

# Castle Ride

*'Out of Car Experience - Cycling in Purbeck'*

Circular route from Norden to Stoborough - 11 miles



Corfe Castle Village  
The Blue Pool  
Cottage at Corfe

*Time needed: 2 - 3 hours*

*Grading: Moderate  
One very steep hill and two  
short A-road sections.*



# Castle Ride

Distance: 11 miles

Cycle through leafy lanes to the village of Church Knowle and the tranquil Blue Pool, then continue across Hartland Moor enjoying the fantastic views of Corfe Castle.

Starting point: Norden Car Park

Alternative starting points: Wareham or Swanage (via steam railway)

Time needed: 3 hours

Degree of difficulty: No off-road sections. Steep hill between Church Knowle and the Blue Pool

*Please take care on all roads and follow the Highway Code*

## Directions

### Section 1: Norden to Church Knowle

- From Norden Car Park, turn left out of the car park and at the roundabout **1** turn left towards Corfe Castle.
- At the foot of the castle mound **2** opposite the National Trust car park and Visitor Centre, turn right and follow this winding road up the hill, past the Corfe Castle Camping and Caravanning Club Site on your right and head into the village of Church Knowle.
- Carry on through the village, past St. Peter's Church on your right and later past The New Inn pub and Margaret Green Animal Rescue on your left.

### Section 2: Church Knowle to Stoborough

- The road will lead you to a cross-road; take the turning to the right signposted Wareham and climb through the tiny hamlet of Cockknowle. Take care, this is a very steep hill and on-coming traffic could be a danger.
- Head on up to the summit of the chalk ridge where you are blessed with a panoramic view of the Purbecks. **3** Sweep down the other side of the ridge, taking care when approaching the hairpin bend.
- Carry straight on past the turning to East Creech on your left.
- Continue past the entrance to The Blue Pool on your right **4**. This may be an opportune moment to take a rest. Entry fee applies.
- Continue to the roundabout, taking the second exit signposted to Stoborough. Travel towards the village centre past the Look-out Caravan Park and Stoborough First School.



- If you would like to visit Wareham, follow this road along the south causeway to Wareham, taking the first turning on your right after the bridge onto Wareham Quay.

### Section 3: Stoborough to Norden

- Turn right into Nutcrack Lane (opposite the Texaco garage).
- Follow this road passing the red phone box on the left, and continue straight over the first crossroads.
- Carry on past the entrance to Stoborough Heath **5**, and head straight on past the next turning on the right which has a cattle grid.
- At the next junction turn right, signposted Corfe Castle, and head up the hill. Follow this road for a while, taking time to stop and appreciate the fantastic views across the heath to Corfe Castle **6**. At the end of the road, turn left and then right back to Norden Car Park.



#### Nearest campsites

Corfe Castle Camping  
and Caravanning Club  
Site

East Creech Farm

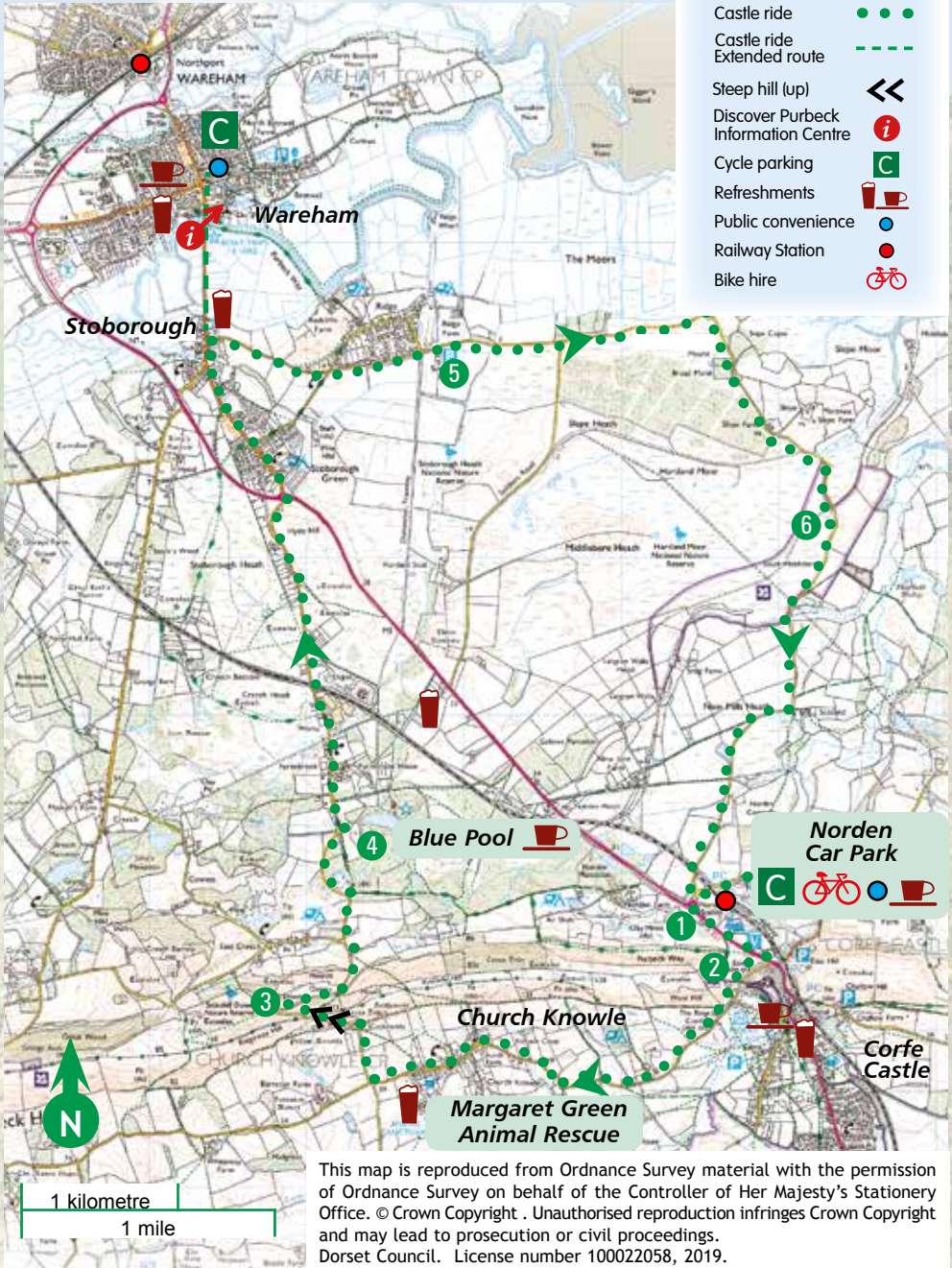
Lookout Holiday Park

Norden Farm

Redcliffe Farm

Ridge Farm

**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.





## Corfe Castle

Corfe Castle is one of England's most dramatic ruined castles and is a major tourist attraction in the Isle of Purbeck. Although the ruins suggest the castle is falling down, it was in fact demolished deliberately during the English Civil War, over 350 years ago. The Old Hall dates back to the time of William the Conqueror with later additions from Henry I, King John and Henry III.

*National Trust literature*



## Swanage Railway

The railway first came to Swanage in 1885 and was operated by the London and South Western Railway Company. Having survived the Beeching axe, British Railways closed the line in 1972. However a group of enthusiasts formed the Swanage Railway Society and re-opened the line, initially running from Swanage to Harman's Cross and later to Nordon, via Corfe Castle.

*Swanage Railway Society literature*



## St Peter's Church, Church Knowle

Built for the most part between 1200 and 1250, it is of a type familiar then in the South of England, consisting of a table tomb of Purbeck Stone, supported on columns. On the centre of its back wall is the figure in brass, of a man in armour praying, with a kneeling woman on either side and two armorial shields above, which is a rare find in such good condition.

*Dorset Churches, Dorset Historic Churches Trust, 1975.*

# Information

## Safe Cycling

- Check your cycle is in good working order
- Always carry refreshments and a cycle repair kit
- Wear reflective material, carry lights and take waterproofs
- It is advisable to wear a cycle helmet
- Increase the gap between cycles and cycle slowly when going downhill, especially on narrow lanes
- On narrow lanes always ride in single file and be ready for fast traffic as well as when crossing main roads
- Follow the Highway Code at all times

## Please 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 under close control
- Consider other people

Photographic credits: Peter Booton, John Farmar, Nicholas James and Mark Simons.

## Parking

Long stay parking is available at Norden Car Park or Streche Road - off West Street, Wareham. Charges apply.

## Public transport to Norden

Catch the number 40 bus (Poole to Swanage) and get off at Norden Farm. Tel: 01202 338420.

Swanage Railway runs a steam train service to Norden from Swanage, Harman's Cross and Corfe Castle. There is a train carriage for bikes. Tel: 01929 425800.

## Maps

This route can be followed on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No.OL15 (Purbeck and South Dorset).

## Tourist Information Centres

Free leaflets on where to eat and drink, beaches and events happening in Purbeck as well as guidebooks, maps, postcards, stamps and a small selection of gifts are available from:

Discover Purbeck Information Centre  
South Street, Wareham  
Tel: 01929 552740

Website: [www.visit-dorset.com](http://www.visit-dorset.com)  
Email: [discoverpurbeck@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:discoverpurbeck@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Swanage Information Centre  
Shore Road, Swanage  
Tel: 01929 766018

Website: [www.visit-dorset.com](http://www.visit-dorset.com)  
Email: [welcome@swanage.gov.uk](mailto:welcome@swanage.gov.uk)



*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.*

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