



THE WAREHAM TWO RIVERS WALKS

Wareham to Swineham point



River Piddle fisheries



River Frome reed bed



Lapwing



River Frome

Two Rivers Walks

The Two Rivers Walks journey through beautiful ecologically-rich areas as they wind alongside the River Frome and the River Piddle.

These two rivers flow through Wareham into Poole harbour, one of the largest natural harbours in the world, and support a wide variety of stunning flora and fauna.

Along this walk experience: - Incredible Biodiversity



Ragged Robin

The two rivers walks travel through designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The combination of soil type, wet areas, tidal flooding and land management has supported the rich ecology and biodiversity for which the area is renowned.

This area supports 40,000 birds in the winter, and a wonderful variety of birds can be seen throughout the year such as lapwings, redshanks and kingfishers.

It is not uncommon to see otters along this route and hear the 'plop' of a shy water vole dive into the water before being seen. The rivers also support a variety of fish such as trout and salmon which spend much of their life at sea but return to healthy rivers to breed.



Water Vole

- Archaeological History

The stunning landscape that can be viewed along the walk has been shaped by human activity throughout the ages. Excavations have shown that the area has been used by humans for thousands of years, with relics being found that show there were once Bronze Age settlements here.

The rich natural resources that were in this area, such as clay, stone and chalk were what would have once attracted settlers to Wareham. Over time, Wareham became a successful and thriving port with the main imports being wine and salt, and the main export being clay, corn and leather.

- Recreation

Other activities also take place in this area, including sailing, birdwatching and enjoying the countryside. For information regarding angling and fishing contact the Environment Agency.



Kingfisher

Public Transport Information

Wilts and Dorset buses - hourly service (No 40) between Poole and Swanage, stopping at Wareham. Tel: 01202 637555

A network of waymarked footpaths around Purbeck's internationally important wetlands, seen at their best from autumn to spring.

Designed by Purbeck District Council

Following the Two Rivers Walks

These routes can be walked in either direction and are a mixture of roads and footpaths. They are waymarked with either the distinctive lapwing bird logo or with signposts. The route is fairly easy walking although some sections can get muddy and waterlogged during periods of rain (see map for exact locations). Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather conditions.



Suggested Circular routes

● Blue route :-

This 5 km/3 miles (approx) circular route will take you through the water meadows to Swineham Point (where the route meets the River Piddle) and back to Wareham. Look out for the numerous birds that frequent the area such as shelduck, brent geese and various birds of prey.

● Yellow route :-

This 5½ km/3½ miles (approx) circular route follows the River Frome through the water meadows to Swineham Point and then follows a footpath back to Wareham. This winding route offers wonderful views of the meadows and open flood plain, and is ideal for watching the variety of birds that visit the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) reserve.

● Pink route :-

This 4 km/2½ miles (approx) circular route follows the Wareham Town Walls and skirts around Wareham Common before following the River Piddle back to Wareham town. Wareham Town Walls are Saxon ramparts that surround this historic town and offer superb views of the two rivers and the surrounding area. The path along Wareham Common and beside the River Piddle offers an excellent chance to see outstanding flora and fauna.

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

First Dorset buses – 2 hourly service (No X53) between Poole and Exeter, stopping at Wareham. Tel: 0871 200 2233

South West Train stations are located at Wareham on the Weymouth to London Waterloo line. Tel: 08457 484950. The Northport Greenway provides a walking route between Wareham Station and The Quay.



Purbeck Heritage

The Purbeck Heritage Committee who produce this leaflet 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

For more information visit www.dorsetforyou.com

Useful contacts:

Purbeck Heritage Officer	01929 557337
Dorset Countryside Rangers/Rights of Way Team	01305 221000
Tourist Information Centre (Wareham)	01929 552740
Environment Agency	08708 506506

Open Access

Some parts of this route are mapped as open access land. Look out for the new access symbol shown right. Visit www.naturalengland.org.uk for information.



Footpaths and Bridleways

Footpaths are for the use of pedestrians only and will be signed by:



Bridleways are for the use of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and will be signed by:



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

Photo credits: Environment Agency and Purbeck District Council.

Large print leaflets are available on request.

Please call 01929 557237 for further information.

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Two Rivers Walks



Waymarked walks through beautiful landscapes with a wealth of wildlife to enjoy

Wareham Common and the River Piddle ①

As this path winds through Wareham Common alongside the River Piddle you pass a variety of meadow and fen plant species such as ragged robin, marsh marigold and meadowsweet (also known as the Queen of the Meadow). Grey heron can be found all year round and ponies can be seen grazing the meadow.

In summer, the riverside is alive with damselfly. House martins and swifts can be seen swooping over the river feeding on the insects. A beautiful flash of bright blue and orange may also be seen as a kingfisher darts past.

Bestwall Quarry ②

The first evidence of human activity here dates back as far as the Stone Age (6,000 years ago).

By the Bronze Age, settlements were established here and people were growing crops and making pottery.

The area continued to be occupied during the Iron Age and Roman Period.

There have been fascinating archaeological finds here including an iron working furnace, slag pit and two Roman hoards.

Swineham Point ③

Swineham Point means 'water meadow where swine are kept' in old English.

From this point the extensive saltmarshes, reedbeds and mudflats of Poole harbour stretch out before you.

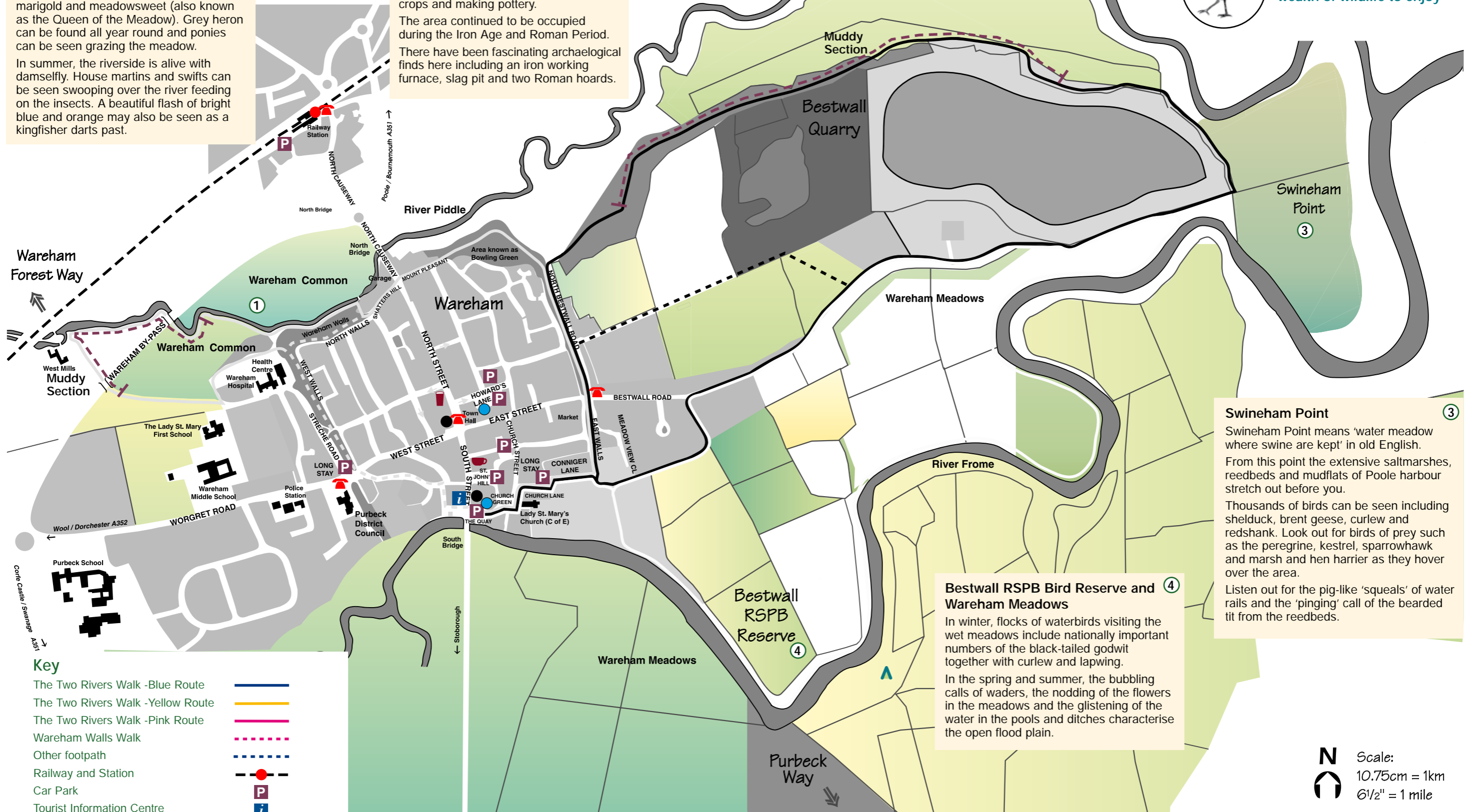
Thousands of birds can be seen including shelduck, brent geese, curlew and redshank. Look out for birds of prey such as the peregrine, kestrel, sparrowhawk and marsh and hen harrier as they hover over the area.

Listen out for the pig-like 'squeals' of water rails and the 'pinging' call of the bearded tit from the reedbeds.

Bestwall RSPB Bird Reserve and Wareham Meadows ④

In winter, flocks of waterbirds visiting the wet meadows include nationally important numbers of the black-tailed godwit together with curlew and lapwing.

In the spring and summer, the bubbling calls of waders, the nodding of the flowers in the meadows and the glistening of the water in the pools and ditches characterise the open flood plain.



Key

- The Two Rivers Walk - Blue Route —
- The Two Rivers Walk - Yellow Route —
- The Two Rivers Walk - Pink Route —
- Wareham Walls Walk - - -
- Other footpath - - - -
- Railway and Station ●
- Car Park P
- Tourist Information Centre i
- Bus Stop ●
- Public Telephone ☎
- Public Toilets ♂ ♀
- Refreshments ☕
- Campsite ⏏

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Scale:
10.75cm = 1km
6 1/2" = 1 mile