

Hills & Forts

We are blessed with some great Hill Forts in the local area, four of which you can see from the top of Hardown Hill. They offer fantastic views and walking and just a little further afield towards Dorchester, you can also find Eggardon Hill Fort and Maiden Castle that offer equally spectacular views.

Hardown Hill (you're on it)

- Hardown Hill represents an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery that is our westernmost burial site and pre-dates the historical seventh-century expansion of Wessex.
- Its prominence above the surrounding countryside gives spectacular views with perspectives on some of west Dorset's notable landmarks.
- South, we see Golden Cap and the darkly-wooded Langdon Hill, with and Portland to the east. To the north we look across the fields and the ring of hills that make up the Marshwood Vale with the village of Whitchurch Canonicorum nestled at the bottom of the hill.
- Walk right out of the driveway and right up Loves Lane. You'll love it!

Stonebarrow Hill (11min walk)

- Stonebarrow is made up of rolling hills, pastoral fields, sunken lanes, ancient hedgerows and dramatic coastline. Fantastic walking and views over Lyme Bay all the way to Portland.
- Just across the road or right out the driveway and 7min towards Charmouth.



Hardown Hill

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Golden Cap (3min drive or 35min walk)

- Golden Cap is a cliff-facing hill located between Bridport and Chartmouth located on the Jurassic Coast. With a height of 191m it is the highest point of the southern coast.
- The Golden Cap is visible from both sides of the coast and several walking paths lead to the summit.
- Just across the road or left out the driveway and 3min drive just past Felicity's Farm shop

Langdon Hill (3min drive or 30min walk)

- This is a stunning circular route that takes you around Langdon Hill and up to the peak of Golden Cap. The sweeping coastal views from the top of the peak make the effort well worth it.
- Just across the road or left out the driveway and 3min drive just past Felicity's Farm shop

Coney's Castle (10min drive)

- Coney's Castle is an Iron Age hillfort, less than a mile from the better-known Lambert's Castle. Whilst there is in fact no castle, there is equally impressive views, tranquility and ancient woodland.
- Visit in spring to enjoy a stunning display of bluebells.
- Coney's Castle, Dorset, Small National Trust Car Park. OS SY372976



Golden Cap towards West Bay

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Lamberts Castle (13min drive)

- Both an Iron Age Hillfort & Victorian Fair, this hillfort was built around 2,500 years ago! Follow the line of trees up the slope from the car park to the western entrance of the fort. You can still see today the prominent ditch and bank either side.
- The fair was held here from 1709 to 1947, and there was also a horse-racing track. In 1806 a relay station was built as part of a chain of signal posts from Plymouth to London to warn of a French invasion during the Napoleonic war.
- West Dorset, near Raymonds Hill, Lambert's Castle: OS SY365987

Pilsdon Penn (19min drive)

- Pilsdon Pen is the highest hill fort in Dorset, England and has a long history of occupation. Flint tools over 10,000 years old and Bronze Age burial mounds are evidence that the site was in use long before the fort was built.
- Near Broadwindsor, Beaminster, Dorset (park in Broadwindsor)

Lewesdon Hill Fort (30min drive)

- This hill boasts the highest point in Dorset with views Devon, Somerset and out to sea. Standing at 279m Lewesdon Hill dominates the surrounding landscape.
- You can also see parts of the original Iron Age bank and ditches. In more recent times it was the site for one of the Armada Beacons in 1588, used to warn of impending attack by Spain.
- Near Broadwindsor, Beaminster, Dorset (park in Broadwindsor)



Lewesdon Hill

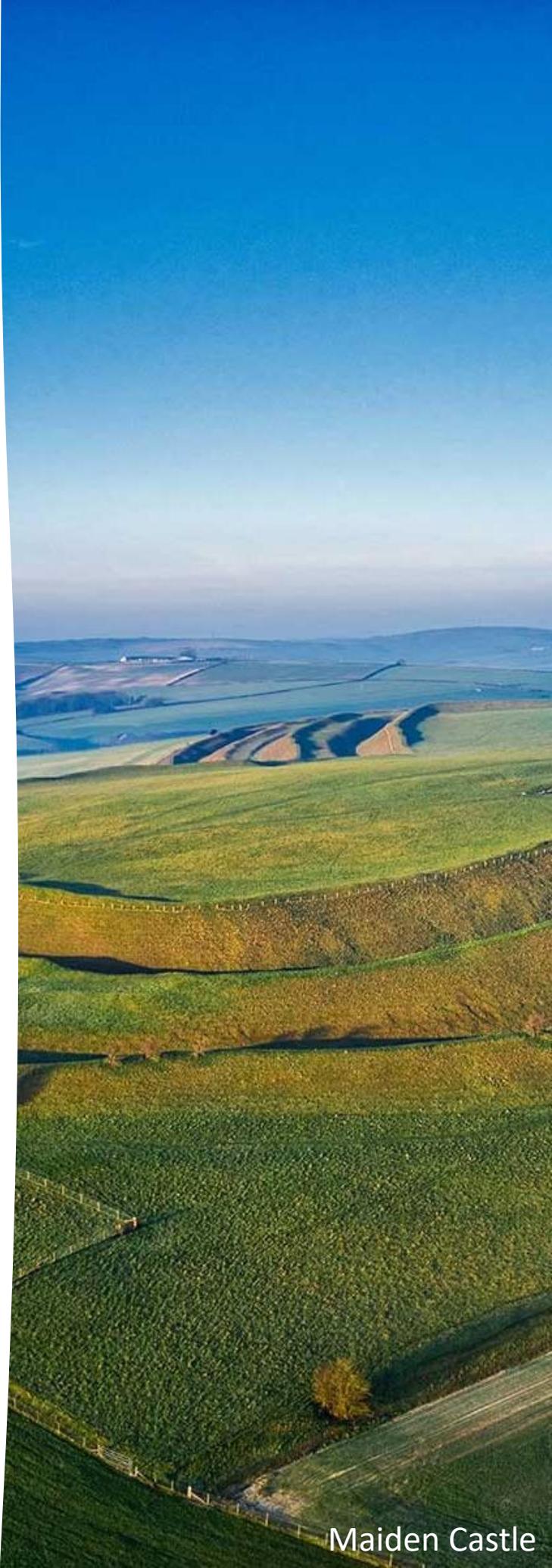
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Eggardon Hill Fort (20min drive)

- Iron Age hill fort and downland with views across the Marshwood Vale to the coast. A great place for walking, flying kites or simply taking in the extensive views of the surrounding countryside and the English Channel in the distance. The hill fort itself is about 2,500 years old, but originally there were two Bronze Age burial mounds on the summit.
- The closest village to Eggardon is Powerstock. Nearest postcode is DT6 3TF

Maiden Castle (35min drive)

- Maiden Castle in Dorset is one of the largest and most complex Iron Age hillforts in Europe - the size of 50 football pitches. Its huge multiple ramparts, mostly built in the 1st century BC, once protected hundreds of residents. When it was first built, the gleaming white chalk ramparts would have towered over the surrounding landscape.
- Excavations here have revealed much about Maiden Castle's history, such as a Neolithic enclosure from about 3500 BC and a Roman temple built in the 4th century AD. The archaeologists also found evidence of a late Iron Age cemetery, where many of those buried had suffered horrific injuries.
- Maiden Castle Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9PP



Maiden Castle