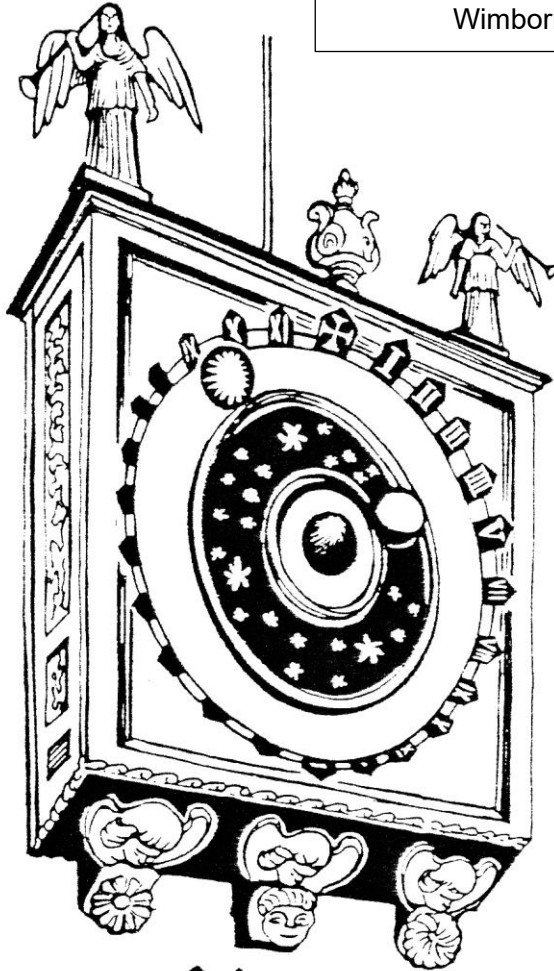
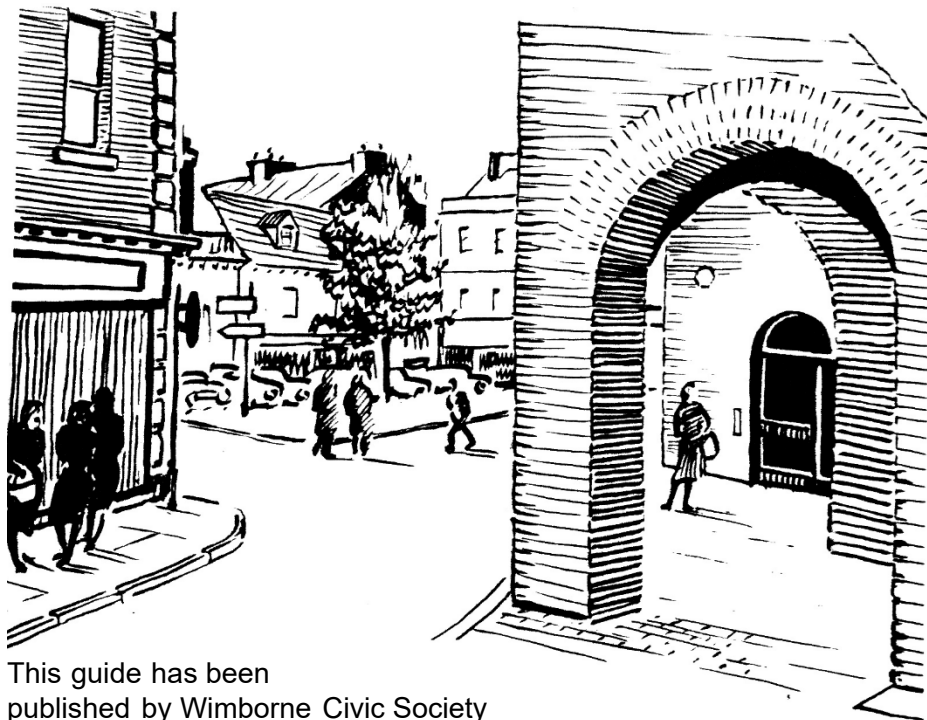


Astronomical Clock (1320)

Wimborne Minster



a walk round
WIMBORNE



This guide has been published by Wimborne Civic Society with the aim of introducing the town to the interested visitor - to the new as well as the old.

Many areas have their own amenity societies who are concerned, as we are, with the enhancement and improvement of the environment. Perhaps you are concerned with one already. As a result of your walk you may have some constructive comments to make. If so, you might drop a line to: The District Planning Officer, Council Offices, Furzehill, Wimborne.

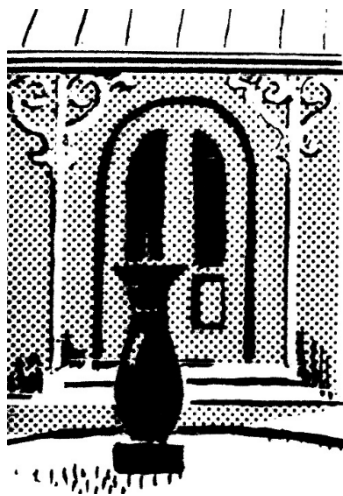


The market town of Wimborne Minster is almost encircled by the water meadows of the Rivers Allen and Stour, and overshadowed by the wooded ridge of Colehill.

Throughout its history, therefore, Wimborne has always occupied a small and concentrated area. As long ago as the eighth century, it was a settlement of enough importance for Cuthburga, sister of the King of the West Saxons, to found a nunnery here, with its Abbey Church on the site of the present Minster.

In Saxon times, only the area in the immediate vicinity of the Minster was occupied, and the mediaeval town did not extend eastwards beyond its natural boundary, the River Allen. Then, as today, to the south and west the town ended abruptly and pleasantly at the water-meadows of the River Stour. The shape of the town as it appears today had been established by the 16th century, but there was considerable enlargement in the 18th century when handsome Georgian buildings were constructed, mainly in East Borough and West Borough.

* * * * *



The circular walk suggested reveals a mediaeval pattern of narrow streets and alleys around the Minster and also presents the dignity of fine Georgian buildings. The Minster has always been the central point of the town and has been chosen for the start of the walk. It is possible, however, to join the suggested route at any point.

This booklet does not attempt to describe the Minster Church, as an excellent guide to it is already available.

In addition to the main circular walk (centre map pp. 10—11) five walks radiating from this route are suggested as 'optional extras'

These are:—

- A. via West Street and Julians Road to Julians Bridge (p. 9)
- B. Victoria Road to St Margaret's Chapel (p. 12)
- C. via West Borough and East Borough to Walford (p. 14)
- D. Hanham Road, Lewens Lane and East Street (p. 16)
- E. via East Street and Poole Road to Canford Bridge (p. 18)

THE MAIN CIRCULAR WALK

The Minster (1) is taken as the starting point for the Walk (although the route can be joined at any point).

Leave the North door of the Minster for Cook Row and turn left into Cornmarket.

CORNMARKET

This attractive enclosure of buildings was originally the central square of the town and the venue of the local market.



On the north side is a brick building erected in 1758 by the town's Friendly Society (2), originally with open arcades on the ground floor. It has a Palladian window on the first floor. On the south side, the former George Inn (3), 18th century with a Venetian window on the first floor. An inn of this name had occupied this site since the 16th century.

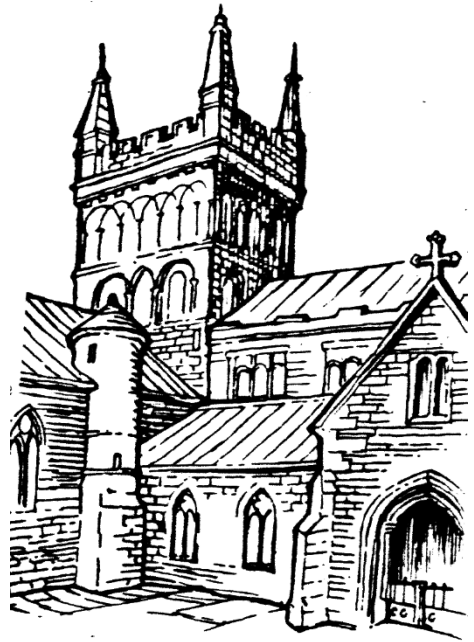
On the east 'Tower House' (4); three, storeys with an 18th century doorway with curved hood and an insurance plaque on the wall; on the west, the White Hart (5) a 17th century timber-framed building, with a low doorway owing to the rise in street level. The town stocks, now in the Priest's House Museum, were situated outside here, and offenders were secured to a post in the White Hart while awaiting punishment in the stocks.

A lane from the North-West corner of the Cornmarket leads to West Row, passing the Masonic Hall (6), converted from the town's first Methodist Chapel (1820). Here is the entrance to the model Town (7), a miniature version of the Town Centre of Wimborne to 1/10th scale, built between 1949 and 1956. On reaching West Street, look to the left for a pleasant street scene. This is the point of departure for optional routes A and B to Julians Bridge and St Margaret's Chapel respectively.

Turn right towards the Square. In West Street you pass No. 29 (8) with a Regency veranda, and Nos. 30-31 (9) with a Georgian front of seven bays in the traditional local red brick, recently savagely repointed.

On reaching the Square, turn right down Church Street, walking back to Cook Row and a view of Minster Green and the north side of the Minster, with its two towers and its fascinating variety of building stones. Turn left passing the Yew Tree Cafe (10), a two-storeyed 17th century cottage.

Turn left along the High Street and walk towards the Square. On the North side, notice the Lloyds Bank building (11) 1870s Italianate, and next to it a sympathetic new development (12) on the site of the former Crown Hotel, housing a bank, shops in a courtyard, offices and flats.



Notice also the interesting 18th century windows above the building on the corner of West Borough (13) On the west side of the Square is the King's Head (14), an 18th century inn reconstructed after a fire in the 1880s with a stucco front and pilasters. The northern bay was the entrance to the Victoria Hall, used as a corn exchange and assembly rooms until the 1930s.

WEST BOROUGH

This is Wimborne's finest street, in spite of the obtrusive traffic signs, and the best way to enjoy it is to walk slowly along it to the junction with Priors Walk, pausing occasionally to appreciate the views along the street.



On the west side is the Wimborne Club (15) early 19th century with an imposing stone porch, on the east side an attractive late 18th century house of three storeys (16), now used as Wimborne Conservative Club, which has a broken pediment at the top of the facade. Next to it, the distinguished white-fronted building is occupied by a Doctors Group Practice.

No. 22 has interesting, rubbed brick arches, and No. 24 has a good door hood. On the West side, a little further on is the Tivoli Cinema (17) whose charming first floor windows and stone dressings with parapet above indicate that house, before the ground floor was wrecked in the interests of popular entertainment in the 1930s.



From the Priors walk turning, optional route C to Walford Bridge continues North along West Borough.

Keep to the south side of Priors Walk, noticing across the road 'Allendale' (18).

This substantial town house was built in 1823 for the Castleman family. The symmetrical West front has a large Doric porch, fashionable at the time. Early this century, the building was used as a girls' school, and then as the Civic Centre and Council Offices. It has recently taken on a new role as a showroom for antiques.

Optional route D continues along Hanham Road to Lewens, and back by Park Lane.

Turn right down East Borough, passing East Borough Cottage (19), a small Regency house. On your left is the Dormers steak house (20) which incorporates a 17th century cottage and has at the front a fine porch with columns and at the back a Venetian window, and a garden stretching to the river. Next door is Percy House (21) with a five bay Georgian front.

When back in the Square, walk down the East side of the High Street towards the Minster. On the left, the Albion Hotel (22) is the oldest surviving licensed house in Wimborne. It was recorded in 1681 as the 'New Inn' and. its seven bays occupied the space now taken by a grocery store, newsagents and off-licence. A first floor room provided a meeting place for the town; it was used as a magistrate's court, and the Poole Turnpike Trust met there. The inn owed its prosperity to its stage coach business: three coaches a day called by 1830, and it provided stabling for 30 to 40 horses.



Next to it is the Priest's House Museum. This is a mediaeval building with early 17th and 18th century additions, and houses an important collection of local antiquities. It has retained its original garden stretching to the river.

Continue southwards past Church House (23), built 1906, to Clock Corner.

Notice the curved brickwork and roof lines of the cottages, now small shops, on the north-east corner (24), and the estate agent's shopfront (25) on the south-east, with traces of the original entrance at the corner.

From this point, optional route C to Canford Bridge runs to your left along East Street.

Make a short detour down Dean's Court Lane. Sadly, almshouses and a thatched cottage have been demolished for a car park and garages, but there is a good doorway on the right (26), ornamental gateposts, and an interesting lodge (27) at the end; this has a date of 1715 and a remarkable doorway and fanlight.



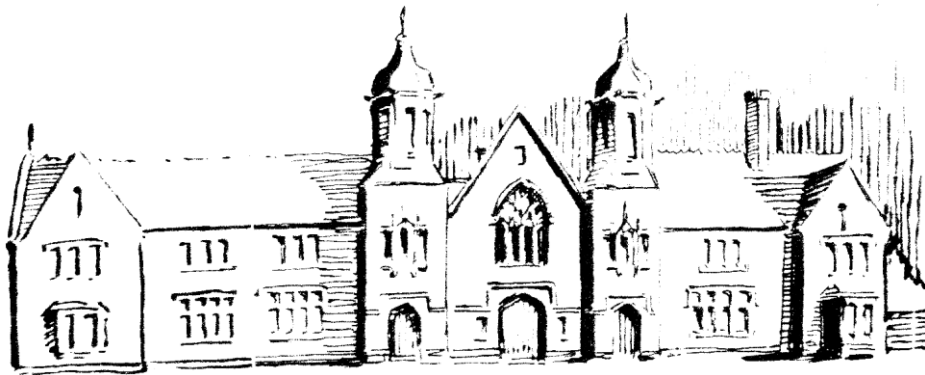
Dean's Court is private: it is an early Georgian house (1725) on the site of the mediaeval deanery. The extensive grounds and gardens can be visited on Thursdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays during the summer. In the walled kitchen garden is a vegetable sanctuary, the first in the country, where rare varieties threatened by E.C. regulations are being saved from extinction.

Retrace your steps and turn west into King Street, noting the shop front of the chemists (28) on the corner. You then reach the paved courtyard in front of the Methodist Church and Community House (29), completed in 1967. Notice the half-timbered gable of No. 5 King Street (30) which flanks the courtyard; the house is of 16th century origin with an original first floor window, and is one of the oldest domestic buildings in the town.

A few yards further west, Grammar School Lane leads to the former Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School (33).

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S SCHOOL

The origin of the school was the founding of a chantry in Wimborne Minster in 1496 by the mother of Henry VII Lady Margaret Beaufort, whose parents were buried in the Minster. The chantry priest was required to be resident at all times and 'teach grammar to all comers'. When the chantries were suppressed in 1547 the commissioners recommended that the school should continue, and Elizabeth I granted the school a new charter in 1562.



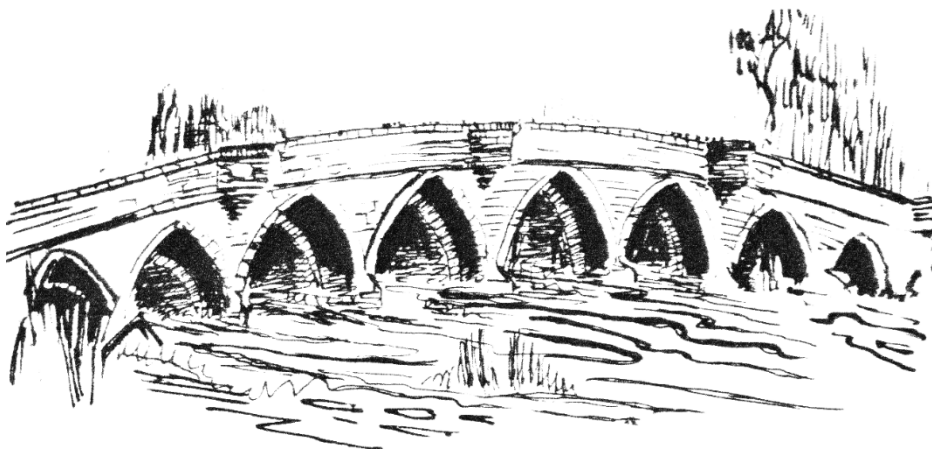
Between 1849 and 1851 a major rebuilding of the grammar school took place, and the present buildings were erected to provide living accommodation for the headmaster and other staff members, and up to 50 boarding pupils. The school was open to boys aged 8-18 provided they had attained basic standards in reading and writing. The homely mock-Tudor style commemorates the founder, and the red brick and Bath stone, with gargoyles and ogee-capped turrets and niches, produce a fine facade. The buildings ceased to be used as a school in 1977, and are expected to be modified for housing.

Returning to King Street, look North for a fine view of the South side of the Minster (1) and while passing through the churchyard, look back to the attractive houses on the South side of King Street. As you return to the Minster, notice the monumental freestanding sundial dated 1676. You have now completed the route round the centre of the town and we hope that you have enjoyed your visit.

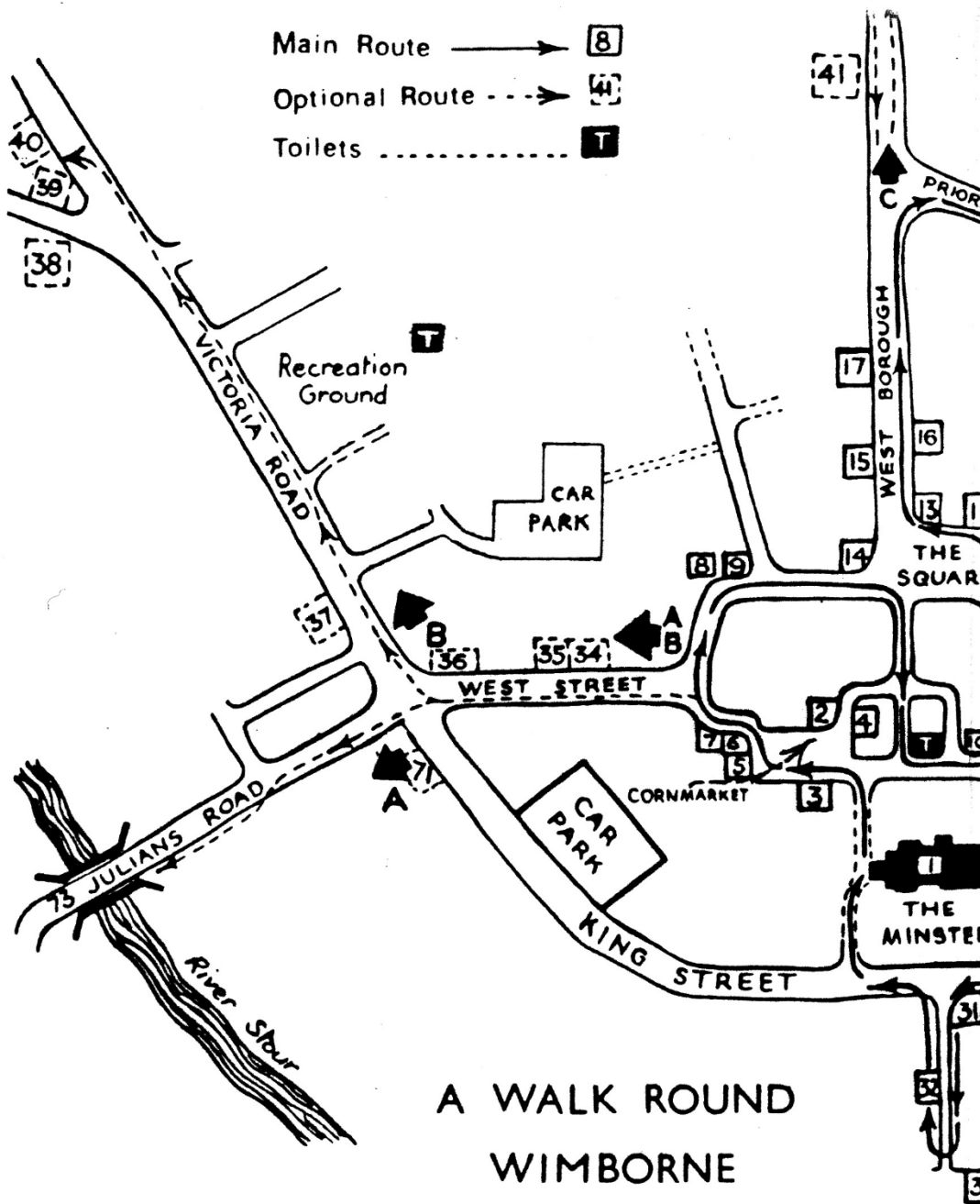
OPTIONAL ROUTE A TO JULIANS BRIDGE (map p. 13)

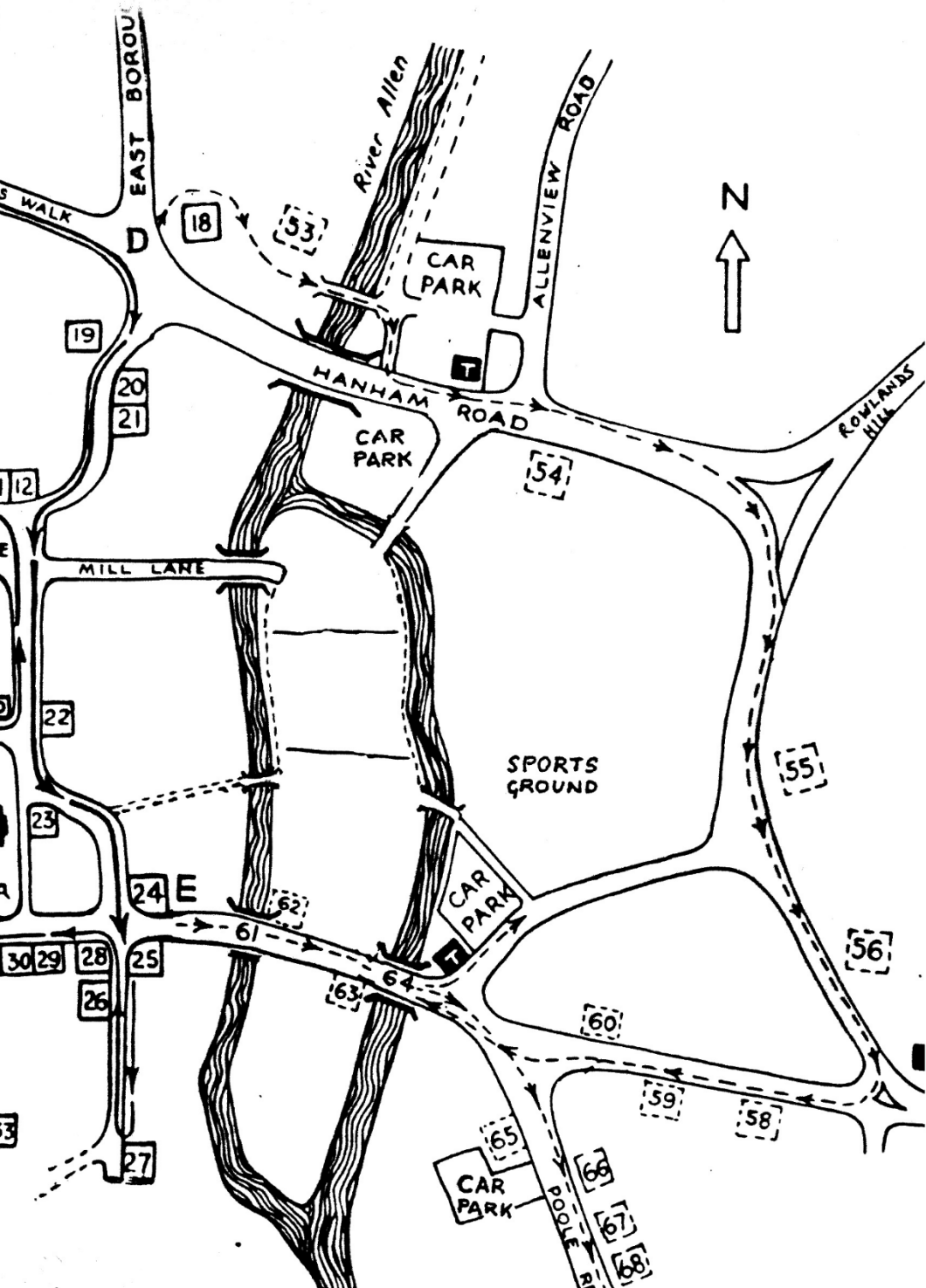
At the end of West Row (the lane that leads out of the north—west corner of the Cornmarket), turn left and walk westwards out of the town. Demolition has left gaps in the West Street outline, but some fine buildings still survive, particularly No. 26 (34), an 18th century house with a 19th century shopfront and round-headed doorway with fanlight, now a bookshop of note. Next to it is 'Trumpeters' (35), equally dignified. At the crossroads with the B3082 road North to Blandford is the Three Lions Hotel (36), with sculpted lions above the entrance.

Opposite on the south-west corner is an unpretentious pleasant town house bearing a monogram and the date 1742. Cross over the junction, known locally as Pye Corner, and continue westwards along Julians Road passing houses built at the time of Wimborne's development in the 19th and 20th centuries. 100 yards along Julians Road on the right hand side, is Stour Cottage (72) a small Regency house with carved bargeboards and a decorative brick and stone nameplate.



One soon reaches the water meadows of the River Stour, over which the main road is carried by the imposing Julians Bridge (73). The bridge, built in 1636, was enlarged on both sides in 1844 and has eight very pointed arches. As there is no footpath, the bridge should be crossed with care, but there are refuges for pedestrians into the corbelled brick parapets on both sides. On each side of the central refuge on the downstream side, the date of the enlargement 1844 and the date of the original bridge 1636 are shown stone cartouches. The latter was probably removed and re-set from the old bridge.

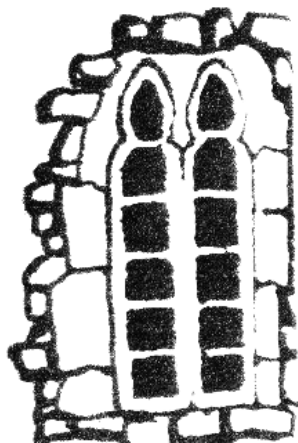




It is worth walking down to river level on the downstream side to see this splendid bridge and to note the way in which the packhorse bridge was widened to take a double stream of traffic just! The final arch on the Wimborne side is mainly brick and was added in 1844 when the three segmental arches of the causeway on the west side were probably added.

The views from both sides of the bridge over the water meadows are particularly pleasing. On the hillside to the north-west one can see a prominent white building. This is Stone Park, the one-time house of George Garland, a prosperous merchant, member of Parliament for Poole and also mayor of that town. Return to the town centre via Julians Road and West Street.

OPTIONAL ROUTE B TO ST MARGARET'S CHAPEL



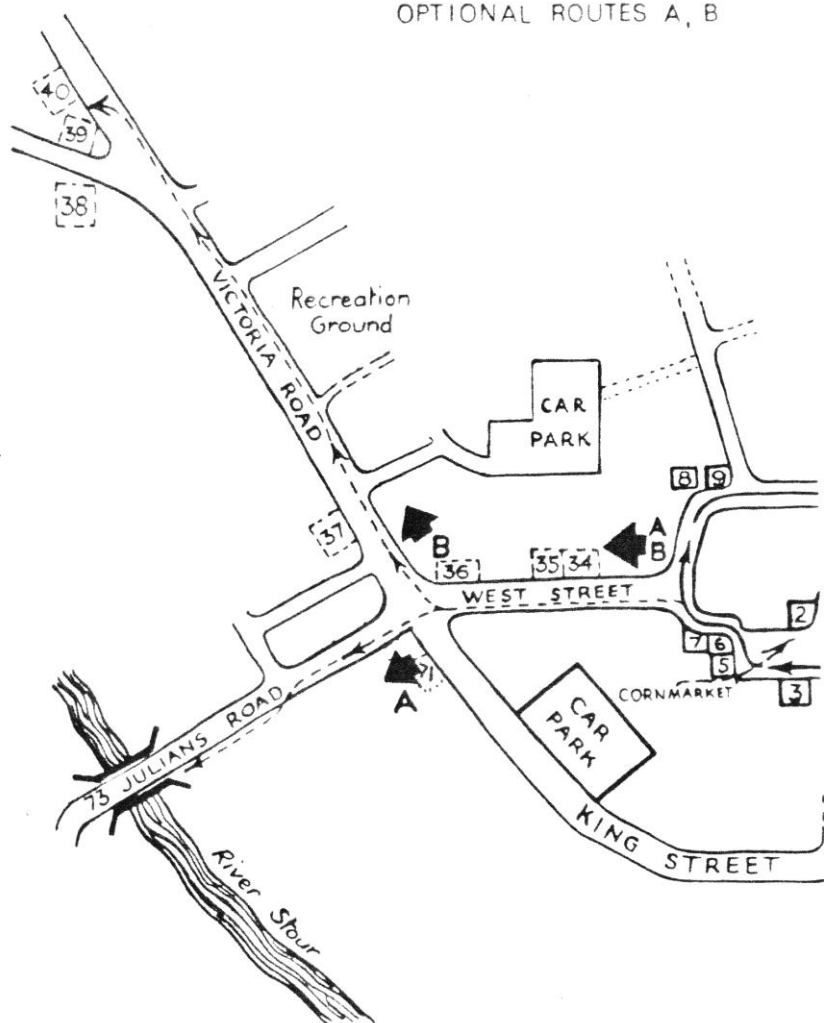
At the junction of West Street and West Row, follow the instructions for route A as far as the Three Lions Hotel (36) at Pye Corner. At Pye Corner turn right along Victoria Road, passing on the left a notice recording the site of the Wimborne Pound and the Green Man public house (37). The two inns were on opposite sides of the Blandford turnpike, and were licensed to hire post-horses.

After a quarter of a mile is Wimborne's Victoria Hospital (38). This cottage hospital was built in 1887 on land leased by Sir John Hanham at a rental of five shillings per annum. New wings were added to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897.

On the north side of the narrow road which turns off to Cowgrove and Pamphill are St Margaret's Almshouses (39) and Chapel (40). The Almshouses, or Hospital, a group of thatched single-storeyed cottages with cob walls, probably occupy the site of a mediaeval leper hospital. This was served by the Chapel of St Margaret and St Anthony, which has architectural features dating back to the early part of the 13th century. If the Chapel is locked, the key may be obtained by enquiring at No. 1 Almshouses. Return to the town centre by the same route, passing the Redcotts Recreation Ground on your left.

MAP 2

OPTIONAL ROUTES A, B



OPTIONAL ROUTE C TO WALFORD

The area of this walk was at one time a sub-manor of Kingston Lacy and, although the houses that remain are Georgian, this route has been well populated since mediaeval times.

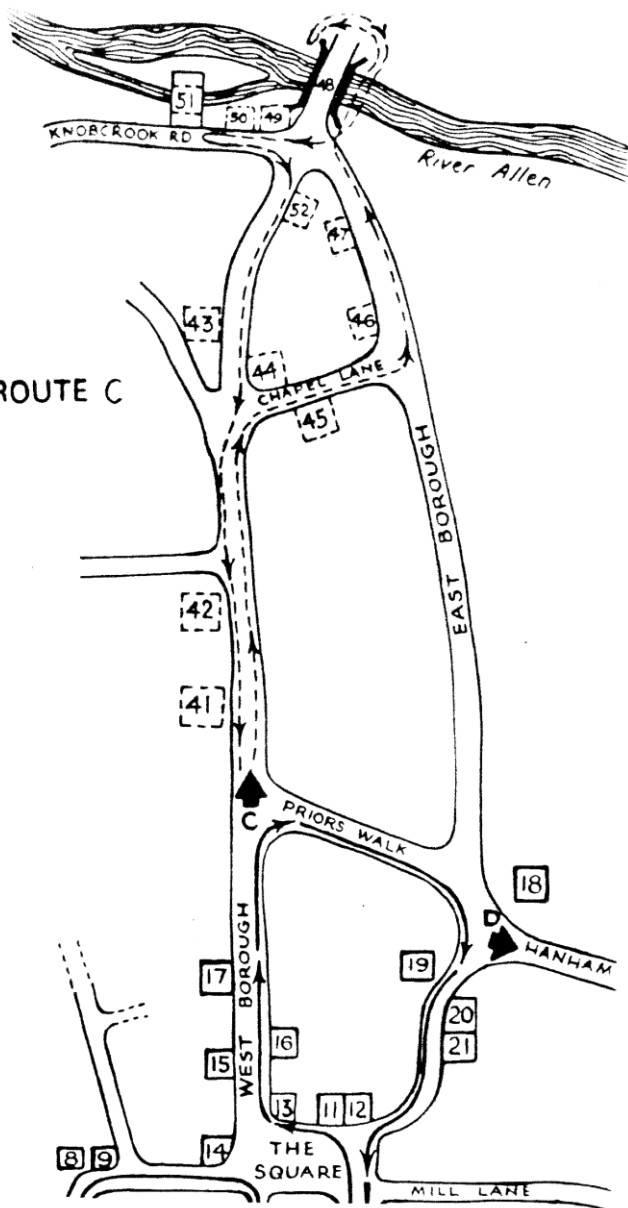
Continue to walk north along West borough, keeping to the east pavement. Just beyond the Priors Walk turning are 18th century houses of merit. Two thatched cottages, Nos 38-9 still remain (41) and next to School Lane is No. 45 Gulliver's House (42) of c. 1800, where the notorious smuggler Isaac Gulliver lived in his later law-abiding years. The Old House (43) at the intersection of Blind Lane and West Borough is basically an 18th century cottage with additions of around 1800. Do not pass this house but turn right down Chapel Lane, noting the whimsical brickwork and turret-like roof of the dentist's surgery (44) on the corner. About 20 yards down this narrow street is Wimborne's United Reformed Church (45) in the Gothic style (1846), originally the Dissenters' Chapel.

Turn left at the end of Chapel Lane to walk north along East Borough, where one immediately sees Hartlands (46), an early 19th century house with bow window and columned doorway. About fifty yards further on is a block of 18th century thatched cottages (47). East Borough now joins West Borough at a point where petrol pumps have replaced 17th and 18th century cottages listed by the Royal Commission in the 1950s. One of these was the Beehive Inn which used to brew its own beer.

The area around Walford Bridge is, like the central area of the town, a Conservation Area, including the bridge, two mills and the millowner's house. Walk over Walford Bridge (48) by means of the recently added footbridge and cross to the car park of the Crown and Anchor, a 20th century replacement of an earlier inn, in order to look at the west side of the bridge. This side with its seven arches dates from the 17th century. One of the arches is smaller and less pointed than the others having been added later.



MAP 3
OPTIONAL ROUTE C



The bridge originally took packhorse loads across the River Allen, but it has been widened and extensively repaired at various times. On the south-west corner of the bridge is an undated metal plate giving warning to the owners of "locomotives and ponderous vehicles".

Now turn back towards the centre of the town, taking the first turning on the right, Knobcrook Road. The 19th century steam mill (49) on the corner has a stone plaque telling that it was used as a Baden-Powell Scout Hall in 1924 but since then it has been used mainly as a warehouse. Next to it is the one time mill owner's house (50), originally 18th century but with additions and alterations since. Walford Mill itself (51), seen by walking a little further along Knobcrook Road, had five storeys and was in use until the late 1960s. After being neglected for a number of years, it is now used by a building construction company.

Walk back to West Borough and, before crossing to the pavement side, look across to No. 116, a late 18th century house (52) with a particularly fine hooded doorway and elaborately carved woodwork. Return to the Wimborne Walk by continuing south along West Borough.

OPTIONAL ROUTE D

Cross Hanham Road and pass through the iron gate to the left of Allendale House. Walk along the right hand side of the car park until you arrive in front of the entrance to the Community Centre (53), opened in 1975. Here it is worth standing with back to the Centre and with the 'tree sculpture' on one's left, to look towards the towers of the Minster. Jostled by the adjacent rooftops, the view presented is a typical Wimborne town skyline.

Cross the River Allen by the footbridge which connects the Centre to the car park. From the bridge there is a pleasant view along the river and adjoining riverside walk. Walk along the short length of footpath to Hanham Road and turn left, keeping to the left hand side. The civic buildings are not all of the quality which Wimborne deserves, but Streets Meadow (54) is possibly worth noting on the south side of the road.

After the new redbrick housing development, Rowlands Hill climbs upward to the left; this was the original tree lined Victorian development above the town. Following the right hand curve of the road, there is a view over the Cricket Ground of the Minster towers rising above the recent shopping development by the river.

Further on is Stoneleigh (55), a substantial 19th century building, and then a short stretch of dignified terraced houses. Here one reaches one of Wimborne's most attractive 18th century houses, wisteria clad 'Lewens' (56), with its dormer windows and slender columned porch.



Where Lewens Lane joins Leigh Road is the Roman Catholic Church (57) at first glance a Victorian building, but in fact surprisingly recent (1933) with tower added in 1936.

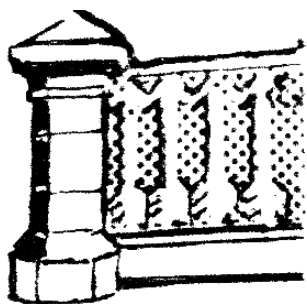
Walking back towards the centre of the town, one passes a 19th century building with an imposing columned portico (58) and a "cottage orné" (59) one of the few remaining thatched buildings in the town. Just before the traffic lights, on the south side, there remains a pulley beam above an upper door to a warehouse. Opposite, the restrained pleasant shop front of Douch & Son (60) is of interest.

Continue along East Street passing the Poole Road turning at the traffic lights. (If you are not taking route E, a short detour as far as Beechleas would be worthwhile at this point.) At Eastbrook Bridge, turn right and walk along Park Lane and through the new shopping development to reach the High Street and the centre of the town.

Crossing the river by the new bridge, look at the structure of Eastbrook Bridge with its interesting piers and arches, and before losing sight of East Street, look back at its tall gabled buildings, which are architectural foreigners to the centre of Wimborne. Alternatively, continue along East Street to return to the Minster.

OPTIONAL ROUTE E TO CANFORD BRIDGE

Turn left at Clock Corner away from the Minster and walk along East Street. After about fifty yards, on your left, a bridge (61) over the mill stream has been improved by the initiative of Wimborne Civic Society, with new railings. The stream runs under the road, emerging from a culvert at the back of the shop on the south side. On the east side of the bridge, the 18th century mill house (62) has a window capped by an elliptical brick arch. A few yards further on, on the south side, is the Rising Sun (63), one of the town's long-established public houses, almost on an island between the mill stream and the river with an



attractive garden. The name dates from 1820 when the inn was rebuilt. It was previously the 'Royal Oak'. Eastbrook Bridge (64) over the River Allen, has unusual parapet railings of cast iron arrows, successfully preserved when the road was widened some years ago. It is worth walking a few yards along the riverside walk opposite in order to have a close look at the underside of the bridge with its interesting arches and piers.

Turn south at the traffic lights, keeping to the left hand side of the road. After forty yards, look across the road to a fine 18th century house with a round-headed doorway and fanlight (65). The white line painted on the front of the house records the height of floodwater earlier in the century. Another forty yards brings you to No. 17, Beechleas, (66) a dignified 18th century house, somewhat in need of attention.

Just past Beechleas one passes the former Police Station and magistrate's Court (67) built early this century but now unused and liable to be demolished in the future to provide an internal relief road. Poole Road Works (68), now the home of assorted light industries, was originally a malthouse, and for many years a coach-builder's works.

The water meadows on the south side of the town are now visible on the west side of the road. Only the trees surrounding Dean's Court, and the 20th century Dean's Court Lodge with its gryphon-topped stone gateposts, break the open view across to the River Stour. Just beyond the lodge, on the east side of the road and set at right angles to it, is the thatched Coach and Horses public house (69).

MAP 4

OPTIONAL ROUTE E

River Allen

POOLE ROAD

River Stour

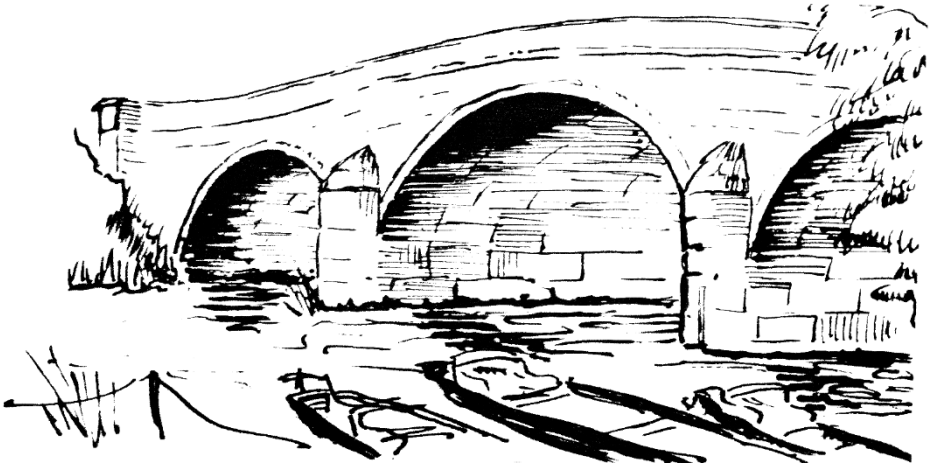
CAR PARK

CAR PARK

Points: 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70

OPTIONAL ROUTE E

Cross to the west side of the road, and soon Canford Bridge (70), an impressive main road crossing of the River Stour, is reached. From the footbridge on the west side there is a fine view of the water meadows, with the confluence of the Rivers Allen and Stour in the foreground



The bridge is of Portland stone, dated 1813 by an inscription cut into the underside of the central arch. It has three wide arches, which are best seen by crossing the road and descending the boatyard steps. Retrace your steps to the centre of the town.



Quarter Jack