

# DORSET



Kimmeridge



Portland Bill



Old Harry Rocks

**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**'.



## ... quintessentially English Hovis Hill ...



**Shaftesbury:** attractive, small hilltop town, around a ruined 9th cent. abbey, with stunning views. Thomas Hardy's 'Shaston' in his novels. **Gillingham** (mainline railway), 6 miles. The south coast at **Sandbanks, Poole, Bournemouth**, 25-30 miles; 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 quintessentially English cottages.

... on **Gold Hill** is **Thatch Cottage**, a pretty, Grade II listed, 17th cent. semi-detached thatched cottage with delightful garden and wonderful views over 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 living room with **woodburner**, TV/DVD, CD player, vaulted ceiling, beams and bay window (window seat, **views**). Upstairs, bathroom (suite with 5' bath plus hand-shower), a single bedroom (overlooking Gold Hill), and more stairs up to double bedroom (views). From the living room, stairs down to lower ground floor and another double bedroom with en suite bathroom (suite with 5' bath plus hand-shower), TV and views. Four steps down to door to mature garden with ponds and two patios (table/chairs/bench). **No children under 5, except pre-crawling babies.** Many restaurants and pubs within walking distance and countryside walks from the door. **An utterly charming cottage with bags of character.**



★★★★½	Sleeps 5 Friday	Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 2	£ G Ref: H12	CH EH WB	☎	📺	🛏	🚿	🐾	🚗	SHORT BREAKS
-------	--------------------	---------------------------	-----------------	----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	--------------



**Charlton Marshall:** village (pub, church) in a river valley (coarse fishing) between **Blandford Forum** (Georgian town), 2 miles, and the sea at **Poole** and **Bournemouth** (sandy beaches), 12 miles. **Poole Harbour** is beautiful with boats and Brownsea Island (Nat. Trust, red squirrels, woods). White cliff coast (**Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove**), 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 cosy living/dining room with **open fire (coal included)**, TV/DVD/video, 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 a single with pull-out trundle bed. Bathroom (suite plus bath-shower). **Standing charge for electric panel heaters up to 9 April and from 11 September. Sleeps maximum of 4, including babies; best for maximum 3 adults.** On the Stour Valley Way (good walking). **A lovely place to stay.**

★★★★	Sleeps 3/4 Saturday	Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1	£ DD Ref: H73	EH OF	☎	📺	🛏	🚿	🐾	🚗	SHORT BREAKS
------	------------------------	---------------------------	------------------	----------	---	---	---	---	---	---	--------------

## ... River Cottage country



**Burton Bradstock:** pretty village (two pubs, acclaimed beach café, PO/shop, church, playground) in an Area of Outstanding Beauty, ½ mile from the sand/shingle 18 mile Chesil Beach. Golf, 1 ¼ miles. **Bridport** (see below), 2 miles. **Abbotsbury** (swannery, lagoon), 6 miles. Beautiful countryside, gentle walking, Nat. Trust houses, thatched villages, all-pervading 'Englishness' and a 'World Heritage' Jurassic Coast 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), TV/DVD, 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.**

★★½	Sleeps 4 Saturday	Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1	£ DD Ref: H601	NSH OF	☎	📺	🛏	🚿	🐾	🚗	SHORT BREAKS
-----	----------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	-----------	---	---	---	---	---	---	--------------



**Bridport:** vibrant market town (arts centre, museum, cinema, shops, restaurants, pubs) renowned for good food (River Cottage series filmed nearby). **West Bay** (good bathing beaches, lively harbour/marina), 1 ½ miles. Gateway to the 'Jurassic Coast' (**Charmouth**, see page 13, 7 miles; **Lyme Regis**, 10 miles). 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; small, sheltered, enclosed 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, TV/DVD, 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. Super, modern property - convenient for town, countryside and coast.**

★★★★	Sleeps 3 Friday	Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1	£ D Ref: H15	CH	☎	📺	🛏	🚿	🐾	🚗	SHORT BREAKS
------	--------------------	---------------------------	-----------------	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	--------------

## DORSET: Park Farmhouse



The pool building

**Chideock:** pretty village (PO/shop, pubs, church), a mile from the sea (footpath to pebbly beach, good seafront pub). Excellent walking, birdwatching; spectacular 'Jurassic Coast' scenery (Golden Cap). **Bridport** (small town, swimming pool, cinema, see page 11), 2 miles; seaside **West Bay** (golf, fish restaurant), 2½; **Lyme Regis** (sandy beach), 7. **Weymouth** (Channel Island day trips), 17.

... 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. **Indoor heated swimming pool** (28' x 14' x 4' with shower-room suite) with French windows overlooking the garden, 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**, TV/DVD. 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. 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.

Five yards from the back door is a **pretty little detached converted creamery** (see right) 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).

**Cautionary Deposit £200. Professional catering available. Good pub two doors away.**



★ ★ ★ ½

Sleeps 17  
Friday

Bedrooms 7+2  
Bathrooms 5+2

£ see pg 233  
Ref: H626

CH  
WB  
OF

☎

T 2  
2HC

☎

☎

☎

☎

☎

SHORT  
BREAKS

... famous for fossils ...



**Charmouth:** large old coastal village (shops, PO, pubs, church) and the 'Jurassic Coast' cliffs (World Heritage Site) famous for fossils. Long sandy/pebble beach. **Lyme Regis** (seaside/harbour town, sand, good fish restaurant), 2 miles. Golf nearby. **Bridport** (see page 11), 7 miles; **Axminster** (Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's café, rail connection with Waterloo), 6 miles. Beautiful, 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, TV/DVD 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, TV; smart cream Shaker-style kitchen with granite worktops (**dishwasher**, built-in oven, **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, 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.**



... on the Jurassic Coast

**DORSET**



... and set back from **Charmouth's** main street and about 7 minutes' walk from the beach, **The Old Manor House** is a beautifully and carefully refurbished **16th cent., Grade II listed building**. Inside, it has been decorated and furnished to a high standard and is now a lovely, comfortable and elegant family house. From the front door the tiled hall leads up one step to a study/playroom with original flagstone floor and French windows to a courtyard. Down one step to living room with sash windows and window seats, TV/DVD, good fabrics and huge fireplace (**woodburner**) with beautiful carved lintel dating back to 1580. From the study, step up to dining room with big oak table, **woodburner** and beams. Partially separated from the dining room is a well-equipped and newly fitted kitchen (two **dishwashers**, **microwave**, **fridge-freezer**, large range cooker with gas hob). One further step up to utility room (**washing machine**, **tumble drier**, sink) and door to courtyard. On the other side of the hall, a good-sized 'snug' with TV, **pool table**, games. And, at the back of the house, shower-room (suite) and cloakroom area - ideal for brushing off sand and storing buckets/spades.



Wide, easy stairs up to large landing with window seat and **five carefully decorated bedrooms**: a double (6' bed) with ornate fireplace (ornamental); one with three single beds; a single room, and a twin which is also accessible from the back stairs. Family bathroom (bath, separate shower, washbasin) and separate loo in the original Victorian water closet. A second flight of narrow stairs twists up from the dining room to the fifth bedroom - a comfortable double (5' bed) with en suite shower-room (suite with walk-in-shower) and, across the tiny landing, a door to the twin room, making this ideal as a family suite.

Outside steps from the courtyard lead to a big, enclosed and perfectly private walled garden with plenty of grass and sitting out areas (table/chairs, picnic table).

Parking permit provided in High Season. **A wonderful, owner loved/used property and a perfect base for exploring this lovely area at any time of year. Cautionary Deposit £300.**

★★★★ Sleeps 12 Bedrooms 6 £ P8 QQ CH OF T HC

Saturday Bathrooms 3 Ref: H14

★★★★ Sleeps 10 Bedrooms 5 £ NN7 P CH EH WB T HC

Friday Bathrooms 3 Ref: H17

B/A extra PB SHORT BREAKS

## DORSET: ochre walls and pantiles . . .



**Monkton Wyld:** hamlet with church in oak-wooded hills, 2 miles inland from **Charmouth** (see page 13) 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** over the Char valley and 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). 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 oak beams, beamed fireplace with **woodburner**, TV/DVD, CD player. On one side of this room, 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 smart ceramic-floored kitchen with beech worktops, Belfast sink, slimline **dishwasher**, **washer-drier**, **microwave**, **fridge-freezer**, 5-hob gas range/electric oven and French windows to the courtyard. Seasonal **shooting** by prior arrangement. **An idyllic country setting within a short distance of the sea and sandy beaches.**

★★★★½	Sleeps 4/5 Friday	Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 2	£ K Ref: H3	EH WB	WC HC	TV D	Washing machine B/A extra	SHORT BREAKS
-------	----------------------	---------------------------	----------------	----------	----------	---------	------------------------------	-----------------



its River Char which winds down to Lyme Bay at **Charmouth** (see page 13), 2½ miles away. **Lyme Regis** (lovely old seaside/harbour town with sandy beach), 4 miles; **Bridport** (see page 11), 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 lawned garden, shared with the owners. Inside, hall; fitted kitchen (**microwave**); comfortable living/dining room (**woodburner**) with some antiques/good pictures, TV/DVD 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**. No smoking in grounds. **No children, except pre-crawling babies. Sleeps maximum 4, including babies. Two bikes** which you are welcome to borrow.

★★★★	Sleeps 4 Friday	Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1	£ DD Ref: H11	NSH EH WB	WC HC	TV D	Washing machine B/A extra	SHORT BREAKS
------	--------------------	---------------------------	------------------	-----------------	----------	---------	------------------------------	-----------------

## . . . home of nettle eating contest



**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 page 11) 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 the original 'River Cottage' from the TV series is located. Access 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), TV/DVD; small dining room and neat kitchen (slimline **dishwasher**, **microwave**, **fridge-freezer**, 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, good for a sunny 'cuppa' on cooler days. Stairs up from the living room to **two bedrooms** – a double (5' bed), and a very roomy twin with pretty village **view** to the hills; bathroom (suite plus bath-shower). Parking for one small car. **A really welcoming cottage for all seasons.**

★★★	Sleeps 4 Friday	Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 2	£ F Ref: H13	CH EH	WC HC	TV D	Washing machine B/A extra	SHORT BREAKS
-----	--------------------	---------------------------	-----------------	----------	----------	---------	------------------------------	-----------------



**Thorncombe:** small pretty village (shop, church) at top of beautiful, rural Marshwood Vale. 5 miles from **Chard** (small town) and 8 miles inland from the fossil coast and beaches of **Charmouth** (see page 13) and **Lyme Regis**. Beautiful Forde Abbey and gardens, 1½ miles. Nearest pub at **Hawkchurch** (see page 59), 2 miles.

... a **stone-built bungalow** on the edge of the owners' 400 acre farm, 1½ miles from **Thorncombe** and 2 miles from **Hawkchurch**, with magnificent **views** across the vale towards **Marshwood** (home of the stinging nettle eating contest!). Own large, enclosed lawned garden (picnic table). Inside, unpretentious, friendly and comfortable. Hall; large kitchen/diner (slimline **dishwasher**, **microwave**, **fridge-freezer**) and separate utility room (**washing machine**, **tumble drier**); shower-room (suite). Living room (TV/DVD, electric fire) with sliding doors to patio. **Three bedrooms:** two double - one spacious, the other with **views** - and a room with twin plus single bed. Bathroom (suite plus bath-shower). **A good unpretentious property in a fab area for exploring.**



★★½	Sleeps 7 Saturday	Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 2	£ G Ref: H16	NSH	WC HC	TV D	Washing machine B/A extra	SHORT BREAKS
-----	----------------------	---------------------------	-----------------	-----	----------	---------	------------------------------	-----------------