



The Purbeck Way



Wareham to Chapman's Pool or Ballard Down



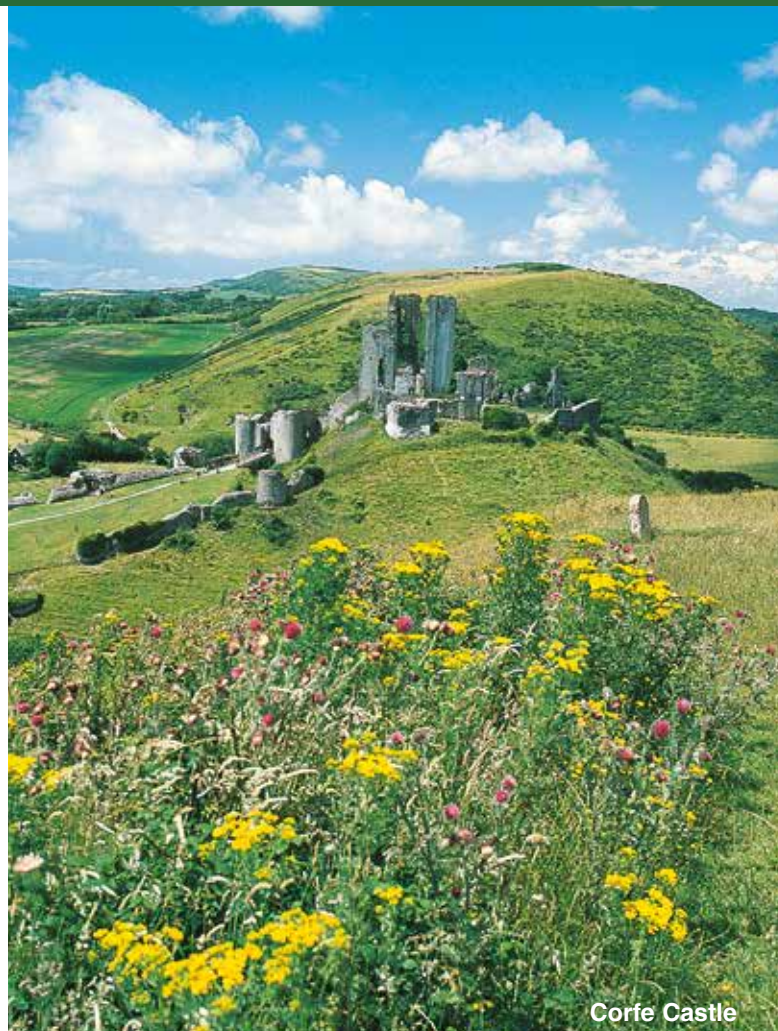
Wareham



Chapman's Pool



Ballard Down



Corfe Castle

A signposted walk through spectacular landscapes with lots of wildlife and history to enjoy.

The Purbeck Way

The Purbeck Way passes through some of the most varied and spectacular scenery in Britain. After leaving the River Frome and its water meadows, the route continues through heathland, woodland and grassland before arriving at the dramatic scenery of England's first natural World Heritage Site, the 'Jurassic Coast'. The route then continues along the South West Coast Path from Ballard Down to Chapman's Pool. North of Wareham there are links with the Wareham Forest Way and beyond to Blandford and Christchurch via the Stour Valley Way.



Old Harry Rocks



Adonis blue butterfly



Bee orchid

Geology and Wildlife

The geology of the area is outstanding. The route from Wareham to Chapman's Pool includes eight major rock types, each shaping the landscape in a different way, with a variety of habitats and wildlife. As the seasons change, so does the wildlife: from spring flowers and summer butterflies to autumn migrating birds and wildfowl staying for the winter.

Species

Purbeck is home to many nationally rare species. Some, like the ladybird spider, are only found in Dorset. Fortunately much of the area is managed by sympathetic landowners or conservation bodies like the National Trust, so their future is in safe hands.

Following The Purbeck Way

Although much of the route is fairly easy walking, some sections are remote and quite rugged, especially in winter. Plan your route carefully and wear suitable clothing and footwear. The route is signposted with various signs and markers, some showing the distinctive logo above. Although this leaflet includes a map, you are advised to take along Ordnance Survey Explorer Map for Purbeck (No15).

Public Transport Information

Wilts and Dorset Buses - Number 40 Poole to Swanage via Wareham and Corfe Castle and number 30 Wareham to Swanage via Corfe Castle. Telephone 01202 338420 morebus.co.uk

Circular routes along the way

Eastern route (approx 8 3/4 miles of walking)

Corfe Castle to Swanage

From this imposing Royalist ruin, walk along the ridge to the South West Coast Path at Ballard Down. Follow the path down into Swanage, stopping perhaps at the beach before taking the steam train from Swanage Railway Station back to Corfe Castle or Norden Station. Parts of this route are steep, please take care.

Northern route (approx 5 3/4 miles of walking)

Corfe Castle to Wareham

Walk from the Castle across Creech and Stoborough Heaths and then along the River Frome to Wareham Quay. Take the time to wander around historic Wareham and perhaps stop for lunch. Then catch the bus from Wareham Quay back to Corfe Castle. This route can be wet in winter, please wear suitable footwear.

Southern route (approx 12 miles of walking)

Corfe Castle to Swanage via St. Aldhelm's Head

Walk from the Castle south towards the coast at Chapman's Pool, then take the South West Coast Path past Durlston Country Park and down into Swanage. Stroll along the restored Victorian Pier and take in the panoramic views of Purbeck's beautiful countryside before boarding the steam train back to Corfe Castle or Norden Station.

Keeping Purbeck Special

The Purbeck countryside is a special place. Please help to conserve it by observing the key points of the Countryside Code.

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Wareham Train Station - 10 mins walk from the northern end of the Purbeck Way. Trains run east to London Waterloo and west to Weymouth every half an hour (approx.)

Telephone: 0345 6000 650 southwesternrailway.com

Swanage Railway - Travel by steam train between Norden Car Park, Corfe Castle and Swanage. During the summer months trains run every 40mins (approx.)

Telephone: 01929 425800 swanagerailway.co.uk

Useful contacts:

Rights of Way Officer	01305 221000
Durlston Country Park	01929 424443
Discover Purbeck Information Centre (Wareham)	01929 552740
Tourist Information Centre (Swanage)	01929 766018

Open Access

Parts of the Purbeck countryside are mapped as open access land. Look out for the access symbol shown right. For more information visit gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land



Footpaths and bridleways

Footpaths are for the use of pedestrians only and will be signposted by:



Bridleways are for the use of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and will be signposted by:



Other walking leaflets available: Wareham Two Rivers Walks, Wareham Forest Way, Purbeck Way West and Lawrence of Arabia Trail.

Photo credits: Peter Booton, John Farmar, Nicholas James, Colin Nunn, and Ben Spurling.

Please note: The representation of a track or path is no evidence of a public right of way. This is not a Definitive Map of Rights of Way and has no legal status. Users of all routes shown in this leaflet do so entirely at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety, and the safety of others using the same route. We cannot guarantee that all routes will be passable, particularly in wet weather.

Whilst every care has been taken in the production of this leaflet, Purbeck District Council cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information and accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Large print leaflets are available on request.

Please call 01929 557237 for further information.

Designed 2010. Updated by Dorset Council 2019.



Section 1 - Wareham to Corfe Castle (approx 6 miles/9.6km)

Section 2 - Corfe Castle to Ballard Down (approx 6 ¼ miles/10km)

Section 3 - Ballard Down to Chapman's Pool along the South West Coast Path (approx 11 ½ miles/18.5km)

At Chapman's Pool the path continues north up the steep sided valley and past Swanworth Quarry, from where the village of Kingston will be seen on the left and Corfe Castle, across Corfe Common ahead in the distance.

The Purbeck Way
South West Coast Path Link
Bridleway
Lulworth Range Walks
Forest
Major/Minor Road
Railway and Station
Swanage Steam Railway
Disused Railway Track
Car Park
Tourist Information Centre
Visitor Centre
Bus Stop
Public Telephone
Public Toilets
Refreshments
Campsite

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