RSPB Arne covers more than 565 hectares of the Arne peninsular in the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset, and is a haven for wildlife and a wide range of flora and fauna. The main attractions are:

- The RSPB Arne nature reserve
- Wildlife and many different bird species
- Different habitats
- The bird hides

The reserve is open at all times. The Welcome Hut is open from 9am - 4.30pm. The phone number of the helpdesk at the Welcome Hut is 01929 553360.

Dress for the weather and wear good shoes for walking.

Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.

**Arne is a wildlife reserve, so if you can keep quiet you may see some amazing wildlife.**

Download a copy of the trail map from the [website](#) to accompany this guide.
You can get to RSPB Arne by bus, car, or by riding a bicycle.

RSPB Arne’s address is:

**Arne Road,**

**Wareham,**

**BH20 5BJ.**

Get directions on the RSPB Arne website below.

[https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/arne/](https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/arne/)

**Bus:** The Purbeck Breezer number 40 stops at Stoborough Green. From the bus stop it is **3 miles to Arne.** Head along New Road for 0.4 miles, then turn right onto Arne Road.

**Car:** from Wareham town centre, head south over the causeway to Stoborough. Travel through Stoborough, turn left onto New Road, signposted for Arne. Turn right at the cross roads in the village of Ridge, follow the road for approximately **3 miles to Arne.**

The car park is to the right of the entrance sign.
The car park is open from 8.30am – 10pm, between 1st of April and 31st of October. Then 8.30am – 6pm, between 1st November and 31st March.

If you travel by bicycle, there are several racks to secure your bicycle.

Arne has 5 spaces for blue badge holders, and 2 general accessible spaces in the main car park.

Arne also has 4 spaces further into the reserve set aside for those with access needs. Permits are available from the Welcome Hut in the main car park.

There is no entry cost for visiting Arne.

There are car parking charges, which will displayed on the information board.
Visitor Centre

Near the car park there is the Welcome Hut, where you can pick up guides and maps and get advice on the different paths around the reserve.

There are several paths (or trails) at Arne.

The hut is accessed by a shallow ramp or 2 steps. The floor inside the hut is level, with laminate flooring throughout.

The Welcome Hut is open from 9am - 4.30pm, every day of the week.

The 2 visitor footpaths from the main car park to the shop and café are on a slope. Visitors with limited mobility are advised to park in the accessible parking by the café.

Dogs are allowed in the reserve. They must be kept on a short lead (less than 2 metres) at all times.

There are no dog waste bins on the reserve. The nearest dog waste bin is at Sunnyside Farm, on Arne Road, at the edge of Ridge Village.
For people with limited mobility, there is an all-terrain scooter, called a Tramper.

The Tramper can be hired from the Countryside Mobility scheme. For more information on the scheme and becoming a member, visit the Countryside Mobility website below.

http://www.countrysidemobility.org

You don’t have to be registered disabled or a blue badge holder to hire the Tramper.

Users must be aged 14 and over. Everyone must be accompanied by someone who is over 18.

You are advised to book the Tramper in advance of your visit.
The shop is situated next to the café and stocks a range of bird food, bird care books and gifts. You can also buy or hire binoculars, to get a better view of the wildlife.

The shop and café both have step-free access, with non-slip flooring and a good level of lighting. Staff are available to assist in the shop.

Next to the shop and café, there are 3 accessible car parking spaces, which are only for disabled visitors wanting to access the shop and café (please park in the main car park when visiting the reserve). There is wheelchair access to the shop and café.

There are several steps exiting the café, and there is wheelchair access from the accessible car park into the buildings.
On the ground floor, there is step-free access to 2 standard unisex toilets and 2 accessible toilets (with baby changing facilities).

There are also toilets in the car park when you arrive. You can ask at the Welcome Hut for directions.

Visitors are welcome to consume their own food and drink in picnic areas.

There are tables next to the Visitor Hut set up for picnics, and tables in the shop and café garden, on the grassed area.

Please take any rubbish home with you, or dispose of it in the appropriate bins.
There are two different sides to the reserve, Shipstal trails and Coombe trails, with many different paths within them, (Look at the map provided on site).

**Shipstal Trails**

RSPB Arne has a huge array of habitats. The Shipstal trail to the north of the reserve takes you through many different types of land, including scrub, farmland, ancient oak, woodland, pine and birch forest, lowland heath, salt marsh, sandy beach, acidic ponds and open water.

Trails through the reserve differ depending on the type of land you go through and the weather. Paths are generally level and easy to navigate.
At the north end of Shipstal trail, there is an enclosed Bird Hide.

Hides are available so that visitors can observe birds and wildlife from a quiet space, where they’re less likely to be detected by the wildlife.

There are pictures of the different wildlife you may be able to spot from the hide.

There is a wooden boardwalk approaching the hide, along with wooden steps.

On Shipstal Hill, there is a viewpoint where you can see Poole and Poole Harbour in the distance.

There are shallow steps up to the viewpoint and there is a handrail.
There is a seat at the top to sit and relax.
The Coombe trails are to the south of the reserve, with views of the Purbeck Hills and Corfe Castle. This is the quieter side of the reserve and is predominantly lowland heath.

There are 2 different trails, Coombe Heath trail and the Raptor trail.

The Coombe Heath trail is the best spot to watch the resident Dartford Warblers, and in the winter the Middlebere Channel fills up with thousands of waders and wildfowl.

For more information on the type of birds and wildlife you will see, visit the [website](#).
We hope you enjoy your visit.

For more information about Heritage Ability, visit www.heritageability.org

Delivered by disability charity Living Options Devon, registered charity no.1102489

@HeritageAbility
#AccessibilityMatters