

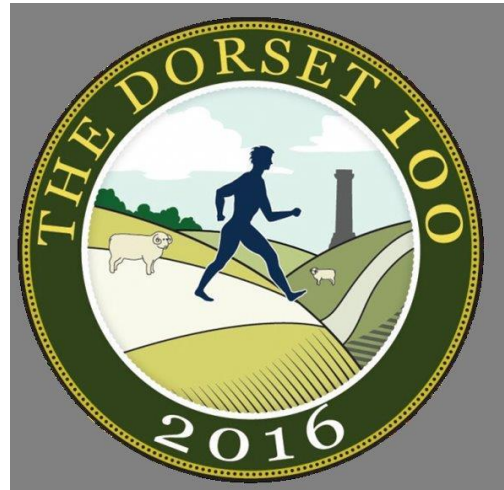
Dorset 100 Newsletter No1

Summer 2015

Welcome

Welcome to our first Newsletter.

The Dorset 100 Committee would like to keep you in the loop on our plans and also to thank you for your involvement. As a small LDWA group, we could not possibly put on this event without the help, advice and support of so many people from all across the country as well as here in Dorset.



So thank you for your help so far and for the help that is to come! We look forward to a great event across a timeless countryside which, for many, still waits to be explored.

Richard Brown

Dorset 100 Coordinator and the Dorset 100 Team

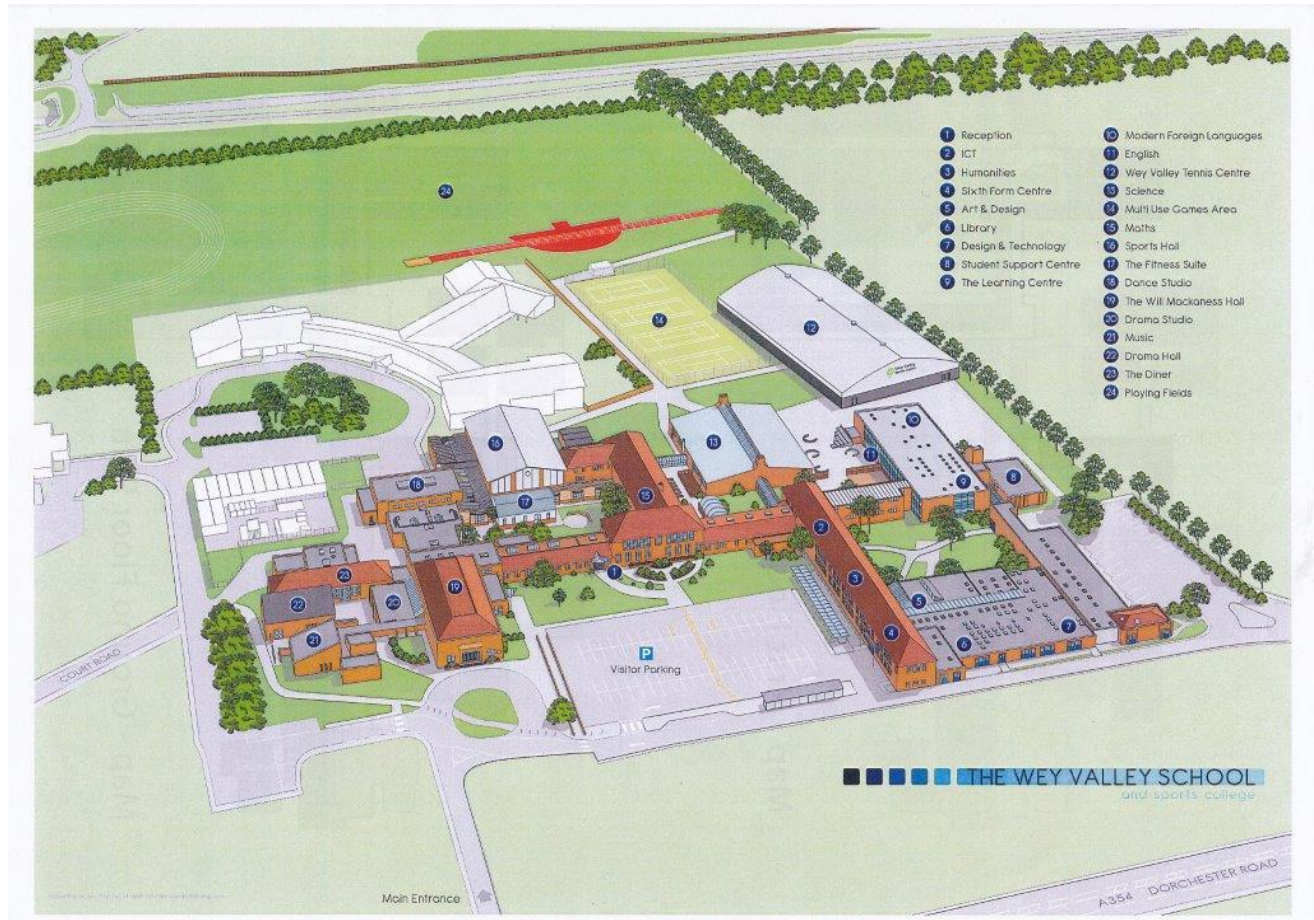
About the Dorset 100

Preparations are well advanced for the Dorset 100 next year and our website is now live with the recce route and gpx files up there. We will showcase some of the best of inland Dorset that some may not know so well. Most of the route is in the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Looking towards Hardy's Monument (the memorial to Vice-Admiral Hardy) on the Ridgeway

The event starts and finishes at the Wey Valley School about two miles north of the seaside resort of Weymouth.



The Wey Valley School (we will use the left hand part as well as all the parking)

We have used this venue before on 100k routes and are confident that it will provide all the facilities required. Upwey station is about half a mile from the school and is on the main line between Weymouth and Waterloo, and on the line between Weymouth and Bristol, making it easy to get there from all parts of the country, via London or Cross-Country. The start is well served by local buses from Weymouth and Dorchester. So although there is parking at the school and at an overspill site down the road, we would encourage participants, their supporters and helpers where appropriate to share transport or to come by public transport.

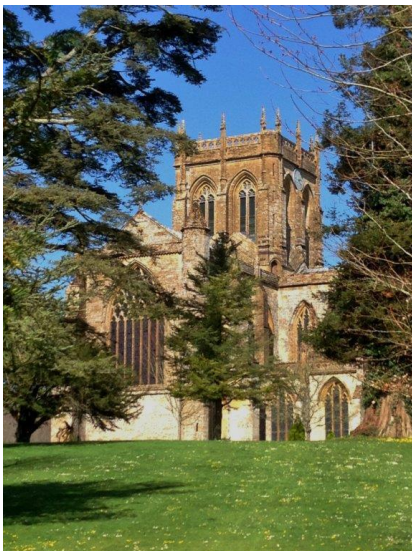
The route passes through some of the finest inland countryside in Dorset, and visits places of historical and archaeological interest. The area covered by the route is in the heart of Thomas Hardy's Wessex, and many of the places visited, such as Beaminster, Milton Abbas and Evershot are referenced in Thomas Hardy's novels. The route includes sections of several long-distance trails including the Wessex Ridgeway, the Jubilee Trail, and the South Dorset Ridgeway, and goes over the highest points in Dorset. The total ascent is roughly 13,500 feet. We want to provide as much support as possible to help you finish, so all the checkpoints are indoors apart from one in a barn.

The route starts off by climbing the ridge behind Weymouth to overlook the Olympic sailing site around Weymouth and Portland and then heads north-east through Thomas Hardy's Egdon Heath. The route visits Moreton, site of Lawrence of Arabia's grave, and Tolpuddle, famous as the site of the Tolpuddle Martyrs who were pioneers of the Trade Union movement in 1834.



The tomb of T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) in Morton churchyard

The route then heads north into the Dorset Downs, visiting both Milton Abbey and the extraordinary chocolate-box village of Milton Abbas, which was built in the late eighteenth century to house the local inhabitants who were spoiling the view from Milton Abbey.

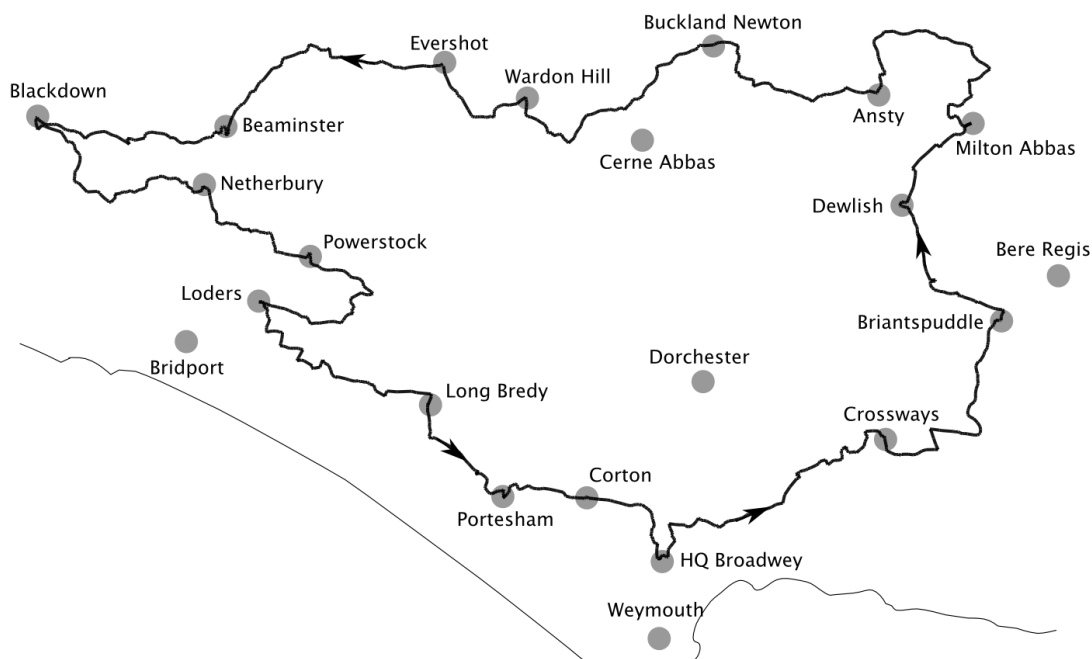


Milton Abbey and Milton Abbas village

The route goes north to the viewpoint of Bulbarrow, the third highest point in Dorset, and then west towards the breakfast stop in the charming town of Beaminster, passing through beautiful rolling countryside with views over the Blackmore Vale.

After the breakfast stop, the route passes over the highest points in Dorset, Lewesdon Hill and Pilsdon Pen, the latter with fantastic views over west Dorset. It then passes through the Marshwood Vale to the spectacular hillfort of Eggardon Hill, after which we are heading back to the Dorset Downs and the archaeologically fascinating area of the South Dorset Ridgeway. Towards the end of the walk, the route is often in sight of the Hardy Monument, built above

Portesham in 1844 in memory of Vice-Admiral Hardy, the captain of the Victory at the battle of Trafalgar. This section also has fine views over the Jurassic Coast including the Fleet lagoon, the test site of the bouncing bomb, Chesil Beach and the dramatic profile of the Isle of Portland. Finally the route drops down off the downs back into Bournemouth.



The area is well provided with accommodation, including hotels, B&Bs, camping and cottages, to service the resort of Weymouth and the extensive holiday trade in the region. The website includes a range of information about the area (both for the walkers on the route and for supporters and others visiting the area), and we hope that everyone will take time to experience our rich heritage and have a great time.

The usual entry procedure will apply to this event. Entries open on Monday 12th October, and close for a ballot, if required, on 27th November. Full details are on our website www.ldwa.org.uk/2016Hundred. We hope to welcome you to Dorset and, if you do not know it that well, hope that you can spend some time in the area to appreciate all that our wonderful county has to offer.

The Check points

All our Check Points are manned thanks to tremendous support from colleagues from LDWA Groups across the country. An enormous vote of thanks to them and to Deirdre Flegg and Mike Childs who have helped secure these "volunteers". The LDWA is a great family and we really appreciate the support that has been offered.

The CPs

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| HQ Wey Valley School | Dorset and London Groups |
| 1 Crossways Village Hall (VH) | BBN |
| 2 Briantspuddle VH | Bristol & West |
| 3 Dewlish VH | Wilts |
| 3a Milton Abbas Reading Room (manned clipper with drinks) | East Dorset Ramblers |
| 4 Ansty Old Brewery | Essex & Herts |
| 5 Buckland Newton VH | Wessex |
| 6 Wardon Hill | Thames Valley |
| 7 Evershot VH | Kent |

8a Memorial Pavilion, Beaminster (kit)
 8b Beaminster School (breakfast stop)
 9 Blackdown VH
 10 Netherbury VH
 11 Powerstock VH
 12 Lodders VH
 13 Long Bredy VH
 14 Portesham VH
 14a Corton Farm (manned clipper with drinks)

West Yorkshire
 East Lancs
 Marches
 Staffs
 South Wales
 Cornwall & Devon
 North Yorkshire
 Julian Pursey and family/friends
 Merrian Lancaster & Dave Findel-Hawkins



Briantspuddle VH



Portesham VH



Beaminster Sports Pavilion



Milton Abbas Reading Room

Filming **STOP PRESS**

I am told that Deirdre is still looking for a group to man our **new CP at Broadchurch**....any group that fancies being featured can apply!!

Meanwhile away from the TV cameras, we will pass not that far from Mapperton House near Beaminster which was a key location in the recent film of Thomas Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd*....though given the path our 500 will take, maybe the Earl and Countess of Sandwich (who own Mapperton) may think it is *Not Far Enough from the Maddening Crowd* !

For *Points of Interest* on the route visit the following section of our website:

<http://www.ldwa.org.uk/2016Hundred/W/3633/points-of-interest.html>

For *Places to Visit*, *Nature Notes*, *Thomas Hardy* & *Prehistoric and Roman Dorset* see www.ldwa.org.uk/2016Hundred/M/619/local-information.html



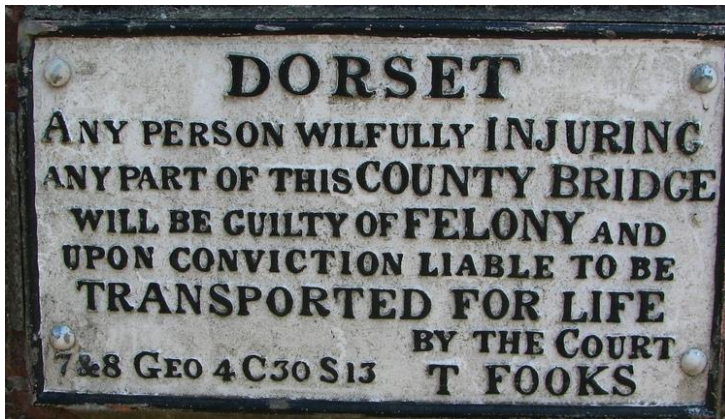
As seen on the Dorset 100?



Mapperton House

And finally.....

Enid Blyton set many of her stories about *The Famous Five* in Dorset. A recent discovery has been made of a tale called *The Famous Five Hundred Go Wild In Dorset*. A sneak preview reveals the following dialogue:



[Local]: "Ar, mind what you do with that there pole. You see that sign? Indeed, you goes through Tolpuddle where them Martyrs were sent to the colonies...all the way to Australia"

[A Famous 500 from the Home Counties]: "My dear chap, you don't have to be sent that far to the colonies. There was a 100 Project Manager who is still languishing in Wales....he failed to provide hot water for us at the end of his walk when all the boilers broke."

[Local]: "You have hot water at th'end of a walk?...well I'll be blowed! Mind you I has a wash ev'ry 12 weeks...even when I don't need one"



Eggardon Hill , one of many Iron Age Hill Hill Forts in Dorset

Later in the local inn...

"And them says to me that they need hot water at th'end of their walk...ha..ha.. and another said they comes to Darzet cos they thinks it will be fairly flat...oh... ar,.. So I says to him."You wait till you gets to Pilsdon Pen haa haa....or Eggardon Hill. You just wait my lad..."

Coming soon to a County near you, the sequel..."The Famous 500 go Wild in Yorkshire".. "in Kent" and...
Never ... **THE END**