

1 PAUL GOWER – Contemporary award-winning furniture. From stand alone one-off pieces to complete room re-design. Tel: 01305 871229. www.paulgowerfurniture.co.uk

2 DANSEL GALLERY – ...specialise in selling contemporary woodwork, handmade by designer craftsmen in the UK. A wide range of work is available from bowls to furniture. Customer car park. Tel: 01305 871515. www.danselgallery.co.uk

3 SHORELINE SILVER – Handcrafted silver jewellery & silverware, designed, made and sold on site using traditional and contemporary techniques. Creative workshops are also available. All commissions welcomed. Tel: 01305 871292. www.facebook.com/shorelinesilver

4 ABBOTSBURY STUDIO – ...is a Teaching Studio and a Gallery for Painting and Drawing, running courses and classes. A resource encouraging dialogue between Artists. Welcoming novices and all comers to drop in and pay on the day. Tel: 07816 850107. www.abbotsburystudio.co.uk

5 ANDREW DUMOLO FURNITURE – Furniture designer/maker. Fine hardwood furniture, workshop and showroom open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am until 5.00pm. Short courses for the enthusiast. Tel: 01305 873818. www.adfurniture.co.uk

6 THE ILCHESTER ARMS HOTEL – A friendly family run country inn. Fish specialities and full a-la-carte restaurant plus a fine selection of real ales, ciders and wines. Tel: 01305 873841. www.theilchester.co.uk

7 ABBOTSBURY TEAROOMS – Traditional licensed tearooms with attractive tea gardens. Morning coffee, light lunches and cream teas. Tel: 01305 871757. www.abbotsbury-tearooms.co.uk

8 ABBEY HOUSE – Award winning family run licensed guest house, situated in pretty garden overlooking the tithe-barn. Serving lunches and afternoon teas, March to October. Tel: 01305 871330. www.theabbeyhouse.co.uk

9 THE SWAN INN – A warm and friendly establishment offering exceptional value for money. Large choice of bar meals. Sunday roast. Enjoy indoor skittles in the family room or enjoy a drink in the cosy bar. Tel: 01305 871249.

10 THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE Tearooms and Tea Garden – Serving morning coffee, light meals throughout the day and delicious cream teas, all cakes and scones freshly made on the premises. Dog friendly. Tel: 01305 871808.

11 PURPLE NANNY – Visit PURPLE NANNY your local cruelty free shop. For You, Your Home, Your Pets. Shop online at www.purplenanny.co.uk

12 THE CLOCK WORKSHOP – Antique clock restoration and sales. Traditional values set up to retail, restore, repair and conserve all types of clocks from all over the world in the traditional manner. We also stock a variety of different types from 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Tel: 01305 873852.

13 THE BRIDE VALLEY FARM SHOP – ...sells fresh local meat and dairy products. Beef from our own longhorn herd. Cream, cheese, eggs, lamb and pork from neighbouring farms. Tel: 01305 871235. www.dorsetlonghorn.co.uk

14 CHAPEL LANE STORES – Licensed general convenience store and Post Office selling a full range of daily essentials, locally-sourced fruit and vegetables, freshly baked bread & cakes, stationery and greeting cards. With National Lottery station and free-to-use cash machine. Tel: 01305 871080.

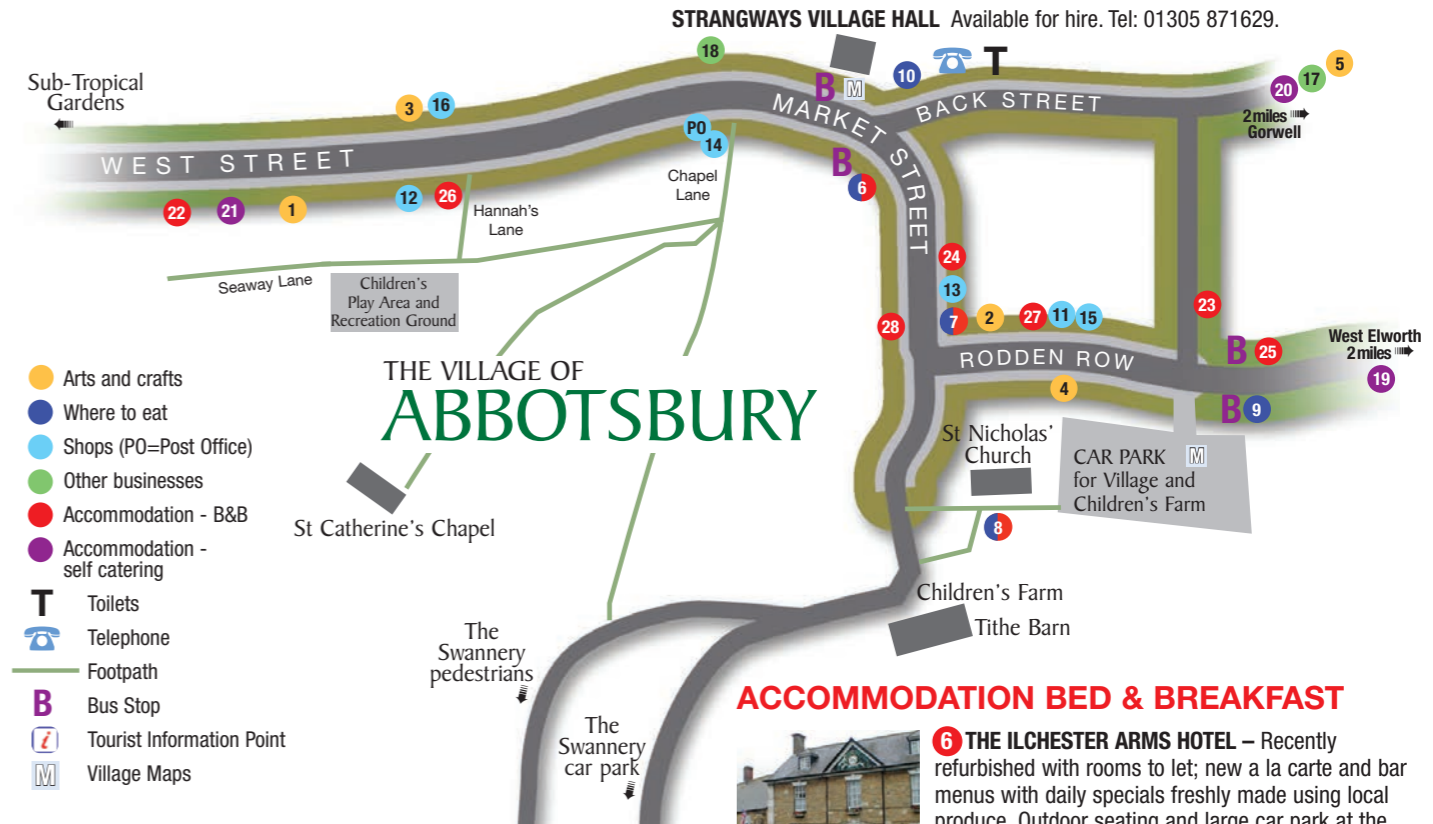
15 ABBOTSBURY FISHING TACKLE – We are able to supply rods and reels, fresh and frozen baits, lead weights, hooks, lures, traces and much more! Open six days a week including weekends. Tel: 01305 871199.

16 QUINTESSENTIAL – 33-34 West Street. Interior and exterior reclaimed furniture and quirky items. We sell reclaimed furniture. Architectural salvage. Visit our secret garden. Tel: 07775 681081. www.bobhure@gmail.com

17 GORWELL BARN – A 17th Century Barn for hire, with kitchen, toilets, underfloor heating, pretty surroundings and stunning views available to hire for weddings, events and other functions. Contact mary@gorwellfarm.co.uk or Tel: 01305 871401. www.gorwellbarn.co.uk

18 ABBOTSBURY CARE & SUPPORT LTD – 50 West Street. We are a small Private Local Care provider who specialise in tailored support and care solutions. Our aim is to assist and support people with any disability and their families to lead fuller lives in the community. Tel: 07887 743634.

ABBOTSBURY SOFTWARE – A high-tech software development company. Specialises in all aspects of computer technology, communications and databases. Tel: 07976 259325. www.abbotsbury.com. tim.snape@mac.com



ACCOMMODATION SELF CATERING



19 ELWORTH FARMHOUSE COTTAGE – Historic Grade II listed farmhouse offering an enchanting s/c cottage, situated in a farming hamlet near Abbotsbury village and Dorset coast path. www.elworth-farmhouse.co.uk. Tel: 01305 871693.



20 GORWELL FARM – ★★★★★ Comfortable, well equipped spacious cottages in a beautiful wooded secret valley on our family farm close to Abbotsbury and Coastal Path. One cottage has level 2 accessibility. www.gorwellfarm.co.uk. Tel: 01305 871401.



21 CHESIL HOUSE APARTMENTS – Two, one bedroom, comfortable well equipped apartments, bordering the village cricket pitch with views of St Catherine's Chapel and Chesil Beach. Car parking. Tel: 01305 871324.

ACCOMMODATION BED & BREAKFAST



6 THE ILCHESTER ARMS HOTEL – Recently refurbished with rooms to let; new a la carte and bar menus with daily specials freshly made using local produce. Outdoor seating and large car park at the rear. Tel: 01305 873841. www.theilchester.co.uk



7 ABBOTSBURY TEAROOMS – Set in the heart of the village. Three very comfortable en-suite double bedrooms, all with TV and tea and coffee making facilities. The premises are licensed. Wi-Fi available. Tel: 01305 871757. www.abbotsbury-tearooms.co.uk



8 ABBEY HOUSE – Award winning family run licensed guest house, situated in pretty garden overlooking the tithe-barn. Serving lunches and afternoon teas, March to October. Tel: 01305 871330. www.theabbeyhouse.co.uk



22 COWARDS LAKE FARM HOUSE – Bed & Breakfast with private /en suite bathroom. TV, tea/coffee making facilities in bedrooms. Free Wi-Fi. Full English or Continental Breakfast. Sea views, off road parking. ★★★★★ & QiT Silver/Breakfast Award. Tel: 01305 871421. www.abbotsbury.co.uk/cowardslake

Continued overleaf...

ACCOMMODATION BED & BREAKFAST



23 EAST FARM HOUSE – Charming period farmhouse with en-suite facilities in all rooms. All the rustic charm of a 17th Century Dorset Longhouse. Tel: 01305 871363. www.eastfarmhouse.co.uk



24 PEACH'S – Set in the heart of Abbotsbury, this quaint B&B offers one double room and one single room, both with en-suite shower. Bedrooms have TV/DVD with tea & coffee-making facilities. FREE WI-FI. Tel: 01305 871364. www.abbotburybandb.co.uk



25 SWAN LODGE – Situated in Rodden Row. All rooms en-suite and are fully equipped with beverage facilities and colour TV. Car parking. Open all year and popular with Jurassic Coast walkers. Tel: 01305 871249.



26 UPALONG – 17thC house offering 1 double and 1 twin room, with TV/DVD, tea & coffee making facilities. English or Continental breakfast. Supper available on request. Dogs welcome by arrangement. TV and free WiFi. Private parking. Tel: 01305 871882. www.upalongwestdorset.co.uk



27 WHEELWRIGHTS – Thatched double/twin room, en-suite with shower. Tea/coffee-making facilities, TV and free Wi-fi. Free cream tea on arrival, breakfast in our cottage. Private entrance, garden and off-street parking Tel: 01305 871800. www.wheelwrights.co.uk



28 TOWN FARMHOUSE – Bed & Breakfast in a large old house. One double bedded room, other with twin singles. Private bathroom, simple breakfast, free parking, lockable barn for bicycles or boats. Bookings via airbnb: <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/2404112> <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/1576625>

THE SUBTROPICAL GARDENS – Developed since 1765 into a magnificent 20 acre garden filled with rare and exotic plants from all over the world.

THE SWANNERY – For over 600 years this colony of friendly mute swans has made its home at the Abbotsbury Sanctuary. This ancient and special site provides protection for hundreds of nesting swans and their broods.

CHILDRENS FARM – The ancient Tithe Barn site is home to a host of friendly farm animals. Many can be stroked and fed at regular times throughout the day.

abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/



A Quick Tour

The car park in **Rodden Row** is our start point for a circular walk round the village centre. Almost all the buildings you will see are listed, some of them Grade I, and many of them make use of stones from the Abbey that was demolished in Tudor times. Rodden Row symbolises Abbotsbury history: 17th century thatched cottages behind high pavements facing Victorian terraces built by the village's owners between 1850 and 1890. Several of the cottages have been turned into businesses since the 1970s: one of the galleries was an Estate workshop, and the 19th century studio began life as a reading room for the men of the village.

At the corner, turning left will take you past the Manor House, the Parish Church, Abbey remains and Tithe Barn, before leading to the Swannery ~ but this tour turns right into **Market Street**, where several former businesses have turned back into homes. The butcher's shop, though, has been trading under different owners for around a century. Here, the houses are again all Grade II listed. Market Street opens out to form the centre of the village, dominated on one side by the Ilchester Arms and on the other by the Strangways Hall, once the village school. The square is where the village market was first held in 1271, continuing, as St Peter's Fair, until early in the last century. Beyond the café and gallery, the houses represent a couple of centuries in age and style, while across the road is a terrace built by the Strangways family in mid-Victorian times.

Market Street ends at the little turning on the left marked **Chapel Lane**. If you follow the fingerpost for a diversion, the lane takes you up the (fairly easy) climb to St Catherine's Chapel. Chapel Lane is now the location of the village Post Office, in buildings that in 2006 replaced a pottery that had previously been a dairy farm, an example of how Abbotsbury has changed over the years.

Continue along **West Street**, where the older buildings are survivors of a disastrous fire in 1784. Look out for evidence of buildings that have changed their use, if not their appearance, including the cottage that houses Abbotsbury Stonework and the barn now used by Barford Sails. To your left there are glimpses of St Catherine's Chapel, and the cricket pitch named by Wisden as one of the most beautiful in the country. West Street leads out of the village to the Sub-Tropical Gardens and Chesil Beach.

Returning to the square, cross to **Back Street**, lined by cottages, some of which are less than 50 years old. The Estate tries to ensure that new buildings in the village blend in, and that redundant buildings are found a new use. Half way along Back Street, Blind Lane leads uphill to the ridgeway. At its entrance is the tiny old workshop where a one-time thatcher used to make spars, the lengths of split hazel used to hold the thatch in place.

Turn right at the junction, go down **Rosemary Lane**, and cross Rodden Row back to the car park.

A Brief History of Abbotsbury

Abbotsbury has been around for 6000 years. Its oldest part is up on the hill, where the "Abbotsbury Castle" hill fort is one of hundreds of prehistoric sites in the vicinity. The Roman occupation brought enough security to tempt the hill people to move down to the site of today's village. Tradition has it that "in the very infancie of Christianitie amongst the Britons" a monk called Bertufus built a little church here.

It didn't last: the Vikings saw to that. One of them, a Dane called Cnut defeated Ethelred the Unready, married Ethelred's widow and became King of England. In 1024, he granted land around here to his bodyguard Orc. Orc and his wife Tola then set up a monastery on the site of the now derelict old church, and – well before the Norman Conquest – they turned the monastery into a Benedictine Abbey. The charters, covering 2500 acres around the village, including the Swannery, still survive.

The Abbey grew until 1348, when the Black Death arrived in Weymouth and killed off around a third of the population, including our Abbot. The next century, ironically, was a golden age, giving us the Tithe Barn, St Catherine's Chapel and great houses in the Abbey precinct.

In 1534, King Henry VIII ordered the closure of all monasteries (and in our case the demolition of the Abbey buildings). The dissolution was overseen by royal commissioners: the man responsible for Abbotsbury, Sir Giles Strangways, leased the Abbey estate and soon bought it outright. His descendants still own the estate, including almost every building in the village.

The Strangways family backed the King in the Civil war of the 1640s, and paid for their loyalty. Their house on the Abbey site was blown up, all the Abbey records were destroyed, most of their leading figures were imprisoned, and they were fined around £3 million.

Family fortunes revived with the Restoration in 1660 and the Strangways heirs became Earls of Ilchester. A home was built for the family close to the beach, where its gardens still stand. The village changed little, even though the Earls and Countesses of the day built new houses, restored the church and endowed a school. In the 1970s, the Estate undertook a major development plan, leasing out many houses and turning redundant buildings over to new uses: this was the period that saw the arrival of many of the studios, businesses and art galleries in today's village.

Abbotsbury wears its history lightly, but it's all there if you look for it.

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www.abbotbury.co.uk



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A Village to Explore
ABBOTSBURY
DORSET



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