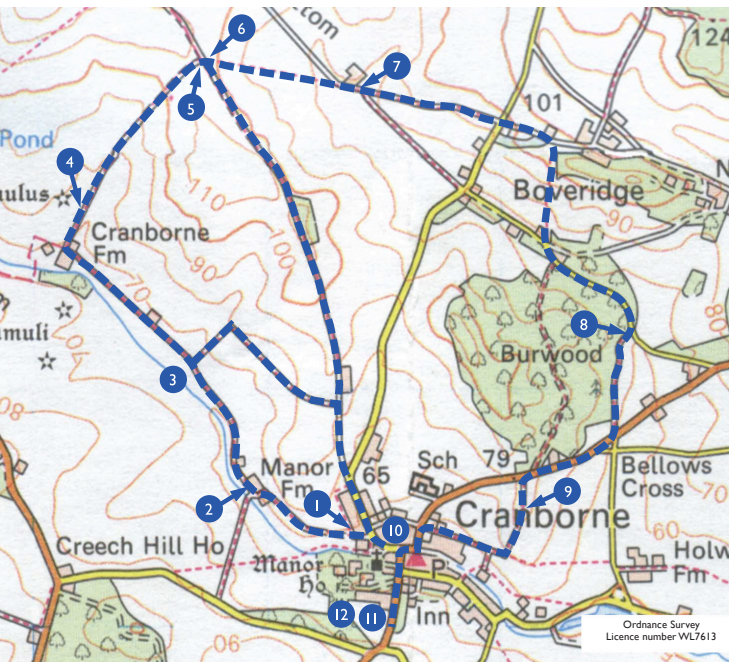


## FURTHER INFORMATION



[WWW.CRANBORNE.CO.UK](http://WWW.CRANBORNE.CO.UK)

## PLAN YOUR VISIT



CRANBORNE ESTATE OFFICE  
Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PS  
Tel: 01725 517289

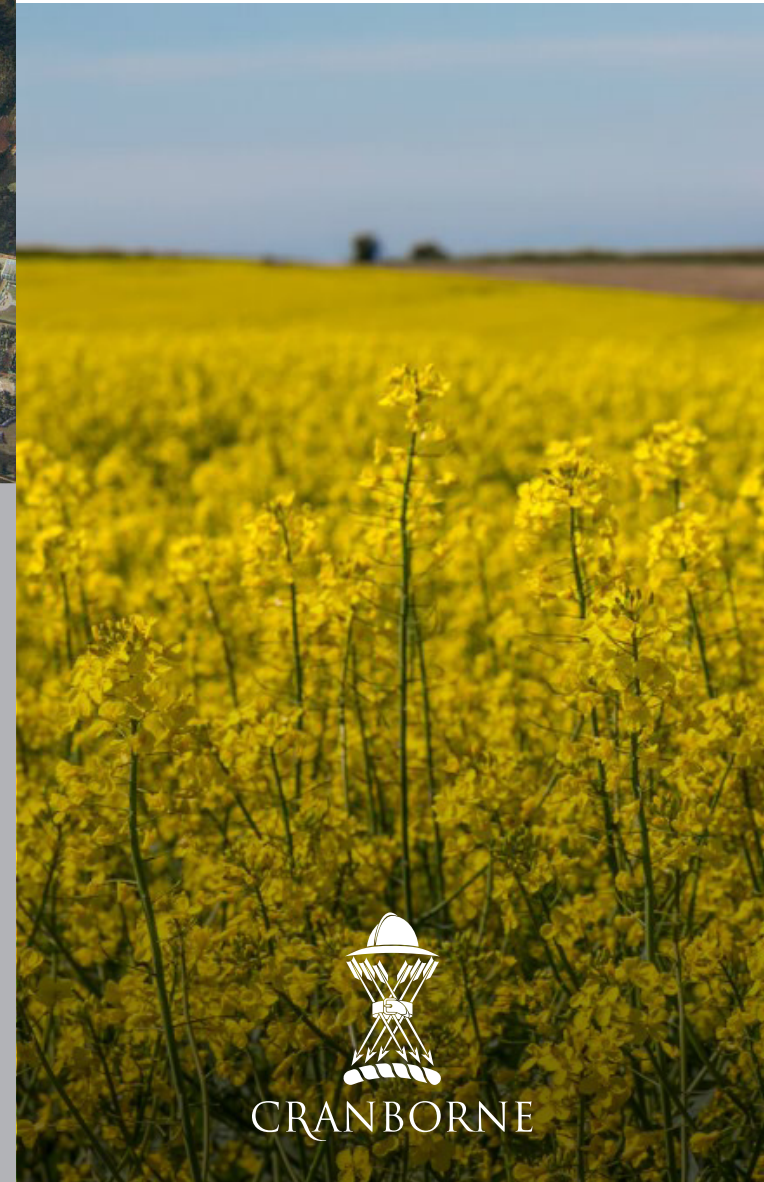
CRANBORNE FARM  
Pound Farm, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5RN  
Tel: 01725 517310

CRANBORNE GARDEN CENTRE  
Open all year Monday to Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm  
Sundays & Bank Holidays 10.00am – 5.00pm  
Tel: 01725 517248

CRANBORNE STORES  
1 The Square, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PR  
Open Monday to Saturday 6.00am – 6.00pm  
Sundays 9.00am – 5.00pm  
Tel: 01725 517210

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# CRANBORNE ESTATE WALKS



CRANBORNE

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# WELCOME TO CRANBORNE

To follow three circular walks across the Estate, please follow the highlighted routes shown on the map. A number of marked posts on the route relate to the walks, giving you additional information about the farming, woods and wildlife. The main walk is approximately four and a half miles long and takes the average walker about 2 hours to complete. Two shorter routes are also marked. We hope that you enjoy the walk and ask that you please keep to the clearly marked rights of way and keep your dogs under control.

**1. THE CLOSE.** Not all land is suitable for arable cultivation. These water meadows are grazed by cattle in the summer. The Winterborne flows from late autumn to late spring and runs through a culvert under the village. Below the village, it flows all year round and eventually joins the Moors River, draining into the Stour and thence Christchurch Harbour.

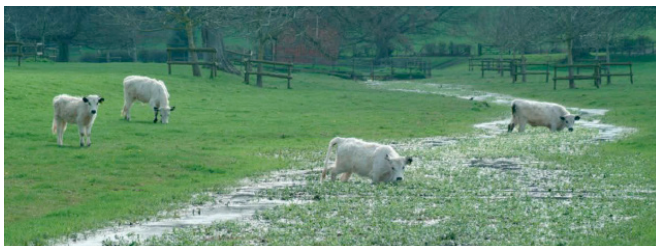
**2. THE VALLEY.** The small valley from the village up to Cranborne Farm is nearly all permanent pasture. During the summer, grass fields are used for cattle grazing and sometimes for cutting hay and silage to supplement feed over winter. The Estate is working to make these pastures more diverse, introducing wild flowers and varieties of grass.

**3. SHORT ROUTE.** For a short circuit, you can turn right at this track and follow the route clockwise back to the Village.

**4. JACK'S HEDGE.** As you leave the former dairy and follow Jack's Hedge the landscape changes to larger arable fields. Arable crops are grown in rotations of different crops in sequence. This reduces the impact of weeds, insect pests and diseases. A diversity of cropping allows a mosaic of habitats to thrive across the farm.

A combination of autumn and spring grown crops allows stubble to be left and green cover crops to be grown over winter providing cover and feed for many birds.

You will see a broad range of birds across the farm including ground nesting birds such as Skylarks, Corn Buntings and Lapwings. These feed on seeds, young shoots and insects such as sawfly larvae, beetles,



ants, aphids, and grasshoppers. Beetle banks (flower and grass strips up the middle of the fields) as well as the flower and winter cover strips alongside them, offer good insect food and cover. In particular these strips provide a habitat for grey partridges to nest and thrive; the conservation and management of wild grey partridges is a key aim on the Estate. Field edges and headlands are also managed to encourage a diversity of species.

**5. MEDIUM ROUTE.** The path here crosses a bridleway that runs from Pentridge to Cranborne. Walkers can take a short cut back to Cranborne by turning right here. In doing so they will be following the Hardy Way – a 220 mile route starting at the birthplace of Thomas Hardy and wending its way through the landscape described in his novels. Cranborne itself features as Chaseborough in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

Hedges form an integral part of the Dorset landscape. Our farm staff take care not to spray the bottom of hedges in order to maintain food and cover for wildlife. We preserve old hedges by laying and by planting up gaps. Farm staff will only cut hedges every other year or twice in five years. This allows berries and fruit to remain over winter and thus provide feed for over-wintering birds.

**6. JACK'S HEDGE CORNER.** Continuing towards Boveridge, the flowing arable landscape is typical of the area. These fields grow good varieties of barley, most of which are used for malting for making beer. This part of the Estate supports populations of hares and you will see skylarks and other downland birds at certain times of the year. You may also see roe deer in the distance.

**7. KENNEL POND.** Keep to the left-hand footpath until you reach the road. Cross it towards Boveridge Farm. 50 yards after the set of cottages on the corner, turn right and follow the footpath towards Park Row. Turn left when you emerge by the converted St Aldhelm's Chapel and follow the road for 600 yards or so to post no. 8. Turn right here along Waddleys Drove.

**8. BURWOOD.** This wooded valley was badly affected by the gales in 1990 when we lost a number of mature beech trees. The areas have been re-planted with a mixture of beech, ash and oak. Tree varieties take different lengths of time to mature. Broadleaf species such as oak, ash and beech take around 120 years but many survive for far longer. Conifer species such as Scots and Corsican pine, spruce and larch mature at 50 to 70 years old. The Estate is converting its woods to a more uneven-aged structure. This is known as 'continuous cover' forestry. This has the aim of improving biodiversity of the woodlands and protecting against disease.

**9. THE MANOR HOUSE.** The final leg of this walk takes you back towards the village via Potterne Hill. Here you will have views down to the Church and Manor House, both of which date from the 13th Century. The ancient Manor House was purchased by Robert Cecil, First Minister to Elizabeth I and James I, from the crown in the early 17th. The Manor is still lived in by his descendant, Viscount Cranborne. The gardens were laid out by Mounten Jennings and John Tradescant and were enlarged in the 20th to incorporate a white garden, herb and mount garden, a water garden, wild garden and a crab-apple orchard.

**10. CRANBORNE STORES.** Serving as the community shop and Post Office, offers a range of local produce, groceries and locally butchered meat. The shop stocks pies, quiches, sausage rolls and bread, as well as local beer and cheese – some of which is made on the Estate.

**11. CRANBORNE MANOR GARDEN CENTRE.** Open throughout the year seven days a week, the Garden Centre supplies a wide range of produce and specialises in old-fashioned climbing shrub and rambling roses. The plants seen in the Manor Garden are sold wherever possible. There is also a gift shop. The Café will provide you with soft drinks, freshly prepared homemade food and cakes. It makes an ideal post-walk rendezvous.

**12. THE MANOR GARDEN.** The Manor Garden, reached via the Garden Centre, is open from 1st March to 30th September on Wednesdays only.

