

In lieu of

Dorset Footnotes

Spring 2026

Dorset Footnotes

Sadly, we may need to produce Dorset Footnotes in this reduced format for the foreseeable future as no one volunteered to become the Dorset Footnotes Editor at the last Dorset Area AGM, also nobody responded to the appeal for a new Dorset Footnotes Editor in the Autumn issue.

Dorset Footnotes has for many years been issued three times a year and both the production and the printing is professionally done by Amberwood Graphics of Wareham, so the job of editor is just to collate all the copy and submit it to Amberwood Graphics. Possibly with a few comments from the editor.

Someone may be thinking about helping us to produce future issues of Dorset Footnotes and if you are please contact us at dorsetramblerssecretary@outlook.com. I am sure that Doug Pigg, the previous Editor, will give you any help that you require.

Area AGM – Hosting.

For many years we asked Groups to arrange a venue for the Area AGM within their own Group Area. About ten years ago, with a view to increasing attendance, we arranged for the AGM to be held centrally in Dorchester and latterly in Broadmayne. Attendances did improve but have again declined and it has been suggested that we revert to the old system of asking Groups to host the Area AGM in their Group Area. The Area AGM is usually held in late November; recent meetings have been held on a Saturday morning.

This was discussed at a recent meeting of Area Council, and we would like your views. Please contact us at dorsetramblerssecretary@outlook.com

Ramblers General Council

The annual Ramblers General Council will, this year, be held on Saturday 25 April in Newcastle upon Tyne. Two delegates can go to represent Dorset, one from Area Council and a second to be nominated by a Dorset Group. The group concerned is rotated in order each year and in 2026 it falls to the East Dorset Group. However, if there is difficulty in finding members to attend other members can fill in. It is thought that members this year would have to travel to Newcastle on the Friday and stay overnight, all delegate expenses including travel and possible overnight stays are paid for by the Ramblers. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary.

Area Council Meetings

Area Council meetings are held four times a year, they normally take just over one hour and are on Zoom. The next Area Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 18 30. There are three vacancies for independent members on Area Council and if you are interested in joining us please contact us at dorsetramblerssecretary@outlook.com

A word from the Chairman

Hello Dorset Ramblers and a Happy New Year to all. I hope that you've managed to do some walking despite the very wet weather.

I'm sorry that more of you didn't make it to the Area AGM in Broadmayne last November. We had a good discussion about the proposed governance changes, a talk about the Wessex Wanderer Railway Walks from one of its founder members, Syliva Popham, (see here for further details [Wessex Wanderer Railway Walks](#)), and an excellent lunch. The Wessex Wanderers are a Ramblers flexi-group hosted by Dorset Area. Please do consider joining one of their walks on the Weymouth to Bristol line in the coming season. This is a great way of seeing new parts of Dorset and our neighbouring counties. We also managed to fit in a quiz and a raffle.

The governance review which is being undertaken by the Ramblers Board of Trustees has still to reach a conclusion. Area Council has been participating in the process by submitting comments over the course of the last year and the consultation process culminated in a General Council conference meeting last December which was attended by our General Council delegates. The main subjects debated at the conference were a new trustee election process (one member, one vote) and the replacement of General Council with regional forums which will be open to all members. As a result of what was said at the conference, it's the Boards intention to share updated proposals for further consultation, along with drafts of the Articles of Association and Standing Orders before the General Council papers are published. The final proposals will be presented to General Council for decision on 25 April 2026. Following General Council, the Board has committed to set up a separate project, building on responses to date, to look at the operating model for Areas and Groups.

You may be wondering what has happened to the Dorset Area 50th anniversary favourite walks project. As you know, we invited Groups and individual members to submit outlines of their favourite walks for this project. The intention was to then pick 50 from those submitted and ask the authors of those chosen to expand on them for publication on the Area website. Sadly, we didn't receive 50 suggestions, but our webmaster and I agreed that it would still be a good idea to start to publish some walks on our website. Everyone who had contributed a walk or walks has therefore been invited to present their walks in a specified format if they would like to see them published. We see this walks library as something which will build up gradually over time. Look out on the website for the first walks to appear and if you would like to contribute a walk, please do let me know.

Happy walking.

Janet Davis
Area Chair

Dorset Jubilee Trail Guides 4th Edition

Please note that Dorset Jubilee Trail guides are still on sale at the reduced price of £5 plus £2 postage. To order please email jtshop@dorset-ramblers.org.uk.

The Dorset Jubilee Trail Guide 3rd Edition are still available at the very reduced price of £1 plus £2 postage, please use the same order arrangements.

**Ramblers – East Dorset Group
Purbeck Plod – Sunday 21 June 2026**

**Start at Swanage Pier at 0830 and 09 35 (12 mile route only) walkers - 0930 runners
(Entry on the day, please arrive at least 20 minutes before start time)**

25 miles via SWCP, Kingston, Swyre Head, Ridgeway Hill, Corfe Castle, Nine Barrow Down, Ballard Down
A shorter **16 mile** route is available for walkers only, Coast Path, Kingston, Corfe Castle and Ulwell
and an even shorter **12 mile** route for walkers via the Coast Path and the Priest's Way
All finish by 20 00 at All Saints Church Hall, Swanage

Entries and Information – please contact Event Secretary – email
PurbeckPlod@eastdorsetramblers.org.uk or click on the Purbeck Plod page on line
www.eastdorsetramblers.org.uk

Please can you help on the day?

We need marshals to help out at the Start and Finish and at Checkpoints
Please contact us at PurbeckPlod@eastdorsetramblers.org.uk, if you are able to help.

Who's Who – Ramblers Dorset Area

Laurie Fairhurst - President

Janet Davis - Chair

Jan Wardell - Vice Chair

David Coleman - Secretary

Mike Heckford - Treasurer

Jan Wardell - Area Footpath Secretary

Janet Davis - Countryside Secretary

Vacancy - Publicity Officer

Margaret Kettlewell – Webmaster and Membership Secretary

Vacancy - Dorset Footnotes Editor

Mike Beams - Access Officer

Independent Members – Jill Vines plus three vacancies

Group Representatives – SDG Sarah Moyle, other Groups to be confirmed

Ramblers – Central Office Contact – Nicky Wilson – Regional Engagement Officer South and South-west.

Changes to Rights of Way

Orders affecting changes to the following rights of way have been confirmed since the last issue of Dorset Footnotes. Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs), and Public Path Orders (PPOs) being processed by Dorset Council, can be found [here](#).

CONFIRMED ORDERS:

Compton Abbas FP11: Diversion. (HA 1980, S119)

Iwerne Courtney FP32 (part): Diversion (HA 1980, S119) Part renumbered Iwerne Minster FP31#

Motcombe FP20 (part): Diversion. (HA 1980, S119A). Route renumbered: Motcombe FP20; Gillingham FP99# and Motcombe FP32#

Shaftesbury FP32: Diversion (S257 TCPA 1990)

Stoke Abbott FP13 (part): (at Brimley Mill) Diversion (HA 1980, S119)

Stourton Caundle BR33 (part): Modification to add section.

Turnworth BR8: Modification to upgrade to RB, renumbered RB8#

CREATION

Shaftesbury FP42#: Creation under section 25 of the Highways Act 1980.

Please note that unless otherwise stated, the above Orders are also confirmed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(Section 53A (2)) #New number.

Please also check the Area Website for additions and updates to the following

Long Term Temporary Closures/Diversions under Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984: Section 14(1) or 14/2 (unless otherwise stated) all are needed to comply with Health & Safety Regulations.

Beaminster FP73 (part): From GR ST 4708 0155 to ST 4708 0166, from 23.12.25 for 26 weeks but may be extended with the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport. To enable construction of a new development. Alt route.

Cann FP24: From GR ST 88308 20755 to ST 88374 20905 from 05.01.26 for 26 weeks. To allow construction work on C13 Dinah's Hollow. No alt.

Gillingham FP34 (part): From GR ST 81524 25599 to ST 81732 25517 from 03.10.25 for 26 weeks. To allow housing Development. Alt route.

Portland FP19: From GR SY 698 712 to SY 697 710, from 02.01.26 for 21 days, due to increased frequency of rock falls. Alt route.

Pulham FP20: From GR ST 731 077 to ST 725 075, from 19.01.26, for 26 weeks, to allow construction of solar farm. Alt route.

Sturminster Newton FP2: From GR ST 78633 14446 to ST 78952 14499, from 03.12.25 for 26 weeks. To allow development. Long alt route.

Winfrith Newburgh BR17: From GR SY 80225 86404 to SY 80247 85226 from 05.01.26 for 26 weeks. To allow trenching and cabling works for a solar farm. Anticipated completion 30.01.26. No alternative.

(Please Note: All the above closures are for Health and Safety reasons. Any person who uses or permits the use of the footpaths in contravention of any of the above orders will be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.)

Jan Wardell

JW/FP Reports