



## CORDITE WAY: VISIT PLANNER

### About the Cordite Way

The Cordite Way route uses existing rights of way from Sandford, via Holton Heath station and the Holton Heath Trading Estate, and a newly-designated right of way towards the former Rockley Jetty opposite Rockley Sands.

Incorporated in the Cordite Way is a new scenic footpath that crosses private land alongside Poole Harbour. Due to a missing bridge across the mainline railway, only the Phase 1 section to the former bridge location is currently open until the mainline railway bridge is replaced during Phase 2 to Rockley Jetty.

The Cordite Way is named after the former Royal Naval Cordite Factory (RNCF) at Holton Heath and associated Admiralty railway line that linked it to Rockley Jetty.

The new right of way (footpath SE25/30) closely follows the route of the Admiralty railway line that took cordite, the propellant used in naval gun shells during both World Wars, for sea transfer to Chatham and Gosport to the shell filling factories. Sea transfer changed to rail transport in 1938 when threats from sea attack were foreseen. The RNCF began production in 1916 and closed in 1957.

### Access to the Cordite Way

*Ordnance survey map:* OL15 Grid reference: SY 909 952 (new Phase 1 footpath). The location is shown on the Poole Harbour Trails website (see Further Details section below).

*Transport (check current timetables):*

*Morebus:* 40 Poole/Swanage. Bus stops near Keyworth Drive and Station Rd.

*South Western Railway:* Holton Heath Station.

*Car Parking:* Side roads in Sandford (for the whole route if starting at Keyworth Drive) or Holton Rd in Holton Heath Trading Estate (if starting at the new Cordite Way footpath). Please note that the Trading Estate may have HGV traffic at any time of any day. Please park considerably away from factory gates to allow large articulated lorries to gain access. No public parking is permitted beyond the Jade-Aden access gates at the roundabout at the east end of Holton Rd.

### Directions to the new Cordite Way Phase 1 footpath

*By Car:* Take the A35 out of Poole in the direction of Dorchester or from Dorchester towards Poole. At the Bakers Arms roundabout, take the A351 towards Wareham.

After almost a mile from Bakers Arms, turn left in to Blackhill Road at a roundabout. At the T-junction, turn left on to Holton Road. Go along Holton Road to the roundabout at the end of the road where you will see a Cordite Way Information Board on the gate railings to your right. If you are driving you will need to park before this point. The new Cordite Way footpath, SE25/30, commences at the roundabout gate.

Turn right at the roundabout, walk past the gates and follow the tarmac road where no public parking is permitted. After bending round to the left, the road ends with the Jade-Aden factory directly ahead of you.

Take the trodden path that goes along the left-hand side of the factory, signed with a local authority finger post. You are now on the Phase 1 section of the Cordite Way's new footpath.

*By Train:* From Holton Heath Station, turn right as you come off the platform, head through the car park and into the industrial estate. Bear right at the roundabout to join Holton Road and pass through more industrial estate to the roundabout at the end of the road. You will pass two snack bars en route. (See Page 3.)

The following map shows the footpath location. It is also included on the Poole Harbour Trails (PHT) website on our Further Information webpage, where it can be viewed in greater detail.



## Cordite Way Walk Description

A description of the route can be found on the PHT website on our 'Route' webpage in draft document 'Walk 5'. Walk 5 is the vision for an active travel route that links the Purbecks to the strategic network of walking and cycling routes radiating from Hamworthy/Poole northwards and eastwards.

The new footpath SE25/30 starts at the roundabout outside the large Jade-Aden entrance gates that displays various advertising signs, including a Cordite Way information board, and continues along the access road to Jade-Aden. The off-road section starts to the left of the skip compound adjacent to the nature reserve boundary.

As you pass the Jade-Aden building on your right, you will see the remains of the RNCF's former backup Pump House nearby in the nature reserve. There are some photos of the Cordite Way route on the PHT website – see the Photo Gallery webpage linked from the Cordite Way webpage.



*Nature of Route from Sandford:* roads, lanes and footpaths.

*Special interest:*

- Connecting Poole Harbour Trails walks:
  - Walk 4 Wareham Quay to Sandford
  - Walk 5b Sandford to Turlin Moor
- New viewpoints across Poole Harbour to Arne Peninsular and the Purbecks
- Viewpoints for bird activity on Gull Islands and in Wareham Reach & Wareham Channel
- Evidence of the former RNCF and the Admiralty railway line
- Mainline railway viewpoint

## **New Footpath Facilities**

As the new footpath is on private land, there are no visitor amenities other than information boards and benches, provided with thanks to a grant from the Wareham St Martin Solar Community Fund.

*Information boards:* Three large boards are located on the entrance gates by the Holton Rd roundabout, at the Heritage corner, where Admiralty railway line sleepers have been found, and at the Admiralty Viewpoint. A smaller board is located at the Arne Viewpoint.

*Benches:* These are provided at the Admiralty Viewpoint and Arne Viewpoint. Another bench is provided along the way.

*Litter Bins:* Please respect the Countryside Code and do not leave any food and drink waste on the Cordite Way. Please leave the route as tidy as you would like to find it for others to enjoy. No council services are provided on the route's footpaths.

*Dog Litter Bins:* Dogs are welcome, but please remove dog litter from the Cordite Way. The nearest bins are in Organford Rd and Station Rd. A new bin may be provided by the council in Holton Rd in due course.

*Toilets:* Nearest ones are in Keyworth drive at the Labour Club when open, normally after 7:30pm, and at local pubs/restaurants.

*Pubs/Restaurants:* Nearest are The Clay Pipe Inn in Organford Rd, plus Rivo's Hub and The 29029 restaurant in Sandford Rd. The Bakers Arms and St Peter's Finger are in Lytchett Minster; there are more pubs/restaurants in the Wareham and Poole areas.

*Snack Bars:* During trading estate working hours, the nearest hot & cold take-away food and refreshments are available at The Mole Hut, on the Holton Rd roundabout, and Deb's Dinky Diner, in Holton Rd.

*Cycling:* This is not yet permitted on the new footpath but is a future aspiration for Phase 3.

*Safety:* Please be aware of trip hazards, such as tree roots, stumps and rubble. We are gradually improving the route, but some work will be dependent on further fundraising. Beware of wood ants that may be active en route.

*Further Details:* Website: <http://www.pooleharbourtrails.org.uk>; Email: [pooleharbourtrails@gmail.com](mailto:pooleharbourtrails@gmail.com). Visit the Cordite Way and Further Information web pages, e.g. for detailed maps and useful links.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Cordite Way. To see more of the wildlife, don't forget your binoculars!