

welcome to

WOOL

DORSET

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Our picturesque village lies between the river Frome and a ridge of hills separating it from the popular resort of Lulworth on Dorset's Jurassic Coast.

Although there's an abundance of pastureland on all sides of the village, the name 'Wool' has nothing to do with sheep farming - it derives from the Saxon 'Wyllon' signifying a well or spring. Water from the spring continues to tumble off the chalk ridge, forming a picturesque stream as it flows past thatched cottages in Spring Street and across water meadows to join the river Frome.

Woolbridge is the name given to the ancient crossing point on the Frome, and the present 5-arch bridge dates from the 16th Century. Following the construction of a new bridge to take motor vehicles, Woolbridge has become a tranquil vantage point for walkers and cyclists to enjoy views of the river and surrounding countryside.

Standing alongside the bridge is Woolbridge Manor (not open to the public). This imposing 17th-Century manor house is famous as the fictional setting for the ill-fated honeymoon of Angel Clare and Tess in Thomas Hardy's novel 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles'. Wool's village hall in Colliers Lane is named after the D'Urberville family and is the venue for a Country Market every Thursday morning where you can buy local produce.

In the 12th Century, a Cistercian Abbey was established at Bindon on the eastern edge of the village. What little remains of the Abbey is sufficient to form an impression of the vast scale of the site. Amongst the ruins there's an open tomb which was used by Angel Clare to lay Tess in after he carried her from Woolbridge House. Today, the Abbey grounds are privately owned but are opened to the public on certain days for charity and are well worth a visit.



The ancient craft of weaving hurdles from coppiced hazel is still practised in Wool, materials being sourced from plantations near the village. Hurdles were traditionally used as temporary fencing for sheep, but these days they are more likely to be used as decorative garden features.

The railway arrived in Wool in 1847, but sadly the main station building was demolished in 1969 and replaced by the prefabricated structure you see today. All that remains of the old station is the small goods shed next to the car park. A branch line to the army camp at Bovington was constructed just after World War I, but the track had been lifted long before the beginning of WWII! A railway bridge abutment on the river bank, clearly visible from Woolbridge, is the only clue that the line ever existed.

The nuclear energy facility to the west of the village at Winfrith is in the process of being decommissioned, after which most of the site will revert to heathland. However, Wool makes a significant contribution to the renewable energy market, with a large solar farm to the north of the river Frome and an archimedes - screw turbine which harnesses the power of the river at Bindon Abbey.

- 1 Tank Museum - Experience the Biggest Day Out in History**
The Tank Museum brings the story of tanks and their crews to life, with the world's finest collection of armoured vehicles displayed in awe-inspiring, interactive exhibitions. Open daily from 10am to 5pm
www.tankmuseum.org
- 2 Monkey World - Ape Rescue Centre**
65-acre monkey and ape rescue centre, with over 260 endangered primates. As well as seeing the stars of TV's Monkey Life, kids will love the Great Ape play area. Open daily from 10am to 5pm.
www.monkeyworld.org
- 3 Alpaca Experience**
Get up close and learn more about these amazing animals on an Alpaca Walk.
(Longthorns Farm, just north of Monkey World)
To book, email: alpacas@longthornsfarm.co.uk or call: 01929 401539
- 4 Clouds Hill - National Trust**
Isolated woodman's cottage, the former rustic retreat of T.E. Lawrence - furnished just as he left it.
Book a guided tour ahead of visiting at:
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clouds-hill
- 5 Tank Training Viewpoint**
Car park just south of Clouds Hill, with information boards and a memorial stone marking the spot where T.E. Lawrence crashed his motorbike.



- 6 Lulworth Castle**
Impressive 17th-century fairytale castle set in extensive parkland.
Normally open 10:30am to 5pm, Sun to Thurs, Easter to December.
01929 400587 www.lulworth.com
- 7 Lulworth Cove & Durdle Door**
Gems of Dorset's Jurassic Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Amazing landforms, clifftop walks, beaches, visitor centre, shops and refreshments. (X54 and summer buses 30, 31 & X50)
www.lulworth.com
- 8 Lulworth Ranges**
Coast path with spectacular views, includes the abandoned village of Tyneham. Open to the public most weekends, but check firing times before you visit.
01929 404714

South Western Railway

Take the family on a railway adventure along the South Coast, visiting destinations in Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Trains run from Wool Station at hourly intervals from early morning right up to nearly midnight, 7 days a week.

28 Weymouth and Bournemouth to London Waterloo via Wool

See website for times, fares and special offers:
www.southwesternrailway.com

Garrison Cars 01929 463395	Silver Cars 01929 400409	Capital Cars 07507 600461	TAXI
Durdle Door Cabs 01929 444546	A1 Taxis 07758 130281	Wool Station Taxi 01929 788007 or 07447 120007	
Purbeck Cabs 01929 500604	EZ Riders Taxis 01929 556575	Jurassic Cabs 01929 558119	

Wool Parish Council

For information on the local area and details of Parish Council meetings, please visit:
www.woolparishcouncil.com

East Stoke & Wool Community Chest:

The East Stoke and Wool Community Chest distributes grants annually for local community projects. Grants are administered on behalf of Bluefield Solar Income Fund, current operators of the Woolbridge Solar Farm.

Historical notes:
Taken from: 'A Backward Glimpse of Wool'
By local historian: Alan Brown (1937 - 2020)

Produced by:

...for additional supplies of the Wool village guide please contact the team by emailing
woolfarer@tiscali.co.uk

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Wool Parish Council
South Western Railway
East Stoke and Wool Community Chest
and Sponsors listed here and overleaf.

All information is believed to be correct at the time of publication - APRIL 2024.

Wool (NCN2) Cycle Routes & Trails

The cycle route NCN2 runs along the south coast of England and passes through Wool via East Burton Road, Wool level crossing and Bindon Lane.

There is a signposted, off-road cycle/footpath from Wool Station to Bovington, passing the Tank Museum entrance.

Another signposted cycle route runs between Wool Station and Dorset Innovation Park, just to the west of the village.

From Bovington Tank Museum you can follow the circular Lawrence of Arabia Trail, taking in T.E. Lawrence's cottage at Clouds Hill, the site of his fatal motorbike crash and his final resting place at Moreton.

A medium-distance trail, signposted Purbeck Way West Route, follows the east-west ridge passing through picturesque Coombe Keynes village, which is about 2 miles south of Wool.

Pick up a Trail Leaflet from information points or download your map by searching "Cycling in Purbeck" at:
www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

FREELANCE GRAPHIC DESIGN
By Neil Portington
clear thinking made visual

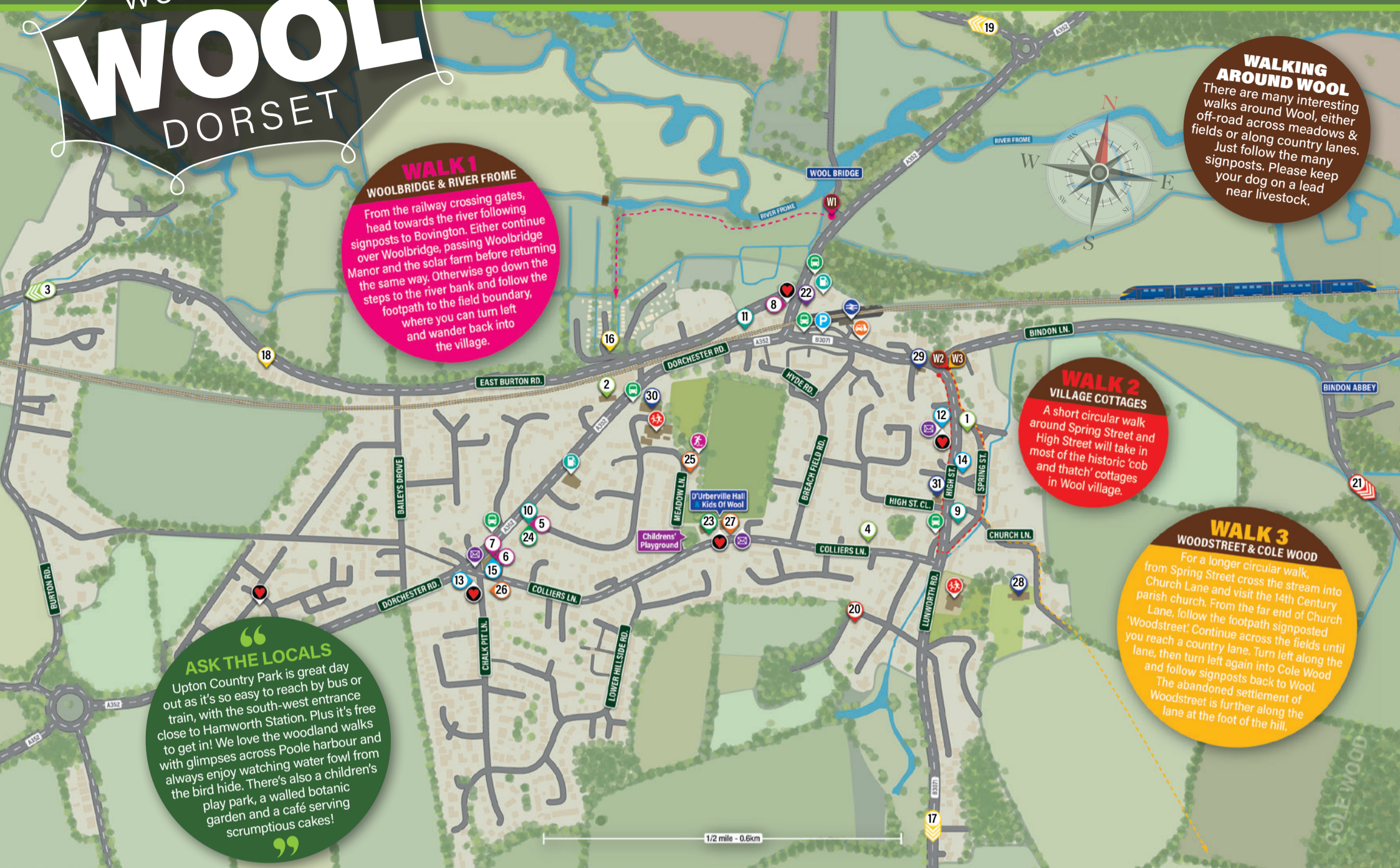
DEVONdesigns
devondesigns.co.uk
neil@devondesigns.co.uk
07917 86 00 80
01626 83 01 02

welcome to WOOL DORSET

- PARKING
- TAXI RANK
- RAILWAY STATION
- SCHOOL
- FUEL & REPAIRS
- BUS STOP
- POST BOX
- SKATE PARK

- DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS - IN ORDER FROM NORTH TO SOUTH
- 1: WALL OF UNIT 2 WOOLBRIDGE BUSINESS CENTRE
- 2: WALL OF SPAR STORE
- 3: WALL OF D'URBERVILLE HALL
- 4: WALL OF TAYLOR'S FAMILY BUTCHERS
- 5: WALL OF 3 THE BRIARS, PURBECK GATE

*Please note: All bus services stop at the railway station, with all other stops minor (Meaning not all buses stop at them). For full timetable please visit: www.bustimes.org



WALK 1
WOOLBRIDGE & RIVER FROME
From the railway crossing gates, head towards the river following signposts to Bovington. Either continue over Woolbridge, passing Woolbridge Manor and the solar farm before returning the same way. Otherwise go down the steps to the river bank and follow the footpath to the field boundary, where you can turn left and wander back into the village.

WALKING AROUND WOOL
There are many interesting walks around Wool, either off-road across meadows & fields or along country lanes. Just follow the many signposts. Please keep your dog on a lead near livestock.

WALK 2
VILLAGE COTTAGES
A short circular walk around Spring Street and High Street will take in most of the historic 'cob and thatch' cottages in Wool village.

WALK 3
WOODSTREET & COLE WOOD
For a longer circular walk, from Spring Street cross the stream into Church Lane and visit the 14th Century parish church. From the far end of Church Lane, follow the footpath signposted 'Woodstreet'. Continue across the fields until you reach a country lane. Turn left along the lane, then turn left again into Cole Wood and follow signposts back to Wool. The abandoned settlement of Woodstreet is further along the lane at the foot of the hill.

ASK THE LOCALS
Upton Country Park is great day out as it's so easy to reach by bus or train, with the south-west entrance close to Hamworth Station. Plus it's free to get in! We love the woodland walks with glimpses across Poole harbour and always enjoy watching water fowl from the bird hide. There's also a children's play park, a walled botanic garden and a café serving scrumptious cakes!

PUBS & CLUBS

1: THE BLACK BEAR
Free House & Restaurant. Homemade Food Served All Day (Seasonally). Booking Advisable. Find us on Facebook.
01929 405541
[fb.com/people/The-Black-Bear-Inn-Wool/61554362199526](https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Black-Bear-Inn-Wool/61554362199526)

2: THE SHIP INN
Bar & Restaurant. Home Cooked Food, catering for all tastes. Vegetarian & Gluten Free. Dog Friendly. Live Entertainment.
01929 462247
www.shipwool.co.uk

3: THE SEVEN STARS
Free House & Restaurant. Great Food 7 days a week, all day Sat & Sun. Vegetarian & Gluten Free. Wheelchair Access. Children's Play Area. Dog Friendly.
01929 462292
www.sevenstars.co.uk

4: WOOL ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB
Venue for hire any occasions big/small; competitive rates for non-members, including food/drinks. Can accommodate Skittles/Darts/Pool events.
01929 462791
www.rblwool.co.uk

CAFES & RESTAURANTS

5. WOOL FISH & CHIPS
Traditional Northern-style Chippy
01929 805158
woolchippy@aol.com

6. THE HIDDEN DELI
Freshly made Paninis, Cake, Barista coffee. Also Local, Dorset, British and Italian provisions.
01929 462502
facebook: @thehiddendeli

7. HONG KONG GARDEN
Chinese Takeaway. Open Every Day; 5pm to 10:00pm
01929 405400

8. JURASSIC COAST CATERING Ltd
Roarsome food served 7 days a week. Take-away, delivery or dine with us at the Jurassic Coast Café right by Wool Station level crossing. Inside/outside seating. Dog friendly. Cyclists and Bikers welcome.
07501 366562
www.jurassiccoastcatering.co.uk

HAIR & BEAUTY

9. JANE'S HAIRSTYLISTS
Hairstyling for all the Family.
01929 462326
www.janes-hairstylists.co.uk

10. THE CUTTING CREW
Dorset's Premier Hair Salon.
01929 462188
www.the-cutting-crew.com

11. HOLISTIC HANDS OF PURBECK
Massage, Reflexology, Facials & Wellbeing treatments
07549 833585
www.holisticheandsofpurbeck.com

SHOPS

12. SPAR
General Convenience Store & Post Office. Open 7:30am to 10pm - 7 days a week.
01929 462246
www.spar.co.uk

13. TAYLOR'S FAMILY BUTCHERS Ltd
First Stop for Quality BBQ Meats.
01929 462260
www.taylorfamilybutchers.co.uk

14. WILLIAMS VILLAGE BAKERY SHOP (TRADITIONAL)
Selling Bread, Pasties, Cakes, Fresh Filled Rolls. Barista made coffee/drinks. Gluten Free Range. New: Soft Scoop Ice Cream - 10 Flavours.
01929 462277

15. AMBER HARDWARE
Household goods, pet supplies, gardening, electrical and DIY
01929 462291
facebook: @amberhardware

There are many other shops in Wool to discover, with our chemist located near Taylor's the Butchers.

ACCOMMODATION

16. WHITEMEAD CARAVAN/CAMPING SITE
Stunning family run park found in five acres of the most beautiful Dorset countryside. BH20 6HG
01929 462241
www.whitemeadcaravanpark.co.uk

17. BELHUISH FARM HOUSE B&B
Logs & Kindling also supplied. BH20 5PS
01929 405415
rod@rodmillier.co.uk

18. FROME DALE B&B
Friendly family run B&B. All rooms en-suite. BH20 6HF
01929 405075 / 07917646006
www.fromedalebedandbreakfast.co.uk

19. LONGTHORNS FARM CAMPSITE
Award-winning site with quiet ample pitches. Glamping huts, eco-pods and tipis to hire.
01929 401539
www.longthornsfarm.co.uk

ESTATE AGENTS & HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

20. MEYERS ESTATE AGENTS
Friendly Professional Local Estate Agency
01929 503105
www.meyersstates.com

COMPLETE CLEAN CLEANING SERVICE
Complete Cleaning Package including - Windows & Conservatories, Carpets & Upholstery, Gutters, Fascia's & Soffits, Ovens, Patios.
07958 224239
completecleandorset@outlook.com

21. PURBECK SELF STORAGE
Fully-secure self-storage units in East Stoke: various sizes, competitive rates, 24/7 CCTV & alarm system. Ideal for household items, cars etc.
01929 462462 / enquiries@purbeckselfstorage.co.uk
www.purbeckselfstorage.co.uk

MOTURING

22. AUTO POINT @ STATION GARAGE
Tyres, Alignment, Brakes, MOT, Servicing.
01929 462263
station@wool-bovington.co.uk

CHARITIES

23. THE PURBECK WORKSHOP
A Cancer Charity. Creative escapes for those touched by cancer.
trustees@purbeckworkshop.org
www.purbeckworkshop.org

24. WELDMAR HOSPIECE CARE TRUST
Charity Shop. Caring for Dorset
01929 463617
www.weldmarhospicecare.org

HEALTH & LIBRARY

25. THE WELLBRIDGE PRACTICE
Doctors' Surgery.
01929 462376
www.wellbridge.co.uk

26. MOUTHPEACE DENTAL PRACTICE
Dental Practice.
01929 462269
www.mouthpeace.com

27. WOOL COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Run by volunteers. Open Tuesday afternoons, Thursday & Saturday mornings. Next to D'Urberville Hall, Colliers Lane.
01929 405259
www.woolcommunitylibrary.org

PLACES OF WORSHIP

28. THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ROOD
Parish church of Wool & East Stoke. Part of West Purbeck Benefice, in the Anglican Diocese of Salisbury.
07729 484866
www.westpurbeck.org.uk

29. WOOL METHODIST CHURCH
Part of the Poole Bay Methodist Circuit.
07925 134 250
www.poolebaymethodists.org.uk

30. ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
One of a group of four Catholic churches in Purbeck, in the Catholic Diocese of Plymouth.
purbeckcatholic.co.uk

31. KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
www.jw.org/en

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