



The Purbeck Way (West Route)

West Lulworth to Winfrith Newburgh, Coombe Keynes and East Stoke



Winfrith Newburgh



Coombe Keynes



Haremere Wood



West Lulworth

The Purbeck Way (West Route)

Begin your walk at West Lulworth village, found on the famous Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. Pass through fields of wildflowers, woodlands and farmland on the way to the villages of Winfrith Newburgh and Coombe Keynes. You can extend the walk towards East Stoke then travel to the Saxon walled town of Wareham by bus.

Looking after the Landscape



Bluebell Woods

The beautiful and varied landscapes you will pass through on this route are managed to protect wildlife and their habitats, as well as being a peaceful place to enjoy walking, having a picnic or just admiring the views.

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



Brown hare

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 route).



North Lodges



Public Transport Information

To travel to West Lulworth by public transport, let Traveline South West help plan your journey: travelinesw.com or call 0871 22 22 33 (calls cost 12p per minute plus your phone company's access charge).

A signposted walk through wildflower meadows, woodland and farmland with beautiful views, a majestic castle and world famous coastline along the way.

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



Useful contacts:

Dorset Countryside Rangers/Rights of Way Team 01305 221000
Discover Purbeck Information Centre (Wareham) 01929 552740
Lulworth Heritage Centre (West Lulworth) 01929 400587

Open Access

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

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, Dorset 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.

To travel between East Stoke and Wareham, catch the X54 bus from the Middlefield Bus Stop on the A352, in the direction of Wareham or Poole (cross the Railway Line and turn right after the church. Walk along the pavement for 500 metres, then cross the road). If travelling from Wareham, catch the X54 bus from the town centre to Stokeford Village Hall Bus Stop (just past the Church), in the direction of Weymouth or Axminster. Check bus timetables: dorsetforyou.com/buses



The Purbeck Way

(West route)



A signposted walk with beautiful views, a majestic castle and world famous coastline along the way.

Section 1 – West Lulworth to Winfrith Newburgh (approx 3 miles/4.8km and 2 hours of walking)

Start the route opposite Vicarage Row, West Road in West Lulworth village. Follow the signs heading north, uphill. Don't forget to take a rest and look back at the amazing views of the coastline. At the junction, follow signposts left towards Winfrith (2 miles/3.2km) walking through an avenue of trees before turning onto Winfrith Drive and continuing for 1 mile (1.6km). Turn right and follow the road for 150 metres. Turn right into School Lane. The village shop is at this junction. 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 2 – Winfrith Newburgh to Coombe Keynes (approx 2 ½ miles/4km and 1.5 hours of walking)

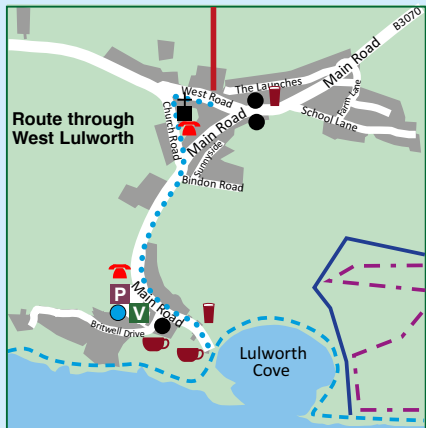
Following School Lane, turn right after the school and then left following Claypits Lane. You'll then cross farmland passing near Newburgh Dairy and into Coombe Wood. After the Wood, and across the road you will reach Coombe Keynes village. Continue straight on through Coombe Keynes village, following the signs right to return to West Lulworth or straight on towards Wareham.

Section 3 – Coombe Keynes to East Stoke (approx 2 ¾ miles/4.5km and 1.5 hours of walking)

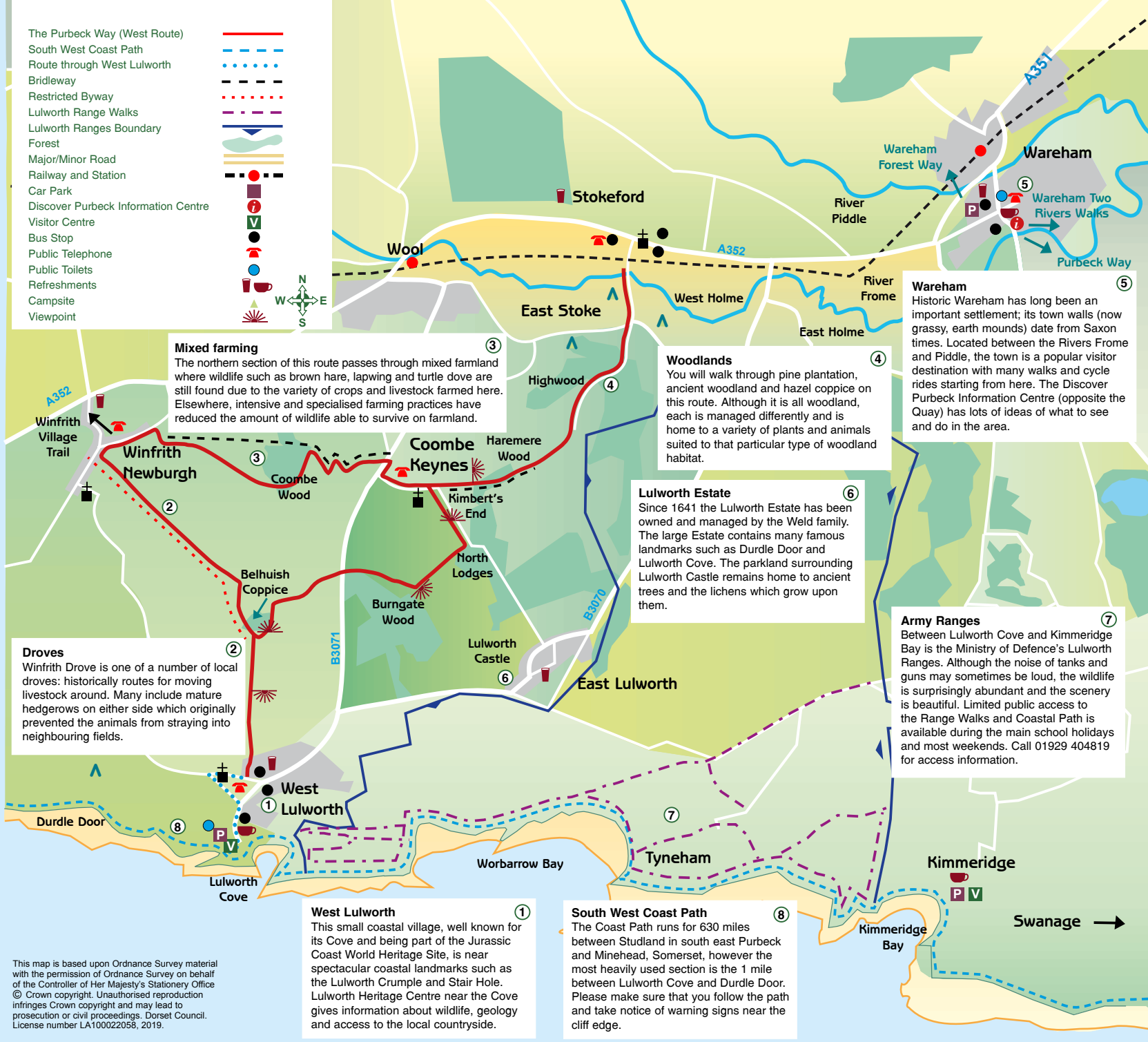
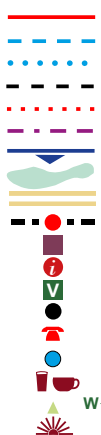
As the road bends to the right at Kimbert's End, carry straight on following a bridleway across the fields to Haremere Wood. After the Wood, follow quiet roads north east through Highwood. At the crossroads continue straight across and through East Stoke. When you reach the railway crossing this route comes to an end. Follow signs towards Stokeford Farm to catch an onward bus to Wareham.

Section 4 – Coombe Keynes to West Lulworth (approx 3 ½ miles/5.6km and 2 hours of walking)

Follow signs south east to West Lulworth until you reach the North Lodges. Turn right and at the ruined tower turn right passing LimeKiln cottage on the right. At the road cross straight over following the track to Belhuish Farm. Follow signs around the farmyard and then uphill passing through 2 gates. After the second gate turn right and then left. Head downhill to West Lulworth. Use the map of the village below to reach Lulworth Cove and the Heritage Centre.



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



Mixed farming
The northern section of this route passes 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, intensive and specialised farming practices have reduced the amount of wildlife able to survive on farmland.

Woodlands
You will walk through pine plantation, ancient woodland and hazel coppice on this route. Although it is all woodland, each is managed differently and is home to a variety of plants and animals suited to that particular type of woodland habitat.

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. The parkland surrounding Lulworth Castle remains home to 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.

Wareham
Historic Wareham has long been an important settlement; its town walls (now grassy, earth mounds) date from Saxon times. Located between the Rivers Frome and Piddle, the town is a popular visitor destination with many walks and cycle rides starting from here. The Discover Purbeck Information Centre (opposite the Quay) has lots of ideas of what to see and do in the area.

Army Ranges
Between Lulworth Cove and Kimmeridge Bay is the Ministry of Defence's Lulworth Ranges. Although the noise of tanks and guns may sometimes be loud, the wildlife is surprisingly abundant and the scenery is beautiful. 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, well known for its Cove and being part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, is near spectacular coastal landmarks such as the Lulworth Crumple and Stair Hole. Lulworth Heritage Centre near the Cove gives information about wildlife, geology and access to the local countryside.

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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