



The Purbeck Way (West Route)

Wareham to Coombe Keynes, Winfrith Newburgh and West Lulworth



Wareham Common



Coombe Keynes



Winfrith Newburgh



West Lulworth

The Purbeck Way (West Route)

The Purbeck Way West Route is an extension of the popular Purbeck Way and the two routes meet opposite Wareham Quay. From here, the West route passes through Wareham Common and along the River Frome to reach Coombe Keynes. The route then carries on westwards to Winfrith Newburgh or south to West Lulworth.

Looking after the Landscape

The special character of the different landscapes encountered along this route are the result of land managers and local organisations working together to maintain and safeguard habitats and wildlife through sensitive land management.

For example, Belhuish Coppice (found above West Lulworth) is managed using the traditional methods of coppicing: an area of hazel is cut and re-grows to be cut again after a number of years. The coppice is divided into small areas and cut in a rotation so there is a continuous supply of wood each year. The coppiced wood is used for a variety of products including fences and furniture. Coppicing is also good for wildlife; by removing the hazel, woodland plants such as primrose and bluebells have space to grow.

See overleaf for more information about the different landscapes you will be walking through.

Historic Buildings

The North Lodges mark the northern entrance to the park formerly associated with Lulworth Castle. They are Grade II* listed and date back to 1785. The lodges and gateway form part of the remaining park wall along with other round towers (some are seen on this walk).



Bluebell Woods



Brown hare



North Lodges



Public Transport Information

Wilts and Dorset buses - hourly service (No 40) between Poole and Swanage, stopping at Wareham. Tel: 01202 637555

A signposted walk through some of the less well known landscapes in the west Purbeck area.

Designed by Purbeck District Council



Following the Purbeck Way West Route

Although much of the route is fairly easy walking, some sections get muddy and are remote. Plan your route carefully and wear suitable clothing and footwear (boots are recommended in winter/after heavy rain). When walking the longer sections of the route, it is always a good idea to inform someone of your journey and expected time of return (especially if walking on your own). Please take particular care when walking on or crossing roads.

The route is signposted with either the distinctive logo (shown above) or signposts. The route is a mixture of footpath, bridleway and road. Although this leaflet includes a map, you are advised to take along Ordnance Survey OL15 (Purbeck and South Dorset) map.

Suggested Itineraries

All sections of the route are designed to be walked in either direction, enabling a variety of different walks between villages. The whole route would take all day to walk, however this could be split into smaller sections and walked over a few days (there is bed & breakfast accommodation available in each village, plus campsites at East Stoke and Durdle Door).

This walk could also be combined with the Purbeck Way to create a circular route covering south Purbeck, using the South West Coast Path or Wareham as the link between the two routes.

For accommodation details go to www.visit-dorset.com or drop into the Discover Purbeck Information Centre in Wareham.

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

View towards Highwood

First Dorset buses – 2 hourly service (No X53) between Poole and Exeter, stopping at Wareham and Wool. Tel: 0871 200 2233

South West Train stations are located at Wareham and Wool, both on the Weymouth to London Waterloo line. Tel: 08457 484950. The Northport Greenway provides a walking route between Wareham Station and The Quay.

Purbeck Heritage

The Purbeck Heritage Committee who produced this leaflet was formed in response to the challenge to maintain Purbeck as a healthy and thriving environment which can be enjoyed by residents and visitors in years to come.

Useful contacts:

Dorset Countryside Rangers/Rights of Way Team	01305 221000
Discover Purbeck Information Centre (Wareham)	01929 552740
Lulworth Heritage Centre (West Lulworth)	01929 480587

Open Access

Some parts of this route are mapped as open access land. Look out for the new access symbol shown right. Visit www.naturalengland.org.uk for information.



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: Purbeck Way, Wareham Two Rivers Walks, Wareham Forest Way and The Lawrence of Arabia Trail.

Photo credits: Purbeck District Council, Purbeck Heritage.

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 by Purbeck District Council 2010, updated 2013.



The Purbeck Way (West route)



A signposted walk through beautiful landscapes with a wealth of wildlife to enjoy

Section 1 – Wareham to Coombe Keynes (approx 6 ¾ miles/10.8km)

Using the inset map of Wareham (below), cross Wareham Common, go under two bridges, over a stile and through a gate until you reach the main road. Turn right. Walk along the pavement and grass verge for ½ mile (0.8km) and then turn left towards the railway line. Go under the bridge and turn left at the road. Just before the next bridge turn right, cross Rushton Common and follow the river. From East Stoke follow the quiet roads southwest, straight across at the crossroads and through Highwood. A bridleway leads through Haremere Wood and across fields to Kimbert's End at Coombe Keynes.

Section 2 – Coombe Keynes to Winfrith Newburgh (approx 2 ½ miles/4km)

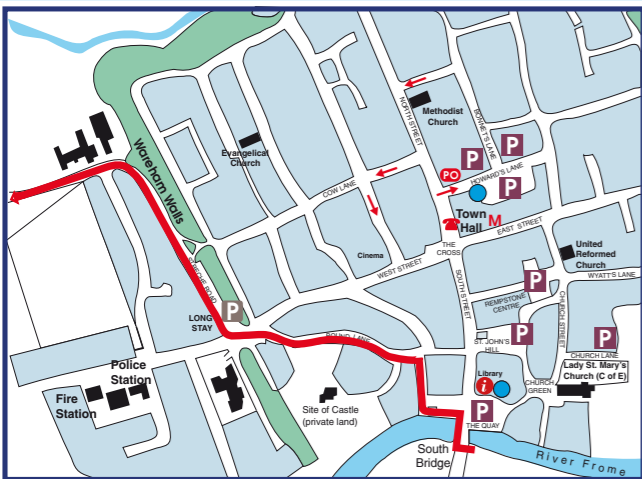
From Kimbert's End, continue straight on through Coombe Keynes village, ignoring the signs to West Lulworth. Turn right at the road and then left onto a track. Pass through Coombe Wood and the fields beyond to reach Winfrith Newburgh at the end of School Lane. You could join the Winfrith Village Trail here (linking Chaldon Herring and East Knighton) – pick up a copy of the trail leaflet at the village shop.

Section 3 – Winfrith Newburgh to West Lulworth (approx 3 miles/4.8km)

From School Lane turn left (village shop on the right), follow the road for 150 metres then turn left onto Winfrith Drive. After nearly 1 mile (1.6 km), take the left fork off the track through an avenue of trees. Turn right and down the hill towards West Lulworth enjoying fantastic views of the coast. Another ¾ mile through the village takes you to Lulworth Cove and the South West Coast Path. Visit Lulworth Heritage Centre for the Lulworth Walks leaflets - 7 walks across the Estate.

Section 4 – West Lulworth to Coombe Keynes (approx 3 ½ miles/ 5.6km)

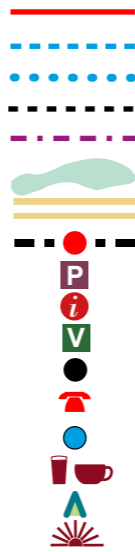
From West Road head north along a footpath to Coombe Keynes. At the top of the hill turn right and then left after a short distance. Follow the field edge and through a gate down towards Belhuish Farm. After the farm, follow the track up to the main road and cross. Pass Limekiln Cottage and then left at the ruined tower (on the right). Follow the field edge and at the Lodges turn left. Keep going until you reach the road. Turn left for Coombe Keynes and Winfrith Newburgh or right towards Wareham.



Route through Wareham

Key

- The Purbeck Way West Route
- South West Coast Path
- Route through West Lulworth
- Bridleway
- Lulworth Range Walks
- Forest
- Major/Minor Road
- Railway and Station
- Car Park
- Discover Purbeck Information Centre
- Lulworth Heritage Centre
- Bus Stop
- Public Telephone
- Public Toilets
- Refreshments
- Campsite
- Viewpoint



Flood Meadows

Each winter, these meadows are flooded by the River Frome providing valuable feeding areas for wintering birds. In spring and summer, these same meadows (now dry) support large populations of voles, shrews and insects, which in turn provide food for many predators.

Earthworks

The earthworks across Wareham Common were once used to protect livestock and are just one of the many traces of early human activity that will be passed along the Purbeck Way West.

Mixed farming

The northern section of this route runs through mixed farmland where wildlife such as brown hare, lapwing and turtle dove are still found due to the variety of crops and livestock farmed here. Elsewhere, intensified and specialised farming practices have reduced the amount of wildlife able to survive on farmland.

Woodlands

The route passes through many different types of woodland: pine plantation, ancient woodland and hazel coppice. Each contains a different variety of plants and animals suited to the conditions in the wood brought about by the way the woodland is managed.

Lulworth Estate

Since 1641 the Lulworth Estate has been owned and managed by the Weld family. The large Estate contains many famous landmarks such as Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove, seen by nearly three-quarters of a million visitors each year. The parkland surrounding Lulworth Castle remains a refuge for ancient trees and the lichens which grow upon them.

Droves

Winfrith Drive is one of a number of local droves: historically routes for moving livestock around. Many include mature hedgerows on either side which originally prevented the animals from straying into neighbouring fields.

Army Ranges

Between Lulworth Cove and Kimmeridge Bay lies the Lulworth Ranges of the Ministry of Defence. Although the noise of tanks and guns may seem at odds with the area, the Ranges are surprisingly rich in wildlife and beautiful scenery. Limited public access to the Range Walks and Coastal Path is available during the main school holidays and most weekends. Call 01929 404819 for access information.

West Lulworth

This small coastal village, widely known for its Cove and being part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, sits beside spectacular coastal landforms such as the Lulworth Crumple and Stair Hole. The Lulworth Heritage Centre in the village provides information on the access, wildlife and geology of the area.

South West Coast Path

The Coast Path runs for 630 miles between Studland in south east Purbeck and Minehead, Somerset, however the most heavily used section is the 1 mile between Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. Please make sure that you follow the path and take notice of warning signs near the cliff edge.

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