

## Walk 1: Osmington Drove to Half Moon Coppice

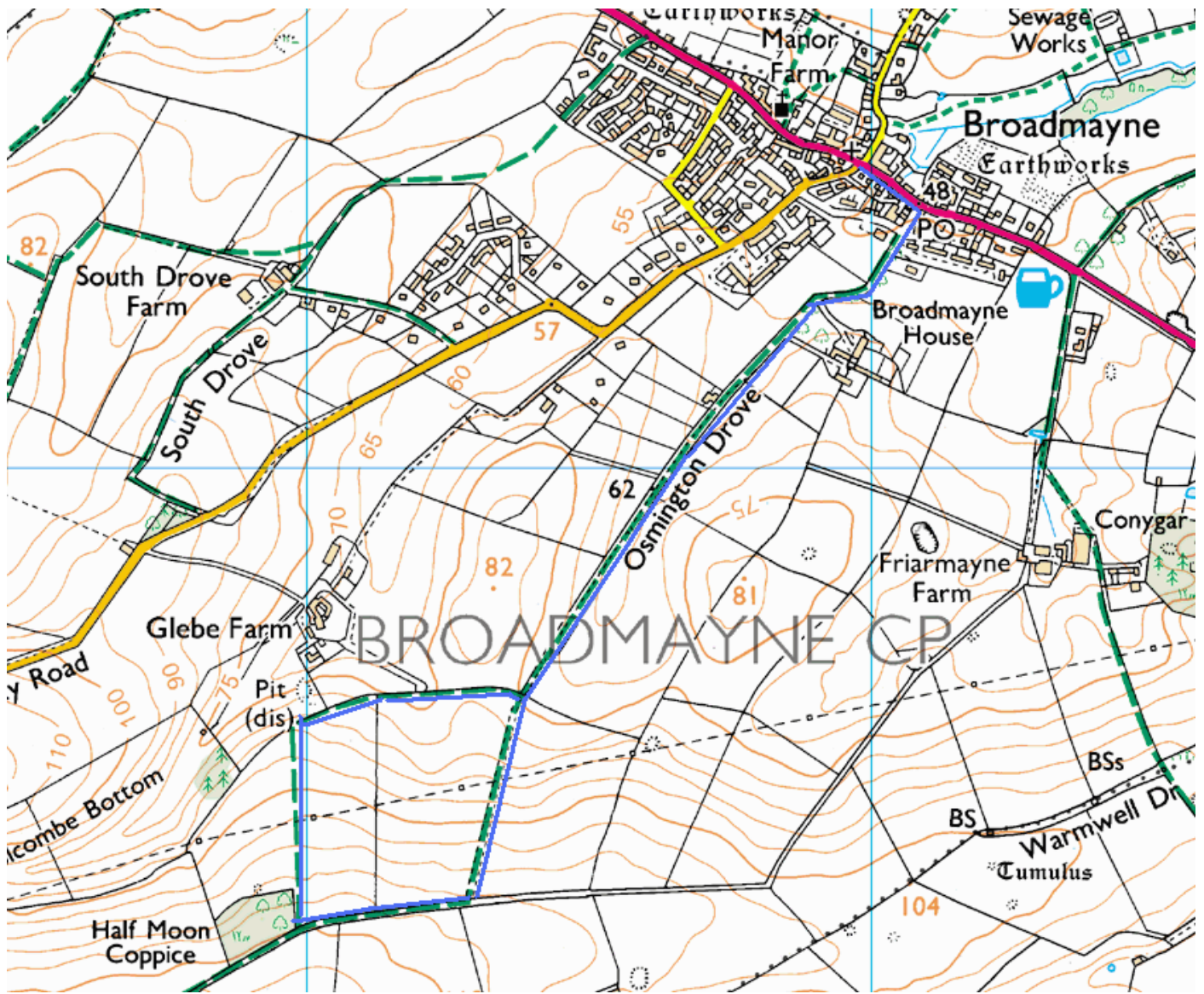
<b>Time</b>	50-60 minutes depending on pace and time taken to look at the views
<b>Distance</b>	2.5 miles / 3.8 km
<b>Car Parking</b>	Park, with care, in Osmington Drove ( <u>not</u> the Village Hall car park)
<b>Refreshments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The village shop/post office<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Opening times are available on the website</li></ul></li><li>• The Black Dog village pub on Main Street</li></ul>
<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please leave all gates and property as you find them</li><li>• Sturdy footwear is recommended as this walk can be muddy in the winter and after rain</li><li>• The route is on a bridleway so look out for horse riders and cyclists</li><li>• If taking your dog, please act responsibly around livestock in the fields, and when passing horses on the bridleways</li></ul>
<b>Wildlife</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This route runs alongside hedgerows, crosses farmland, and skirts some woodland so you are likely to spot a number of our local birds, mammals, insects and flora. If you are lucky you may see—</li><li>• Rabbits and pheasants in the hedgerows</li><li>• Buzzards sitting on fence posts or circling the hill sides</li><li>• Hares and deer out in the open fields</li></ul>

*This walk makes use of one of the many droves in the area. These routes, many of which are now public rights of way, were used for driving livestock from pastures to villages and markets.*

- From the crossroads in the centre of the village (the junction of the A352 and Chalky Road/Knighton Lane) walk along Main Street (the A352) in a south-easterly direction.
- Shortly after passing the post office/shop on your right, turn right up Osmington Drove (a wooden signpost confirms you are on the right track).
- The first 50m of the track comprise a road so beware of the traffic. Ignore the roads leading to the right and left and continue southwards, passing the village hall and playing field on your right and the new Doctor's surgery on your left.
- The drove here is wide and passes through an avenue of fine beech trees.

- *The Beech trees are home (Rookery) to large number of noisy Rooks who make their nests among the top most branches.*
- There are a number of properties on the left, including Broadmayne House, Broadmayne House Farm and Charlmont Lodge.
- Shortly after the houses, the path narrows and passes between hedges. (Beware, in the winter and after heavy rain it can be muddy underfoot.) Continue southwards.
- Eventually the Drove opens out to its full width. Continue ahead.
- After passing through a field gate, next to large Horse Chestnut tree, continue straight ahead, uphill across the field, passing under the electricity transmission line.
- On reaching the top of the slope pass through a bridle gate and turn right.
  - *The gate is good point to stop, look back and admire the view across the village to Puddletown and Moreton woods on the far ridge. To your left is Holcombe Bottom and Glebe Farm, to your right the Conygar estate.*
- Walk along this broad drove for 300m before turning right at the bridleway signpost, through a field gate, just before Half Moon Coppice.
  - *For a longer route from this point see Walk 2: Osmington Drove to the Bank Barrow.*
- Follow the path downhill alongside the wood past a pile of flint at the corner of the wood and aiming for another pile of flint down at the hedgerow, again passing underneath the electricity transmission line.
  - *Add a stone to the flint pile for luck!*
- When you meet the hedge at the second pile of flint, turn right and walk along the field edge, until you rejoin Osmington Drove at the field gate, beside the large Horse Chestnut tree.
- Turn left and re-trace your steps back down the Osmington Drove to the village.
  - *If you are visiting the Black Dog at the end of your walk, turn right when you get back to Main Street, but be careful as there is no footpath on this part of Main Street.*

The blue line on the map indicates the public rights of way and other highways which form this route and which are described above. The route starts and finishes at the crossroads in the centre of the village



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