

WALKS AROUND BERE REGIS VILLAGE

Welcome to Bere Regis. The three walks described here range from a pleasant stroll around the village to a more extended walk taking in views of the surrounding countryside. The times quoted are a minimum to be expected at a brisk walking pace.

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Walk No. 1 - Bere Regis Conservation Area (1 mile - 30 minutes)

Start and finish in Bere Regis car park. With the recycling centre behind you walk towards Turberville Court. Turn right with wall on your right and walk down to a T junction. Here turn left and follow the path to the church of St John the Baptist (1). At the gate bear right and stop awhile to explore this wonderful mediaeval building. After leaving church turn left and follow path keeping left at Y junction then pass through gate with vicarage on your left and Stable Cottage on your right until you meet West Street (2). Here turn right and at the Royal Oak turn left into North Street. Past the village hall on your left and continue until you reach a gate. Along the way notice the historic houses of which many are mentioned in the Royal Commission of Historical Monuments. Just before the gate turn left up a green lane (3) and walk until you reach a tarmac road. Continue along this road past Boswell's Close then bear right and continue to a T junction (4). Turn right then almost immediately left down Back Lane. After the last house on the left continue down a green lane until you reach a dog bin. Here turn left opposite Old Mill B&B (5) (ideal to stay a night and explore

this historic village in more depth) and walk down West Street to The Drax Arms (6). After refreshments at this delightful community pub cross the road and walk through the alleyway back to the car park.

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Walk No. 2 - Bere Regis Near Countryside (1¼ miles - 40 minutes)

Start and finish in Bere Regis car park. With the recycling centre on your right walk towards the bungalows then turn right and almost immediately left down six steps and continue along a short alleyway. Bear right then left down another alleyway to a road. Cross the road and turn right and walk towards a "No Through Road" sign (7). At the sign turn left and walk towards Soul's Bridge. Just before the bridge turn right and walk along a path with the Bere Stream on your left and then continue along a board walk with the stream still on your left. At the end of the boardwalk (8) bear left and continue along the path until you reach a bridge on your left. Cross the bridge and turn right following the path along the field edge until you reach a green lane with a metal gate immediately opposite (9). Turn left down the lane and continue straight ahead until reaching a T junction (10). Here turn left and continue along the green lane, ignoring the tracks on your right and left, and after a short uphill section reach another T junction (11). Here turn left and walk downhill to meet a tarmac road. Follow this road round to the right, with Souls Moor open space on your left, to meet the Wool road (12). Turn left and cross the Bere Stream over Southbrook Bridge just past Vitacress and continue to The Royal Oak. After partaking of the pub's

hospitality (why not stay the night and explore this historic village in more depth?) turn left down West Street and then left down Church Lane. Continue past the war memorial and the east end of the church. Where the path bears left you turn right, stopping awhile to enter the church. On leaving the church turn right around its west end and exit the churchyard through a pedestrian gate. Follow the tarmac path straight ahead, taking the first right hand footpath back to the car park.

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Walk No. 3 - Bere Regis Black Hill (2½ miles - 1 hour)

(After rain, parts of this route can become boggy/slippery. Suitable walking boots or shoes should be worn.)

Start and finish in Bere Regis car park. With the recycling centre on your right walk towards the bungalows then turn right and almost immediately left down six steps and continue along a short alleyway. Bear right then left down another alleyway to a road. Cross the road and turn right and walk towards a "No Through Road" sign (6). At the sign turn left and cross the Bere Stream into Soul's Moor. Follow path with fence on your right and cross the new school access road (13). Walk uphill to the left of the new school and through the gate into a new plantation (May's Wood). Continue uphill towards a power line pole. At the pole follow the path underneath the power line to leave May's Wood through another gate (14). After a few yards at a T junction turn right and continue straight ahead ignoring a path on your immediate right. Follow the green

lane to a gate. Ignoring a stile on your left go through the gate (15) and then bear left and follow the path for approximately ½ mile with the camp site boundary fence on your left until you reach another gate. (Note - about half way along this section, a short detour to the right may be needed to avoid boggy ground). Passing through the gate (16), turn right and follow the path uphill until just before reaching a large gate across the track. Turn right through a small gate (17) and follow the path, still climbing Black Hill. When the path emerges from the trees ignore a track to the left and continue straight on until reaching a crossing point of four tracks. Continue ahead to a wooden waymark post and turn right (waymarked "Permissive Path") (18) going steeply downhill eventually passing a small pool on your right and then bear left to a gate waymarked "Jubilee Trail" (19). Through the gate and after a few yards bear right down into a sunken green lane through a tunnel of trees. Ignore all tracks to the left and right and proceed to the very end of the green lane at which point turn left (20) still following the Jubilee Trail. Follow the track and where it bears right between hedgerows (10) continue straight down to Shitterton ignoring the permissive path to the left. At the end of the track turn right and walk through Shitterton (21), with many historic buildings, to West Street (22) and turn right to the village centre for shops and pubs. Return to the car park by following an alleyway opposite The Drax Arms pub.

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