style with a locomotive, rolling stock, signal box, museum, café and dining car.**

2 **1 mile/1.4km**

Follow the well-trodden path ahead to gate 'Stour Valley Way'. Continue ahead at crosstracks by triangulation pillar. Keep R, signed for 'Steepleton Iwerne', when the path divides. Turn R, downhill by barn.

3 **3¼ miles/2.9km**

Cross lane. Continue ahead up Hod Hill. Keep R when path divides. Continue over ramparts (part of Roman fort) past summit to ramparts at far side. Continue ahead down enclosed path. Continue along Manor Road. Divert L along South Holme for White Hart Inn.

4 **3½ miles/5.5km**

Retrace steps along South Holme into Havelins. Continue along bridleway/cycleway, signed for 'Shillingstone'. Continue ahead at crosstracks, signed 'White Hart Link'.

5 **6¼ miles/10km**

Divert L if you want to visit Shillingstone Station. Continue

on cycleway. Cross the lane ahead. Bear diagonally R on the footpath across field. Turn R, signed 'Stour Valley Way', over footbridge. Cross the river bridge. Take the footpath R, signposted 'St Edward's Way'. Turn R at field end, then L through gate. Follow the path ahead across field, along the enclosed path to junction. Turn R, then L into lane. Continue to return to start. **CW**

## VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

[walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes](http://walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED


TIME TAKEN


YOUR RATING