

Upwey House Walks – The Fleet/Chesil Beach

The Fleet, Moonfleet Manor

This walk is approximately 6 miles.



Background

This is a lovely, relatively easy walk with a heady mix of stunning views of the famous fleet lagoon, Chesil beach and the Dorset countryside. You can take your dogs with you – just keep an eye out for signage indicating where they should be kept on a lead. Likewise, there is a small section of the walk that takes you very near to a busy road so please take care. This walk is not appropriate for pushchairs or wheelchairs as access to most of the fields are via stiles and the fields can become rather muddy dependant on the time of year. It might be an idea to take your willies or walking boots.

There's something equally eerie and beautiful about the Fleet lagoon which is trapped by a high bank of shimmering, golden shingle. John Meade Falkner captured the mysterious atmosphere in his popular 1898 adventure novel, entitled Moonfleet, about smugglers and kidnapping. The name Moonfleet apparently is a corruption of Mohun, and gives its name to a handsome but isolated Georgian hotel on the inland shore. Another local nickname is Dead Man's Bay, a grim reflection of the many lives that were lost nearby in shipwrecks. The fleet is also known for where the Dambuster bouncing bombs were tested at the start of WW2.

You could book at table at the beautiful Moon Fleet Manor Hotel and enjoy a scrumptious cream tea or something more substantial after you've put in the hard work. Dogs are welcome there. www.moonfleetmanorhotel.co.uk

The Route

The starting point for this walk is a 15-20 minute drive from Upwey House. You can park for free in the lay-by near the bottom of Fleet Road, Weymouth, DT3 4EB just before you get to Moon Fleet Manor on the left hand side by a gate.

- 1) Once you have parked your car in the lay by go through the gate next to the sign post which shows the direction of the coastal path. Walk through this field until you come across some steps and a bridge on your right. Follow the path past the Moon Fleet Manor Hotel towards a little beach with little upturned little boats. Carry on past here.
- 2) Carry on walking across the bottom of the field. You will come to a little wooden bridge. Cross the bridge and go through the stile, Gore Cove is on your left hand side. Follow the dry wall until you come to a lane. Walk up the lane sign posted to Langton Herring this is a slight incline so take you time and enjoy the peace and quiet.
- 3) Once you get to the top you will come across a lane and a thin passageway on the right. Take the passageway and bear right, this quiet road will take you down to a little village called Langton Herring. If you would like to stop for sustenance you will find the Elm Tree pub on your left where you can stop and enjoy a drink in the gardens.
- 4) You can either walk back the way you came or you can take a right (before you get to the Elm Tree) towards some farm buildings. Follow the path until you get to the woodland. Bear right through the woodland and turn left and follow the path. You will hear the noise of a road (we suggest you put your dogs on leads at this point). The road is in front of you. Go right along the field behind the hedgerow next to the road. You will see signs for Bagwell Farm.
- 5) Turn right onto a long track (vehicles prohibited). You will might see some donkeys on the right hand side. Follow this track up the hill. Follow the signs to the Gate House. Turn right and walk back along Fleet Road until you get to the lay-by where your car is parked.