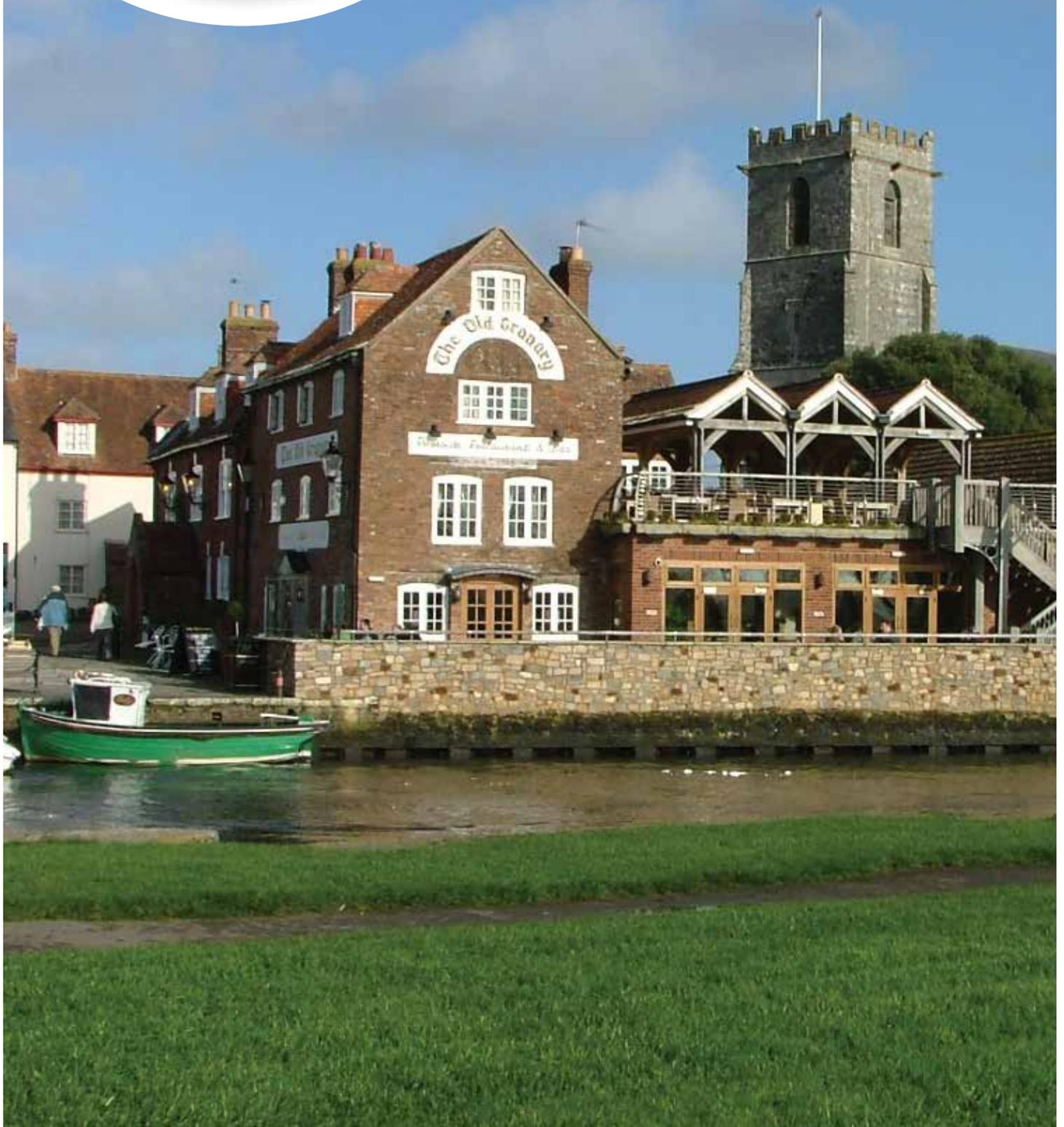




**POOLE
HARBOUR
TRAILS**

WALK 3

NORDEN PARK-AND-RIDE TO WAREHAM



LOCAL HISTORY

GEOLOGY

The heathland here is agriculturally poor but the riches of ball clay and oil lie beneath.

There are oil-rich seams in a continuous band, passing from Kimmeridge through Wytch Farm, and dipping under much of Britain to the North Sea oil fields. Before oil was extracted, the shale was burned for fuel and carved for jewellery.

PEOPLE

Vikings came up the river to Wareham, sacking it repeatedly until King Alfred defeated them near Arne and drove them out to sea where bad weather destroyed over 100 ships. After pillaging the Monastery at Cerne, Canute retired to Brownsea Island. He later returned the loot.

Industrial sites from the Roman period have been excavated at Cleavel Point, on Green Island, at Swineham Point near Wareham and in Lower Hamworthy.

INDUSTRY

Ball clay has been extracted industrially since the 18th century. Josiah Wedgwood rated Dorset ball clay the finest in the world. The routes of Middlebere Plateway and Pikes Tramway, used in the transport of clay in the 19th century, can still be seen and parts of them can now be walked along as level footpaths and bridleways. The clay mine owners later co-operated to bring the first railway to Dorset, the Castleman Corkscrew route via Wimborne.

A ball clay mining museum has been developed near the Norden Park-and-Ride site to remind us that ball clay has provided employment in the area since the mid-eighteenth century.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

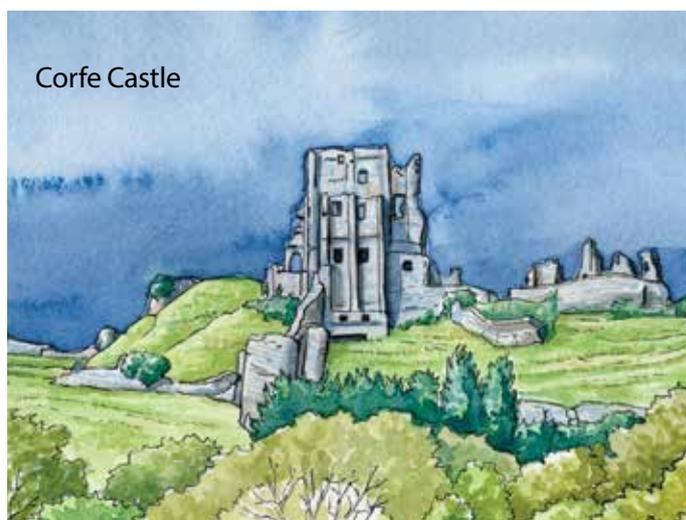
The names of various landmarks around the harbour have navigational significance. Whitecliff at Lilliput, and Redcliffe at Ridge are self-evident. Shipstal is a very sheltered anchorage just off Arne. Blood Alley, between Brownsea and Furzey Island, is named from an encounter between smugglers and the revenue.

The village of Corfe Castle is dominated by the ruined castle, blown up after its capture in 1646. This is the true defensive gateway of the Purbecks, being the only significant gap in the ridge. The cross in the square is Victorian, but the base of the cross is said to date back to at least the time of a royal decree of 1381.

Poole is now the largest town in the area but other quays around the harbour were also important for travel and exports. In the Middle Ages, before the river silted up, Wareham was the main port.

WAR

In the Civil War, Lady Bankes, with her husband away fighting with the royalists, defended Corfe Castle with a few Cavaliers against the Roundheads from Poole, until she was betrayed.



WALK 3: NORDEN PARK-AND-RIDE TO WAREHAM

Ordnance survey map: OL15

Grid reference: Start - SY 954 828
Finish - SY 923 871

Transport: (check current timetables)

Bus: Purbeck Breezer 40 Poole/Swanage.

South West Trains: Poole and Wareham Stations.

Swanage Railway: Swanage to Norden Park-and-Ride.

Car Parking: Norden Park-and-Ride; Wareham station.

Approximate distance: 12 km (7.5 miles) allow 4 hrs.

Facilities en route: toilets in Wareham on the quay and at Norden Park-and-Ride.

Nature of route: footpaths, tracks, minor roads; fields, heath, river and two small hills.

Connecting trails: Purbeck Way, Purbeck Way West, Wareham Two Rivers Walks, Northport Greenway, Wareham Forest Way all connect to this walk. (Leaflets available from Tourist Information Centres in Wareham and Swanage.)

Note: a compass would be useful.

The route given uses Open Access land, roads, footpaths and bridleways that are public rights of way. Please note that while walkers can use any of these, cyclists and horse-riders are permitted to use only the roads and bridleways.

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.**

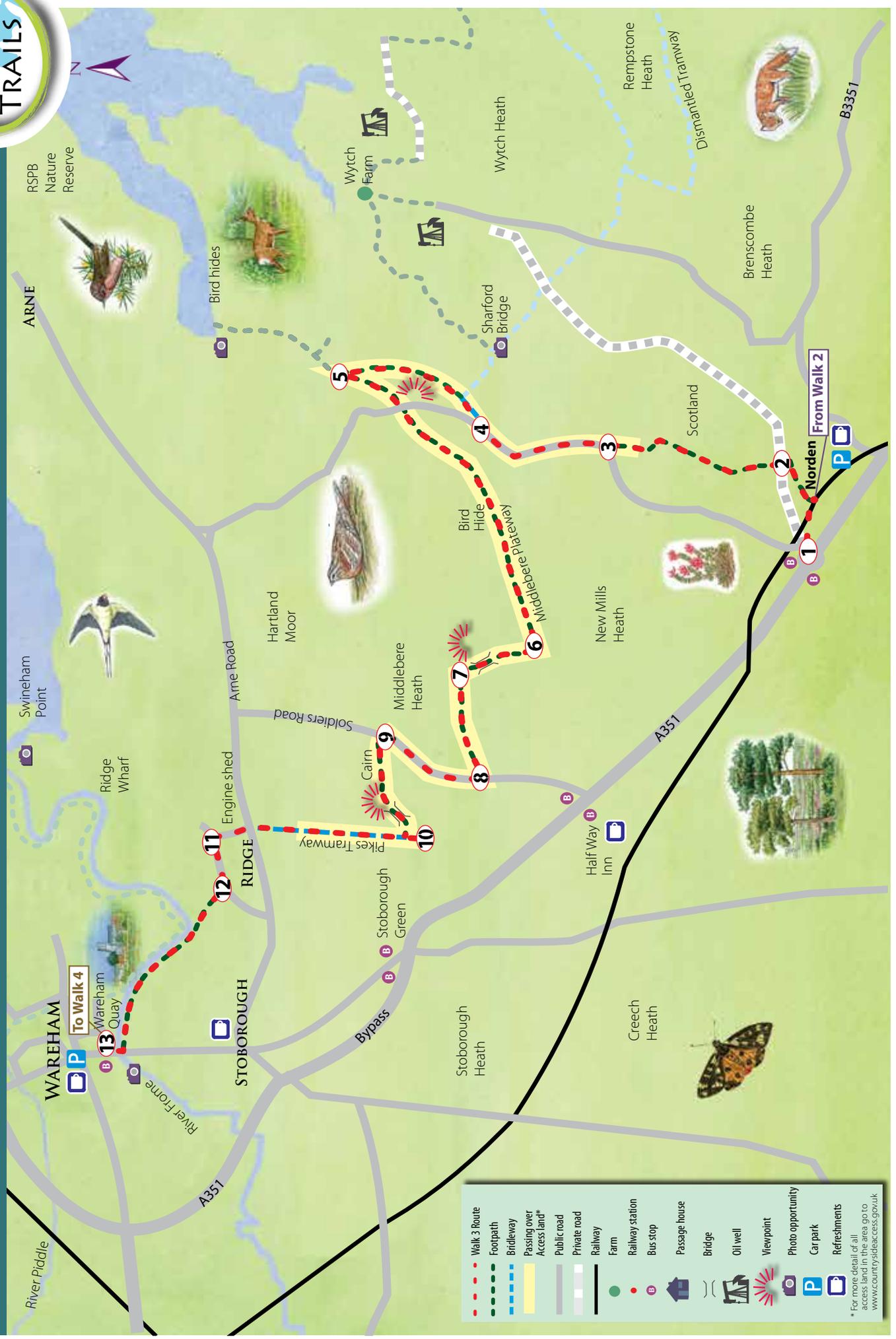
Share transport or use public transport where possible and don't block access.

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. Open Access is shown on our maps by pale yellow. Sometimes restrictions on access may be in place, please check details online or observe notices en route.



WALK 3 ROUTE ~ NORDEN PARK-AND-RIDE TO WAREHAM



* For more detail of all access land in the area go to www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

WALK 3 ROUTE ~ NORDEN PARK-AND-RIDE TO WAREHAM

- 1 Take the **40 Purbeck Breezer** service to **Norden Park-and-Ride**. Head up the minor road (E). Turn in to the car park on your right and bear left. Cross the car park to its left hand corner and follow the gravel path through the overflow car park and exit through a small gate. Turn left in the direction indicated for **Scotland**.



Walkers taking a rest overlooking Hartland Moor

- 2 Take the footpath through the trees and across a boardwalk. When you come to the road, cross it and go up the steps on the other side and go straight across the field (N).

Follow the footpath signs and stiles until you meet the road at a corner. (This is Scotland!)

- 3 Go straight ahead (N) on the road until you reach a gate on your right just past a private driveway.
- 4 Note that this walk connects to **Walk 2** in this series here. Go through the gate which will lead across the open ground to some gates (NE). (These gates lead on to **Sharford Bridge**.)

Bear left (NE) to follow the track alongside the wood and fence until you reach the point where the track bears left up the small hill. Ignore the track down to the right towards a gate.

Mount the hill and enjoy the view. Rejoin the track and follow it to the fence on your right and descend onto the **Middlebere Farm** access lane.

(If time permits it is worth a detour along the lane to the right passing some cottages and reaching a bird hide for a good view of the harbour.)



Track across Middlebere Heath

- 5 Then turn left (SSW) and go onto the road. Go across to the gate leading onto **Hartland Way** and follow this for about 1.5 km (SW). You will pass two seats on your left and a bird hide on your right, and come to a cattle grid signed **Hartland Way**, leading to a fenced open area. Ignore this and bear right along the track with the fence on your left.

- 6 At the point where a track comes in from the right marked by a post indicating water supply for the emergency services turn right (N). This will lead you to a concrete bridge



Water supply post



Fallow Deer at Arne

7 Eventually you come to another water supply post at a junction. Turn left (W). Stay on this track. Ignore a path going off to the left and continue under some electricity cables, until you meet **Soldiers Road**. (If you turn left onto **Soldiers Road**, you can pause at the **Half Way Inn** on the A351.)

8 Turn right (N) onto **Soldiers Road** for about 0.5 km.



Pikes Tramway

Tramways ~ when clay extraction in the area was at its height tramways and plateways were laid to connect the pits and quarries to the jetties.

9 Shortly after crossing a cattle grid, you come to a gate on your left (into access land). Turn left (NW) and go straight ahead up the hill to the cairn. Take time to admire the view across the harbour and the **Wareham Channel**. Continue past the cairn and take the left hand grass track at the three-way junction (S) and shortly descend a steep, sandy, sunken path until you reach a track going from left to right. Turn left and follow this track until you reach a bridge.

Go straight over the bridge, through the gap and bear left, towards the tramway. As you approach the tramway go left at the bank and fence, keeping them on your right until you come to a good path up to the tramway on your right.

10 Once on the tramway turn right (N) and continue until you meet the **Arne** road at **Ridge**. Take the road opposite, just to your left, into the village. (**Pikes Tramway** used to continue to the river at Ridge Wharf, now a boatyard. There is an old tramway engine shed nestled in the trees on the right.)

11 Turn left (W) at the T junction and follow the road up a slight incline until you come to a lane on your right where the road bears left.

12 Take this down to the river (NW) and take the left hand path (NW) along the river bank to the south bridge in **Wareham**.

Monmouth Rebellion ~ some Wareham residents supported the Monmouth rebellion and were duly hanged on the Wareham town walls.



Lady St. Mary Church

13 Turn right onto the bridge and right again immediately after the bridge onto the **Quay**. You can now enjoy some refreshment and catch a **40 bus** to **Poole** or **Swanage**.



Wareham Quay

Vikings came up the river to Wareham and settled there briefly until King Alfred defeated them near Arne and drove them out to sea where bad weather destroyed over 100 ships. After invading and sacking the Monastery at Cerne, Canute sailed to Brownsea Island. His spoils from the Abbey at Cerne were said to have been returned later when he became the English King.

Visit website for route updates
www.pooleharbourtrails.org.uk

Revised 2017

POOLE HARBOUR

Purbeck and the Isle of Wight were once joined, Old Harry and the Needles having much in common. The rivers Frome and Piddle join at Wareham, and drain much of Dorset. Originally, these joined the Stour and the Avon at Christchurch with all these joining the Hamble to break out into the Channel through Spithead, east of the Isle of Wight. Since the end of the last Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago, the sea level has risen dramatically. The sea eventually broke through the chalk ridge, flooding the river valleys and dividing off the Isle of Wight.



Find out more about us on our website
www.pooleharbourtrails.org.uk

POOLE HARBOUR TRAILS LEAFLET SERIES

WALK 1 - Poole to Greenlands - 12 km (7.5 miles).

WALK 2 - Greenlands to Norden Park-and-Ride - 11 km (7 miles).

WALK 3 - Norden Park-and-Ride to Wareham - 12 km (7.5 miles).

WALK 4 - Wareham Quay to Sandford - 12 km (7.5 miles).

WALK 5b - Sandford to Turlin Moor - 13.5 km (8.5 miles).

WALK 6 - Turlin Moor to Poole Quay - 11 km (7 miles).

Other connecting routes can be found on our website.

Check your nearest Tourist Information Centre for information on other local walks.



With acknowledgements to Peter Strudwick and Bernard Corby
for the original concept and research for this project.

Supported by



The Ramblers
East Dorset Group

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