

East Lulworth Ride

'Out of Car Experience - Cycling in Purbeck'

Circular route from Wareham to Lulworth - 18 miles +



Lulworth Cove
Coombe Keynes
River Frome

Time needed: 3 - 4 hours +

*Grading: Moderate
Mostly minor roads, one
A-road crossing.*



East Lulworth Ride

Distance: 18 miles +

An exhilarating ride through the beautiful countryside surrounding Lulworth Castle, with an extended route down to Lulworth Cove. Some of the hills may be steep but the views are definitely worth the effort.

Starting point: Wareham Quay

Alternative starting points: Stoborough, Wool or West Lulworth

Time needed: Average 3 to 4 hours +

Degree of difficulty: No off-road sections, hilly in parts, particularly around Coombe Keynes

One A-road crossing.

Note: The section between East Lulworth and West Holme travels across land owned by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and as a result may be closed from public access. It is advisable to check the route in advance please call 01929 404819.

Please take care on all roads and follow the Highway Code

Directions

Section 1: Wareham to Coombe Keynes

- From Wareham Quay **1** turn left and cross the bridge over the River Frome cycling along past the water meadows into Stoborough village and past the Kings Arms on your left.
- At the water pump **2**, housed in a stone shelter, turn right toward Creech/Steeple/Kimmeridge.
Please take great care at the next junction where the road meets the busy A351.
- At the staggered junction, follow the blue cycle signs to cross the road using the shared use paths and cycle crossing refuge, in the direction of Creech/Steeple/Kimmeridge.
- After the bend you will see the Springfield Hotel on the left. Turn right here, down Holme Lane.
- Continue along this lane for quite some time, over a railway bridge with East Home Rifle Range on the left, through an avenue of rhododendrons. Eventually the trees thin out to reveal Holme Priory on the right, a beautiful stone manor house **3**.
- Go straight ahead at the next two junctions.
- Continue along this winding, tree lined road for some time, passing Luckford Campsite on the right. At the next cross roads, continue straight over passing Woodlands Camping Park later on the left.

- You will come to a small turning on the left **4** (opposite a private dwelling called 'Copseside'). Take this turning.
- Follow the narrow tarmacked road winding through the wood, past a group of derelict farm buildings. Ignore the track to the left and continue following the road up hill leaving the wood behind and cycle along this hedge-lined lane through open fields until you reach the junction with the Wool to Lulworth road.
- Turn left at the junction, sign posted East and West Lulworth
- Continue along this road for a short distance. **Please take care as it is a busy main road.**
- Take the first turning on the left, sign posted Coombe Keynes.
- Cycle through this pretty village full of thatched cottages and then descend towards East Lulworth, passing Lulworth Equestrian Centre **5** on the left and the brick wall of the Lulworth Castle Estate on the right.

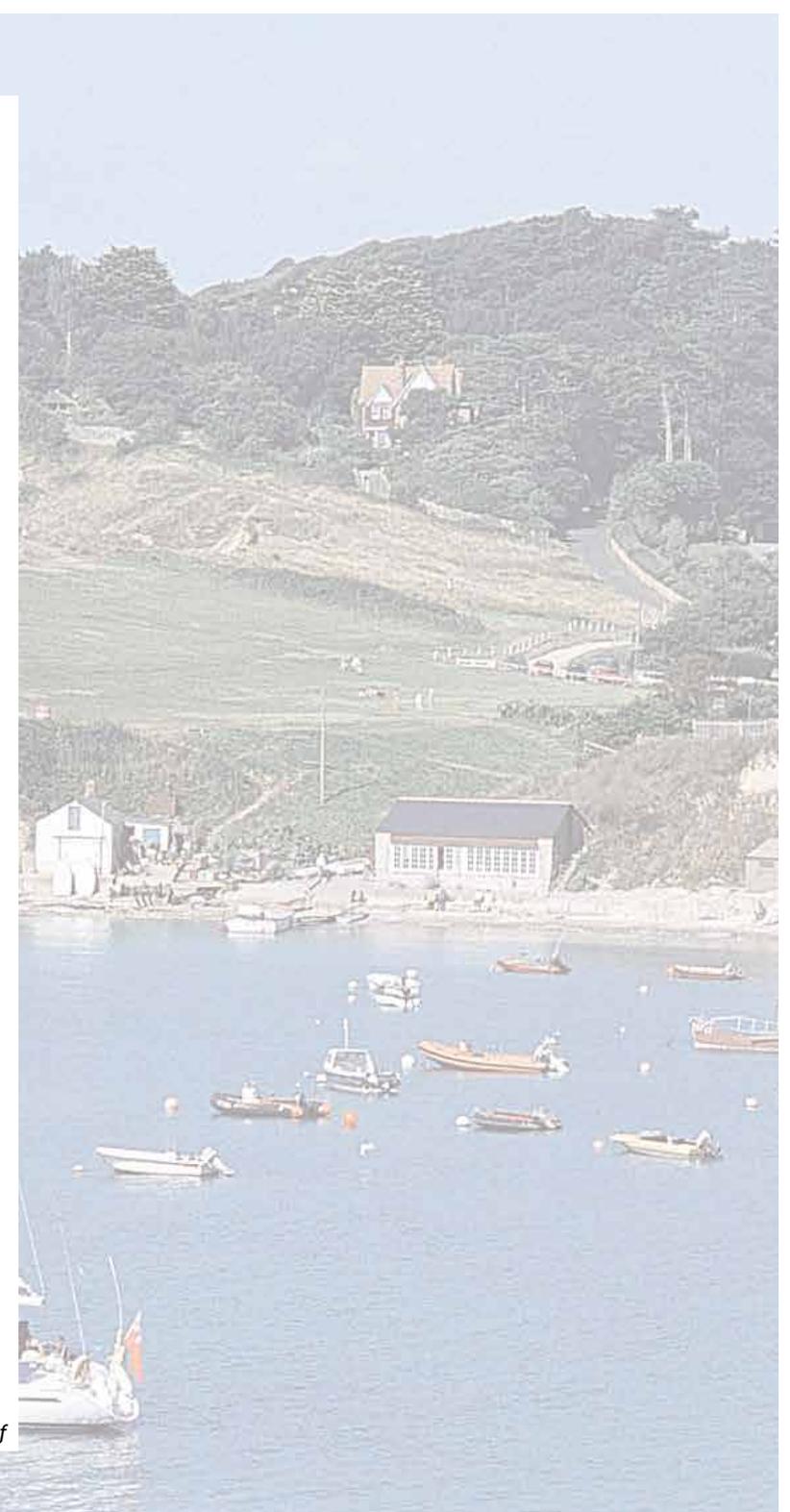
Section 2: Coombe Keynes to East Lulworth

- Free-wheeling down the hill you will see a row of brick cottages on your right with 'The Old Forge' on the end. This row is called 'Shaggs' - look out for the sign! At the bottom of the hill are the Dorset offices of Butterfly Conservation. Opposite the offices there is a splendid spreading oak tree, wider than it is tall **6**.
- Now climb up the hill on the other side until you reach the top where you'll see a large crenellated gate lodge, part of the Lulworth Castle Estate, on your right. The long brick wall continues!
- At the junction at the end of this road, turn left. Note the old black post box **7** in the opposite wall and the red phone box on the corner of the junction.

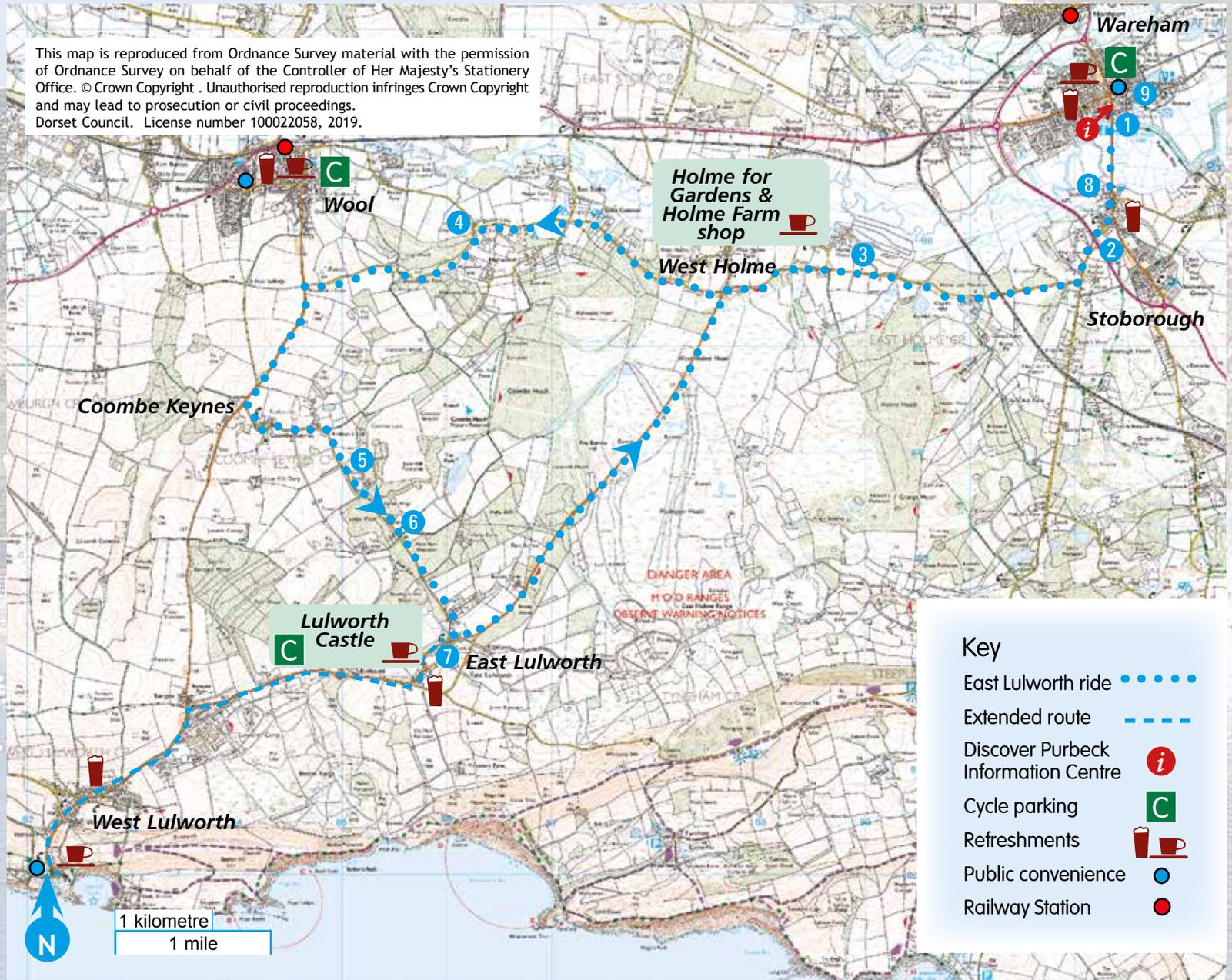
Detour to Lulworth Cove

- From point **7** by turning right at the junction, you can take a detour down to Lulworth Cove, adding another seven miles onto the route. **Please note there will be heavy traffic in the summer season and there is a long hill back up to East Lulworth.**

Continued overleaf



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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.

Section 3: East Lulworth to Wareham

This road is quite hilly and traffic will be fast, please take extra care along this part of the route.

- Continue past Botany Farm (on the left) and out across the army ranges until you come to a right turn to Stoborough (opposite West Holme Cottage). You are now on Holme Lane again.
- Continue past the turning to East Holme on the left, East Holme Rifle Range on the right and continue over the railway bridge.
- Turn left at the end of the road, past the Springfield Hotel on the right.

Please take great care at the next junction as it meets the A351.

- At the staggered junction, follow the blue cycle signs to cross the road using the shared use paths and cycle crossing refuge, in the direction of Stoborough.
- Carry along this road into Stoborough passing the Village Green on the right. Turn left at the end of the road into Corfe Road. Notice how Stoborough First School has its name carved into a log on your left **8**.
- Cycle back along the level stretch approaching Wareham across the water meadows. See the Church of Lady St Mary on the right **9**.
- Cross over the River Frome, and back into the bustling Quay on the right (public toilets here). The Discover Purbeck Information Centre, is located in the library near the Quay.



Nearest Campsites

- Durdle Door Holiday Park
- Lookout Holiday Park
- Luckford Campsite
- Manor Farm
- Redcliffe Farm
- Ridge Farm
- Woodlands Camping Park



Lulworth Castle

Lulworth Castle was built as a hunting lodge in 1608 and has played host to seven monarchs. The castle was virtually destroyed by a fire in 1929, however the exterior has now been fully restored and the inside made safe for visitors. Close by is St Mary's chapel, the first free standing Roman Catholic chapel built in England, post reformation.

Lulworth Castle Estate literature

Information

Safe Cycling

- Check your cycle is in good working order
- Always carry refreshments and a cycle repair kit
- Wear reflective material, carry lights and take waterproofs
- It is advisable to wear a cycle helmet
- Increase the gap between cycles and cycle slowly when going downhill, especially on narrow lanes
- On narrow lanes always ride in single file and be ready for fast traffic as well as when crossing main roads
- Follow the Highway Code at all times

Please follow 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

Photographic credits: Peter Booton, John Farmar, Nicholas James and Mark Simons.

Parking

Long stay car parking is available at Streche Road - off West Street, Wareham and Norden Car Park.

Public Transport

There are railway stations on the London Waterloo to Weymouth line at Wareham and Wool. Bus number 40 runs between Poole and Swanage calling at Wareham. The Jurassic Coaster X54 bus also runs from Poole stopping at Wareham and Wool. Call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit their website www.travelinesw.com for travel information. Calls cost 12p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Maps

This route can be followed on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No.OL15 (Purbeck and South Dorset).

Tourist Information Centres

Free leaflets on where to eat and drink, beaches and events happening in Purbeck as well as guidebooks, maps, postcards, stamps and a small selection of gifts are available from:

Discover Purbeck Information Centre,
South Street, Wareham
Tel: 01929 552740

Website: www.visit-dorset.com
Email: discoverpurbeck@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Swanage Information Centre
Shore Road, Swanage
Tel: 01929 766018

Website: www.visit-dorset.com
Email: welcome@swanage.gov.uk



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

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