

TAMARISK FARM

Holiday Cottages

West Bexington



Granary Lodge



Two Wings



Mimosa

**Cottages belonging to an organic farm on
the Chesil Beach, West Dorset**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please turn to page 12 for Accommodation Summary

West Bexington is a small coastal village between Burton Bradstock and Abbotsbury, thirteen miles west of Dorchester and Weymouth and six miles south east of Bridport and West Bay. The village is on a slope running down to the unspoilt Chesil Beach. The views are magnificent. On a clear day it is possible to see from Portland Bill in the east, around Lyme Bay including Golden Cap (the highest cliff on the south coast), past the red cliffs of Devon, across to Dartmoor and right round to Start Point in the west. With its unique geology, spanning the epochs from Triassic to Cretaceous, the coastline, popularly known as ‘The Jurassic Coast’, has stunning and ever-changing cliffs, bays and the world famous chesil beach. The coast is Britain’s first natural World Heritage Site.

In order to protect the landscape, the National Trust bought land on the Dorset coast in the 1960s, including much around West Bexington. In fact, a large proportion of our farm is rented from the National Trust. On our home farm there is a Nature Reserve with a reed bed and a rich population of birds. It is designated an SSSI – a Site of Special Scientific Interest and half of the farm is an SNCI – a Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

Beaches

The Chesil beach runs for fourteen miles from Portland in the east, where the pebbles are large, round to Bexington, which has fingernail sized pebbles, and on to Burton Bradstock, where there may be coarse sand. The beaches at West Bay, Seatown, Charmouth and Lyme Regis may also have coarse sand and at low tide have rock pools. The best sandy beach in the area is at Weymouth, where there is a wide stretch of fine sand and shallow waves, ideal for young children to paddle.

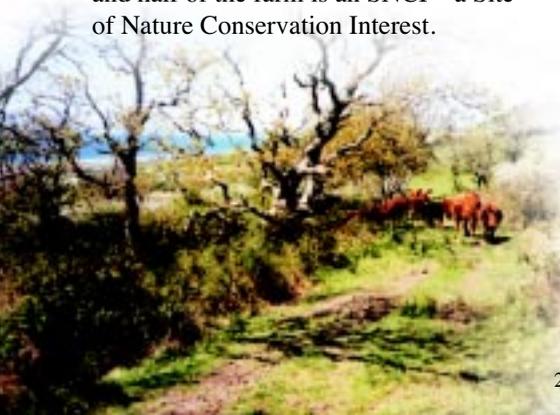


At Bexington the sea is deep and there are no currents, so bathing is good for confident swimmers, but it is *very* dangerous when stormy. With the beach running several miles between coastal villages, naturist sunbathing and swimming is informally accepted in the quieter areas.

The Dorset coast, particularly around Charmouth, has an international reputation for fossils of the Jurassic age and anyone might find anything from a tiny ammonite to an ichthyosaurus!

Fishing

Chesil Beach is an excellent and well known fishing beach. Mackerel are easily caught in the summer. Autumn is the richest time with bass, cod and plaice often being caught. Dabs, flounders,



pouting, bream, whiting, dogfish, skate, gurnard, monkfish and sprats may also be caught.

Walking

The coastal strip is well served by a network of signposted footpaths; and the South West Coastal Footpath runs along the whole beach with an inland branch running up through West Bexington. Hilltops have far reaching views, and often have a particular historical or conservation interest. There are many good walks running inland through the lovely villages of the Bride Valley.



Bird watching

The whole area is renowned for the number of birds, both resident and migratory. Several years ago, the Head of English Heritage was staying in one of our cottages – and he said that he had never seen so many species of birds in one garden anywhere else!

Touring centre

West Bexington is a convenient centre for trips by car westward to Burton Bradstock, Bridport, Charmouth, Lyme Regis and the Devon coast; and eastwards to Abbotsbury with its Swannery and sub-tropical gardens, Weymouth, Portland, Lulworth Cove and Purbeck. Inland we have many prehistoric remains, famous hill forts such as Eggardon and Maiden Castle and Roman remains in Dorchester. There are several excellent local museums and other

specialist museums such as Bovington Tank Museum, and the Tutankhamen and the Dinosaur Museums in

Dorchester. There are several stately homes in the area, as well as a monkey sanctuary and a butterfly farm. There are all sorts of entertainments for children in Weymouth and elsewhere, including Cricket St. Thomas Wild Life Park. There is a golf course near Bridport, and several riding centres in the area.

Pet policy

Pets are welcome in all the cottages except The Moat. Elsewhere dogs can be quite free around your cottage and, by arrangement, on many parts of the farm. Seasonal circumstances such as lambing or growing crops dictate where you can actually go and when your dogs must be on a lead. Bexington beach is open to dogs all year round.

Shopping

West Bexington boasts a small cafe shop just behind the beach offering very good coffee and tea. At Burton Bradstock, three miles away, there is a post office, an excellent general grocery and provision store and a Spar shop (7.30am–9.00pm

opening times) at the garage. There is also our farm shop, with organic meat, flour and vegetables. The nearest supermarkets are in Bridport six miles away. Bridport, Dorchester and Weymouth are good shopping centres and boast interesting markets: Bridport on Wednesdays and Saturdays, Dorchester on Wednesdays and Weymouth on Thursdays. Nearly every village has a pub with good food and Bexington has its own Manor Hotel with a bar and restaurant of high reputation.

Weather

Be prepared for anything: crystal clear skies, sunbathing at Easter, rain, sea mist, the occasional storm in August, or possibly golden autumns when the sun is at its warmest! So please remember to bring clothing that will allow you to enjoy all weathers – Wellingtons, warm sweaters and rain gear may be required at any time.

The farm

We farm organically six hundred acres with a flock of Dorset Down sheep, and a few Hebridean and Shetland sheep (both are rare breeds). We also have a herd of North Devon Ruby Red beef cattle and calves, Shire mares, and Welsh ponies. These animals graze land that is managed carefully to benefit the wildlife and we are proud to have a great range of habitats supporting an abundant variety of flora

and fauna. If you walk the footpaths quietly you may see deer, hares and rabbits, with buzzards and kestrels overhead and skylarks ascending. There



are also plenty of wild animals that you are less likely to see, including dormice and great crested newts, slow worms, hedgehogs and adders, badgers and foxes. Resident birds include reed buntings and cetti's warblers, little owls and ravens, to name but a few.

We also have a small market garden with fruit and vegetables and about thirty-five acres of arable crops. We mill our home grown wheat and rye on the farm, producing wholemeal, stoneground flour.

We provide hampers of vegetables in season on request and have flour and meat available for you to order before you arrive (order forms are sent on receipt of your final payment). Additionally, you can buy our food during your stay and at the end of your holiday to take home with you.

On our farm you can feel relaxed with your children and your pets. Remember that we are a working farm, so the animals are not like pets. We and our helpers are usually in the market garden busy cultivating, planting, weeding or picking, and

might welcome a break chatting with you about methods and extending our ideas! (We are members of the Soil Association). Or you may come here for a very quiet time – in that case we will say hello when you arrive, and goodbye when you leave!



Granary Lodge

Visit Britain 

Disabled friendly M1 

Granary Lodge is a Purbeck-stone built bungalow, just modernised throughout to provide additional space and comfort. It lies at the heart of the village, next to a 300 year-old granary, barns, and the old manor house (now the Manor Hotel, featured on TV's *'Risking it All'*). The property is walled on all sides providing seclusion and privacy. A 'court-yard' space to the front allows ample off-street parking, right up to the front door. The sea is a five-minute walk down the road. The best views are from the rear, looking southwest across Lyme Bay. The conservatory opens onto wooden decking, which has views across paddocks, woodland and open farmland, to the sea.

There are three bedrooms, with a



king-size bed (5ft) in the master bedroom, a double bunk bed (4ft lower and 3ft upper) in the red bedroom, and twin beds in the green bedroom. With a double sofa-bed in the sitting room and a z-bed there is flexibility to sleep more.

The lounge, dining room and conservatory are inter-connected, covering a total area of over 600 sq feet. The bathroom is a shared family/'en suite', with toilet, bath and wet-room style shower. There is a second toilet and shower in a building, next to the decking, that houses a heated swim-spa (available at £65/week).

The kitchen is fully equipped, including a dish washer. It is furnished with a small breakfast table, providing a dining alternative for small groups.

Granary Lodge provides ideal holiday accommodation for a large family or sharing families and friends. It is all on one level, including the front terrace and back decking areas, which substantially increase the living/dining possibilities in good weather. The continuous level living space makes it suitable for the elderly, wheel-chair users or other disabled people and key doorways and the two small front steps have been fitted with removable wheel-chair ramps. Modern central heating is included in the price.



Mimosa Cottage

Visit Britain ★★★★★ Category 1 M3 Disabled 

Mimosa is a spacious, comfortable cottage in the same garden as the Fossil and the Cross and Whispering Pines. Everything is on one level. It is double-glazed, insulated and tiled with under floor heating, thermostatically controlled throughout with an open fire in the sitting room.

The conservatory is an extension of the sitting room and the two bedrooms. Views from the sitting room are over the sea to the south, and there is a separate stone summer house with views to the west over Golden Cap. Some of the patio



An elevating bath seat is available. One toilet has wheelchair access from the left and the other from the right.

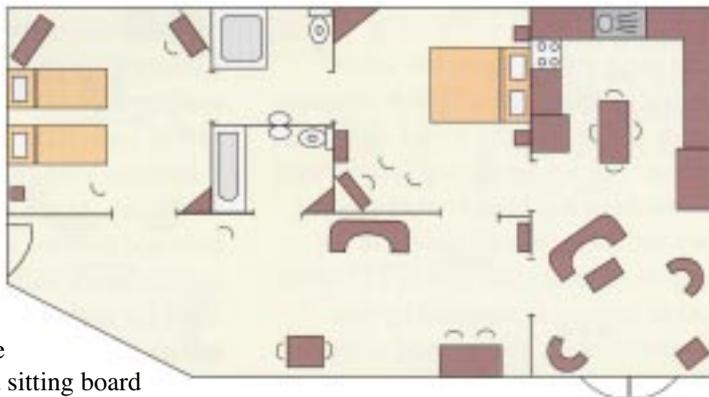
The conservatory has a Jaybee sofa-bed, which opens easily to become a double bed. There are four futons which, all piled together make a footrest or can be used as children's mattresses on the floor. The three piece suite stands fairly high. All the furniture can be moved easily.

All decorating was with allergen-free, non-solvent paint, there is a chlorine water filter and the oil boiler is outside; therefore, asthmatics, ME sufferers and chemically-sensitive people *may* be OK here. There is no extra charge for heating.



surrounding the house is fenced and quite private.

Everything is suitable for wheelchair users, including a height adjustable 4-ring hob and sink, lever taps, etc. Of the two bathrooms, one is en-suite to both bedrooms and has a drive-in shower with a strong folding seat and a shower chair; and the other bathroom has a sitting board and a low washing seat for the bath.



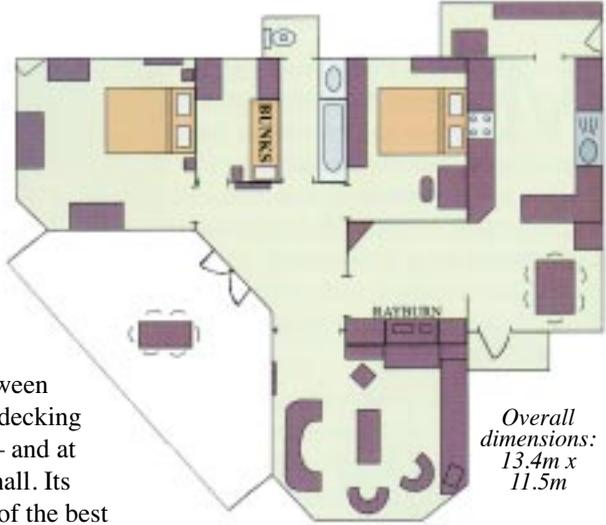
Overall dimensions: 15.4m x 7.7m

Two Wings

Two Wings is a character cottage built in the 1930s, situated at the top of the village with breathtaking views of the surrounding coastline. Behind and to the west are open fields; to the east a quiet neighbour.

The cottage, equipped for six, is on one level with three steps up to the front door: it has two wings, hence its name. Between the wings there is an extensive decking area, which is accessible from – and at the same level as – the central hall. Its elevated position affords some of the best uninterrupted views of the Jurassic coastline in the village. The large garden is completely enclosed, providing privacy and an ideal play area for young children and a safe space for dogs. There is parking for two cars.

The cottage has three bedrooms, two are with double beds, the main one in the west wing being spacious and sunny with large windows and an outside door to the garden. The children's bedroom has two three-foot bunk beds. The bathroom has an antique cast-iron bath, hand-basin and toilet. The large sitting room has south-



facing windows. The kitchen is well-sized with an oil-fired Rayburn cooker feeding two radiators, which can be lit for you on request (fuel cost is £25/week). Other heating is supplied by two storage heaters and a wood stove in the sitting room.

There is a large off-peak electric water cylinder. Electricity is charged at cost by reading the meter at the beginning and end of your stay.



Visit Britain 

The Moat

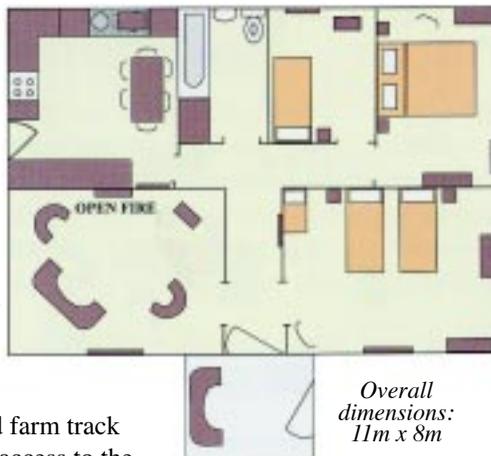


The Moat is in the centre of Bexington at the corner of the road, facing onto the tiny village green. It looks straight down the village road past the 17th century barns towards the sea four hundred metres away. To the right is Tamarisk Farm's organic market garden, with a view round Lyme Bay beyond.

The front garden is planted with shrubs and roses around a lawn and is surrounded by a low wall built of stone. The back garden is fully fenced, with shrubs, trees and lawn extending beyond the garage up the slope, beside the old farm track which was the only access to the

farm before the village was built.

The cottage is all on one level but with three steps to the large porch sheltering the front door. The sitting room has an open fire. There are three bedrooms: one double-bedded, facing east; one twin bedded (plus a child's small bed); and one single.



There are six electric storage heaters. Electricity is charged at cost by reading the meter at the beginning and the end of your stay.

Dogs are not allowed in The Moat.

Visit Britain
★★★★

Whispering Pines *and* The Fossil & the Cross

Situated in Tamarisk Wayside Garden, an area of almost two acres tucked into our upper fields and fully fenced, these two cottages overlook the village roof tops down the slope of our farm to the sea. Our private car park is fifty metres from the road and fifty metres from the cottages. This means that the garden is peaceful and quiet, and small children can play safely, but that the cottages are not suitable for those who find walking up a slope difficult. They are about 800 metres from the sea. Both have superb coastal views.

Whispering Pines

Whispering Pines is a cottage bungalow of local stone, well proportioned and very comfortable, insulated throughout, with big double glazed windows on every side to give you all the views. The front faces south west with a large French window opening onto the open patio and large lawn. One bedroom is double, the other has one single and two bunk beds.

Heating is by a radiant oil-fired stove which runs four radiators and the hot water cylinder.

There is a £1 meter for electricity and £25 per week for oil.



The Fossil & the Cross



The Fossil & the Cross is on the same plan as Whispering Pines, except that it faces due south, its double-bedded room is the larger of the two bedrooms and the smaller one has a 3 ft bed with another, stored underneath, which can be pulled out when required. It has an extra french window and open patio with magnificent views west over the sea. It stands alone in its part of the garden.



Overall dimensions:
7.7m x 7.7m

Both cottages are
Visit Britain ★★★★★

Transport and Directions

If you come by car...

From Dorchester: Take the A35 towards Bridport for 8 miles. Take a left turn to Litton Cheney, and follow the country lanes for 4 miles to Puncknowle, then through Swyre and turn left onto the B3157, then immediately right opposite the Bull Inn onto the road signposted for West Bexington.

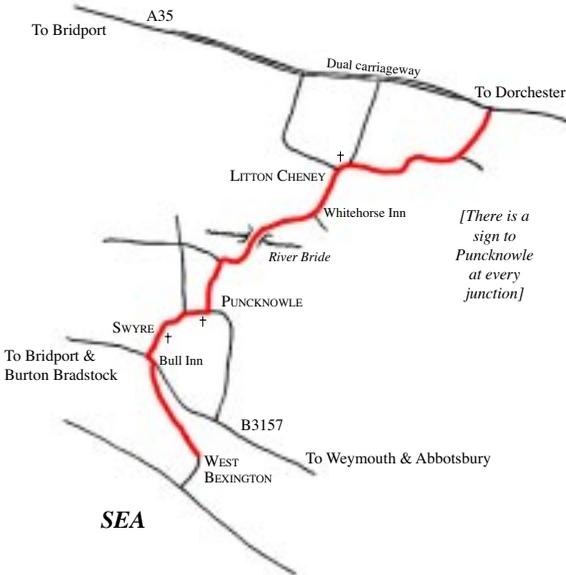
Alternatively, stay on the A35 to Bridport and follow the instructions for Bridport.

From Bridport: Take the coast road B3157 towards Burton Bradstock and Weymouth for 6 miles to Swyre. Turn right opposite the Bull Inn.

Position of West Bexington in West Dorset



Route from A35



Public transport

Rail

Waterloo – Dorchester: 2.5 hours
There are no buses from Dorchester

Waterloo – Weymouth: 2.75 hours
X53 bus from the King’s Statue on the water front to Swyre Bull stop.

National Express coach

From Victoria Bus Station to Weymouth, Dorchester or Bridport.
Change at Bournemouth.

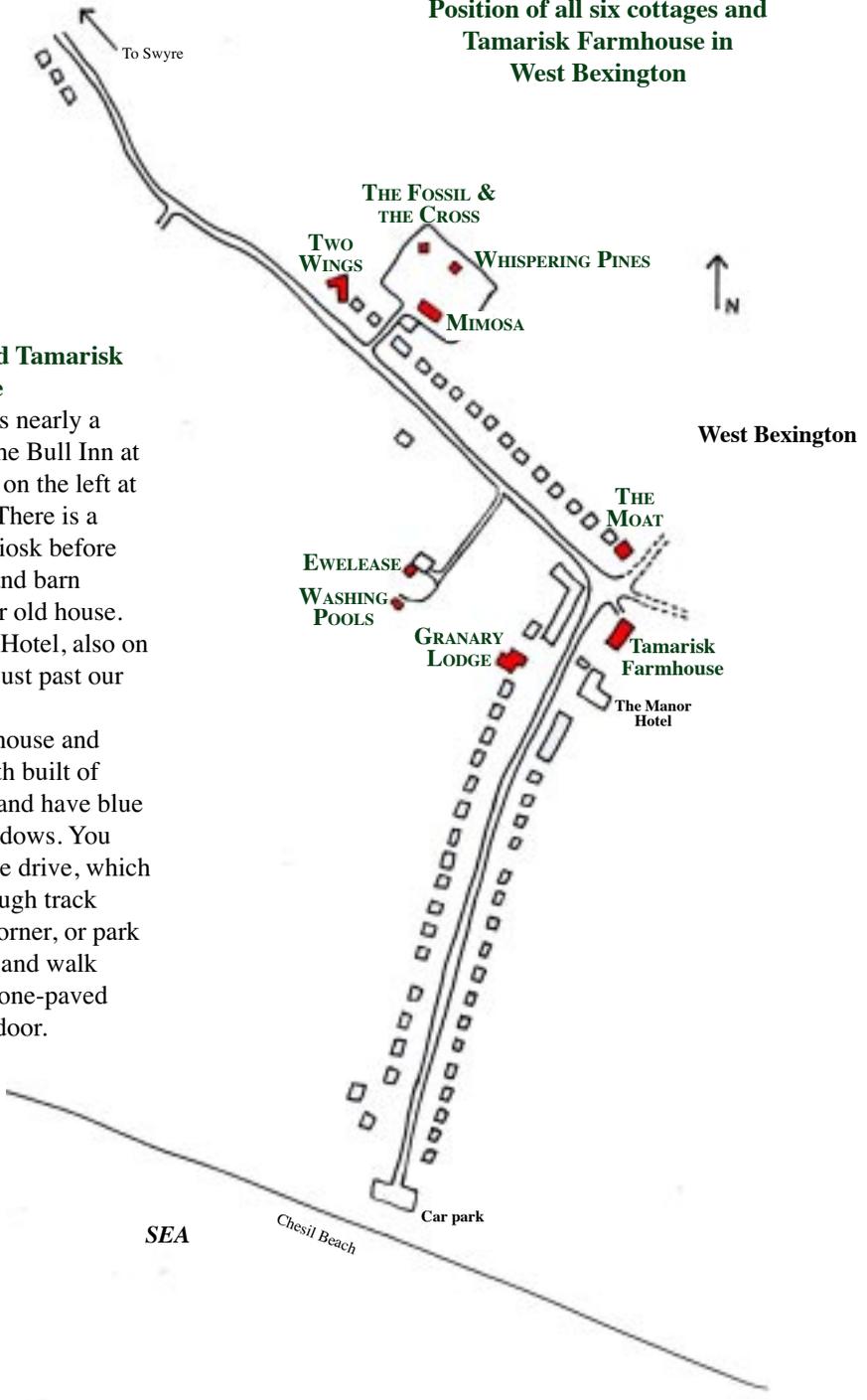
Please note:

This information is correct at the time of publishing, but anyone using public transport should check all necessary details themselves:

National rail enquiries: 08457 484950

Bus and coach enquiries: 08706 082608

Position of all six cottages and Tamarisk Farmhouse in West Bexington



How to find Tamarisk Farmhouse

Our house is nearly a mile from the Bull Inn at Swyre. It is on the left at the corner. There is a telephone kiosk before the corner and barn opposite our old house. The Manor Hotel, also on the left, is just past our house.

Our farmhouse and barn are both built of local stone and have blue painted windows. You can go to the drive, which is off the rough track above the corner, or park on the road and walk along the stone-paved path to the door.

Accommodation

Please see 'Conditions of Hire' for more information

Summary

Cottage	Accommodation	Visit Britain rating (formerly English Tourist Council)
Granary Lodge	3 bedroom bungalow – sleeps 7 (+3)	4 star disabled friendly, M1 
Mimosa Cottage	2 bedroom bungalow – sleeps 4 (+4)	4 star disabled category 1/M3 
Two Wings	3 bedroom bungalow – sleeps 6	3 star
The Moat	3 bedroom bungalow – sleeps 5 (+1)	3 star
Whispering Pines	2 bedroom small bungalow – sleeps 5	3 star
The Fossil & The Cross	2 bedroom small bungalow – sleeps 4	3 star

What is provided

All cottages have cutlery and crockery for six people, an electric cooker, fridge with small deep-freeze compartment, toaster, microwave, washing machine, TV, iron and ironing board, clothes horse, washing line, electric vacuum cleaner, brushes, dustpans etc. They each have central heating (of various sorts specified in the individual cottage details) backed-up by an immersion heater, electric fire and a fan heater.

Every bed is equipped with a mattress cover, duvet and two pillows, spare blanket and a bedside cabinet and light. Linen and towels are provided. Tea towels, washing-up liquid, toilet and kitchen paper, cleaning materials etc. are also provided. All the plans of the cottages are on the same scale, except for Granary Lodge, which is in fact, larger than the other bungalows on offer.

Procedure

1. A Booking form and Conditions of Hire will be enclosed with this brochure – please return them signed with the deposit. NB: it is the receipt of your deposit (one third of the total) that *secures* your booking. Provisional booking is best done by phone as quickly as possible, but we can only keep 'your' dates free for three days. Payment is by credit card or with a cheque made payable to Mrs J. Pearse.
2. We will receipt your deposit, whether paid by card or cheque, and send an insurance form which you are advised to use.
3. Remainder to be paid, *four* weeks before your holiday.
4. We will receipt your final payment and send you our Tamarisk Farm order form for organic vegetables, flour and meat and your order will be waiting in your cottage.
5. The cottage will be ready for your arrival on the Friday at the beginning of the booked period. Please note the arrival time for *your* cottage in the Conditions of Hire; and please phone the day before (Thursday) to give us the approximate time of your arrival.