

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 4b WAREHAM STATION, WAREHAM FOREST AND SIKA TRAIL



- **Start:** Wareham Station bus stop.
- **Ordinance 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:** 6 km (4 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 Forest used to be part of the harbour: note the small hills that used to be sand dunes.
- **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 4a - Wareham Station and West Mills; 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. Take the path on the opposite side of Bere Road to the bus stop. This is signed as a cycleway/footpath.

At a fork, go straight ahead out onto Northmoor Way. Continue along the road and when you see an opening on your right, turn right towards the main road. Turn left along the A351.

2. Pass over a bridge and bear left at the bus stop just after the Sandford sign.

Along the road, just past the last house on your left, take the narrow path through on your left onto the heath.

- Go straight ahead into the woods and then follow a right hand bend. Bear left at a fork. You come to an open space where several paths meet and you turn left down the hill and over a stile so that you are going around the left hand side of a valley.
- The track turns right at the bottom. When you come to a fork, bear left to stay on the level. Follow this track for about 1 km until you reach a junction. Turn left and almost immediately left again to go on towards a bridge.

- Once over the bridge take the track on your right. You are now on the Sika Trail, indicated by wooden posts bearing a red stripe.

Soon after turn right at the next junction. Continue along this track to a path coming in from the left marked by a Sika Trail post, just after a small hill on the left and before the start of the wooded area. Turn left off the main track.

Follow this footpath for 0.5 km and turn left up the hill with the footpath following the Sika trail posts.

- At the narrow service road turn right then immediately left up a path marked with a Sika trail post. Continue straight ahead, up a gentle climb through the woods.

When you come to the main track, turn right towards the car park

- Just before the car park, take the wide grass path leading off to your left.

Follow this track as it goes downhill and bears left, passing a bench and viewpoint on your left.

- Just after the bench ignore the track coming in from the right, continue straight ahead.

When you come to a major cross track junction turn right, passing the trail posts on your right. There is another bench up to your left for the weary.

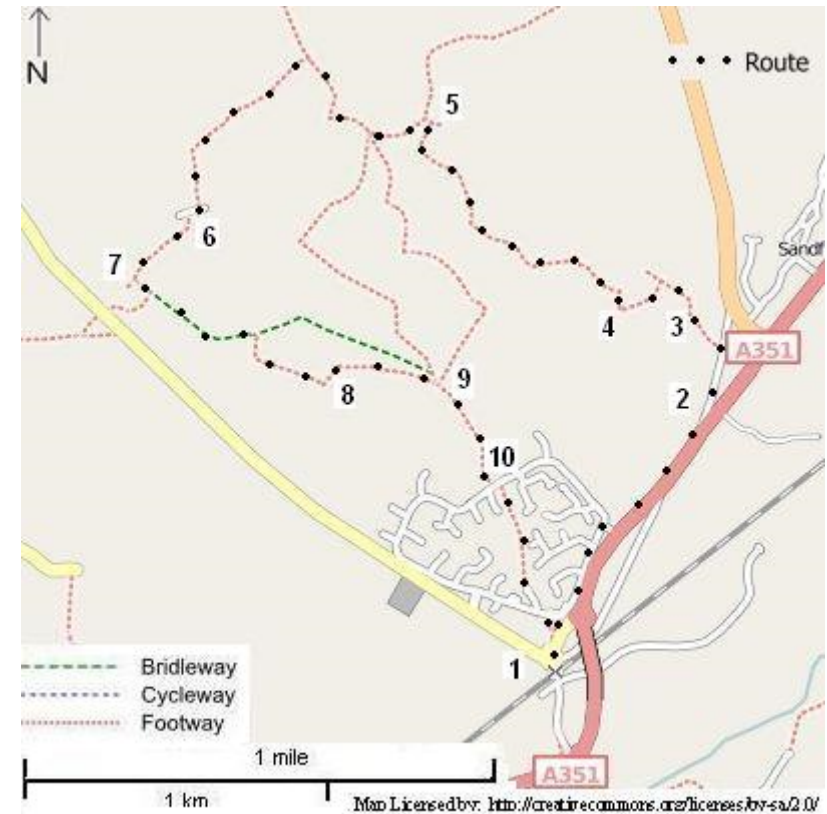
- Once down the hill turn right at a T-junction and go straight ahead through the barrier into the golf course.

Pass through the golf course and out onto a road. Turn left.

- Shortly turn right down a passageway between the houses following the blue pedestrian signs and keep straight ahead with the open green space on your right.

Bear left at the road then right onto a footpath through a wooded area.

Follow this around to the right to finally reach the station.



Walk 4b: Wareham Station, Wareham Forest, Sika Trail

Maps reproduced from <http://www.openstreetmap.org/index.html>