

# DORSET



Charmouth



Lyme Regis



Lulworth Cove

**Dorset** is chalk downs (sheep, yew-tree woods, marbled white butterflies, and a carved giant) and chalk cliffs (over which Gabriel Oak's sheep cascaded and below which Sergeant Troy left his clothes at Durdle Door), and chalk streams (trout fishing), and dark-thatched stone cottages with exuberant flower gardens. It is great bowls and vales of green tree-speckled farmland looking magnificent from wooded hill-tops, some with ancient forts; and country houses in their own valleys, reminding one of Brideshead; and lots of double-barrelled village names often beginning with Winterbourne or ending with Abbas and the one and only Whitchurch Canonicorum. It is fossil-filled cliffs (and hunting them on the beaches below) by **Lyme Regis** (French Lieutenant's Woman) and **Charmouth**, and the dome of Golden Cap near **Chideock**, and the extraordinary 18 mile long Chesil Beach of pebbles which regularly wrecked sailing ships, enclosing a lagoon which inspired 'Moonfleet' (about smugglers) and shelters **Abbotsbury** and its swannery; and it is **Portland** (its views, stone and Bill), and Thomas Hardy, Egdon Heath and the lanes that Tess plodded, and **Lulworth Cove** which gave its name to a butterfly. **Weymouth** (with still handsome seafront and sandy beach where King George III made bathing machines popular) and **Poole** (huge natural harbour full of boats and **Brownsea Island** with red squirrels). **Sherborne** is its best looking small town. At **Tyneham**, Army occupation has caused an unintentional sanctuary for wild flowers, bird-song and friendly (mostly) insects. The whole Dorset coast is called a '**World Heritage Coastline**'.



... ochre walls and roof pantiles ...



**Monkton Wyld:** hamlet with church in oak-wooded hills, 2 miles inland from **Charmouth** (see right) and the fossil-cliffs coast, close to Devon and to the beautiful, richly fertile Marshwood Vale. Pretty **Lyme Regis**, 4 miles.

... just outside **Monkton Wyld**, a **very charming detached cottage** of Spanish appearance (ochre walls, roof pantiles) imaginatively converted from a cart shed surrounded by **stunning countryside**, with **views** from the garden south over the Char valley and rolling hills beyond which is the sea. It is beside a quiet lane, on the edge of a 300 acre family owned arable and beef farm (deer and pheasants about). Own enclosed suntrap garden with patio (brick barbecue, table/chairs), walled courtyard (wall lights, table/chairs for evening), pergola with wisteria and side lawn with trampoline.

Entrance porch to large central living/dining room with original oak beams, beamed fireplace with 'living flame' electric fire and comfy furniture. On one side of this room is a bedroom with twin beds and a day bed with smart en suite shower-room; on the other side, up 2 steps, a double bedroom (iron bed) with en suite bathroom (suite plus bath-shower); and on a third side, down 5 steps (stairgate), a very smart ceramic-floored kitchen with beech worktops, Belfast sink, **dishwasher**, **washer-drier**, **microwave**, **fridge-freezer**, 5-hob gas range/electric oven and French windows to the courtyard and garden. **No smoking**. Seasonal **shooting** by prior arrangement. **An idyllic country setting within a short distance of the sea and sandy beaches.**

... famous for fossils

**Charmouth:** large coastal village (shops, PO, pubs, church, seasonal weekly market), mostly old, thatched and Regency (Jane Austen liked and stayed in it), and the 'Jurassic Coast' cliffs (World Heritage Site) famous for fossils (a child found the ichthyosaurus here, fossil shop on beach). Long sandy/pebble 'Blue Flag' beach. **Lyme Regis**, a lovely old sea-side/harbour town with famous cob (as in 'French Lieutenant's Woman' film) and harbour with sand, 2 miles. Golf nearby. Market towns of **Bridport**, 7 miles and **Axminster**, 6 miles (mainline railway connection with Waterloo). Beautiful, hilly, wooded country inland. Good walks.



... about **800 yards from the beach** and **60 from a pub**, on the main street of **Charmouth**, a **semi-detached family house** with a small gravelled patio garden (table/chairs, bench, barbecue) up 6 shallow steps at the back. Inside, surprisingly roomy and rambling over three floors, all with stripped pine floors with rugs.

Entrance hall, off which is the enormous living/dining room with comfy sofas and armchairs and a marble fireplace (**open fire**) at one end, and breakfast table seating 6, and combined half sized pool/table tennis table at the other. Double doors to very large kitchen/diner/family room with long, solid oak table, stylish high-backed leather dining chairs, sofa, armchair, 42" plasma wall-mounted TV; smart cream Shaker-style kitchen with granite worktops (**dishwasher**, built-in oven and **combi-microwave**, ceramic hob); utility room (large **fridge-freezer** with ice-maker, **washing machine**, Sheila maid, sink); loo/washbasin.



Stairs up from hall to first floor with bunk bedroom (full-sized bunks), and double bedroom (5' bed) with large, shared (with bunk bedroom) en suite bathroom (suite with original cast-iron roll-top bath with hand-shower plus separate double shower) at the front; at the back, a family suite comprising double bedroom and, off it, a separate room with day bed and pull-out truckle bed, a bathroom (bath, bath-shower, washbasin), and separate loo.

Steep stairs up from the landing to the second/attic floor and another two bedrooms in the eaves - a double, and one with two single beds and doors to a balcony (table/chairs and extensive views over Charmouth and countryside) - plus shower-room (suite) and useful kitchenette.

**All very comfy and new. Best for maximum of 8/9 adults. Phone line for internet connection. No smoking.**



E inc inc DVD L D T HC B/A Extra

★★★★½ Sleeps: 4/5 Fri Price: K Ref: H3  
Bedrooms: 2 Bath/shower: 2

CH OF inc inc DVD E L D T HC B/A Extra

★★★★ Sleeps: 12 Sat Price: QQ Ref: H14  
Bedrooms: 6 Bath/shower: 3



The pool building

**Chideock:** one of South Dorset's prettiest villages, and only **a mile from the sea** (good seafront pub). It is built mainly of local golden sandstone; many thatched houses and cottages; PO/stores, two pubs, church; footpath to the beach (pebbly between cliffs); pub on the beach. Much of the surrounding country and coastline is designated as an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', much owned by the Nat. Trust, and the coastline is a World Heritage Site ('Jurassic Coast'). Excellent walking, birdwatching area; spectacular coastal scenery (Golden Cap). **Bridport** (small town, leisure centre with swimming pool, art centre, cinema), 2 miles; seaside **West Bay** (golf, good fish restaurant), 2½; **Lyme Regis** (pretty, with sandy beach, historic Cob, 'French Lieutenant's Woman' connections, and boats for mackerel fishing), 7 miles. **Weymouth** (resort, sandy beach, sailing, Channel Island day-trips), 17 miles.

... **large, detached, Grade II listed farmhouse**, mainly stone, built in the 18th cent. Small front garden separates it from the A35; at the back, steps up to an enclosed, mainly lawned, walled garden with patio, garden furniture, barbecue - rather a suntrap (see above right). **Indoor heated swimming pool** (28' x 14' x 4' with shower-room suite) with French windows overlooking the garden (see left), also a small **games room** (table tennis, table football) and a sun terrace.

The house is mostly double-glazed, smart and well-renovated, exposed stone, old beams and doors; light and surprisingly spacious. Entrance hall, off which is the drawing room with **open fire**, hi-fi; on the other side of the small hall is the living room with **woodburner**. Dining room (refectory dining table seating 16) with ornamental fireplace and doors to kitchen and living room. Smart fitted kitchen (**dishwasher, microwave**, gas Rangemaster with two ovens, breakfast table seating 6 in alcove) - long, easy to work in.



Utility/drying room (**washer-drier, freezer**). Downstairs bathroom (suite). Small office (**phone**). Stairs (stairgates) from the hall and kitchen up to a very large landing/room with beanbags, TV/video - ideal for children. Off this, a twin bedroom (little Victorian ornamental fireplace); a double bedroom (5' four-poster) with low doorway to en suite bathroom (suite plus bath-shower); another twin with en suite shower-room (suite); another double with en suite shower-room (suite); another twin; another bathroom (suite); and a small room with single bed. From this last room very steep stairs up to another twin bedroom (not suitable for very young children). A second staircase leads up from the kitchen.

**7 bedrooms in the main house, 5 bath/shower-rooms.**

Five yards from the back door is a **pretty little, detached, converted creamery** (see below) with two bedrooms. Downstairs, a double with four-poster bed and en suite shower-room (suite); upstairs, via outside stairs, another double with en suite bathroom (suite).

**Phone. Cautionary Deposit £200.** Good pub two doors away.



CH WB OF	inc inc							★ ★ ★ ½	Sleeps: 17	Fri	Price: See page 237	Ref: H626
								Bedrooms: 7+2	Bath/shower: 5+2			

... good bathing beaches ...



**Bridport:** vibrant Georgian market town (arts centre, museum, art deco cinema) 1½ miles from the sea at **West Bay** (two good **bathing beaches**, one shingle/sand, one pebble, lively harbour/marina). Originally a thriving rope-making centre, now recognised, thanks to the River Cottage TV series, for its locally-produced food, readily available in the town's shops, restaurants, cafés, pubs and markets (weekly street market). Gateway to the 'Jurassic Coast' (**Charmouth** see page 221, 7 miles; **Lyme Regis**, lovely seaside harbour town with sandy beach, 10 miles); surrounded by traditional villages and much of the area a designated 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' with great justification; cliff-top golf course and wonderful walks/cycle routes nearby.

... in the heart of **Bridport**, quietly hidden away just behind the bustling main street, a **modern, mid-terrace cottage** in an attractive small mews development. Shared courtyard entrance to the front and small, sheltered patio garden at the back (additional back gate - useful for access with bikes/surfboards/golf clubs etc).

Inside, smart, stylish and surprisingly spacious. Steps or gentle slope up to front door into hall (downstairs loo); a neat, well-equipped kitchen (**washing machine, microwave, fridge-freezer**) with light wood units, tiled floor and door to garden; living/dining room (CD player) with fun and funky red and black theme, comfortably furnished with soft leather sofa and dining table/chairs, French windows to deck (table/chairs, barbecue) and garden. Stairs up to **two bedrooms**: a lovely, light double (5' bed), and a smart single; stone-tiled bathroom (suite plus bath-shower). **No children under 5, except pre-crawling babies. No smoking. Super, modern property - convenient for town, countryside and coast.**

CH	inc	inc	DVD	L	D	R	Q	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV
	inc			T									

★★★★	Sleeps: 3	Fri	Price: D	Ref: H15
Bedrooms: 2	Bath/shower: 1			



**Burton Bradstock:** very pretty village (two pubs, acclaimed beach café, PO/village shop, fine early medieval church, good children's playground), ½ mile from the sand/shingle 18 mile long **Chesil Beach**. Golf, 1¼ miles. **Bridport** (see above), 2 miles. **Abbotsbury**, with its famous swannery and lagoon, about 6 miles. This is beautiful, manicured countryside, relatively little known, good for gentle walking, Nat. Trust houses, Dorset thatched villages, all-pervading 'Englishness' and a 'World Heritage' site.

... in **Burton Bradstock**, end on to the B3157 (particularly busy in summer), **Dormouse Cottage (c1610) is tiny; Grade II listed, traditional Dorset thatched, stone built**, and a stone's throw from two pubs (both 'good food'). An easy walk to the beach (sometimes sandy). Front door straight into living/dining room with big inglenook **open fireplace**, good beams (some only 5'10" high, but ceiling higher), CD player. Small kitchen (**microwave**), and bathroom (suite plus hand-shower). Up very steep stairs (handrail), **two bedrooms** - double and, off it, a low-ceilinged bedroom with two 2'6" beds. At the back, four steps up to a little patio garden with timber summer house. **No children under 6.**

NSH	OF	inc	inc	DVD	L	D	Q	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV
					T								

★★½	Sleeps: 4	Sat	Price: DD	Ref: H601
Bedrooms: 2	Bath/shower: 1			

... 'River Cottage' country

**DORSET**



**Whitchurch Canonorum:** small hillside village (fine medieval church, pub, thatched cottages) in the lovely Marshwood Vale with its River Char which winds down to Lyme Bay at **Charmouth** (see page 221), 2½ miles away. **Lyme Regis** (lovely old seaside/harbour town with sandy beach), 4 miles; **Bridport** (see left), 5½.

... down a quite, narrow country lane just a mile from **Whitchurch Canonorum**, a former byre converted to a **single-storey, semi-detached cottage** in the grounds of the owners' farmhouse. Own small private patio (garden furniture, evening sun) overlooking a small lake in the grounds (unfenced, ducks and occasional heron, egret and kingfishers) and with uninterrupted **views** up the vale to **Marshwood**. It has a large, enclosed lawn garden, shared with the owners. Inside, hall; fitted kitchen (**microwave**); comfortable living/dining room (**woodburner**) with some antiques/good pictures and French windows to patio; **two bedrooms** (pretty fabrics) - double (5' bed) and twin; bathroom (suite plus bath-shower). Nearby outbuilding with **washing machine and tumble drier** (each £3 per load) and, shared with owners, **freezer. Suitable for partially disabled. No smoking in cottage or grounds. No children, except pre-crawling babies. Sleeps maximum 4, including babies. Two bikes** which you are welcome to borrow.

NSH	WB	E	inc	inc	DVD	L	D	T	Q	TV	TV	TV	TV

★★★★	Sleeps: 4	Fri	Price: DD	Ref: H11
Bedrooms: 2	Bath/shower: 1			



**Beaminster:** thriving little town (church, pubs, cafés, shops, museum, art gallery) in the **midst of a conservation area**, 5 miles north of the ancient historic market town of **Bridport** (see above left) and 7 miles from the wide, unspoilt beach of **West Bay** on Dorset's 'Jurassic Coast'.

... in **Beaminster**, 50' back from a no through lane, a **pretty, detached 19th cent. stone cottage**. Lovely wooded valley walks to neighbouring **Netherbury**, where 'River Cottage' from the TV series is located. Access is up 6 shallow steps to stable doors into hall with tiled floor and shower-room (suite); archway into attractive living room with comfy sofa/chairs, stone fireplace ('living flame' electric fire); small dining room and neat kitchen (slimline **dishwasher, microwave, fridge-freezer**, cooker with gas hob/electric oven) with back door to small paved sunny area on two levels (2 steps) with table/chairs; further steps lead up to an outhouse-cum-sun room with butler sink, **washing machine** - also comfy sofa, so good for a sunny 'cuppa' on cooler days. Stairs up from the living room to **two bedrooms** - a double with 5' bed, and a very roomy twin with pretty village **view** to the hills; bathroom (suite). **No smoking. A really welcoming cottage for all seasons.**

CH	E	inc	inc	DVD	L	D	Q	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV
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★★★★½	Sleeps: 4	Fri	Price: F	Ref: H13
Bedrooms: 2	Bath/shower: 2			

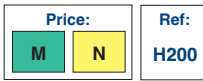
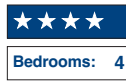
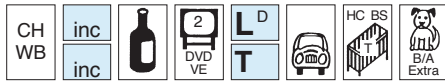
## DORSET: Thomas Hardy country . . .



**Maiden Newton:** large chalk stream village (pub, shops, PO, bakery, restaurants, railway station) 7 miles north-west of **Dorchester** (county town, museum). Of geological and historic interest (Norman church, famous Maiden Castle, Iron Age hill-fort, 10 miles), the village was the inspiration for Thomas Hardy's 'Chalknewton' in many of his works. Nature trail along disused railway branch line to **Bridport** (11 miles east, see page 223) passes through water meadows where butterflies, dippers, kingfishers and otters thrive. **Weymouth** (seaside town, day trips to Channel Isles), 17 miles.

... 500 yards from the centre of **Maiden Newton**, on the **Crewkerne** road, a smart and stylish **detached barn conversion**. Enclosed garden with electric gates to drive and garage (no cars, **games room, freezer**) at the front, and paved and lawned terraces with a large wooden deck (table/chairs) and four person **hot tub** (under 13s take care!) at the back.

Oak double doors to huge open-plan kitchen/dining/living room with polished stone floors and underfloor heating: smart fitted kitchen (**dishwasher, microwave**) with polished granite worktops and central island; dining table with chairs/benches; living area (leather corner sofa, 50" plasma TV, **woodburner**), off which, a large, light-filled sun room with doors to garden; shower-room (suite plus hand-shower); utility room (**washing machine, tumble drier**) with doors to front (drive) and back (deck/hot tub). From the living area, divided open tread staircase (stairgates) to first floor and **four bedrooms**: romantic master bedroom (5' four-poster bed, TV) with en suite bathroom (suite plus hand-shower), two smart doubles with sleigh-style beds, and a single with pull-out truckle - all with oak floors/rugs and original beams (some low, around 5'10") and limited clothes hanging space; slate-tiled bathroom (suite plus bath-shower). **No smoking. Phone. Best for max. 7 adults. Cautionary Deposit £150. Smart and comfortable, great place for relaxing.**



**Charlton Marshall:** village (pub, fine early 18th cent. church) in the valley of the **River Stour** (coarse fishing) on the road between **Blandford Forum** (very handsome Georgian town), 2 miles, and the sea at **Poole** and **Bournemouth** (superb sandy beaches), 12 miles. **Poole Harbour**

(natural, huge) is beautiful with boats and Brownsea Island (Nat. Trust, red squirrels, woods). White cliff coast (**Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove**), about 16 miles.

... built in 1860, **Poppy Cottage** is a charming little, mid-terrace flint and brick cottage with a real 'own home' feeling in a cluster of about twelve on the edge of **Charlton Marshall**. Rural, peaceful, and quite unspoilt. Enclosed garden (table/chairs) with roses, clematis and trees. Entrance porch to a cosy living/dining room with **open fire**, CD player and comfy furniture. Well-equipped fitted kitchen (**microwave**) from which steep stairs (stairgates) lead to **two pretty bedrooms**, both with views to the garden - a double and single. Bathroom (suite plus bath-shower). A z-bed is available for a child. Standing charge for electric panel heaters in winter; coal for open fire free of charge. **Sleeps maximum of 4, including babies; best for maximum 3 adults. A lovely place to stay.**



## . . . 'Hovis Hill'



**Shaftesbury:** interesting, attractive, small Saxon hilltop town that grew around its 9th cent. abbey (now ruined) constructed by King Alfred. Full of quaint corners, arts and crafts, with regular farmers', book and flea markets, and stunning views over three counties. Thomas Hardy's 'Shaston' in his novels. Mainline **railway station** at **Gillingham**, 6 miles. **Bath**, 35 miles; **Dorchester**, 28; **Stonehenge**, 26; the south coast at **Sandbanks, Poole, Bournemouth**, 25-30 miles; many fine houses and gardens, including beautiful **Stourhead** and **Kingston Lacy** (both Nat.Trust) and **Longleat**, within easy reach.

In a quiet backwater of **Shaftesbury**, yet only 50 yards from the High Street, is **Gold Hill**, visually the most famous street (pedestrians only) in Dorset and perhaps better known as '**Hovis Hill**' after the TV ad. It's a steep, ancient, cobbled street, lined with charming and quintessentially English cottages, built mainly in the 17th and 18th cents. for tradespeople.

... on **Gold Hill** is Thatch Cottage, a pretty, Grade II listed, 17th cent. semi-detached thatched cottage with a delightful garden and wonderful views over beautiful **Blackmore Vale**. Stable doors into Shaker-style fitted kitchen (**microwave, dishwasher, washer-drier, freezer**, double oven, larder fridge); little dining room; 4 steps up to lovely living room with 'living flame' gas fire, CD player, vaulted ceiling, exposed beams and bay window (window seat) overlooking the garden and **Blackmore Vale**. Upstairs, little bathroom (suite with 5' bath plus hand-shower), a single bedroom (overlooking Gold Hill), and more stairs up to large double bedroom (lovely views).

From the living room, stairs down to lower ground floor and another double bedroom and en suite bathroom (suite with 5' bath plus hand-shower). Four steps down to door to the mature garden with two ponds and two patios (table/chairs/bench), one by the cottage and the other in a secluded suntrap corner at the bottom. A path around the side of the cottage gives access to **Gold Hill**. **No smoking. No children under 5, but pre-crawling babies welcome.** Many restaurants and pubs within walking distance and countryside walks from the door. **An utterly charming cottage with bags of character.**

