

WELCOME TO BRUNEL 20.

This is a list of places you can easily explore if you are staying here in Weymouth.

A lot is dependent on personal interests and of course the time available.

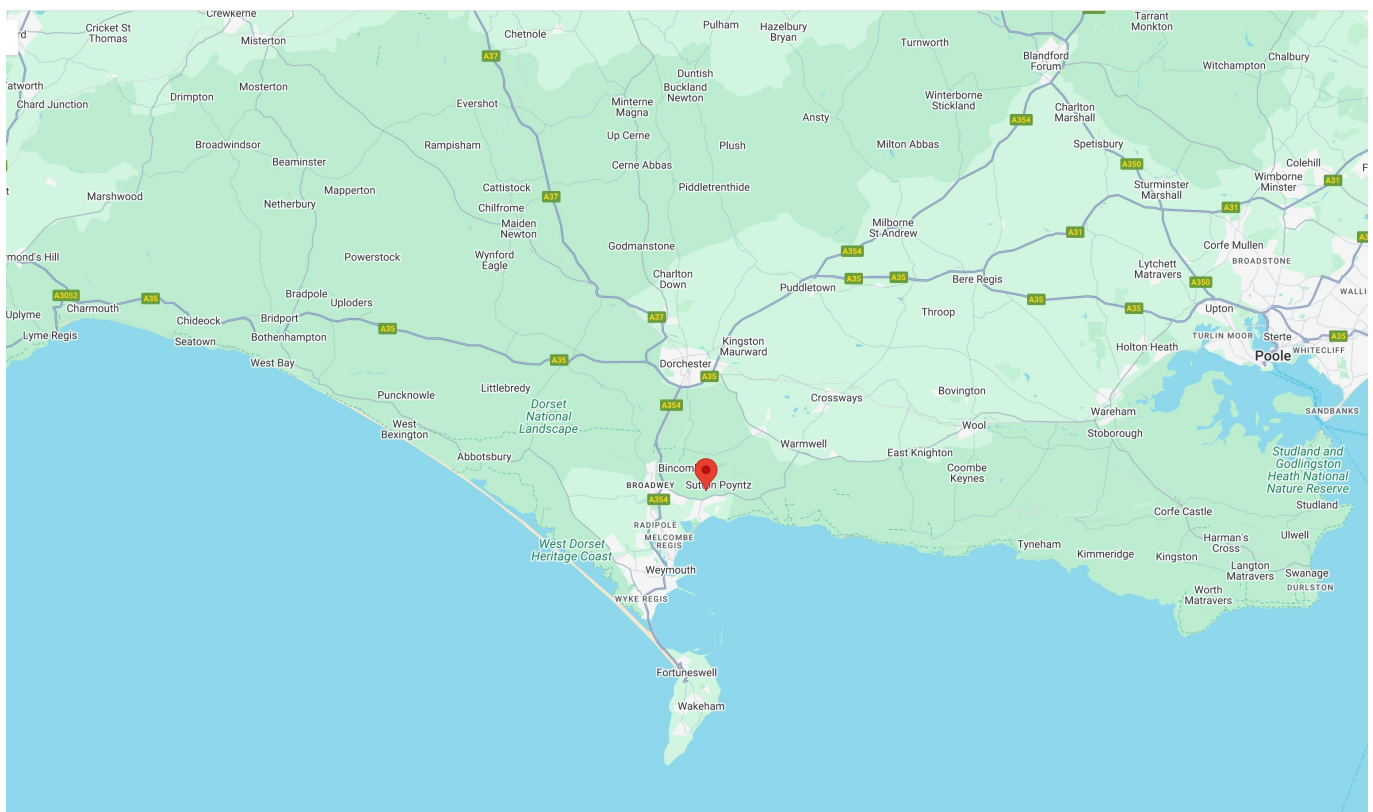
I have travelled all the routes and unless I have specifically written otherwise have visited all the places mentioned here.

I have divided this page into three sections, going **East** towards **Swanage** and **Poole** including the famous **Durdle Door**, **Lulworth Cove** and the two well known visitor centres The **Tank Museum** and **Monkey World**.

Many visitors head straight for **Durdle Door**, but there is no rush, it has been standing for millions of years and will probably still be there next year. But instead, it might be worth and if time allows, considering making this part of your journey on the way back eastwards towards London. You can probably get along my route to Poole, via the **Chain Ferry**, by early afternoon and head on home from there via Bournemouth and Ringwood.

The second part covers the more local area of **Weymouth and Portland**.

Then last but not least a trip up the coast westwards via **Abbotsbury**, **West-Bay** and **Bridport**. Possibly to **Lyme Regis**.

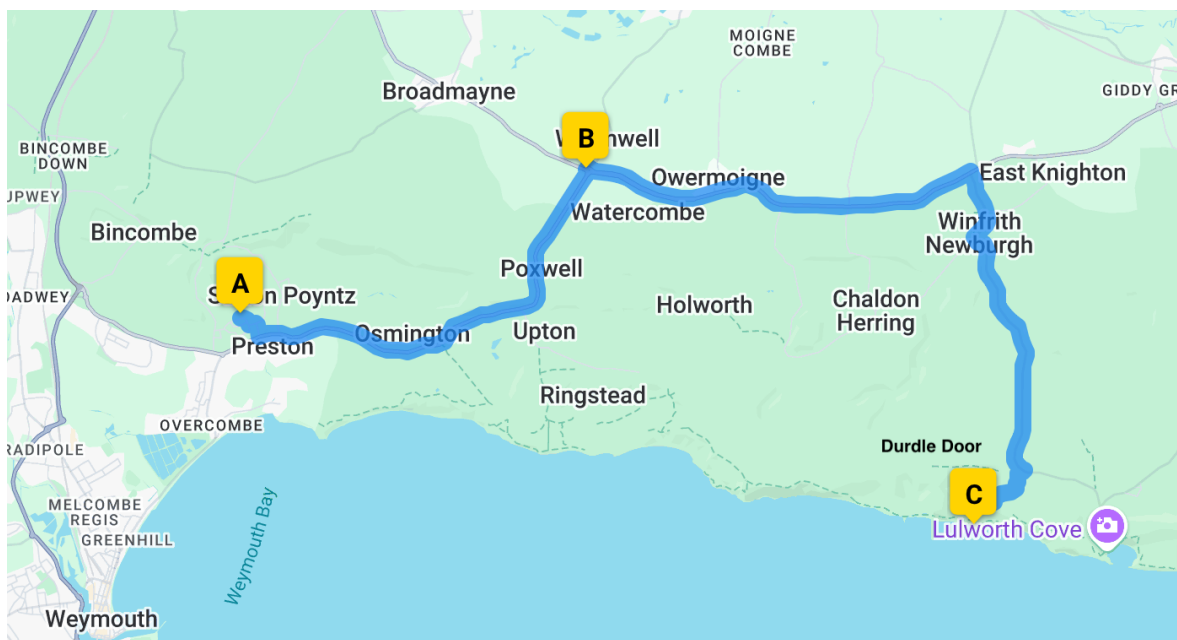


Durdle Door

From B20 drive down to the Preston Road and follow the A353 eastwards through **Osmington** to the first roundabout, appx. 4.2 miles (6.7 km). The roundabout (B) has signs to the **Tank Museum** and **Monkey World**.

Follow the main road(A352) for 3 1/2 miles (6 km) along a short stretch of dual carriageway past Owermoigne until you come to the Red Lion pub and a sign to the right showing **East Lulworth**. Follow this road for just over 3 miles (5.3km) until you arrive at **Durdle Door**.

Parking is expensive, you have no choice, but keep the ticket because (at least at the moment) you can use it in the next car park at Lulworth.



Durdle Door - sometimes written Durdle Dor - is a natural limestone arch on the Jurassic Coast near Lulworth. It is privately owned by the Weld family, who own the Lulworth Estate,

There is a dearth of early written records about the arch, though it has kept a name given to it probably over a thousand years ago.

Durdle is derived from the Old English thirl, meaning to pierce, bore or drill, which in turn derives from thyrel, meaning hole.

The Durdle Door is a natural limestone arch, located near the town of Lulworth in Dorset, England. It is also close to the much visited Lulworth Cove.

The Durdle Door was formed about 140 million years ago. Today, there are still round ripple marks visible in the rock at the top of the arch, the remains of a fossil forest.

Geologists predict that over time, the roof of Durdle Door will be eroded away, leaving just a stack. There are several other limestone stacks along the coast.

The arch was created when the softer rocks were eroded away over time, leaving the harder limestone remaining. The name Durdle means drill or bore in Old English.

The area around Durdle Door is one of the best places in the UK to look for fossils and to study geology. Several dinosaur bones have been found in the area.

Ringstead Bay

On the map above you can see **Ringstead Bay** on the coast. There is a wonderful view from the top of the hills which has been spoiled by the National Trust taking over what was always free parking but you can drive down the toll road and park at the café/shop near the water. The road is private and needs maintenance by the farmer which is why there is a reasonable toll fee. Many people like to swim at Ringstead.

Lulworth Cove

About a mile east (2 miles road) of Durdle Door is Lulworth Cove (car park) which is worth a visit. The cove is very pretty with excellent views. When you park and walk towards the cove there is a visitors centre on the right. Immediately after the centre turn right up the path, next to a coast guard station, and after a very short walk you will reach **Stair Hole**.



Stair Hole

This is where the sea comes in through holes in the cliff. Geologically this is an important part of the Jurassic coast known as the **Dorset Crumple** sometimes referred to as **Lulworth Crumple**.

This page has some spectacular images: <https://wessexcoastgeology.soton.ac.uk/Stair-Hole-Lulworth.htm>



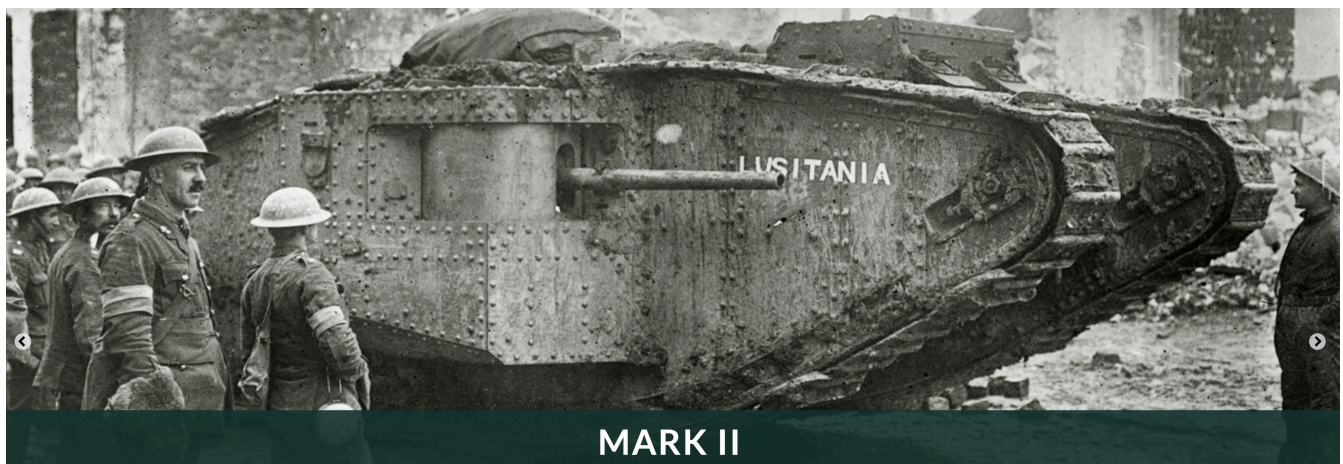
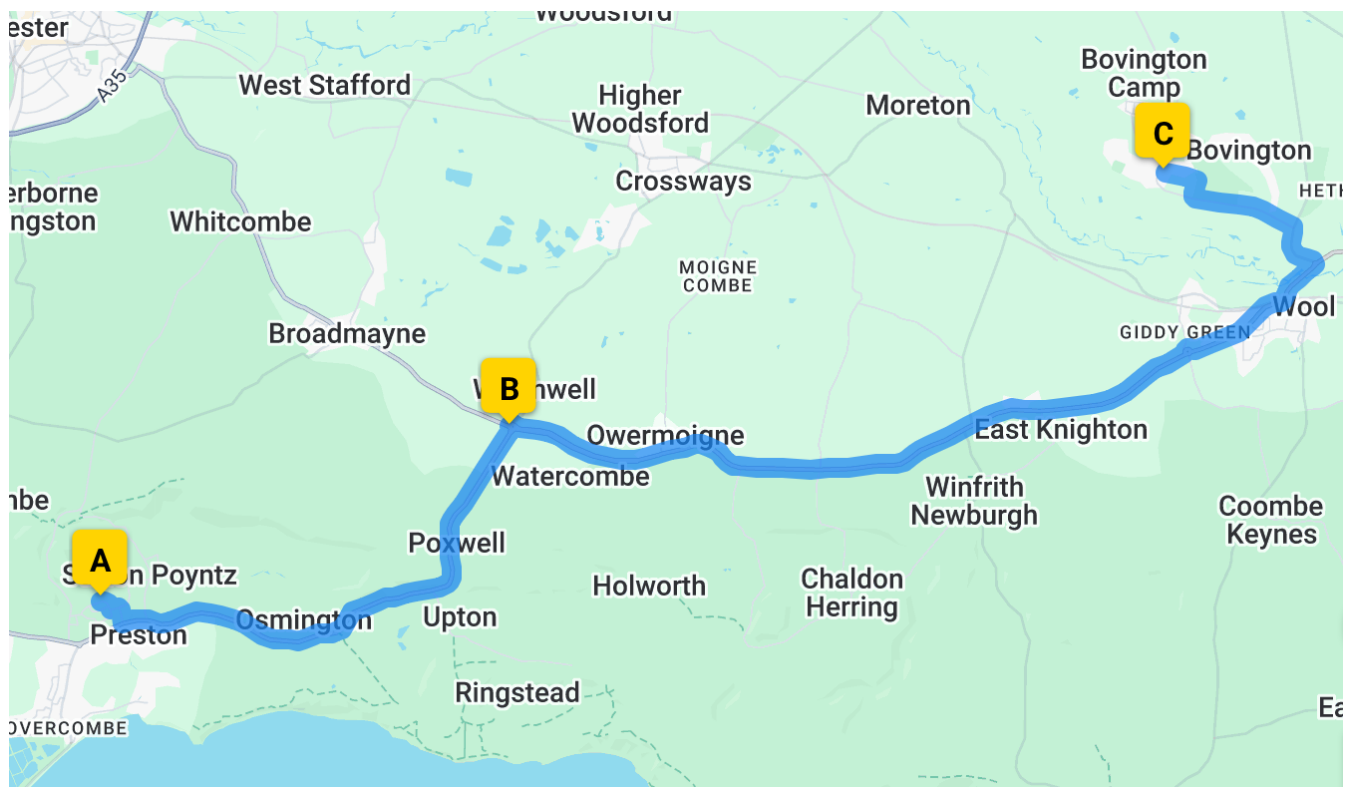
If you decide to visit either or both the **Tank Museum** and **Monkey World**, both are just over 12 miles away and almost next to each other.

The Tank Museum

The **Tank Museum** is world famous and home to many interesting fighting vehicles including the last remaining German Tiger from WW2.

We have often had visitors coming specially for the yearly Tank-Fest.

All you will need to know: <https://tankmuseum.org/>



MARK II

Tiger II



The last still drivable Tiger II is at the Tank Museum in Bovington and is usually shown at the yearly Tank fest

Monkey World

Very popular is the **Monkey World** ape rescue centre. This is not a zoo but a place where apes and monkeys that have been rescued from sometimes terrible conditions are being kept.



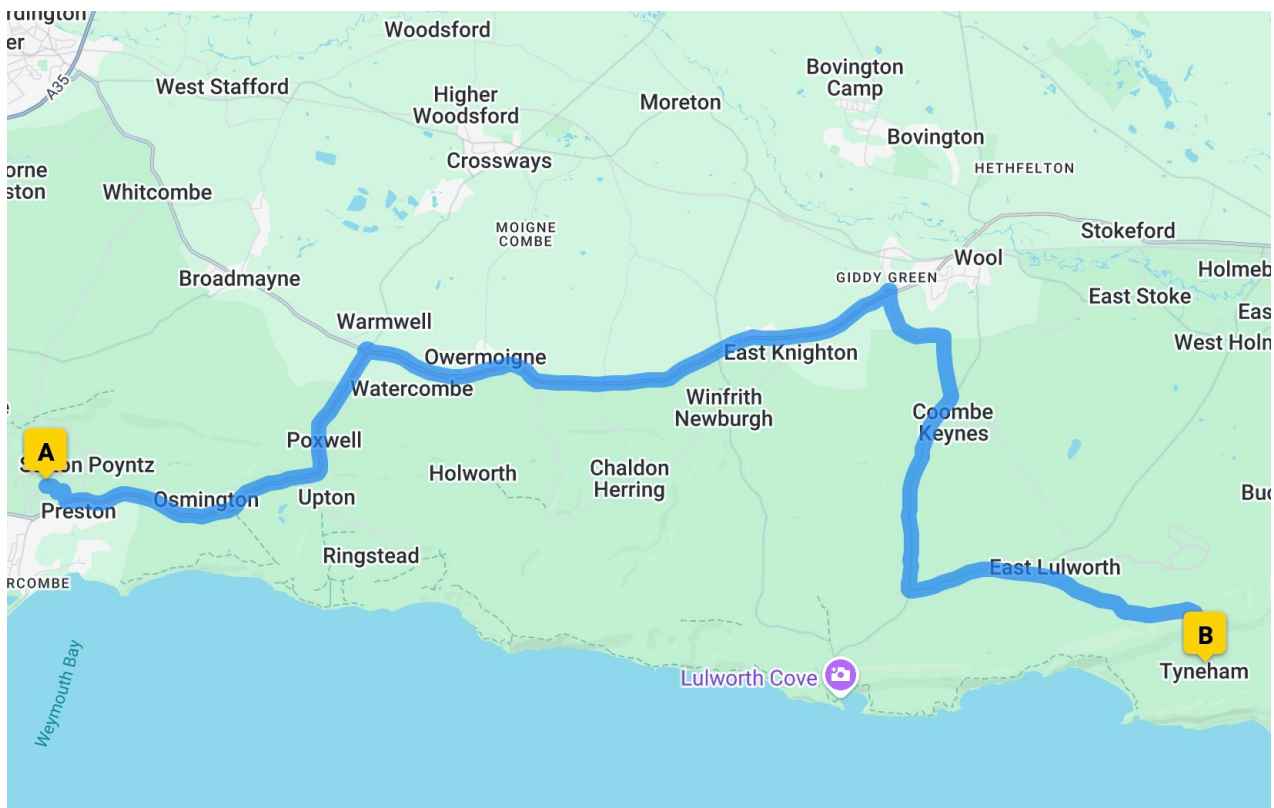
Again more info at: <https://monkeyworld.org>

Other places worth visiting in that direction are:

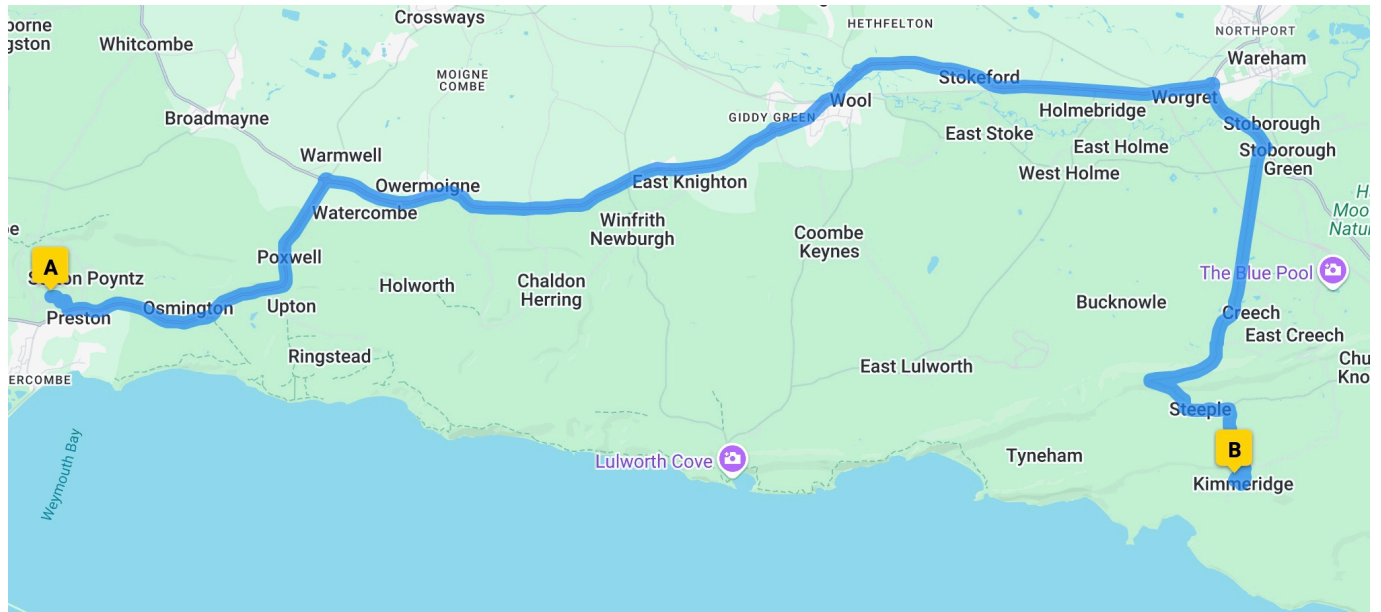
Tyneham Village

Tyneham Village which was evacuated during and never resettled after WW2 to be used as a training ground for the US troops. Most of the village is now in ruins but the old school and the church are well worth a visit. According to the AA 28 minutes, 16.4 miles.

<https://tynehamvillage.org/>



The Etches Collection



Many people are interested in fossils and prehistoric history so it may be worth you visiting the Etches Collection <https://www.theetchescollection.org/> which houses the most complete Pliosaur skull that has been discovered to date. It was found jutting out of the cliffs at Kimmeridge. AA: 38 minutes just over 21 miles

Also Eastwards but more from Dorchester along the A35 lies

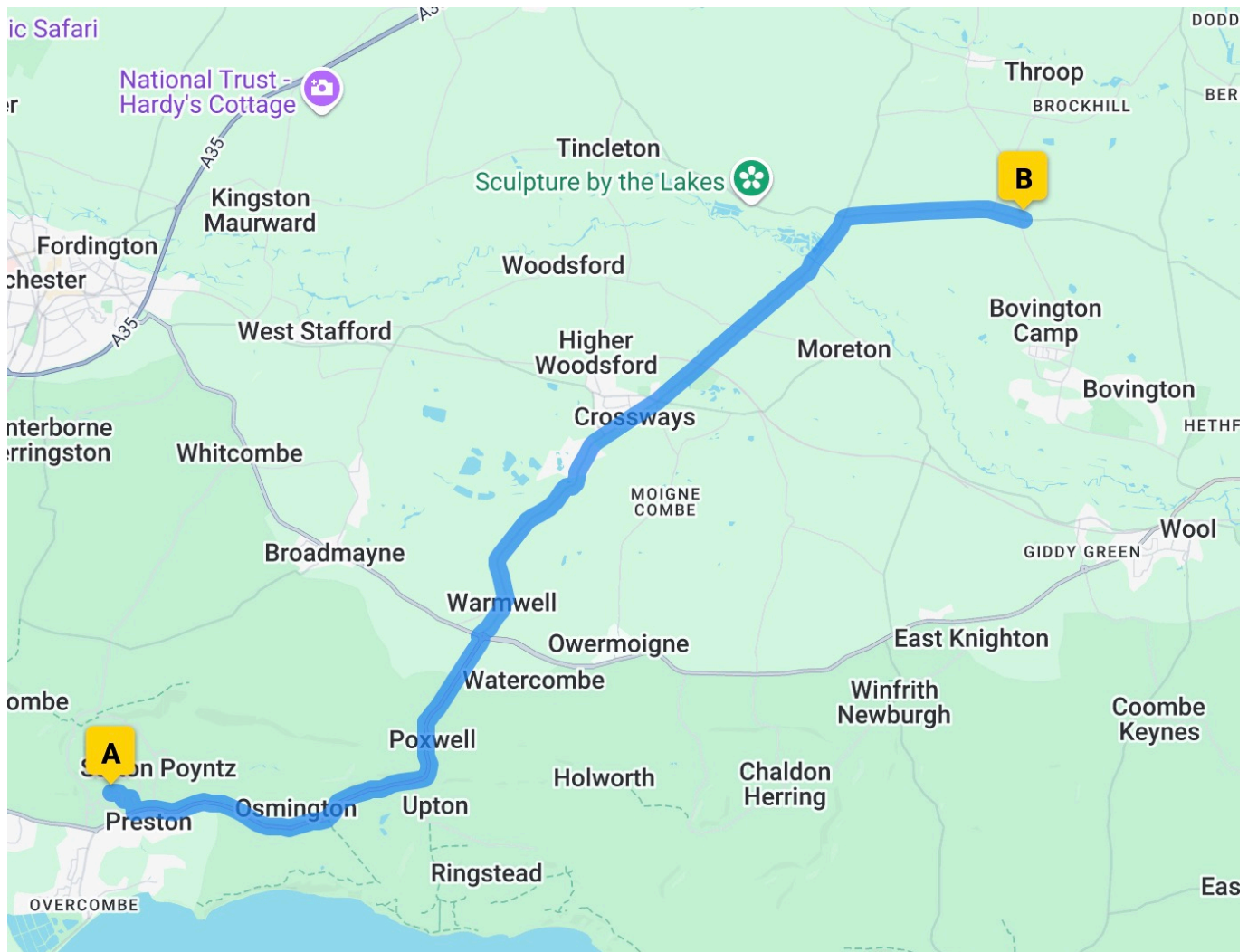


Clouds Hill : Lawrence of Arabia

Clouds Hill, The rural retreat of T. E. Lawrence otherwise known as **Lawrence of Arabia**. Unfortunately, like many other places this has been hijacked by the National Trust so (for what it offers) is expensive.



AA: 19 minutes, 10.8 miles but easily combined with the Tank Museum or Monkey World



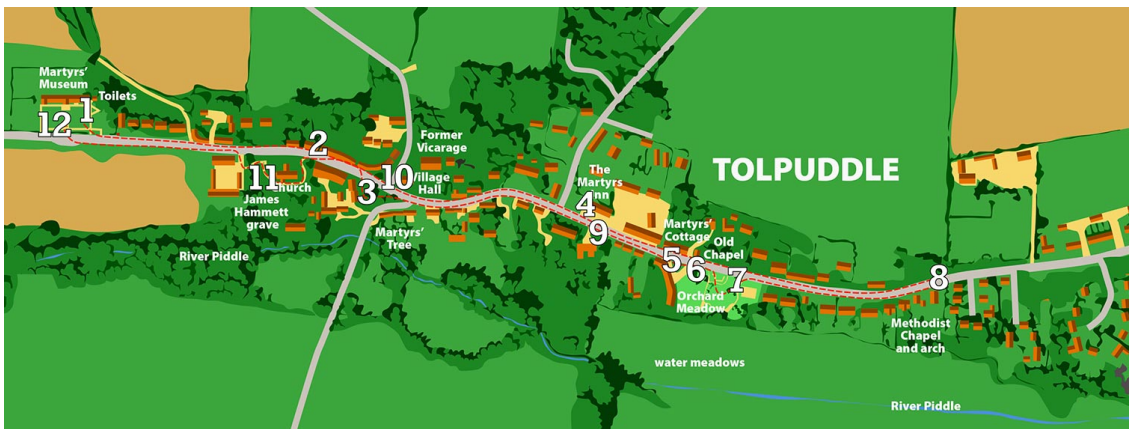
Tolpuddle

Tolpuddle where there is masses of information concerning the famous **Tolpuddle Martyrs** who were deported to Australia, but pardoned and returned to Dorset after huge protests, for forming a group which one might now call a trades union.

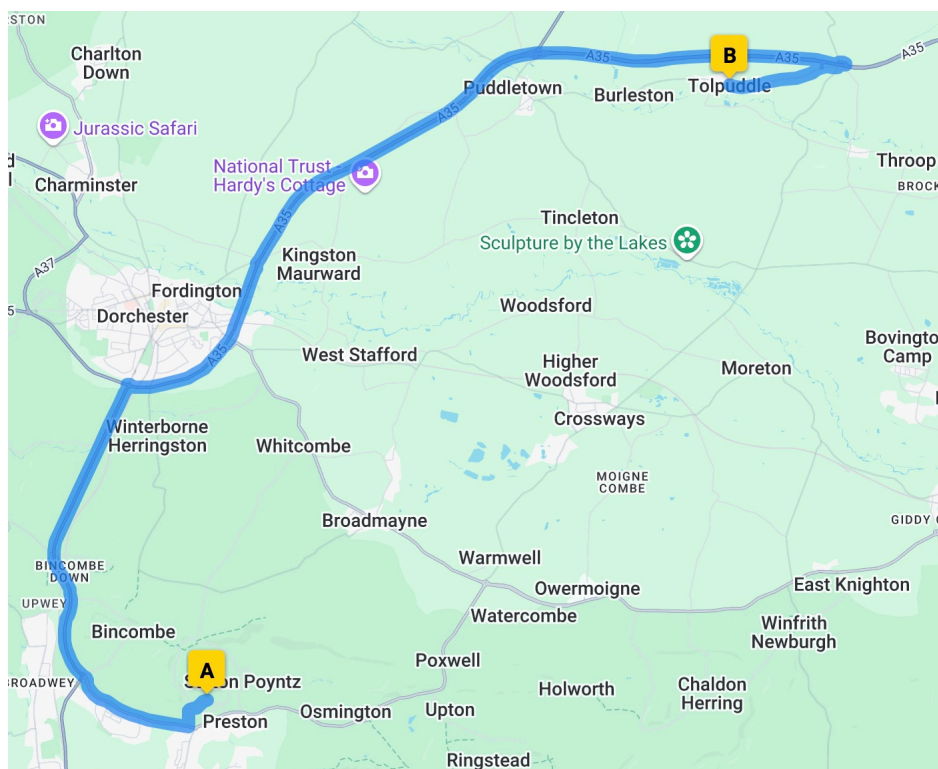
Plenty of info at: <https://www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk/>

Tolpuddle is a very pleasant village worth visiting with plenty of really nice walks.

AA: 23 minutes 16.7 miles



BTW. the villages with the name "**Puddle**" were originally "**Piddle**" but after WW2 it was decided to rename most of them. Some like "Piddlehinton" have retained the original name.



Further East

Most of our visitors return back towards Weymouth but it is worth considering continuing eastwards towards:

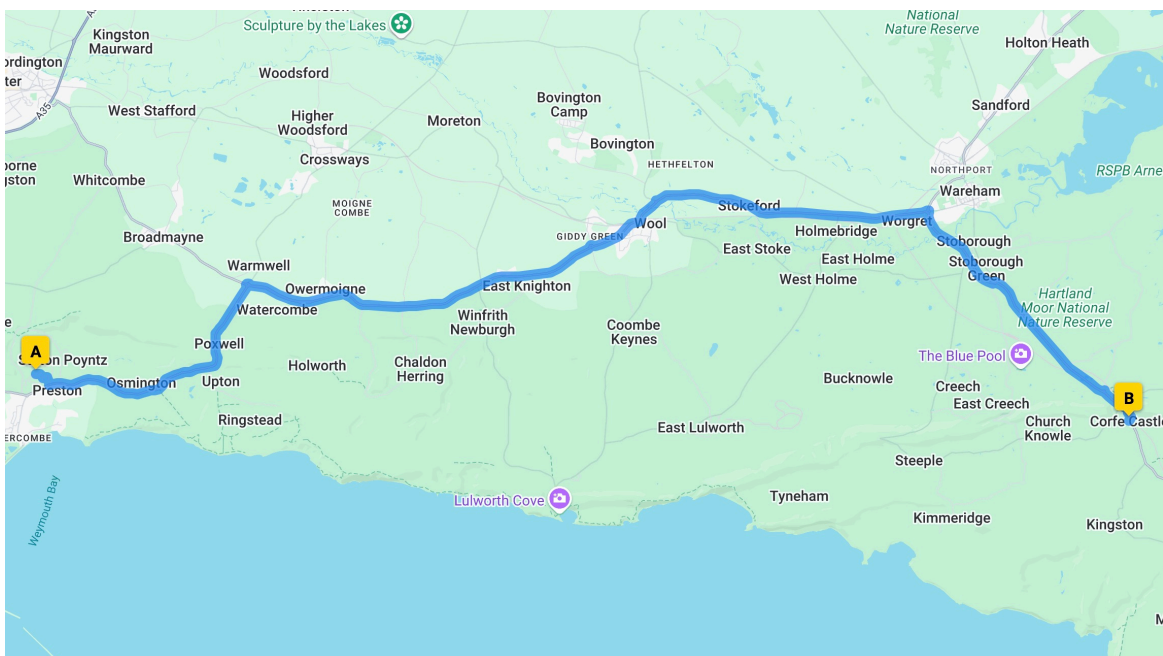
Wareham, Corfe Castle [Village], Swanage, Studland Bay, Old Harry Rocks, Chain Ferry, Sandbanks, Brownsea Island Poole.

First stop could be the **Saxon Town of Wareham**. 16.2 miles from us

Slightly further on you arrive at **Corfe Castle** which is a famous landmark but a visit to the old **Corfe Castle Village** is certainly worthwhile. Lunch at the **Greyhound** pub is excellent. You might well find free parking in the village.



Also at Corfe Castle (AA: 31 minutes 19.8 miles) you can board a steam train and take a journey to Swanage.



Swanage Steam Railway. The Steam Railway runs a regular service between **Norden** (next to **Corfe Castle**) and **Swanage**. The journey time is a little less than 25 minutes.

Some trains are run with diesel locomotives but this is shown clearly on the timetables.



Take a look at: <https://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/>

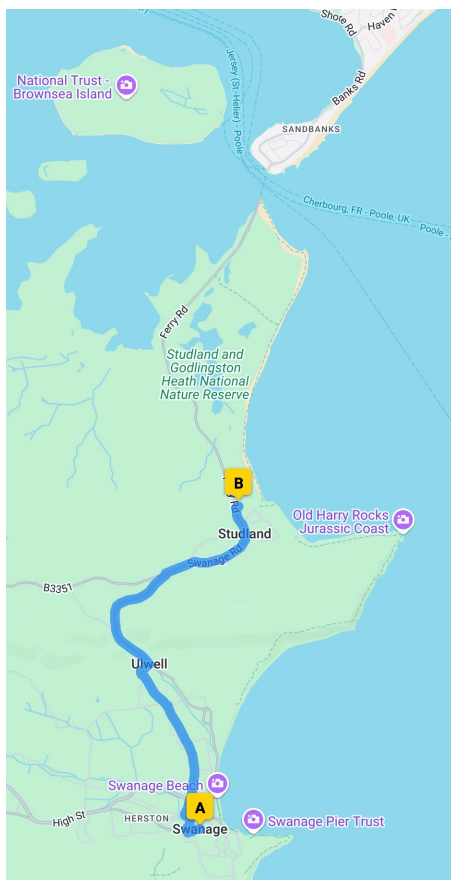
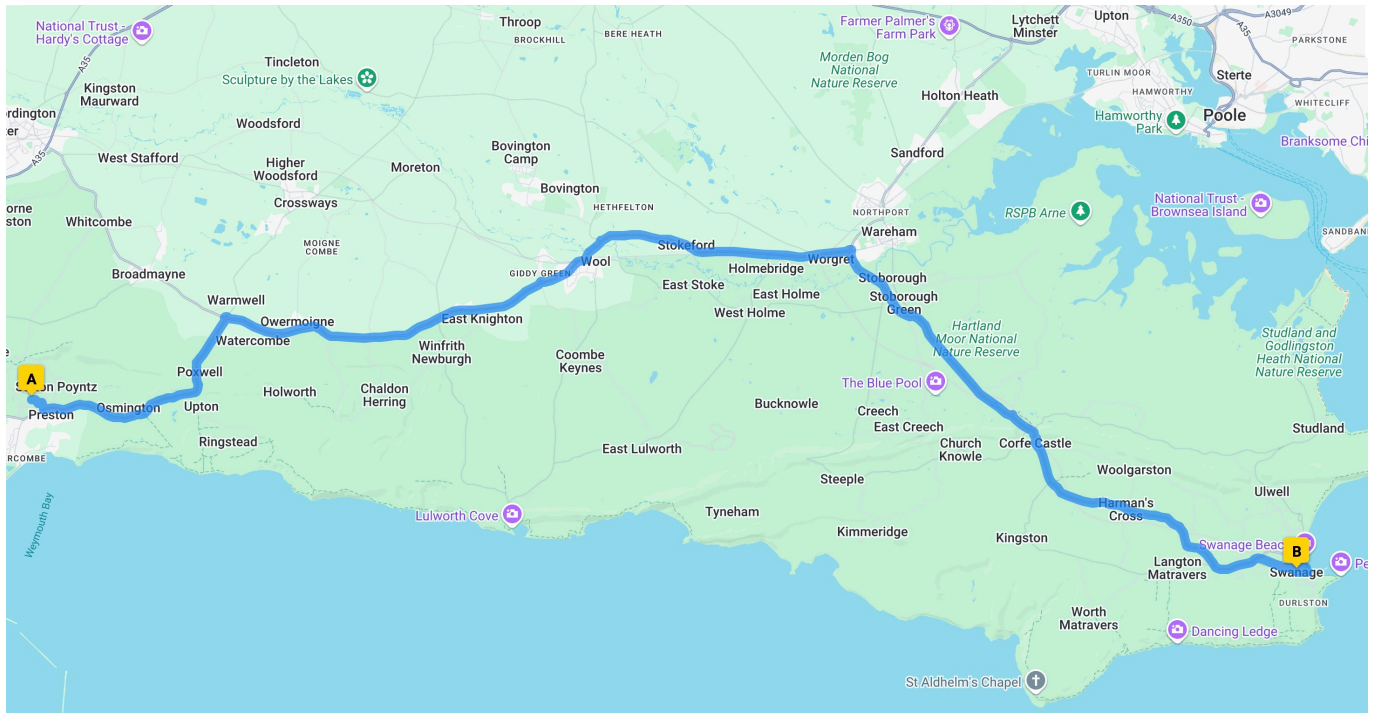
Swanage

Swanage is a very pretty seaside town and we have always received good reports from our visitors.

If you leave **Swanage** and drive northwards towards **Poole** you will be passing the beautiful Studland Bay beach. At the southern end are the "Old Harry Rocks" which can be reached by a longish path down to the water.



Swanage by road, according to the AA, is 45 minutes and 25 miles from us.



Knoll beach forms the southern end of Studland Bay's four mile stretch of white sand. Backed by sand dunes the beach forms part of the Studland National Nature Reserve.

Knoll Beach is a mere 10 minutes, 3.7 miles north of Swanage. **Old Harry Rocks** are signposted.

Unfortunately, as far as we can ascertain, the National Trust now *de facto* claims to own all rights to the beach so again you will be hammered with parking fees to see this wonderful area. From the beach you can easily view the Isle of Wight.

A last suggestion for this area is to travel to **Poole Harbour** and possibly **Brownsea Island** using the **chain Ferry**. As you can see from the previous maps it is a very short distance from Knoll Beach.

After crossing the harbour entrance using the **Chain Ferry**, definitely worth the very cheap fare, you are entering **Sandbanks**, which is claimed to have the most expensive real-estate in the UK. There you can also get a ferry across the harbour to **Brownsea Island**. Famous for red squirrels, wildlife and Scouting. Baden-Powell opened the first Scout camp there in 1907.



Even though it is now monopolised by the National Trust there are no car parks for them to charge us for but they do charge an admission fee.



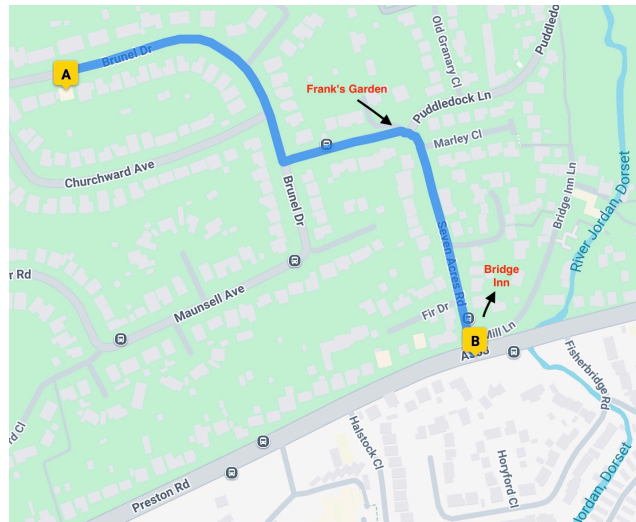
Poole Harbour is the largest natural harbour in Europe and the second largest, after **Sydney**) in the world. Some claim that natural harbours must have a minimum depth of 15 metres all over but even so Poole is large.

BTW, **Weymouth** is also one of the four largest natural harbours in the United Kingdom.

The area in and around Weymouth itself will often be the reason why many people visit us. Probably we should include Dorchester and what was earlier Fordington in this group.

I wish to avoid creating a history book so let's just concentrate on the places visitors might like to see.

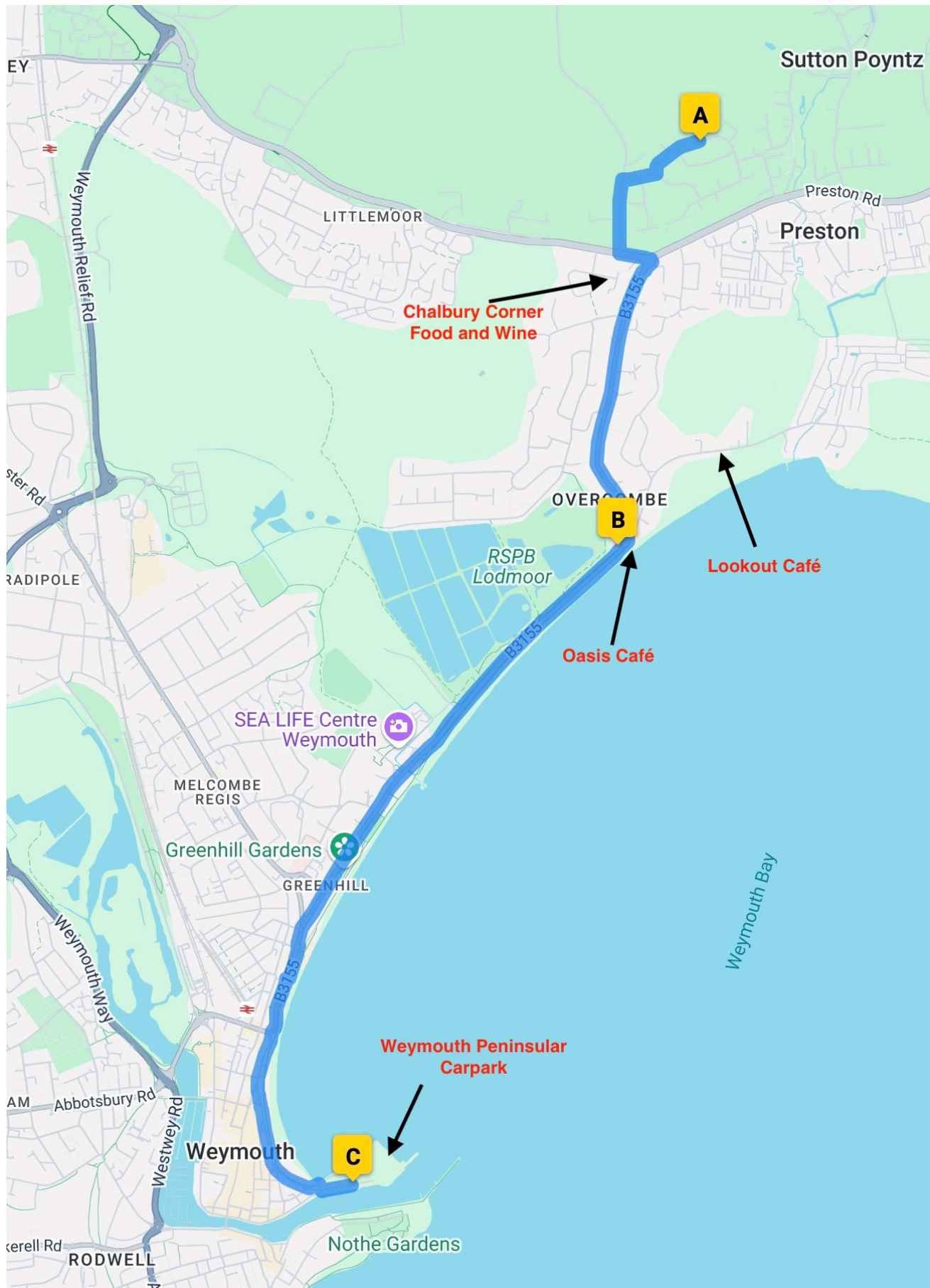
I will start in the form of a journey from Brunel 20 towards Weymouth.



My first stop is dedicated to those who would welcome a **breakfast**, which I don't provide. So from Brunel Drive we first go eastwards turning downhill until we reach Seven Acres Road. From here eastwards again until Seven Acres does a 90° right turn at Puddledock Lane. Exactly here is a house or rather a garden which its owner has dedicated to his late dog and filled, for whatever reason, with more than life size "Marvel" figures. People come from miles around to see and photograph the strange scene.



Now turn Right towards Weymouth until you reach the beach in Overcombe. Alternative take Coombe Valley Road via Chalbury Corner.



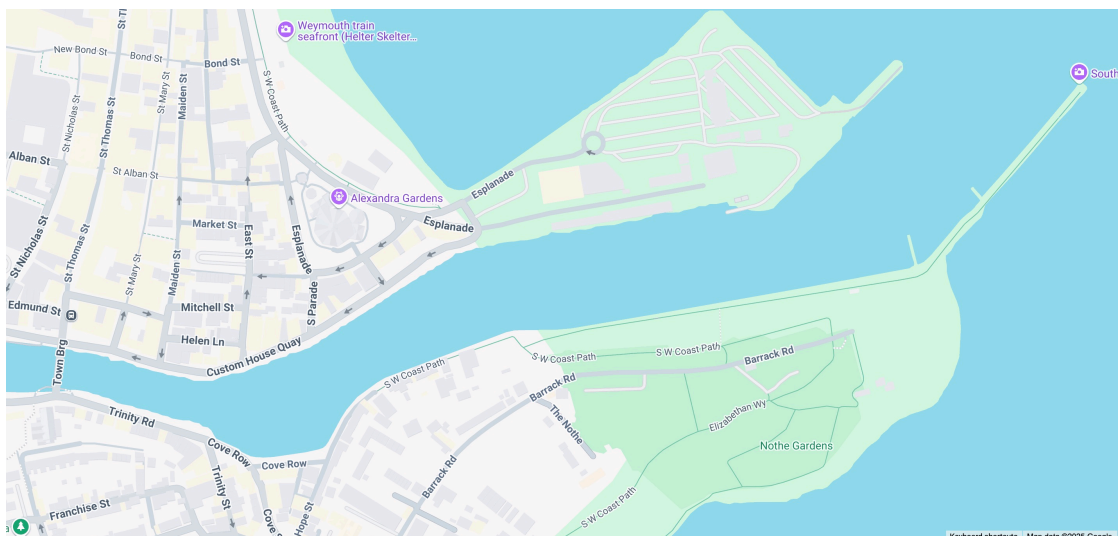
Brunel 20 Tour

Weymouth and Portland Local

In Overcombe at the roundabout you can see the sea wall and a big advert for the Oasis Café. Alternative to the Oasis is the Lookout Café which has a super view of the bay. Turn left at the roundabout and drive up Jordan hill. The café is at the top on the right.

To get to Weymouth just follow the road along the sea wall, past Sea Life, past Greenhill Gardens and tennis courts and then along the Esplanade until you reach the theatre, Weymouth Pavilion, where there is a large car park. You can no longer park on this side of the harbour so you will have walk.

Weymouth is still an active fishing harbour even though the boats can no longer use this part due to the council insisting on putting up railings and allowing restaurants to take over the entire walking and seating area.



Nevertheless the harbour is definitely worth a visit.

It should be noted, that the area we now refer to as Weymouth was once two towns: Melcombe Regis and Weymouth.

So the "Black Dog" pub which claimed to be the oldest pub in Weymouth is actually the oldest pub in Melcombe Regis and the "Boot" is really the oldest in Weymouth.

Built some time in the 16th century, probably during the reign of **Elizabeth I**, the pub was formerly known as **The Dove** until Weymouth won the contract to trade with the new colonies of Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada.

The landlord (at the time) of this Weymouth pub purchased the first black "**Newfoundland Labrador**" dog ever seen in the south west from one of the new trading ships from that region.

The dog, apparently, brought such an amazing number of curious sightseers from the surrounding area that the landlord changed the name of the pub in honour of the dog that had brought so much prosperity and interest to the hostelry.



The Black death arrives in Weymouth

The black death arrived on the south coast of England in the summer of 1348, reaching land on the Melcombe Regis side of Weymouth harbour and decimating the local population before rapidly spreading throughout the county and beyond.

A plaque can be found in Melcombe Regis identifying the initial Black Death Weymouth outbreak of 1348 close to Weymouth harbour side.