

The following refer to points of historical interest on the walks.

1 Phelipps Road

Named after an ancient Corfe Mullen family who provided the lord of the manor in the reign of Elizabeth I. A wing of the 16th Century mansion, known as the Court House still stands in the village. In 1662 Thomas Phelipps founded a charity which gave "tools for apprentices". The Phelipps charity is still being administered today.

2 Roman Road

The road was built by the Roman army, Vespasian's Second Augusta Legion around AD 43-44. Its main purpose was to supply a large base fort at Lake from the invasion port of Hamworthy. Lake Fort was situated where Lake Farm is today, at the junction of Wimborne Road and the A31. The present roundabout was the South West corner of this 40 acre site. It forms the eastern boundary of the parish.

3 East End

Artefacts found in the old ballast quarry (now Stour View Gardens) indicate an early Iron Age settlement. The area around East End, Lambs' Green and Brog Street was known as Corfe Mullen St. Nicholas as late as 1905. This manorial land was owned by St. Nicholas Hospital, Salisbury.

4 Corfe Halt

On the Somerset & Dorset railway line from Poole to Bath, there was a problem that made it necessary for the train to travel backwards between Poole and Wimborne. A "cut off" line was built to overcome this and it passed through a deep cutting at East End. Corfe Halt was opened there in 1929 for passengers but little used and it closed in 1956.

5 Lady Wimborne Cottages

Lady Cornelia Spencer Churchill (1847-1927), as well as having nine children, did a great deal to improve the lives of the Canford estate workers. She was responsible for the distinctive gothic style, cream brick cottages that are dotted around the area.

6 Lambs' Green Inn

Formerly Lambs' Green Farm. A mixed farm of dairy and fruit and vegetable production. It became increasingly uneconomic in the 1950s. It was bought by Bass Brewery in the 1980s. The cottage and the outbuildings were renovated to form the Lambs' Green Inn. Reputed to have a ghost called "Ethel".

7 High House

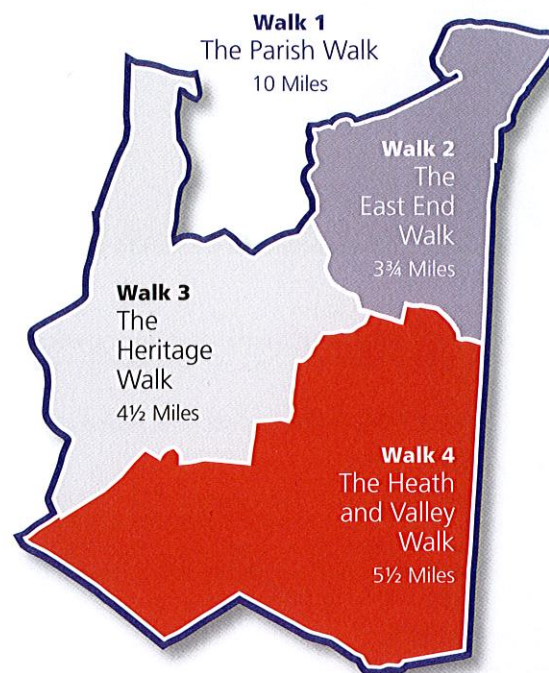
Isaac Gulliver (1745-1822), a famous and successful smuggler, lived for a time at High House. From its top windows, it is said, he could keep a look out for the Customs men!

8 Roman Signal Station

Earthworks that can be seen in a field at Candy's Farm may be the site of a Roman Signal Station linked to the fort at Lake. Its position would give excellent views across the Stour Valley towards Badbury Rings.

◀ continue overleaf

A series of walks around the parish of Corfe Mullen, prepared by the Parish Council, to become a lasting celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of 2012.



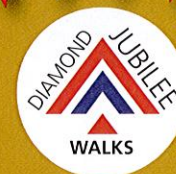
EAST DORSET
Year of
CELEBRATION
2012

Our thanks to **Councillor Wendy Dix** who has devised these walks and researched the history.

East Dorset District Council is pleased to support this project.

Designed by the Graphics Department, East Dorset District Council

Corfe Mullen Diamond Jubilee Walks History Notes



Created by
Corfe Mullen Parish Council



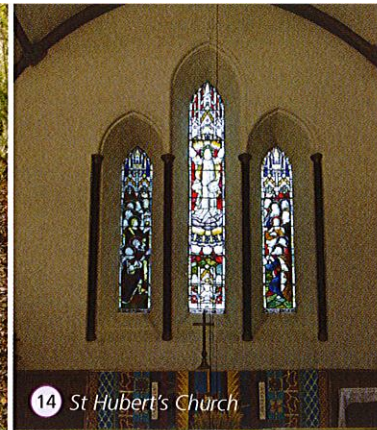
Springdale Open Space



2 Roman Road



Stony Down Plantation



14 St Hubert's Church



17 Mountain Clump

continued...

9 Recreation Ground

The original playing fields came as a bequest to the Parish Council from Mr J.J. Kettle of Violet Farm in 1935. He was a keen supporter of the football team. The area has increased in size over the years and now covers some 44 acres.

10 Brog Street

The name may have derived from "brook" as there are several water courses in the area. The "street" part could refer to the Roman road that runs west from Lake Fort. Another explanation could be that it is a derivation of "brock" meaning badger. Along this street is a large Victorian mansion called Glendon, built in 1850. In contrast Hart's cottage may be the oldest cottage in Corfe Mullen and dates from the late 16th century.

11 Sleight

The name is associated with an old English word for sheep pasture, "slaegtet". In the 1300s it is recorded as "Sleyte". Sleight eventually became the name of the hamlet.

12 Knoll Farm

The cottage may date from around the 16th century. William "ate Knolle" was recorded as a taxpayer in 1332.

13 Level crossing

Level crossing and signalman's cottage on the Somerset & Dorset railway. Sometimes known as the "Slow and Dirty" 1860. This line connected Poole to Wimborne through lower Corfe Mullen and then on to Blandford and Bath.

14 St. Hubert's Church

This church has a basic 13th century structure. The tower was added in the early 14th century and further additions were added up until the 20th century. The church was formerly dedicated to St. Nicholas. It has many interesting features. The barrel roof has wonderfully restored ceiling bosses. The "three rabbits" are very interesting (see cover image).

In the churchyard is a very interesting cross. The base is 14th century. A new shaft and cross was added to the base in 1925 as the upper part was missing. After this was done the old cross was

found buried in the churchyard and is now built into the west wall of the tower. The old cross may have been damaged during the Great Civil War.

An ancient Yew tree stands nearby reputed to be 1000 years old.

15 Coventry Arms

A "watering hole" has stood on this site since 1426. The inn has been known as the White Lion, Cock and Wheatsheaf and in 1840 named after the Coventry family who held the manor. The building has many original features such as flagstone floors, exposed beams and a skeleton of a "walled up cat".

16 The Old Mill

Mill Street is the oldest and original part of the village. The old French word "molin" which means mill is probably the derivation from which we get the Mullen part of Corfe Mullen. A mill is listed on this site in Domesday 1086. The present building mostly dates from the early 19th century when it was recorded as a water corn mill. In the 1950s it was a garage and filling station, it's been a restaurant and now it is a restored residence.

A tale is told that the reason the village moved up the hill was because the people believed that the water rats in the river had brought the "black death" to the area.

17 Mountain Clump

A circular area around Knoll Clump and Mountain Clump and dissected by Knoll Lane may have been the Saxon village of Corfe Hubert. Earthworks can be seen of cottages which resemble a medieval settlement between Old Market Road and Mountain Clump.

Mountain Clump, with its tumulus-like hilltop, is also known as Soldier's Barrow and is rumoured to be a burial ground. It was excavated in 1964 and found to be natural.

It is during the Saxon times that "corf", an Old English word for a gap, came into use. Could it be the gap between Mountain Clump and the Knoll?

18 Old Market Road

An important old drove from Wareham and Lytchett to Wimborne, Blandford and Salisbury. Used for moving animals and goods to the various markets.

19 Holme Bush Inn

Originally an early 18th century beerhouse and smallholding. Its size was 11 acres, 3 rods and 21 perches. The digging of clay to make bricks and tiles was permitted by the lease. In 1834 it was owned by Lord Wimborne. In the 20th century it was run by the Cherrett family for many years. It also has a ghost.

20 Beacon Hill

Beacon Hill, on maps of the 1600s known as Lytchett Beacon, was the highest point for miles around. Beacon systems were set up centuries ago to warn the nation of invasion. It was the forerunner of the hilltop signal system to send messages around the country.

21 Beacon Hill Quarry

Adjacent to Beacon Hill is a site that has been quarried since the 1800s. The Beacon Hill Brick Co. Ltd. extracted sand from the site from 1937-2001. The old quarry is now a landfill and the area will eventually be restored back to heathland.

22 Upton Heath

Part of the southern end of a heath that once stretched from Dorchester to Christchurch. Once the area was 40,000 hectares. Only 7000 hectares of fragmented heath remains. This area of Upton Heath is carefully managed by Dorset Wildlife Trust.

23 Waterloo Road

Named to commemorate soldiers of the Dorset Regiment who fought at the battle of Waterloo in 1815. They would have marched along this road from Poole on their way to their camp at Blandford.

24 Central Avenue & Central Hall

Colonel Charles Albert Duke George lived in a four storey house called "The Towers" (now demolished), the site of which is behind the village hall. He was a local builder and landowner and founded the building firm George & Harding and built several hotels in Bournemouth.

In 1932 he built the evangelical Central Hall and also distinctive houses in South and Central Avenue. He also built two Methodist chapels in the village.

A small mausoleum in which he and his wife were laid to rest stood until development on the western slope of 'The Towers' estate.