

WALK 4
Sherborne

Walk Dorset's History

🕒 90 minutes to walk, sit and enjoy
reading the information



Stepping
into
nature

Welcome! As part of the Stepping into Nature project led by the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team, we have produced a series of self-guided walks.

These easy access routes highlight the local history, as well as other fun snippets of information that you will find along the route.

Further Information: www.stepin2nature.org



Distance

1 mile/1.6km



Suggested time

90 minutes to walk, sit and enjoy reading the information



Difficulty

Generally level route on tarmacked paths. **Not** a dog friendly route



Facilities

Along route you will find many places for refreshments. Public toilets are in Culverhayes Car Park

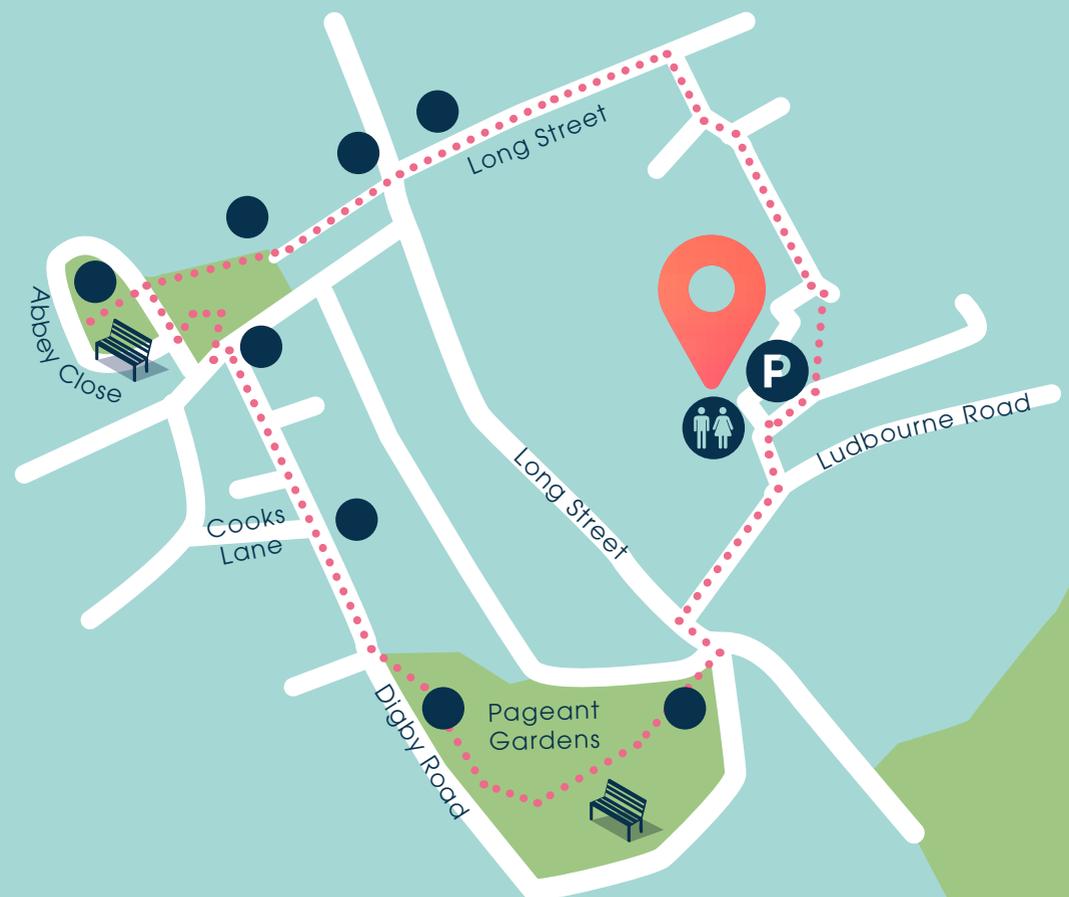


Transport

Car park, bus and train stop within a 5 minute walk



Route map



Suggested starting point

Culverhayes Car Park, Ludbourne Road,
Sherborne DT9 3NJ



Points of interest



Toilets



Seating



Suggested parking



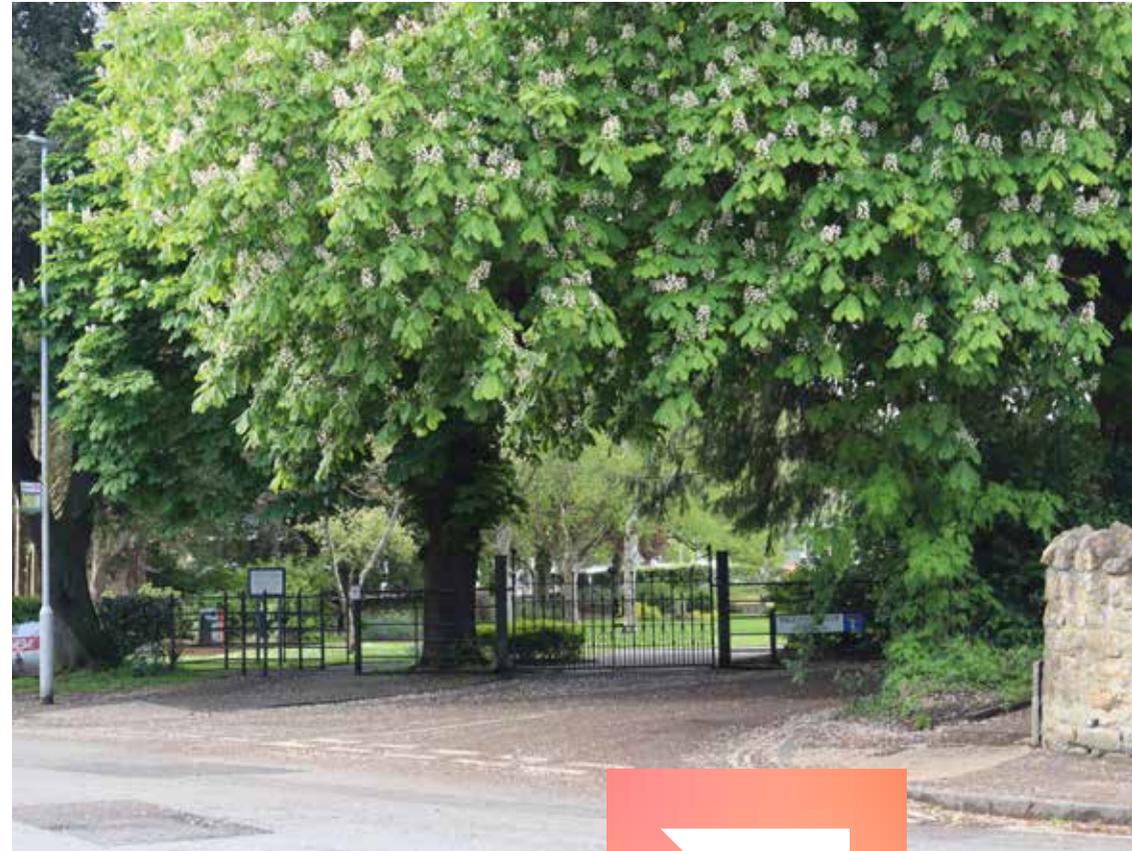
Leave Culverhayes Car Park by the exit near the supermarket. Turn right to go along Ludbourne Road. At the end, cross the road and go through the gate pictured into the park.

We begin in Pageant Gardens which were created around 100 years ago using funds gained from a pageant held at Sherborne Old Castle.

This pageant was no small affair, with 800 local people and 50 horses performing to an audience of 30,000. It was named the 'Mother of All Pageants' and you can see why!



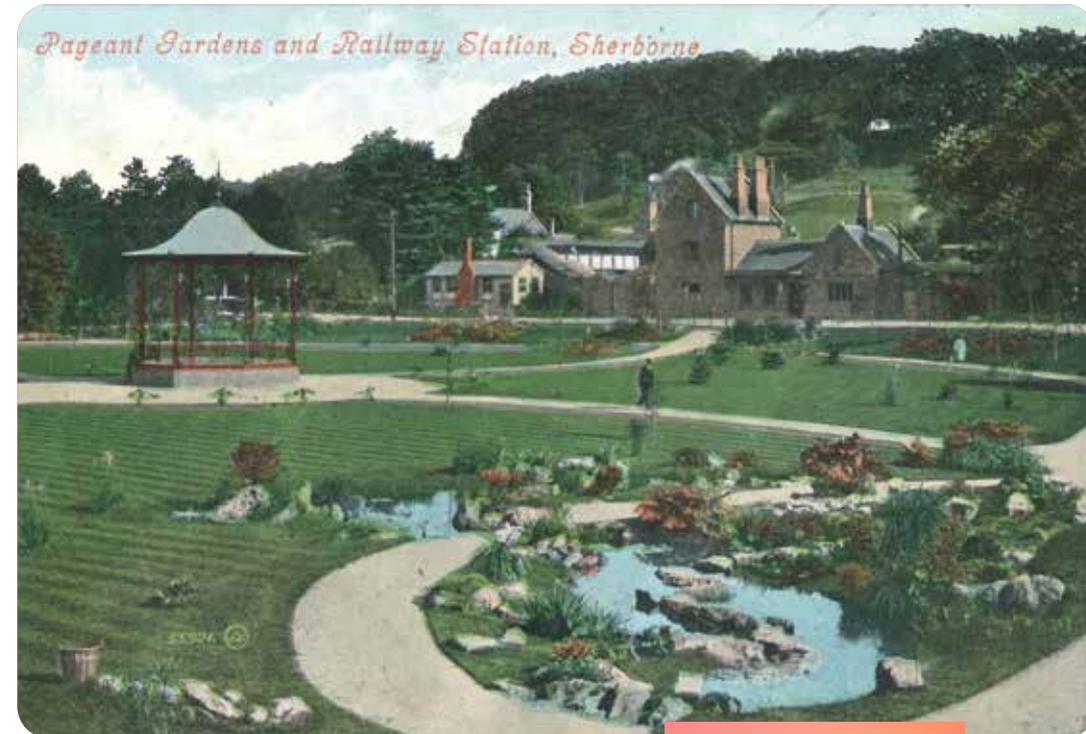
Continue to the far side of the gardens.



Stand in the spot you think this photo was taken around 100 years ago. Compare with what you see today.



Wonder how different the gardens would have sounded back then.



From this viewpoint, turn around and take the path up the slope to exit the gardens into Acreman Street. Stop when you reach Digby Memorial Church Hall pictured.



The Digby family have been major local landowners for centuries, so you'll see the family name a lot around the town. They donated land for Pageant Gardens, built the former Digby Hotel which was over the road as you left the gardens, and there is even a pub called the Digby Tap in the street opposite you now.

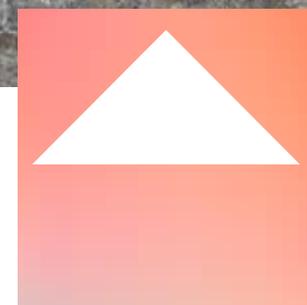
Digby Memorial Church Hall looks like a building from the Middle Ages but it was only built in 1910 (just after Pageant Gardens). Admire the decorative heads above the windows, known as corbels, which are thought to represent real people of that time.



Wonder who they are or what they did to be honoured like this!



Continue on Acreman Street towards Sherborne Abbey. At the junction with Half Moon Street look to your left.

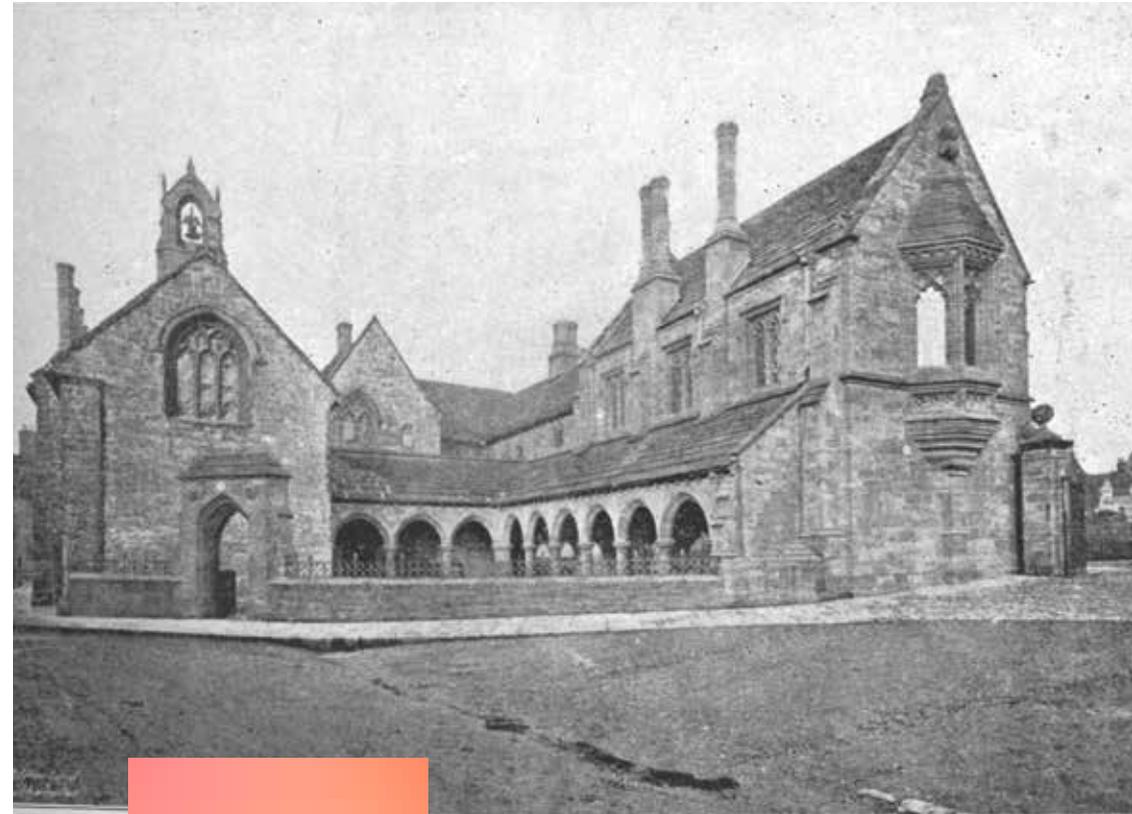


St. John's Almshouse

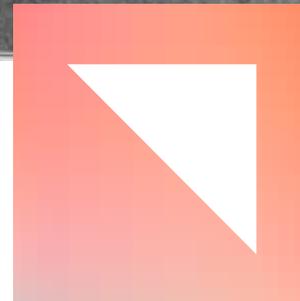
You are now looking at St. John's Almshouse, a building from the Middle Ages. It was built around the 1440s to provide homes for 16 people on low incomes, and it was clearly designed to fit in well in its surroundings.

This photo was taken more than 100 years ago, though much remains unchanged since then.

In the foreground is the historic weighbridge used by people bringing loads to sell in the town.



Cross the road towards the Abbey and head left on the Abbey Green.



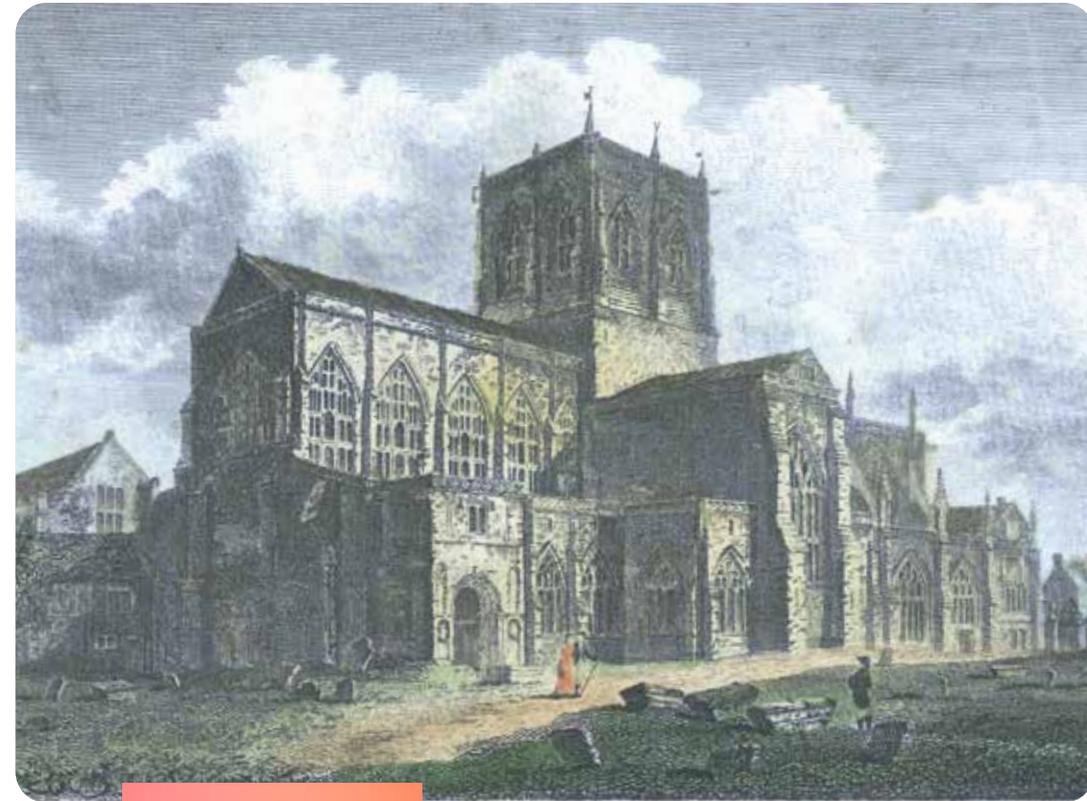
Sherborne Abbey

Compare today's views with this 18th century drawing of the Abbey. Unlike a photograph, it is not completely accurate, but you can see some changes, such as the much bigger porch over the entrance today.

Head inside the impressive Abbey to enjoy the views and find out more about its history.



Don't forget to have a look at the other fascinating buildings around the Green.



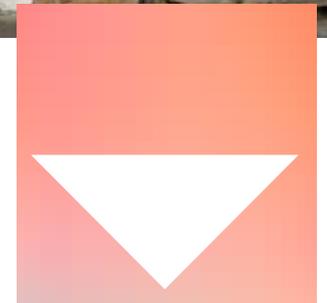
Turn left when you leave the Abbey. Continue down the little alley past Sherborne Museum.

You come out in Sherborne's Market Place. Like other Dorset abbeys such as Abbotsbury and Cerne, Sherborne Abbey attracted trade and services that led to the development of the town.

The central arched building was originally a Conduit - a place for the monks to wash - that was moved from the Abbey grounds in 1560. Since then, its uses have included a reading room, a savings bank and even a police station.



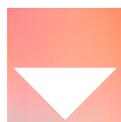
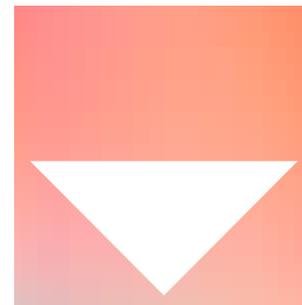
Cross the road and take a few steps into Long Street.





Turn around to compare the view in this picture taken around 100 years ago.

This postcard picture is a staged view, with people deliberately placed to add interest and scale. It was fashionable around the time to colour the photographs later (see how the colours don't match what you see today). We wonder if some of the people were added in then - what do you think?

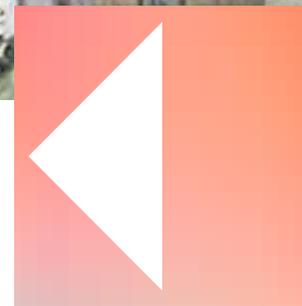


Turn again, and continue a very short distance along Long Street to reach the gate on the right that is pictured.

This was part of the frontage of a late Medieval house, most of which was demolished in 1926. Even then, people valued their local heritage and wished to keep the best of it.



From here, head into town for refreshments, and to enjoy the unique character of Sherborne. To return to the starting point, continue along Long Street, then take the right turn signposted to Culverhayes Car Park.



Looking for some more things to do?

Picnic in the Parks

Discover new experiences and enjoy fun health and nature-related activities at Picnic in the Parks.

You can access all of the other History walks from this series as well as lots of other activities, films and resources to help you live well and love nature.

picnicintheparks.org



Explore the unique, varied, and outstanding natural beauty of this AONB which underpins its designation as a nationally important protected landscape.

dorsetaonb.org

Find new places to go, learn new skills and meet like-minded people through nature-themed activities held indoors and out.

stepin2nature.org



Stepping into nature



Stepping into Nature

Stepping into Nature opens opportunities for people to connect with Dorset's fascinating landscape, wildlife, history and culture, helping people live happier and healthier lives for longer.

Using Dorset's natural and cultural landscape, the project creates activities and sensory rich places for older people, people living with long term health conditions, such as dementia, and their care partners.

The Stepping into Nature project is led by the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.



A series of easy access routes
highlighting local history and
the stories around them.

Other routes include

BLANDFORD FORUM

CERNE ABBAS

**EASTERN DORCHESTER
& FORDINGTON**

SHERBORNE

SWANAGE

WEYMOUTH

Further Information

www.stepin2nature.org