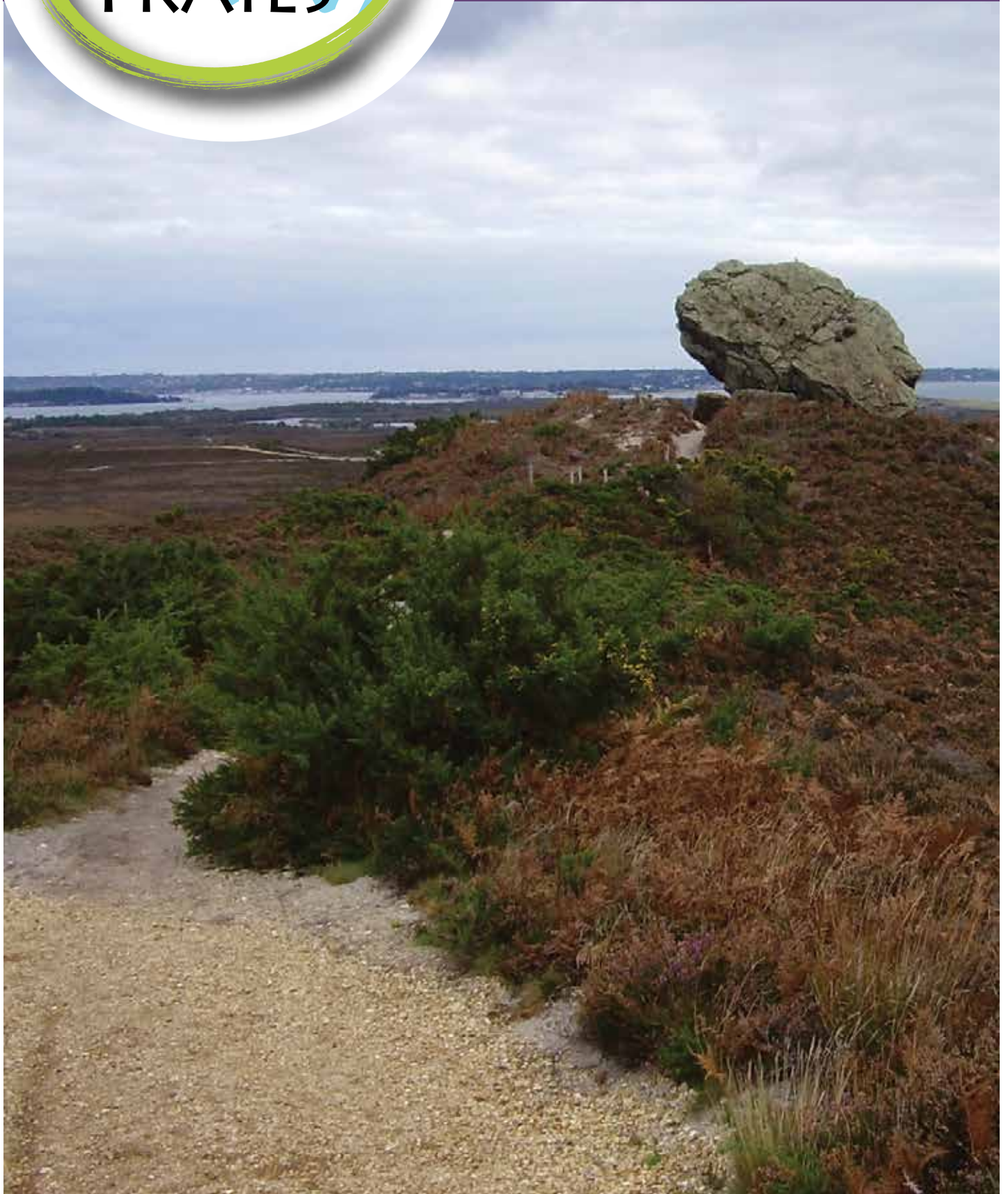




WALK 2

**GREENLANDS TO
NORDEN PARK-AND-RIDE**



LOCAL HISTORY

GEOLOGY

This route is dominated by the chalk ridge which runs from Old Harry at Studland to beyond West Lulworth. The ridge once continued across the Solent to the Needles on the Isle of Wight. Within the northern heath there are many outcrops of iron-rich sandstone, the most visible being the Agglestone and Puckstone.



The shape of the harbour has changed, and, since Iron Age times, a significant rise in sea levels has submerged some features, whilst others have silted up.

A structure long thought to be a submerged causeway between Cleavel Point and Green Island has now been revealed as the two arms of a massive Iron Age harbour wall.

PEOPLE

Just off the B3351, nestled in a wood, is the Bronze Age Rempstone Stone Circle. On the ridge to the south is Nine Barrow Down, and further barrows are found nearby. A stone avenue in a field to the west of the Rempstone Circle was destroyed in 1957 but perhaps this area held similar significance in ancient times to larger, more famous sites such as Avebury.

Ancient salt workings have been found all around the harbour. Roman Black-Burnished Ware pottery was made on the shores of the harbour, mainly for the table and for cooking utensils.

Enid Blyton spent much time in Purbeck and incorporated the scenery into her novels for children. Whispering Island was

based on Brownsea, Kirrin Castle was based on Corfe, and Mystery Moor the section between Stoborough and Corfe.

INDUSTRY

The famous Purbeck stone has been quarried since Roman times and transporting it was a huge undertaking, requiring quays and jetties as near to the quarries as possible.

In Iron Age and Roman times, Kimmeridge shale was worked and bracelets carved at Norden, Ower, Green Island and Hamworthy. Some furniture legs were also carved from this soft stone.

Less well known is the ball clay, extracted for some hundreds of years and sold on for making porcelain, including exports to Stoke by ship, regarded as “the best clay in the world” by Josiah Wedgwood. Plateways and tramways were used to get the clay to the waterfront in the 19th century.

In the late 20th century, oil was discovered and BP set up a site at Wytch Farm. There are now wells pumping oil and gas at Wytch Farm, Ower and Goathorn, representing the largest onshore oil field in western Europe.



WALK 2: GREENLANDS TO NORDEN PARK-AND-RIDE

Ordnance survey map: OL15

Grid reference: Start - SZ 025 843
Finish - SY 954 828

Transport: (check current timetables)

Bus: Purbeck Breezer 50 Bournemouth/Swanage and 40 Swanage/Poole and 60 Poole/Sandbanks.

South West Trains: Poole, Bournemouth, Wareham stations.

Swanage Railway: Norden Park-and-Ride.

Car Parking: Studland Ferry Terminal and Norden Park-and-Ride.

Approximate distance: 11 km (7 miles) allow 4 hrs.

Facilities en route: toilets at Studland Car Park and at Norden Park-and-Ride. Café, open at Norden Park-and-Ride when trains are running.

Nature of route: Footpaths and tracks through fields/woods; flat.

Special interest: Sharford Bridge.

Connecting trails: South West Coast Path.

Note: a compass would be useful.

The route given uses Open Access land, roads, footpaths and bridleways that are public rights of way. Please note that while walkers can use any of these, cyclists and horse-riders are permitted to use only the roads and bridleways.

COUNTRYSIDE CODE

► **Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.**

Check weather conditions and take adequate maps and equipment.

► **Leave gates and property as you find them.**

A gate may be open to give animals access to water, so leave gates as you find them and use access points provided.

► **Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.**

Don't touch animals and be careful not to leave a lighted match or a smouldering cigarette behind.

► **Keep dogs under close control.**

Your dog must not scare or disturb wild or farm animals. Pick up after your dog and dispose of the results responsibly.

► **Consider other people.**

Share transport or use public transport where possible and don't block access.

OPEN ACCESS LAND

Open Access is a right of access on foot. Riding bikes or horses (except on bridleways designated public rights of way), driving vehicles (except mobility vehicles), camping or feeding animals are not allowed. Dogs must be on a short fixed lead up to 2 metres long near livestock and from 1 March until 31 July to protect nesting birds. Open Access is shown on our maps by pale yellow. Sometimes restrictions on access may be in place, please check details online or observe notices en route.



WALK 2 ROUTE ~ GREENLANDS TO NORDEN PARK-AND-RIDE



- Walk 2 route
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Passing over Access land*
- Public road
- Private road
- Railway
- Farm
- Bus stop
- 🏠 Passage house
- 🏠 Oil well
- 🔭 Viewpoint
- 📷 Photo opportunity
- P Car park
- 🍷 Refreshments

* For more detail of all access land in the area go to www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

WALK 2 ROUTE ~ GREENLANDS TO NORDEN PARK-AND-RIDE

- 1** Leave the **50 Bournemouth/Swanage bus** at the third bus stop from the ferry (known as **Goathorn Farm**) and take the gravel track signed to **Ower** and **Norden** (NW). There are frequent fingerposts indicating **Ower** and **Norden** along your route until you leave the bridleway at point **6** below.
- 2** After about 1 km bear left with **Greenlands Farm** (National Trust) on your right, then in 60m bear right (W). Keep straight on, past a metal barrier across the path. When you pass over a small stream take the left hand track, ignoring the one from the right which leads to **Goathorn Farm** and **Point**.
- 3** Join the private road and turn left (W). Follow the private road and take the bridleway on the right signposted to Ower and Norden (NW). (This short section of private road follows the course of the old Newton Tramway, previously used in the transport of ball clay to Goathorn).



Passage House

Ferry Crossings and Passage Houses ~ Before Poole developed there were ferry crossings from the south side of the harbour from Ower, Middlebere, Goathorn and Redhorn Points. Many of the jetties had passage houses providing shelter for passengers waiting for a boat. Passage houses can still be seen at Ower and Wytch and there are indications that other such houses existed at a number of ferry crossings around the harbour. There are still many hotels around the country with the name "Passage House".

- 4** As you approach **Newton** cottages a small bridleway sign indicates that you should fork left. After 50 m, turn right and follow the grassy bridleway out into the open.
- 5** Follow the bridleway across, passing an entrance to **Ower Farm** on the right. Go through a field gate and turn left onto a track. At the four-way junction (you could turn right here and follow the track and right of way to Ower Point on the edge of the harbour) go straight ahead (SW).

Newton ~ William the Conqueror granted land to Longspee and Winchelsea as a reward for their support in the 1066 conquest. Later Edward I issued a charter authorising the building of a new town. Plans were drawn up, but sadly the Black Death brought it all to a halt. There remain a few cottages at Newton today, south-east of the Ower peninsula. Newton Church remained on maps for a long time: an enthusiastic map maker working at the time the town was being planned included the church, not realising that it would never be built!

- 6** Take the first path on the right. Coming to a road, turn right and very soon left onto a footpath.
- 7** When you come to a four-way junction, there are two paths on your right and one on your left. Take the second on your right along the edge of the wood. Follow it until you join another private road.

Wytch Farm ~ an oil field and processing facility. It is the largest onshore oil field in western Europe. Oil and gas are exported by pipeline. The field was discovered in December 1973 and began producing oil in 1979.

- 8** At the road turn left towards **Wytch Farm** (W). Continue down the road, passing the oil rig on your right.

9 Turn right into Wytch Farm through a gate. Keep to the hedge on your left until you almost reach the far corner. Turn left through the gateway and take the lane leading into the farmyard.

Go ahead through the farm, ignoring a tarmac lane to the left and forward through another gate. In 30 m take the enclosed grass track on your left (WSW).

Follow the track until you meet other tracks. Take the second to the left leading out into open ground.

Follow this around to the right ignoring the track coming in from the left alongside the woods.

10 Coming to a Private Fishing sign pointing left, continue through a hand gate and straight up on to, and over, a mound. Continue straight on across the field and then bear right towards the stream and **Sharford Bridge**.



Sharford Bridge ~ This restored medieval two arch stone packhorse bridge is of great historic value and is the lowest crossing point of the Corfe River.

11 Pass over the bridge and go ahead towards another bridge over a small stream. Go through the gates on the bridge and up the path to come out onto open ground. Bear left and follow the track across to the road (SW) and through the gate.

12 Note that this walk connects with **Walk 3** in this series here. Turn left along the road and pass the entrance to a private drive. Continue along until the road (S) turns sharp right. Go through the gate (S) ahead and follow the footpath waymarks and stiles. You will go through woods and across open fields to eventually join a private road.

13 Take the footpath on the opposite side of the road through some trees and across a boardwalk. Soon you come to a small gate on your right leading into the **Norden Park-and-Ride** car park. Head across the car park, keeping the station on your left until you come to the car park entrance.

A **Ball Clay Mining Museum** has been developed on the Norden Park-and-Ride site to remind us that ball clay has provided employment in the area since the mid-18th century.

14 Turn left (W) onto the road to go down to the A351 and turn right to catch the 40 Swanage/Poole bus.



Middlebere Heath ~ the real life location for Thomas Hardy's fictional "Egdon Heath".

Visit website for route updates
www.pooleharbourtrails.org.uk

Revised 2017

POOLE HARBOUR

Purbeck and the Isle of Wight were once joined, Old Harry and the Needles having much in common. The rivers Frome and Piddle join at Wareham, and drain much of Dorset. Originally, these joined the Stour and the Avon at Christchurch with all these joining the Hamble to break out into the Channel through Spithead, east of the Isle of Wight. Since the end of the last Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago, the sea level has risen dramatically. The sea eventually broke through the chalk ridge, flooding the river valleys and dividing off the Isle of Wight.



Find out more about us on our website
www.pooleharbourtrails.org.uk

POOLE HARBOUR TRAILS LEAFLET SERIES

WALK 1 - Poole to Greenlands - 12 km (7.5 miles).

WALK 2 - Greenlands to Norden Park-and-Ride - 11 km (7 miles).

WALK 3 - Norden Park-and-Ride to Wareham - 12 km (7.5 miles).

WALK 4 - Wareham Quay to Sandford - 12 km (7.5 miles).

WALK 5b - Sandford to Turlin Moor - 13.5 km (8.5 miles).

WALK 6 - Turlin Moor to Poole Quay - 11 km (7 miles).

Other connecting routes can be found on our website.

Check your nearest Tourist Information Centre for information on other local walks.



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