



Wareham Forest Way

Wareham Forest Way

Wareham to Sturminster Marshall - 13 miles

Wareham Forest Way is just over 13 miles long and follows public rights of way and minor roads between Wareham and Sturminster Marshall. Alternatively, you can start the walk at the northern end of the route.



River Piddle



Wareham Common



Sturminster Marshall



Wareham Forest

Wildlife Watching

The heathy slopes of Woolsbarrow Hill Fort are an important wildlife habitat, but the species it supports are sensitive to disturbance and tend to be elusive. In spring you may be lucky enough to spot sand lizards basking on the heather and Dartford warblers perching on gorse branches.

At dawn and dusk throughout summer, you may catch a glimpse of nightjar hunting for insects and listen for the distinct churring song of the male birds within the wooded section of the forest. You may also see grey squirrels, woodpeckers, woodlark, treecreepers, birds of prey and sika deer during your visit.



Sand Lizard

Horse Riding

Horse riders are welcome to use the Wareham Forest Way where bridleways exist on the route.



Wareham Forest

Following the Wareham Forest Way

The route is waymarked with various signs and markers, all showing the distinctive pine cone logo shown below. Some sections of the path become muddy in winter. Although this leaflet includes a map, you are advised to take along O.S. Landranger (1:50,000) sheet 195, Bournemouth and Purbeck map.



Green hairstreak butterfly on bluebells

Public Transport Information

If you do not want to walk the return journey, why not walk one way and return by bus via Poole?

A waymarked walk through some of the less well known landscapes in the north Purbeck area.

Designed by Purbeck District Council

Section 1 (approx 7 miles) Wareham to Morden

From Wareham Quay the path travels through the quiet roads of the town following the Wareham Walls, where it then crosses Wareham Common and the water meadows of the River Piddle valley. The path then meanders through small woodlands and the area known as Coldharbour, before entering the conifer plantations and heathland areas of Wareham Forest. Approx. three quarters of the way through the forest, Woolsbarrow Hill Fort affords views over to Poole Harbour. The path then bears right to the edge of the forest and crosses the A35. Following a bridleway, the path turns right and then crosses the B3075.



Wareham Forest

Section 2 (approx 6 miles) Morden to Sturminster Marshall

Travelling east through Morden with views of St Mary's Church, the path passes through gently rolling countryside and a former deer park known as Old Park, where from its eastern edge, the bank and ditch of the Park Pale can be seen. Crossing two major roads and then travelling north west over a dismantled railway, the route finishes at Sturminster Marshall. The path then links into the Stour Valley Way, leading upstream towards Blandford and downstream to Christchurch Harbour. Please take care when crossing busy roads.



West Morden

There are good bus connections along the Wareham Forest Way, which in turn link with the Weymouth-Waterloo railway at Wareham and Poole Stations.

You can catch a bus from Wareham to Sturminster Marshall via Poole with either Wilts and Dorset or First Dorset bus companies.

Wilts & Dorset 01202 673555 First Dorset 0870 608 2608

Purbeck Heritage

The Purbeck Heritage Committee 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. It brings together representatives from conservation, tourism, local authorities and landowners, and seeks to:

- Conserve the natural beauty of Purbeck
- Promote the enjoyment and understanding of the area
- Promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport

Visit www.purbeck.gov.uk for more information.

Useful contacts:

Purbeck Heritage Officer	01929 557337
Dorset Countryside at Durlston Country Park	01929 424443
Rights of Way/Countryside Access	01305 224463
Tourist Information Centre (Wareham)	01929 552740
Tourist Information Centre (Wimborne)	01202 886116

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

Open Access

Parts of Wareham Forest are mapped as open access land. Look out for the new access symbol shown right. Visit www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk for information.



Other leaflets available: Wareham Two Rivers Walks, Purbeck Way, Purbeck Way West Route and Lawrence of Arabia walking trail.

Photo credits: Richard Elston - English Nature, Catherine Annetts - Dorset Countryside, Nicholas James, Paul St. Pierre, Rachael Shefford - Purbeck Heritage.

Large print leaflets are available on request.

Please call 01929 557237 for further information.

Designed by Purbeck District Council 2006, printed on environmentally friendly paper.

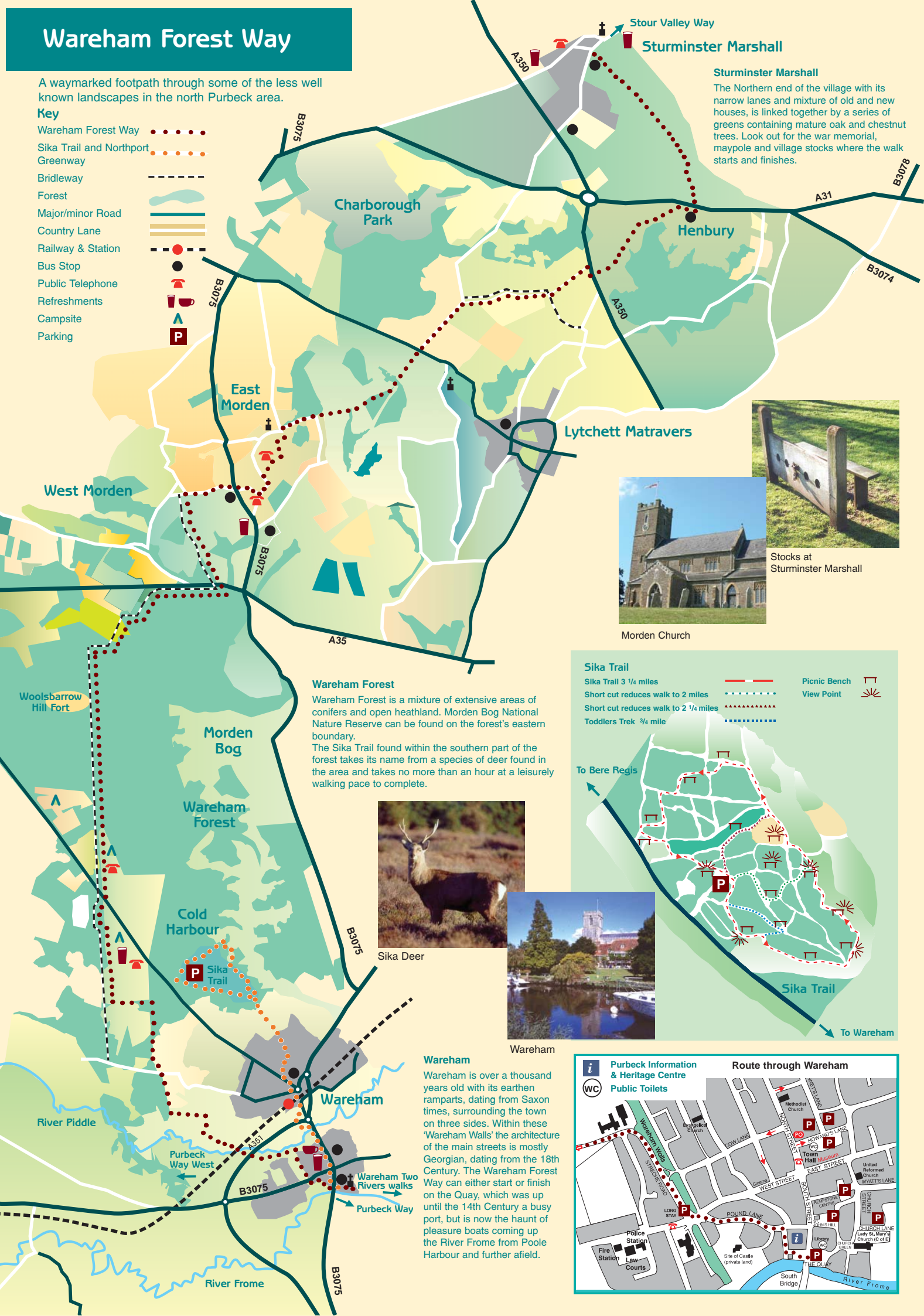


Wareham Forest Way

A waymarked footpath through some of the less well known landscapes in the north Purbeck area.

Key

- Wareham Forest Way
- Sika Trail and Northport Greenway
- Bridleway
- Forest
- Major/minor Road
- Country Lane
- Railway & Station
- Bus Stop
- Public Telephone
- Refreshments
- Campsite
- Parking



Sturminster Marshall

The Northern end of the village with its narrow lanes and mixture of old and new houses, is linked together by a series of greens containing mature oak and chestnut trees. Look out for the war memorial, maypole and village stocks where the walk starts and finishes.



Stocks at Sturminster Marshall



Morden Church

Wareham Forest

Wareham Forest is a mixture of extensive areas of conifers and open heathland. Morden Bog National Nature Reserve can be found on the forest's eastern boundary. The Sika Trail found within the southern part of the forest takes its name from a species of deer found in the area and takes no more than an hour at a leisurely walking pace to complete.



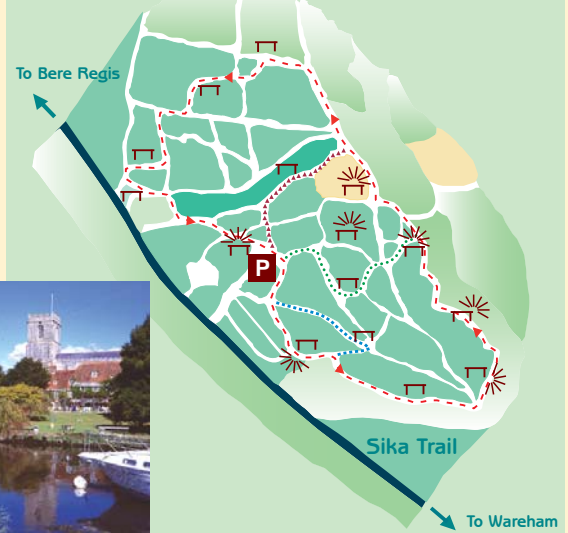
Sika Deer



Wareham

Sika Trail

- Sika Trail 3 1/4 miles
- Short cut reduces walk to 2 miles
- Short cut reduces walk to 2 1/4 miles
- Toddlers Trek 3/4 mile
- Picnic Bench
- View Point



Wareham

Wareham is over a thousand years old with its earthen ramparts, dating from Saxon times, surrounding the town on three sides. Within these 'Wareham Walls' the architecture of the main streets is mostly Georgian, dating from the 18th Century. The Wareham Forest Way can either start or finish on the Quay, which was up until the 14th Century a busy port, but is now the haunt of pleasure boats coming up the River Frome from Poole Harbour and further afield.

