

## 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 Purbeck Park, formerly Norden Park & Ride (11 km 7 mls)
- Walk 3** Purbeck Park, formerly Norden Park & Ride, 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](http://www.pooleharbourtrails.org.uk). 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

#### Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

#### Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

#### Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures

### 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 online.



### WALK 3a MIDDLEBERE, SHARFORD BRIDGE AND WYTCH FARM



- **Start:** Middlebere, layby near entrance to Middlebere Farm access road.
- **Ordnance survey map:** OL15. Start and finish grid reference: SY 963 853.
- **Transport:** Car Parking near entrance to Middlebere Farm access road. Nearest bus stop (2½ km from start) on A351 alight Norden Farm, Wilts & Dorset 40 Poole/Swanage. Swanage Railway Swanage/Wareham (check timetables).
- **Approximate distance:** 7 km (4½ mls), allow 2½ hours.
- **Facilities en route:** none, nearest toilets at Purbeck Park and café there, open when trains are running.
- **Nature of route:** footpaths, tracks, minor roads; fields, heath, river; 2 small hills.
- **Special interest:** Sharford Bridge.
- **Connecting trails:**
- **Connecting harbour walks:** Walk 2,- Greenlands to Purbeck Park. Walk 3b - Middlebere Farm and Sharford Bridge, Walk 3 – Purbeck Park, formerly Norden Park-and-Ride, to Wareham.
- **Waymarks:**-the linear walks are now waymarked with small, green roundels but these may not give the correct directions for the circular walks.

1. Head along the access road to Middlebere farm (NE) until you reach a cattle grid. Turn right before the cattle grid to go up the hill following the track.

At the top, admire the view and then follow the path along to the right past a small pine wood, keeping the fence on your left.

2. Pass a gate on your left on to open ground and after 800m turn left through a metal hand gate which is signposted National Cycle Route 2.

Go over a small wooden bridge and on to Sharford bridge. (This is a restored medieval packhorse bridge of great historic value.)

At Sharford bridge head straight ahead across the field and up the hill.

3. At the top of the hill go through the gate and continue straight ahead across deforested heathland. After 175m you will come to a private road (which serves the oil gathering station). Go straight over and continue across the heath.

This leads out onto another road (Thrasher's Lane) where you turn left.

4. After about 1.5 km turn left by Wytch Farm and forward through another gate. In 30 m follow the enclosed grass track on your left (WSW).

(Just before turning left off Thrasher's Lane you could take a brief diversion by continuing along the road, known as Wytch Passage. In about 300 m, after passing one of the old Passage Houses, you reach a reedy shore, at the edge of the Harbour.)

5. Follow the track until you come to a junction and ignore the lane coming in from the sharp left. Take the lane to the left (second left) which then bends around to the right and eventually leads out into open ground.

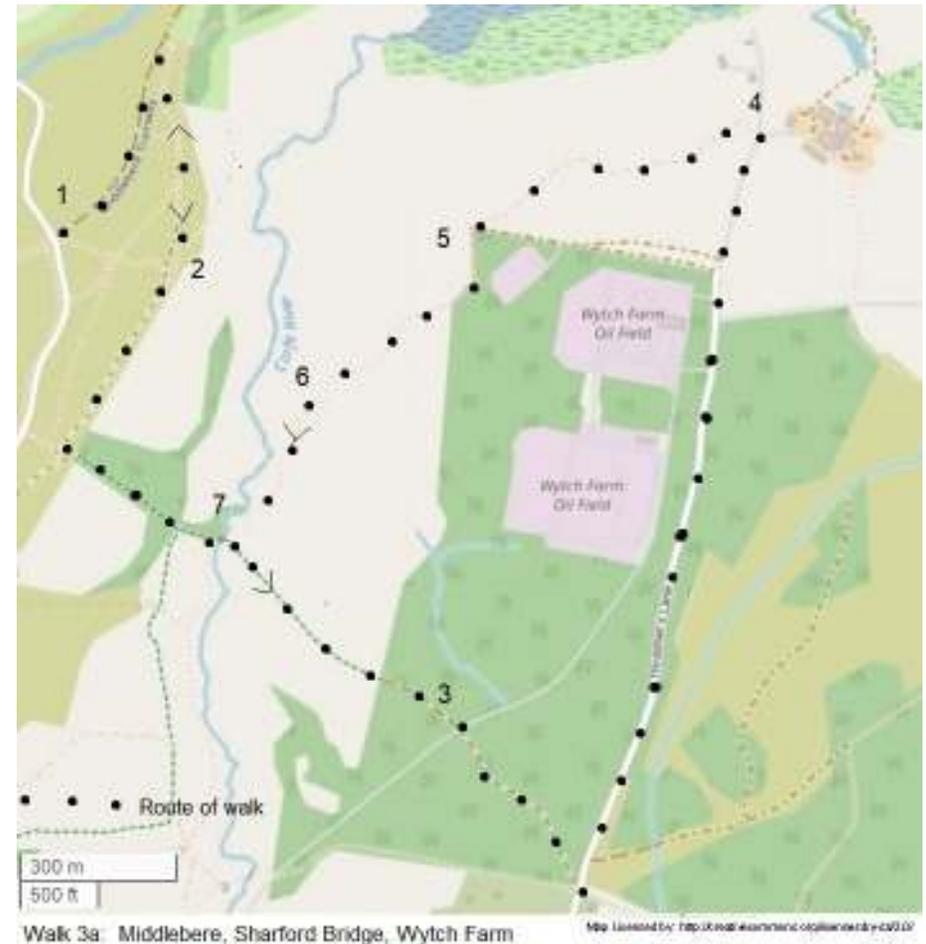
Follow this around to the right ignoring the track coming in from the left alongside the woods.

6. Continue until you see a field with a mound. Go through the hand gate and then take the way either over the mound or along the indistinct path to the right of the mound.

Almost at the end of the ponds bear right towards the stream and Sharford Bridge.

7. Pass over the bridge and go ahead towards another bridge over a small stream. Go through the gates on the bridge and up the path to come out onto open ground.

Retrace your steps and at the gate, turn right. Keep the fence on your right and follow it when it goes round to the left and up a rise. Follow the track down onto the road, and turn left to return to the start of the walk.



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