

Footpaths and Open Access

Footpaths are for the use of pedestrians only and will be signposted by yellow symbols or arrows



Some parts of this route are mapped as open access land. Look out for the new access symbol shown right. For more information visit gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land.

Useful contacts:

Dorset Countryside Rangers/Rights of Way Team 01305 221000
Discover Purbeck Information Centre (Wareham) 01929 552740
Environment Agency 03708 506506

Keeping Purbeck Special

While out on your walk, 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 on a short lead during bird nesting season (March to August) and near farm animals (all year).
- Consider other people

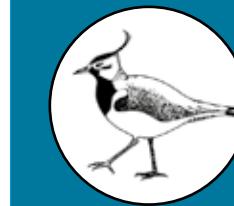
Whilst every care has been taken in the production of this leaflet, Dorset Council cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information and accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

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

Large print leaflets are available on request.
Please call 01929 557237 for further information.



Photo credits: Environment Agency and Ian Cross. Designed by Purbeck District Council, updated by Dorset Council 2019.



Ragged Robin



Reeds at River Frome



Damselfly



River Frome

THE WAREHAM TWO RIVERS WALKS

Spend a couple hours walking one of the routes in between the rivers Frome and Piddle.

Frome to the Piddle with History in the Middle

The rivers Frome and Piddle flow through Wareham into Poole Harbour, one of the largest natural harbours in the world.

Before Poole Harbour became the busy port of today, Wareham Quay was the main place for trading. The Frome carried all sorts of goods to and from Wareham including leather, salt, corn and clay pipes.



Wareham Common



Cetti's warbler



River Piddle

Following the walks

We have suggested two circular routes for you to follow, which start at Wareham Quay. You can walk in either direction, following footpaths and quiet roads. Look out for the lapwing logo or Two Rivers Walks signposts showing you which way to go.



Wareham Quay

Public Transport Information

Wilts and Dorset buses - hourly service (No 40) between Poole and Swanage, stopping at Wareham.
Tel: 01202 338420

Suggested circular routes

Frome to the Piddle – 2½ miles or 3.75km. Approx. 1½ hours.

Stroll along quiet roads, then up onto Wareham Walls. Look down onto the River Piddle and Wareham Common from one of the many benches on top of the Walls, then follow the banks of the River Piddle through Wareham Common.

Pigs and Piddle – 3¼ miles or 5.25km. Approx. 1¾ hours.

Follow quiet roads and farm tracks to Swineham. In old English, Swineham means 'where the swine are kept'. There are no pigs here now, but the saltmarshes, reedbeds and mudflats of Poole Harbour stretch out before you.

The route then travels through grassland and later woodland, back towards Wareham.

Make sure you wear suitable footwear and clothing for the weather – wellington boots are best in winter or after heavy rain. Long sleeve tops and trousers are best to guard against brambles and nettles in summer.

Where cattle, sheep or ponies are grazing, take notice of signs about closing gates and keep dogs on short leads.

First Dorset buses – 2 hourly service (No X54) between Poole and Weymouth, stopping at Wareham. Tel: 0333 014 3490
South Western Railway train stations are located at Wareham on the Weymouth to London Waterloo line. Tel: 0345 6000 650. The Northport Greenway provides a walking route between Wareham Station and The Quay.

The Wareham Two Rivers Walks



Wareham Common and the River Piddle (1)

You will find a variety of meadow and fen plants such as ragged robin, marsh marigold and meadowsweet. You are also likely to find cattle or ponies grazing on the common. In summer, the riverside is alive with house martins and swifts swooping to catch the large amounts of damselfly hovering over the river.

Wareham Walls (2)

Built in Saxon times to defend Wareham from the Vikings, the Walls are found on three sides of the town, with the River Frome acting as the fourth wall. The Walls are now a great place to walk along or sit back and enjoy the views over the River Piddle and Wareham Common. Pick up information about the Walls at the Discover Purbeck Information Centre and in South Street.

Wareham Forest Way

Wareham Common

Health Centre

Wareham Hospital

North Causeway

A 351

North Bridge

North Walls

Mount Pleasant (2)

West Walls

Streete Road

Worgret Road

A 352

Dorset Council

Pound Lane

South Street

Conniger Lane

Church Lane

Lady St. Mary's Church

The Quay

Purbeck Way

Wareham Museum

Car Park

Discover Purbeck Information Centre

Bus Stop

Public Telephone

Public Toilets

Refreshments

Campsite

N

River Piddle

Bestwall Park

Bestwall Park (3)

Swineham

Wareham Meadows (4)

Ridge Wharf

River Frome

Redcliffe Marina

To Corfe Castle

Bestwall Quarry (3)

The first evidence of human activity in the area dates back to the Stone Age (6000 years ago). By the Bronze Age, settlements were established and people were growing crops and making pottery. During the extraction of gravel at Bestwall Quarry, various archaeological items were found from the Iron Age and Roman period, including an iron working furnace, slag pit and two Roman hoards. Please note, this is private land, so to find out more and view the exhibition visit Wareham Museum in East Street - open Easter to end of October, Monday to Saturday.

Wareham Meadows (4)

In spring and summer, wading birds call, flowers nod and water glistens in the pools and ditches. As summer fades into autumn and winter, flocks of migrant wetland birds visit the reserve and meadows, including black-tailed godwit, curlew and lapwing. You may see peregrine, kestrel, sparrowhawk or marsh and hen harrier hovering over the area. Listen out for the pig-like 'squeals' of water rails and the 'pinging' call of the bearded tit from the reedbeds.

10.75cm = 1 km
6½" = 1 mile