

# Lawrence Ride

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

Circular route from Wareham to Moreton - 22 miles



Cottages at Throop  
Church at Moreton  
Ford at Turnerspuddle

*Time needed: 4 - 5 hours*

*Grading: Moderate to Difficult  
Mostly minor roads,  
short A-road and  
off-road sections.*



# Lawrence Ride

Distance: 22 miles

A medium length route through the Frome Valley, taking in Moreton church, Lawrence of Arabia's last resting place and looping to the north of Purbeck across Bere Heath.

Starting point: Purbeck School & Sports Centre

Alternative starting points: Wool, Moreton, Bere Regis or Stoborough

Time needed: Average 4 to 5 hours

Degree of difficulty: Some light off-road sections near Moreton and Briantspuddle

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

## Directions

### Section 1: Wareham to Moreton

- Turn left out of Purbeck School and Sports Centre.
- At roundabout turn left again, signposted Swanage.
- Turn first right at road signed Creech and Kimmeridge, then right into Holme Lane opposite the Springfield Hotel.
- Follow the winding road through an avenue of rhododendrons and over the brick railway bridge passing East Holme Rifle Range on the left **1**.
- Go straight over the crossroads, into Bindon Lane, signposted West Lulworth and straight over again at the next crossroads.
- Cycle for some time passing Luckford Campsite and Woodlands Camping Park.
- You will come to Wool, look out for village sign on the left.
- At the first junction turn right, signed Dorchester. Immediately on your left is Wool Methodist Church and the Rose Mullion Tea Rooms **2**.
- Turn right, crossing the railway line and immediately turn left into East Burton Road - there is a large painted sign here for the Seven Stars Pub **3**. A short detour (13/4 miles) from here takes you to the Tank Museum. Follow signs for Bovington.
- Follow the road through East Burton village (the Village Green is a nice place to stop for a rest, with benches and a tree swing).
- Keep going along this winding country road, passing the Seven Stars pub on your right.

- The road takes you to Moreton. The cemetery on the left **4** is Lawrence of Arabia's final resting-place.

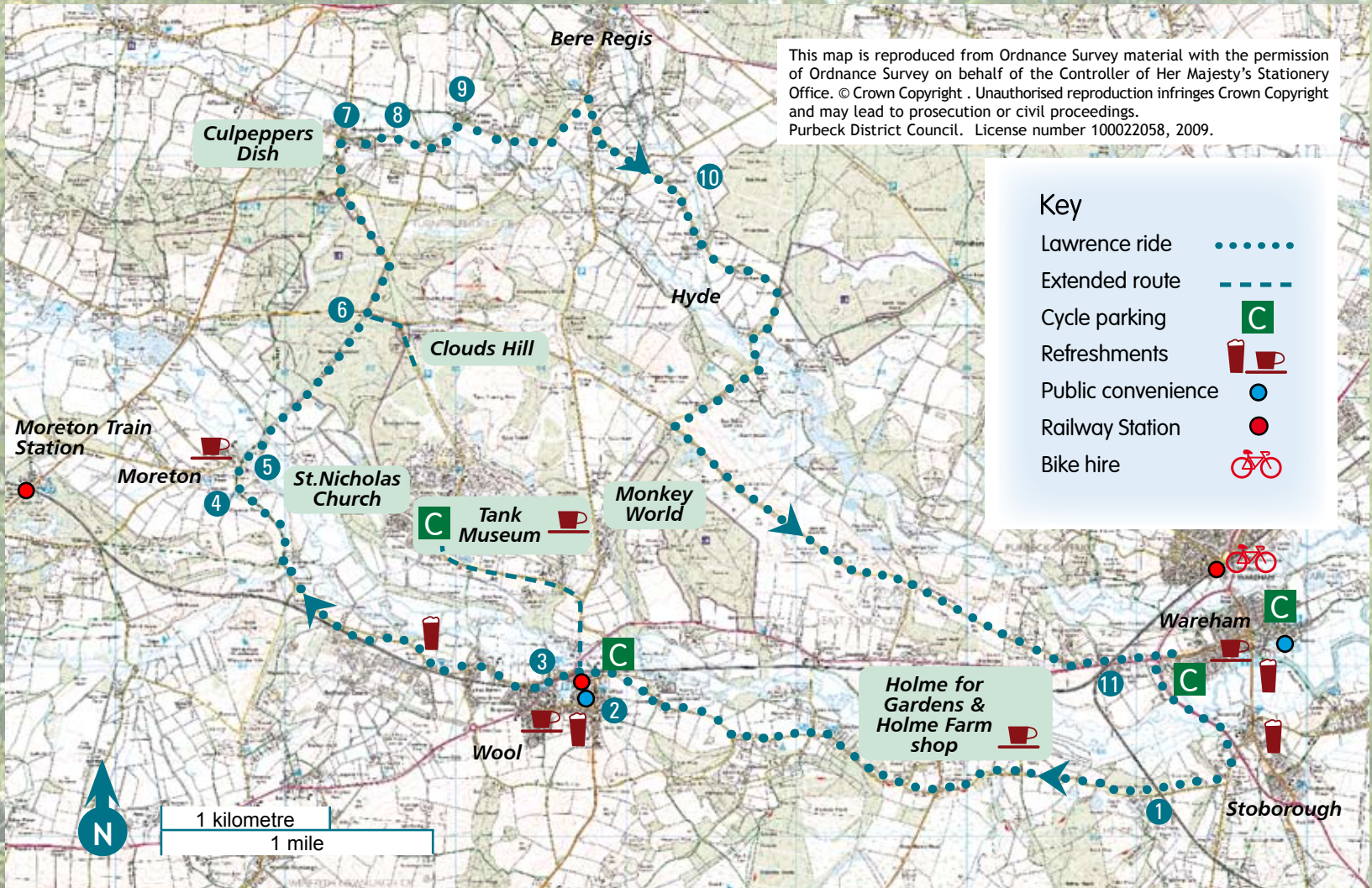
### Section 2: Moreton

- At the fork in Moreton, turn right signposted Moreton Church. There are tearooms in the old school on the left of this junction.
- Continue to the ford, past the little row of cottages on the left.
- Get off your bike and cross the ford over the River Frome **5**.
- After crossing, keep straight ahead on a gravel track through Moreton Forest until you meet the old Puddletown to Wareham Road **6**.  
*(Please be careful, this is a fast road)*
- For a short detour (0.6 miles), turn right at this junction **6** and follow signs to Clouds Hill, Lawrence of Arabia's Dorset retreat. National Trust property, entry fee applies for non members.

### Section 3: Piddle Valley

- Go straight across, signposted Blandford/Bere Regis, and at the next junction fork left towards Briantspuddle. Look out for horses grazing on Tonerspuddle Heath on the right.
- At the next junction, go straight across and down the hill towards Briantspuddle. Look out for the red telephone box.
- Turn right at Briantspuddle Crossroads **7**, just after the telephone box. It is signposted Throop. Note the village hall on the left side, next door is the old granary and the village shop **8**.
- Continue along the winding road to Throop.
- Just after the staddle stones and on the bend of the road turn left down a gravel track.
- Cross the fords over the River Piddle.
- Turn right at the farm, note the lovely Turnerspuddle Church **9** on the left of the junction.
- Continue down the winding road through the village of Turnerspuddle.
- At the junction, turn left. The road is signposted Bere Regis.

*Continued overleaf*



## Section 4: Hyde

- At the junction of the Bere Regis to Wool Road, turn right signposted Wool.
- Turn first left down the road signposted Hyde.
- Continue straight along this road over the small crossroads, signposted Hyde. Look out for Bere Heath Methodist Chapel on the left **10**.
- Cross over the bridge at Stockley Farm and keep cycling along this road for quite some time.
- Continue past Bere Lodge and High Beeches on the left.
- After the red post box on the corner, cross the first of two bridges. After the second bridge you pass the entrance to Hyde Wood (private) on the right.
- Follow the road up hill past the Dorset Golf and Country Club (on the left).
- At the junction (Puddletown Road) turn left towards Wareham.
- At the junction with the A352 turn left and continue towards Wareham passing the Worgret Manor Hotel on the right **11**.
- At the roundabout, follow the signs to Wareham/ town centre.
- Turn first right into Purbeck School and Sports Centre.



### Nearest Campsites

Lookout Holiday Park  
Luckford Campsite  
Manor Farm  
Redcliffe Farm  
Ridge Farm  
Rowlands Wait Touring Park  
Whitemead Caravan Park  
Woodlands Camping Park

### St. Nicholas Church, Moreton

Standing in a circular churchyard, this church was re-built in 1776 in an early Gothic Revival style. Bombs damaged the church in 1940, destroying all the stained glass, which has now been replaced with engraved glass windows.

T.E. Lawrence also known as Lawrence of Arabia's final resting-place is within the cemetery close to the church and his grave can be found at the far end on the right.

*Dorset Churches, Dorset Historic Churches Trust, 1988.*



### Clouds Hill

T.E. Lawrence was in residence at Clouds Hill between 1923 and 1935 and was known locally as his alias T.E. Shaw. During this time, he finished writing 'The Seven Pillars of Wisdom' and 'The Mint'. He retired to Clouds Hill in 1935, where only a few months later, he was involved in a fatal crash on his Brough Superior motorcycle.

# 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: Mark Simons, John Thraves, Purbeck District Council and Purbeck Heritage.

## Parking

Long stay car parking is available at Streche Road - off West Street, Wareham.

## Public transport

There are railway stations on the London Waterloo to Weymouth line at Wareham, Wool and Moreton.

Wilts and Dorset number 40 bus runs between Poole and Swanage calling at Wareham. The CoastlinX53 bus also runs from Poole stopping at Wareham and Wool.

Call Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit their website [www.travelinesw.com](http://www.travelinesw.com) for travel information.

## 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:

Purbeck Information and Heritage Centre  
Holy Trinity Church, South Street, Wareham  
Tel: 01929 552740

Website: [www.purbeck.gov.uk](http://www.purbeck.gov.uk)  
Email: [tic@purbeck-dc.gov.uk](mailto:tic@purbeck-dc.gov.uk)

Swanage Tourist Information Centre  
Shore Road, Swanage  
Tel: 0870 4420680

Website: [www.swanage.gov.uk](http://www.swanage.gov.uk)  
Email: [mail@swanage.gov.uk](mailto:mail@swanage.gov.uk)



*Whilst every care has been taken in the production of this leaflet, Purbeck District Council cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information and accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.*

Produced by the Studland and Purbeck Integrated Transport Partnership.  
Designed by Purbeck District Council, Spring 2005. Reprinted 2009. [www.purbeck.gov.uk](http://www.purbeck.gov.uk).  
Printed on paper containing 80% recycled content.