

# Priory Ride

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

Circular route from Wareham to West Holme - 8 miles



*Meadows at West Holme  
Ford and Bridge at East Holme  
Wareham Quay*

*Time needed: 1 hour*

*Grading: Moderate  
Mostly minor roads,  
one A-road crossing.*



# Priory Ride

Distance: 8 miles

A pleasant, gentle cycle route through the Frome Valley from the historic walled town of Wareham to the villages of East and West Holme.

Starting point: Wareham Quay

Alternative starting point: Stoborough

Time needed: Average, 1 hour

Degree of difficulty: No hills or off-road sections

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

## Directions

### Section 1: Wareham to East Holme

- From Wareham Quay **1** cross the bridge over the River Frome and cycle along the causeway into Stoborough village past the Kings Arms on your left.
- At the water pump **2**, housed in a stone shelter, turn right toward Creech/Steeple/Kimmeridge.  
*Please take great care at the next junction where the road meets the busy A351.*
- At the staggered junction, follow the blue cycle signs to cross the road using the shared use paths and cycle crossing refuge, in the direction of Creech/Steeple/Kimmeridge.
- After the bend you will see the Springfield Hotel on the left. Turn right here into Holme Lane.
- Follow the winding road through an avenue of rhododendrons and trees **3**.
- Go over the brick railway bridge, passing East Holme Rifle Range on the left **4**.
- Ignore the right turning to East Holme and continue to the next cross roads.
- Turn right here, signposted Wool B3070 (A352) and you will come to Holme for Gardens and Holme Farm Shop on the right. Notice the five white doves on yellow tiles 'flying' up the garage wall **5**.
- Continue along this country road and take the next lane on your right. If you reach the bridge with green railings you have gone too far.

### Section 2: East Holme to Stoborough

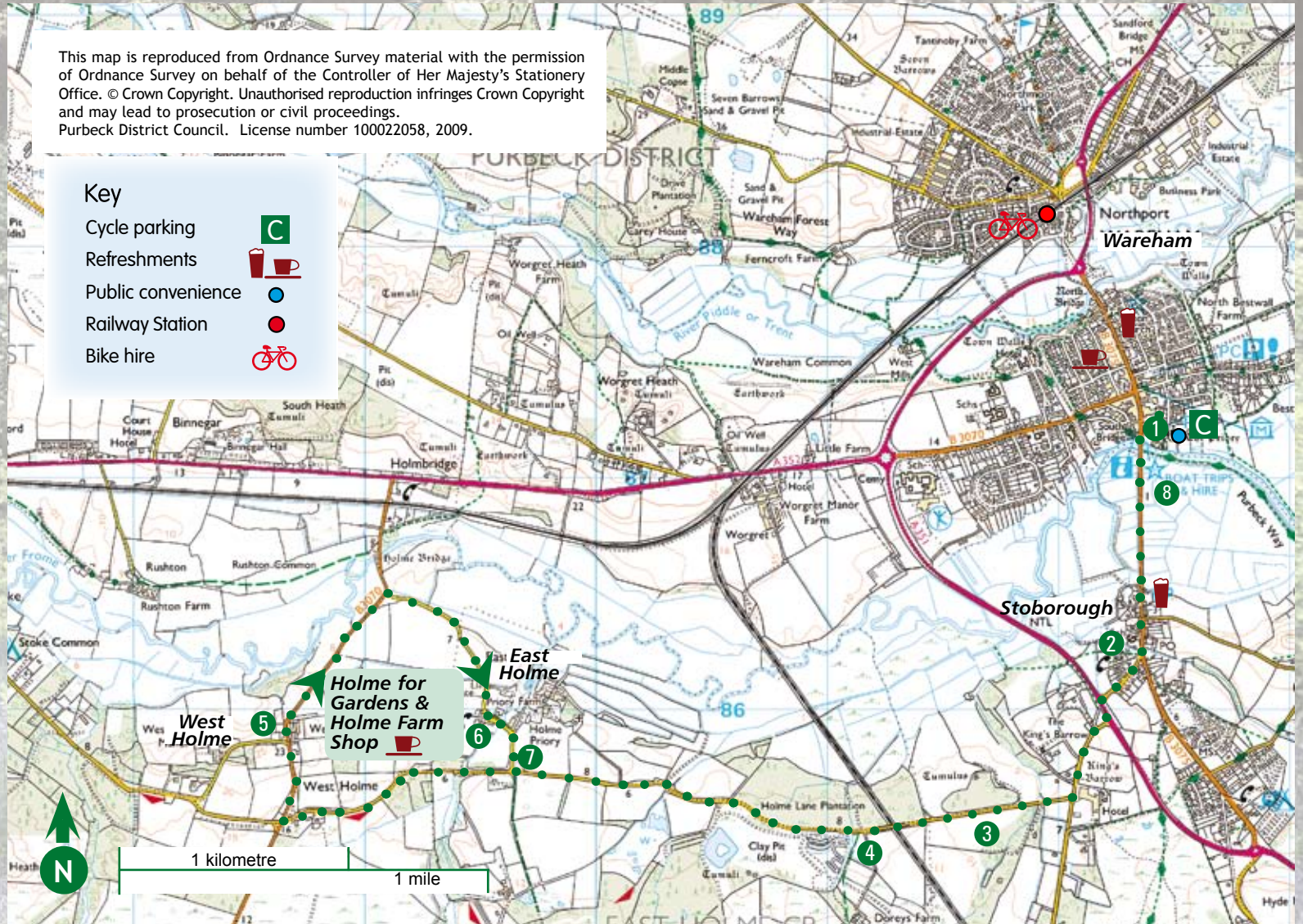
- After passing the entrance to Holmegate Rest Home on the right, you will come to the village of East Holme.
- Look out for the old granary behind the barn on the right near the telephone box **6**. Why not take a rest on the bench provided here on the little Village Green under the shade of an oak tree?
- Getting back on your bike, ride across the ford (or take the footbridge to the left if the water level is too high) and cycle past Holme Farm and Holme Priory **7** back up to the main road.
- Turn left at this junction and left again at the end of the road towards Wareham.  
*Please take great care at the next junction as it meets the A351.*
- At the staggered junction, follow the blue cycle signs to cross the road using the shared use paths and cycle crossing refuge, in the direction of Stoborough.
- Turn left toward Wareham past the school entrance sign carved into a log by the side of the road and opposite a row of thatched cottages.
- Cycle along the level stretch approaching Wareham across the water meadows **8**. See the church of Lady St Mary on the right.
- Cross over the River Frome, back to the bustling Quay.

Why not join the Wareham Town Walls walk from the Quay (bike parking available outside the Old Granary pub) to explore Wareham's saxon history. Pick up a walks leaflet from the Purbeck Information and Heritage Centre found opposite the Quay.

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Key

- Cycle parking 
- Refreshments 
- Public convenience 
- Railway Station 
- Bike hire 





## Wareham Quay ①

In 1762 all of the properties on the Quay were destroyed by fire and after years of neglect, the Quay was re-built in the 1840's. The original South Bridge having 5 arches and built in 1788, was seen as too narrow for modern traffic and was therefore demolished in 1927 and replaced by a wider, 3 arch bridge.

*Wareham: A pictorial history, Lilian Ladle, 1994*



## Stoborough Waterpump ②

This waterpump at Stoborough stands as a memorial to the brave and courageous men of the Parish of Arne who served as soldiers in the first and second world wars.



## The Old Granary ⑥

The Old Granary in East Holme village, is supported on staddle stones to prevent rats (which are unable to climb these mushroom shaped stones) from reaching the grain that used to be stored there.



### Nearest campsites

[Lookout Holiday Park](#)

[Luckford Campsite](#)

[Manor Farm](#)

[Redcliffe Farm](#)

[Ridge Farm](#)

[Woodlands Camping Park](#)

# 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

## Parking

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

## Public transport

There is a railway station on the London Waterloo to Weymouth line at Wareham.

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

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

## 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

## Maps

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

Photographic credits: John Farmer, Mark Simons, Purbeck District Council and Purbeck Heritage.

## 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)



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