

# Rempstone Ride

Route 2

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

Route from Norden to Studland & Shell Bay - 12 miles +



Norden steam railway station  
Shell Bay  
Knoll Beach

*Time needed:  
3 hours to a full day*

*Grading: Easy  
Mostly off-road,  
fairly flat.*

*Circular route starting at either Norden or Studland or  
as a through route linking Shell Bay to Norden.*



# Rempstone Ride

Distance: 12 miles+

An exhilarating, mainly off-road route, passing through fields, wood, sand and heathland, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest with rare flower species and wildlife habitats.

Starting point: Norden Car Park

Alternative starting points: Sandbanks Ferry Terminal, Studland Village, Swanage (via Swanage Railway) and Wareham (via bus).

Time needed: 3 hours up to a full day

Degree of difficulty: Due to the superb landscape, unique ecology and wildlife, as well as ongoing commercial operations, it has not been possible to upgrade the route in its entirety and it may be necessary to push your bicycle over sandy, rough or muddy sections.

Suitability: families with children older than 10 years - children should be carefully supervised. A good hybrid or "off road cycle" is sufficient, a mountain bike is easier.

*Please take care on roads and follow the Highway Code. Please ensure that you stick to the identified route and marked bridleways as the route crosses a protected area and borders a National Nature Reserve that could easily be damaged.*

## Directions

### Starting from Norden Car Park

From Norden take the old Corfe to Arne Road for 1½ miles where you will find a signpost for the Rempstone Ride (GR 962847). ① Go through the gate.

Within a few metres pass through a gate into an avenue managed by the National Trust, following the purple markings denoting the route of the Rempstone Ride.

Go through a smaller gate down to a brook where the track becomes rough and narrow.

You will now cross a very special meadow containing rare flower species that could easily be destroyed: riders should on no account veer off the path. This track crosses the path of the Hartland Way.

Cross Sharford Packhorse Bridge ② (GR 967847) going through a gate on either side.

The bridle way now goes through a rather boggy section, passes into a hilly field where low gear is needed and through a metal gate. At the next gate the track improves.

At the road ahead cross straight over onto a bridleway through spruce forest.

- Cross a small road (Thrashers Lane) ③. There is now an easy tarmac section which is fairly level. Turn a right bend.
- At the road junction turn left along the marked bridleway. Go past a farm and start climbing.
- At the barrier, carry straight on. This is a mainly good surface except for a muddy hollow.
- From the forest track take a left fork onto sandy gorse land. This section can be difficult to ride and you may have to push for a few metres.
- Cross the road and continue the bridle path to Ower ½ mile. There is a sign saying that the road is closed to vehicles.
- You will come to a bridleway sign marked Studland 2 miles. Fork right at Ower Farm ④. Along this section you will catch glimpses of Poole Harbour and the BP drilling rig.
- You are coming to Newton ⑤. You will cross an open field with a single tree in the middle and a cottage on the other side. Before you reach this cottage, bear right at the oak tree (which has a small green sign on the trunk stating 'permissive path'), avoiding the house. Pass through the gate and bear to the left until you reach the gravel path - ride up the hill and you will eventually come to a tarmac road ⑥ (GR 008848).
- Here you can either turn right to continue the circular route back through the forest or continue on to Studland or Shell Bay.

### Circular Route

- From Point ⑥ turn right along the tarmac road, signposted to Bushey.
- After about 2 miles you will come to a crossroads sign ⑦, where you will carry straight over onto the barred forest track ahead.
- You will pass a divide in the track with a fork off to the right - ignore this and carry on straight ahead (left track).
- After a mile you will come to a half barred gate and a bridleway crossroads: again carry straight on. You are now travelling on a permissive path courtesy of the Rempstone Estate Trust. Continue until you reach a tarmac road. Turn right, descending gently.
- When the road divides take the left fork, marked 'Estate Traffic Only' but also as a bridleway to Hartland Moor -1½ miles. This will bring you back to point ③ from which you will retrace

your route back through the spruce forest, signposted to Hartland Moor 1 mile, across the fields down to Sharford Bridge and up through the avenue back to the road.






## Through route continuing to the Studland Peninsula

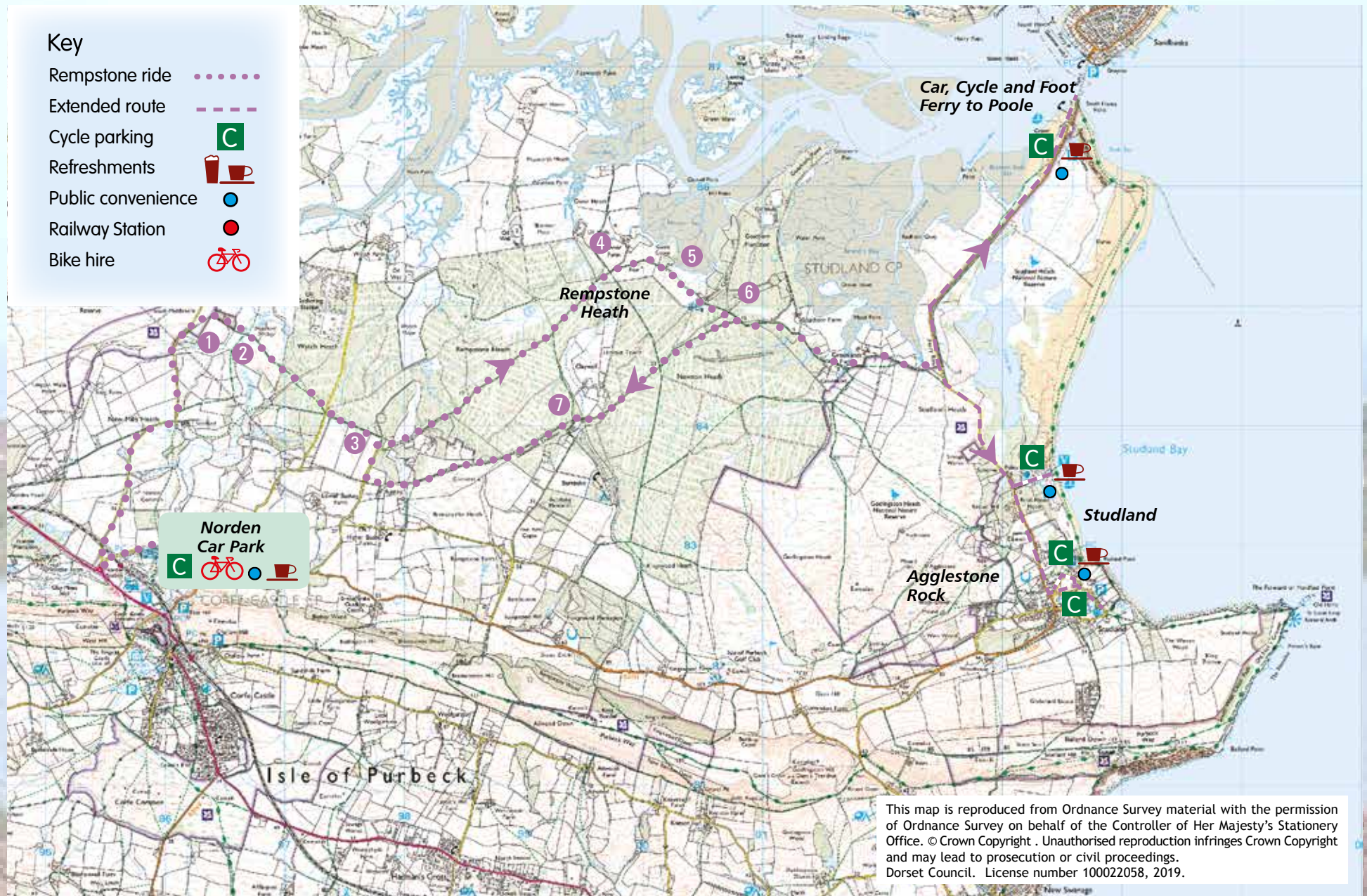
- From Point **6** turn left following the sign to Studland 1¼ miles.
- Turn right onto a bridleway signposted to Studland 1 mile.
- Turn right over a bridge.
- You will shortly see a white painted barrier ahead. Go past this barrier and continue straight on. (Do not bear right, this leads to private property).
- You will enter a rough climbing section. Take care to avoid any metal objects protruding from the track.
- Continue past Greenlands Farm and follow the track until it emerges on the Ferry Road. Take great care here: sometimes cars late for the ferry race along at great speed, and there are often parked cars.
- At the road you can either turn left for Shell Bay and the chain ferry (1¾ miles) or right to enjoy the amenities and refreshments at Knoll, Middle or South Beaches - park your cycle in one of the racks and relax.

## Starting from Shell Bay/Studland

- Visitors from Poole, Studland or Swanage can link into the circular route from the Ferry Road where the track leads to Greenlands Farm GR 025844, about 1¾ miles from the ferry and ¾ mile from the Knoll Beach. Follow the track all the way past Greenlands Farm and the white barrier gate, taking care to avoid any metal protrusions on the bumpy descent.
- After 1 mile there is a blue bridleway sign to Ower and Norden.
- Follow this until you join the circular route at Point **6**. Turn left here and follow the directions for the route until you reach Point **3**. Here you can either continue on to the Corfe-Arne Road or complete the circuit following the instructions from **3** to **6** above.

## Key

- Rempstone ride ..... (dotted purple line)
- Extended route - - - - - (dashed purple line)
- Cycle parking 
- Refreshments 
- Public convenience 
- Railway Station 
- Bike hire 



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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.



### Hartland Way 1

Hartland Moor is a National Nature Reserve. The heathland here is a vital habitat for the Dartford warbler, sand lizard, nightjar and other nationally important plant and animal species. Over the last century much of our heathland has been lost to development and agricultural land improvement. Heaths require constant grazing by animals and management of gorse and bracken to maintain their value for heathland wildlife. Bournemouth University have a long-term research project here to investigate different methods of heathland restoration.



### Nearest campsites

[Corfe Castle Camping and Caravanning Club Site](#)

[Burnbake Campsite](#)

[Lookout Holiday Park](#)

[Norden Farm](#)

[Redcliffe Farm](#)

[Ridge Farm](#)

### Sharford Packhorse Bridge 2

There are records of this scheduled ancient monument as far back as 1575 but it is probably older. In 1972 it had to be restored due to ivy working its way into the masonry of the bridge, weakening the two arches and causing the outer parapet to collapse. The packhorse route is thought to have been a busy road linking Wareham to the then thriving port of Newton, skirting the southern shores of Poole harbour. It is hard to imagine this peaceful valley as a major thoroughfare bustling with life.



### The Rempstone Estate

You are riding over the largest onshore oilfield in Western Europe - you may catch a glimpse of the oil wells at Wytch Farm on your left. The Forestry Commission have planted most of the trees you can see around you and much of their work today aims to improve the environment for wildlife and visitors. The plantations are a working environment, so for your own safety please observe any signs displayed.



### Ower Farm 4

It was a tradition for the Ancient Order of Purbeck Marblers and Stonecutters to meet in the Fox Inn at Corfe Castle on Shrove Tuesday and kick a football over the heath to Ower Quay. This track was the principal route for the shipping of Purbeck marble and stone for hundreds of years. At Ower, the ball was kicked into the water and a pound of pepper sprinkled over it. This custom marked the payment of the peppercorn rent by the Purbeck quarrymen for use of the track.



### Studland

Studland was donated to the National Trust by the Bankes Family in 1981 and is famed for its superb beaches. It was the site of World War 2 training for the D-Day landings witnessed by King George VI and Winston Churchill. There are many rare and important wildlife species found here. The Knoll Beach Visitor Centre and its café is a great place to rest and discover more about this area.

### Newton 5

Edward I decreed the building of a new town as a port for Purbeck, with a twice weekly market, harbour, church, and an annual fair. Although it was marked on Saxton's map of 1575 the port never really thrived except for a much later boom in clay mining following the construction of the narrow gauge railway in 1868. This lasted until the pits were exhausted in 1937. Shortly afterwards the army ripped up the rails and today very little evidence remains of this once busy port area.



### Agglestone Rock

From the extended route to Studland, you can push your bike along a footpath to reach the rock. Legend has it that this rock was thrown from the Isle of Wight by the devil who was aiming at Corfe Castle but he missed and the rock landed on its present position on Godlingston Heath. In fact it is an anvil shaped stone which fell onto its south-eastern side from an upright position in 1970. It weighs around 400 tons, is composed of tertiary sandstone called Agglestone Grit and dates back to the Eocene age (30-50 million years ago).



# Information

## Off-Road Code

- **Stay on track** - Off-road cycling is only allowed on public/permitted bridleways, designated cycle routes or byways.
- **Know the signs** - Public bridleways will be marked by blue arrows or a horse and rider. Permitted bridleways may also be marked with blue arrows or permissive path signs. Byways will be marked with red arrows. Please note: footpaths marked in yellow are for pedestrians only, NOT cyclists.
- **Be considerate** - Always give way to walkers and horse riders and let them know that you are approaching.
- **Follow the Countryside Code** - respect, protect, enjoy. Be aware that some tracks may travel through fields with horses or cattle - please keep dogs under close control. Leave gates as you find them and take your litter home.
- **Be safe** - It is advised to wear a helmet and keep your bike well maintained. Take essential spares. Remember food, drink, lights and wear bright/reflective clothing. If cycling alone, tell someone where you are going and what time you will be returning.

Photographic credits: Andrew Bradley, Peter Booton, Nicholas James, Mark Simons and John Thraves.

## Parking

Long stay parking is available at Norden Car Park or Studland beach car parks at Shell Bay, Knoll, Middle and South Beach - run by The National Trust. 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)



*We would like to thank the Rempstone Estate Trust for making a permissive path available to complete this circular route.*

*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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