



Although there are also Neolithic remains on the site, the most obvious and impressive of the earthworks on **Hambleton Hill** are the triple ramparts of an Iron Age hillfort. It appears to have been abandoned in around 300BC.

The site is also important for its chalk flowers (including Pyramidal Orchid and Early Gentian) and rare butterflies (such as Dingy Skipper and Adonis Blue). The area is owned and managed by the Natural Trust under an Open Access agreement.

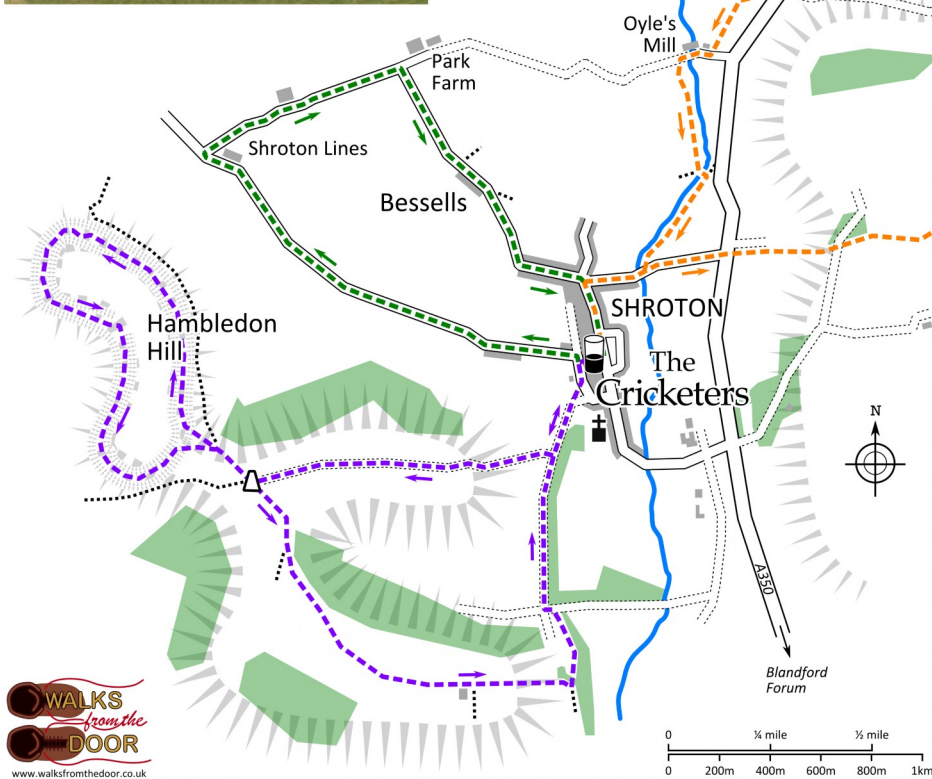
A350 Shaftesbury
THE TALBOT
IWERNE MINSTER



St Mary's Church, Iwerne Minster, has 12th-century origins. It features in Simon Jenkins' book *England's Thousand Best Churches*.



Oak House in Iwerne Minster looks ancient, but is actually a late example of the Arts and Crafts style, and was built in 1923.



The names **Iwerne Courtney** and **Shroton** both have long histories, though the locals prefer Shroton. The village is called **Werne** in the Domesday Book, the suffix **Courtney** being added in the 13th century. There are fine views over the village from the surrounding hills on the two longer routes described here.

three circular walks from

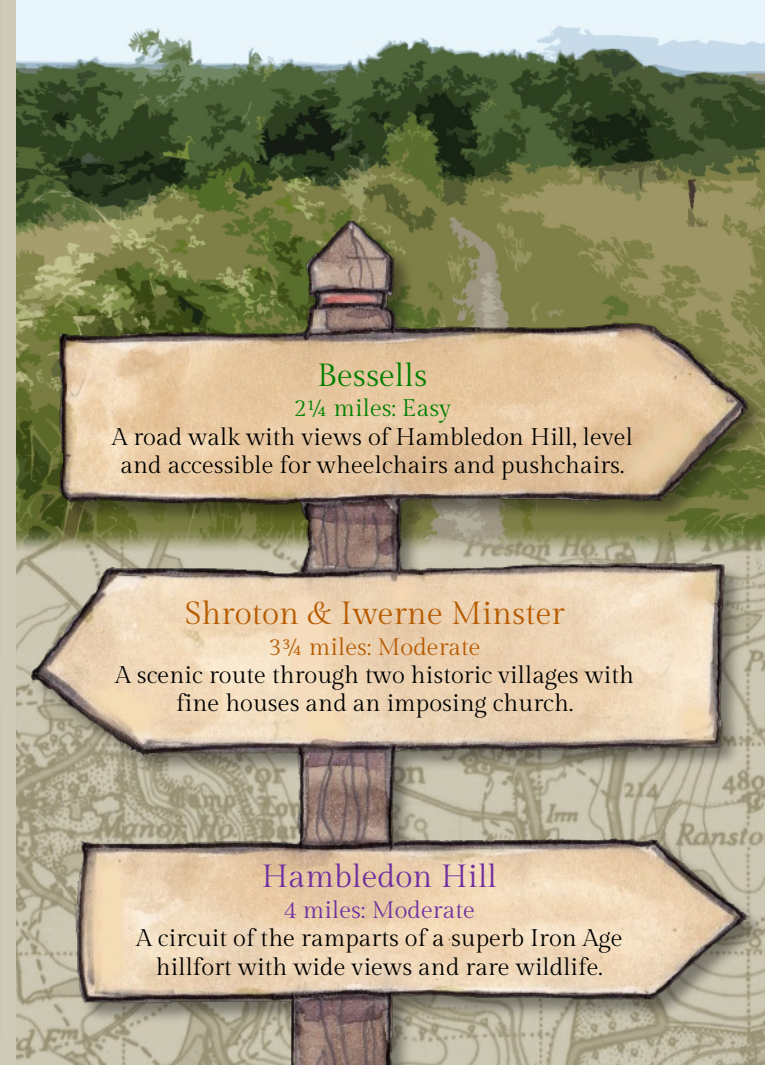


The Cricketers

Shroton, Dorset

THE TALBOT

Iwerne Minster, Dorset



Bessells

2¼ miles: Easy

A road walk with views of Hambleton Hill, level and accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Shroton & Iwerne Minster

3¾ miles: Moderate

A scenic route through two historic villages with fine houses and an imposing church.

Hambleton Hill

4 miles: Moderate

A circuit of the ramparts of a superb Iron Age hillfort with wide views and rare wildlife.

The Cricketers

Main Street, Shroton, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8QD
tel 01258 860421
website www.thecricketersshroton.co.uk
email contact@thecricketersshroton.co.uk

Bar open

Mon—Sat: 12 noon—3pm, 6pm—11pm

Sun: 12 noon—10.30pm

Food served

Mon—Sat: 12 noon—2.30pm, 6.30pm—9pm

Sun: 12 noon—2.30pm

The Talbot

Blandford Road, Iwerne Minster, Blandford Forum DT11 8QN
tel 01747 811269
website www.talbot-iwerne.co.uk
email contact@talbot-iwerne.co.uk

Open: 9am—11pm

Breakfast: 9am—11am

Lunch: 12am—2.30pm

Teas, coffee and snacks till 5pm

Evening bar snacks

Bed and breakfast accommodation

Bessells (2¼ miles: Easy)

Allow 1–1½ hours. Fairly level, on surfaced lanes throughout.

1 From the Cricketers car park, walk to the right of the pub to reach Fairfield Road. **2** Turn right. **3** When the road bends left, follow it as it leaves the village. **4** Pass some houses on the left and continue along the road, up a slight gradient with views to Hambledon Hill to your left. **5** At a junction beyond two cottages, turn right (signposted “Bessells”). **6** Pass some farm buildings on your left, then bear right at the next (unsignposted) road junction to reach the pretty hamlet of Bessells. **7** Continuing to the outskirts of Shroton, bear left between Shroton House and the entrance to Manor Farm. **8** Continue to the Cross. **9** Turn right into Main Street to return to the Cricketers.

Shroton & Iwerne Minster (3¾ miles: Moderate)

Allow 2½ hours. One ascent and descent; several stiles. Some paths may be muddy or overgrown in places.

Starts at the Cricketers. If starting from the Talbot, turn right into Post Office Lane. Keep right at a triangle and then bear left by a phone-box and beyond a thatched cottage look out for a footpath on your right. Follow these instructions from step 19 to the Cricketers, then follow steps 1–18 to return to the Talbot.

1 From the Cricketers car park, facing the bus shelter, turn left and walk along Main Street, passing a thatched cottage called Littleport on your right and the entrance to The Laurels on your left. **2** At the end (the Cross) turn right (Frog Lane). **3** Cross the stream (ignoring a footpath to your left, which is your return route) and walk out to the main road. **4** Cross carefully and climb the stile to the right of a gateway. **5** Walk along the field edge with a hedge to your left, then climb the hill beyond, still keeping to the left-hand edge of the field. **6** Cross a track heading into woodland on your left and keep on uphill in the same direction along the field edge ahead. **7** Beyond the next field corner, join a farm track that continues in the same direction. **8** In the far corner of the field, turn left into woodland, bearing left to a gate back into open fields. **9** Turn right and follow the woodland edge to another track. **10** Turn right, then immediately left along a grassy track with a hedge to the left (before a junction with another track). **11** Pass through a hedge, then in the corner of the field turn left on a descending track with views to Iwerne Minster on the right. **12** After a short distance you meet a stony track, where you turn right (downhill). **13** Beyond a clump of trees, turn right off the main track onto a descending grassy track that leads between two field gates to a stile into a belt of woodland. **14** Drop down a flight of steps through the trees then cross a field, and continue between hedges to meet a road by a thatched cottage. **15** Turn right and walk along the road. **16** After 200 yards turn left between flinty walls into Church Road. **17** At a triangle with a walled tree in the middle, by the church, turn left into Old School Lane, passing Oak House and the Chantry on your right. **18** At the end of the road turn right; keep straight on for the Talbot, otherwise turn immediately left into a gravelled driveway with

a footpath sign. **19** Follow the path beyond the end of the drive, which bends right and left around the cricket pitch. **20** Turn right along a track to the main road, where you cross and turn left. **21** Pass the end of Oakwood Drive (ignoring the footpath sign) and follow the main road. **22** At the end of a layby, by a bus stop, turn right down a metalled lane. **23** Just beyond the entrance to Preston Farm, go through a gate on your left. **24** At a second gate, take a path on the right that curves left to meet another lane by a house. **25** Turn right and walk past Oyle’s Mill. **26** Go through a field gate on your left (not the obvious one straight ahead) and walk parallel to the left-hand side of the field. **27** At a metal gate in the hedge, turn left over a footbridge, then follow the path right, with the stream on your right. **28** This leads past a smallholding to meet Frog Lane. **29** Turn right to the Cross, where you turn left down Main Street to the Cricketers.

Hambledon Hill (4 miles: Moderate)

Allow 2½ hours. Two climbs, one long and gradual, one short and steep. Wet grass and mud may be encountered after rain.

1 From the Cricketers car park, walk to the right of the pub building, and then between two cottages, to emerge in Fairfield Road. **2** Turn left, and then right over a stile next to a gate by the cricket pavilion. **3** Bear left to meet a chalky track that heads uphill to join a chalk-and-flint wall. **4** Beyond a gateway, turn right up another chalky track that passes through a second gate and climbs the slope, passing a bench part-way up. **5** Continue across a second field to a trig point. **6** Turn right and walk down to a gate by a National Trust sign. **7** Follow a level path beyond, but instead of following the descending bridleway on the right, alongside a fence, follow the top of the bank ahead. **8** Follow the rampart, above the bridleway, along the northeastern side of the hillfort. **9** When the bridleway drops away steeply below you, follow a narrow path ahead below a small exposed chalk face and continue along the rampart as it curves left. **10** Beyond a hawthorn tree the path climbs steeply, still following the middle of the three rampart embankments. **11** Ignoring a path coming up from the right, keep to the second rampart until it curves round back towards the end of the hillfort where you entered. **12** Drop back down to the lower path and the National Trust sign at whatever point seems convenient, then retrace your steps to the right, through the gate back up to the trig point. **13** This time, keep straight ahead on a descending fenced path. **14** Before a wood, bear right to a gate (the vague earthworks to the right here are Neolithic), then follow a path along the left-hand side of the field ahead, close to the wood. **15** This path leaves the woodland along a hedge to a field gate, beyond which it curves left and descends. **16** After a Dutch barn, continue downhill to a gate in a field corner at the bottom; turn left. **17** Beyond a metal gate the path continues along the bottom of a bank, until it meets a track rising from the right. **18** Turn left then immediately right, with woodland behind a railing on your right. **19** This wide track climbs to meet the chalk wall you encountered earlier. **20** Continue to the gate, then retrace your steps to return to Shroton and the Cricketers.

The Cricketers



The Cricketers, Shroton lies at the foot of Hambledon Hill in the heart of the beautiful Dorset countryside. The Wessex Ridgeway passes nearby.

At The Cricketers you will find great pub food, a selection of real ales, and a warm welcome from your hosts Joe and Sally and their team. Daily deliveries of fresh fish, meat and local produce, combined with our choice of well-kept real ales, mean that The Cricketers is the perfect choice for food or just a quiet pint.

Although we are proud of our food, The Cricketers is a real village pub and you are equally welcome to drop by for a pint of real ale or a glass of wine.

We hope these carefully chosen circular walks will help you appreciate our beautiful surroundings and we look forward to quenching your thirst and satisfying your appetite on your return to the Cricketers.

THE TALBOT

The Talbot at Iwerne Minster lies in the heart of the beautiful Dorset countryside.

The Talbot was purchased by Heartstone Inns in October 2016 and has since undergone a tasteful development of the bar and restaurant along with the introduction of a completely new food and drink menu.

At the Talbot you will find great simple pub food which will complement the food offered by the Cricketers. You will also find a well-stocked bar with a fine selection of wines and ales and a warm welcome from your host Ellie Abel and her team. The Talbot also offers a selection of well-appointed guest rooms so you can relax and stay with us as well!

We offer a great range of quick tasty menu options throughout the day from 9 am to 5 pm along with breakfasts from 9 am to 11 am and hot lunches from 11.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Well-behaved dogs are allowed in the bar area.



Directions, mapping and photography
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www.walksfromthedoar.co.uk