



# 01 DORSET WORTH MATRAVERS

▶ Distance: 6½ miles/10.5km ▶ Time: 3¼ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



The limestone cliffs at Winspit.

PHOTO: ROBERT HESKETH

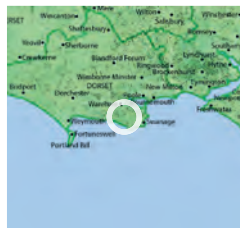


## CHOSEN BY... ROBERT HESKETH

This stimulating circuit includes fine cliff top and downland walking with long coastal and inland views. Almost everything in Worth Matravers is built of local limestone and the pub, the Square and Compass, bears the mason's symbol. Within are excellent collections of local period photographs and Purbeck fossils. Disused quarries en route include Seacombe, Winspit and Dancing Ledge. Quarrymen winched cut stone onto waiting barges, but found these coastal quarries ideal for unloading and storing contraband. One such illicit cargo was landed at Dancing

Ledge in the 1790s. The brandy barrels were swayed up the cliff by ropes and stored at Spyway Farm (Pt 3). Later, they were transferred to Langton Matravers Church and loaded into the roof void. Tragically, the roof gave way during a church service. One worshipper was killed and several severely injured. Knowing the extent of smuggling hereabouts, the Coastguard established a station between Worth and St Aldhelm's Head. The Dorset County Chronicle reported one of its successes in 1841: 'Lieut. Combault RN, chief Officer of the Langton station, under the command of Capt. Dobson RN, succeeded in finding secreted in the beach under the station

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

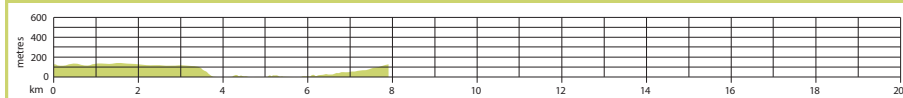
**Start/parking** Worth Matravers car park, BH19 3LE, grid ref SY974777  
**Is it for me?** Coastpath, inland paths, short lane section. One steep descent, one steady ascent, some steps  
**Stiles** 2

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Swanage  
**Refreshments** Tea and Supper Room and the Square and Compass at Worth Matravers; plus Kings Arms and Poppy Tea Rooms, Langton Matravers  
**Public toilets** At start  
**Public transport** More Bus 40, Swanage/Wareham/Poole route daily, [www.travelinesw.com](http://www.travelinesw.com)  
**Maps** Explorer OL15, Landranger 195

123 four-gallon tubs of foreign spirits, being the cargo of a French smuggling vessel.' →

## GRADIENT PROFILE



01 DORSET  
WORTH MATRAVERS► OS Explorer map OL15 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

## DON'T MISS...



The 140 million year old dinosaur prints at Keates Quarry between points 1 and 2.

## 1 Start

Turn R out of car park. Reaching Square and Compass, turn L. Continue for 500m. Take second footpath R 'Priest's Way'. Continue east via fields, then into broad track 'Langton Matravers'. (Divert L as signed to see dinosaur footprints).

## 2 1¼ miles/2km

Continue ahead at junction

of tracks by quarry. Ignore all side turnings.

## 3 2 miles/3.1km

Reaching path junction, turn R 'Dancing Ledge'. Pass between Spyway barn and farmhouse. Follow path ahead, then downhill to coast path, heeding any diversions. Cross stile to view Dancing Ledge.

## 4 3 miles/4.7km

Follow Coastpath west 'Seacombe 1m'

## 5 3¾ miles/6.1km

At next coast path waymark, divert L over stile to see Seacombe Quarry. Follow Coastpath behind quarry. At next path junction turn L 'Winspit' up steps. Note

terraces on fields above: medieval 'strip lynchets', created by ploughing.

## 6 5 miles/7.8km

Reaching Winspit, take second, broader track to view old quarries. Retrace steps. Follow broad path inland signed 'Worth'. When path forks, keep R. Continue past duck pond (tea rooms are on L) and uphill past Square and Compass to start. **CW**

## VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

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