

POOLE HARBOUR TRAILS

Our aim is to provide easily recognised cycling and walking routes around Poole Harbour. The walking route around the harbour is divided into 6 linear walks:

Walk 1 Poole to Greenlands. (12 km 7½ mls)

Walk 2 Greenlands to Norden Park-and-Ride (11 km 7 mls)

Walk 3 Norden to Wareham (12 km 7½ mls)

Walk 4 Wareham Quay to Sandford (12 km 7½ mls)

Walk 5b temporary walk, Sandford to Turlin Moor (13.5 km 8½ mls)

Walk 5 Sandford to Turlin Moor – next phase of Poole Harbour Trails project

Walk 6 Turlin Moor to Poole Quay (11 km 7 mls)

The above walks can be found on www.pooleharbourtrails.org.uk and in leaflet form at Dorset Tourist Information Offices. Each of the above linear walks is associated with several circular walks, Walk 1a, 1b etc. leading to local attractions or additional viewpoints, all of which can be found on the above web site.

THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs

Check weather conditions and take adequate maps and equipment.

Leave gates and property as you find them

A gate may be open to give animals access to water, so leave gates as you find them and use access points provided.

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home

Don't touch animals and be careful not to leave a lighted match or a smouldering cigarette behind.

Keep dogs under close control

Your dog must not scare or disturb wild or farm animals. Pick up after your dog and dispose of the results responsibly.

Consider other people

Share transport or use public transport where possible and don't block access.

OPEN ACCESS LAND

Open Access is a right of access on foot. Riding bikes or horses (except on bridleways designated public rights of way), driving vehicles (except mobility vehicles), camping or feeding animals are not allowed. Dogs must be on a short, fixed lead up to 2 metres long near livestock and from 1 March until 31 July to protect nesting birds. Sometimes restrictions on access may be in place, please check details at www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk.



WALK 4a WAREHAM STATION and WEST MILLS



- **Start:** Wareham Station bus stop.
- **Ordnance survey map:** OL15 Start and finish grid reference: SY 920 882.
- **Transport** (check current timetables):
 - Wilts and Dorset bus: 40 Poole/Swanage.
 - First Group:- X53, Exeter/Weymouth/Poole via Wareham
 - South West Trains: Poole, Bournemouth, Wareham Stations.
 - Car Parking: street parking near Wareham station.
- **Approximate distance:** 7 km (4½ mls), allow 2½ hours.
- **Facilities en route:** refreshments in Wareham, toilets at Wareham station.
- **Nature of route:** woodland paths and heathland; some roads.
- **Special interest:** Wareham's Saxon Walls.
- **Connecting trails:** Northport Greenway, Sika trail (posts with red stripe) and Sika Cycle Trail (posts with yellow stripe) in Wareham Forest, Wareham Forest Way, Purbeck Way.
- **Connecting harbour walks:** Walk 4 - Wareham Quay to Sandford; Walk 4b – Wareham Station, Wareham Forest and Sika Trail; Walk 4c - Wareham Quay, Rivers Frome and Piddle; Walk 4d – Wareham Quay and Wareham Walls.
- **Waymarks:**-the linear walks are now waymarked with small, green roundels but these may not give the correct directions for the circular walks.

1. Heading from the bus shelter, take the path on the opposite side of Bere Road to the bus stop. This is signed as a cycleway /footpath.

Bear left with it and shortly join an estate road. Go straight over and keep alongside the open space (N). Keep to the right of the open space and pass through a narrow entryway between the houses.

At the road turn left. In a short distance turn right onto a cycleway leading towards the golf course (NW). Follow this track through the golf course until you reach a barrier leading into Wareham Forest.

2. Ahead are three paths. Take the middle one, marked by a red-striped post of the Sika Trail, into the woods. After 50 metres or so, bear left at the fork to go slightly uphill.

Going uphill you come to a bench, which is a good spot to turn and look at the view, and then bear left at a fork at this point. This path curves round to the right and opens out onto a wide grassy track.

3. When you come to a junction, turn left to enter the car park.

Leave the car park via the entrance and go across the road to a path between two posts and follow the narrow forest track. (This can be muddy!) After a few metres it joins another track where you turn right.

4. At a four way junction of tracks go straight ahead onto a narrow path through the bushes. (Signed: Wareham Forest Way, East Morden.)

The path leads to a bridleway that crosses from left to right. Turn left.

5. When you reach a paved road (after a section that is sometimes wet) turn left.
6. After a few hundred metres and after passing several buildings and entrances you will come to a footpath crossing from left to right. Turn right onto the footpath as it leads downhill into the woods (signed Carey House). (You have rejoined the Wareham Forest Way.)

Bear left at the fork passing a building on your right. When you come to another fork, bear left again with the waymarked track.

7. After a left turn, the track leaves the woods. Go straight ahead along the track between two fences.

Just before the farm (which is usually very muddy) go through the small kissing gate on your right into a field and head for a small metal bridge down to your left and go over the bridge. Turn right onto the main track.

8. Follow the farm track until you pass under the railway and reach West Mills. Go over the bridge, passing the mill on your right and follow the track to turn left and through a gate away from the buildings towards the bypass.

Keep to the track, under the bypass. Continue up towards the Wareham Walls.

9. After a left bend going uphill is a small parking area. From this head for a path, (signed Public Footpath) over to your left, which leads around

the outside of the Walls with bushes on your right.

This path leads around, passing through a gate and back up to the top of the Walls. When you join the road (North Walls) bear left and go down to the main road, which goes through Wareham.

Turn left on to the main road and pass over the river Piddle.

10. Bear left and follow the footpath and cycleway, through the underpass, across the level crossing and on to the station and the bus stop.

