



THE CASTLEMAN TRAILWAY



CASTLEMAN TRAILWAY

(16 miles, 26 kms)

The trailway follows the old railway line as closely as possible, but in some places the line is inaccessible. Alternative routes have been found, please follow the waymarkers, even when they are leading you away from the old railway line.

DOLMAN'S CROSSING TO WEST MOORS

(1 mile, 1.6 kms)

The route from Dolman's Crossing to West Moors may well change during the lifetime of the leaflet. Please follow the waymarkers on footpaths and roads.

Station Road Car Par, off Park Way, West Moors.

ASHLEY HEATH

ASHLEY TWINNING

WEST MOORS TO ASHLEY TWINNING

(4.5 miles, 7.2 kms)

Follow the waymarkers through West Moors to Arnold Close, where you re-enter the trailway (this section open by kind permission of the Ministry of Defence). From West Moors Plantation the route follows the disused railway to Ashley Cottages on the Ringwood Road (B3081).

Ashley Twinning Car Park is on the right under the road bridge.

STAPEHILL TO DOLMAN'S CROSSING

(3.3 miles, 5.3 kms.)

Turn down Wimborne Road West and then turn left up Uddens Drive. Turn left again onto forestry tracks which will take you over the Ferndown By Pass and eastwards, through Uddens Plantation, to Dolman's Crossing. This section is open by kind permission of the Forestry Commission.

at the Old Thatch, Wimborne Road (ask in the Pub) and limited parking in Ameyford Road.

MERLEY TO STAPEHILL

(2.4 miles, 4 kms)

Walk north down Poole Road towards Wimborne, turn right just before the river bridge through the large wrought iron gates of Canford School and follow the footpath under a "Gothic" railway bridge (a short diversion here takes you along part of the old railway to a viewpoint overlooking the Stour where the line once crossed the river), pass under a road bridge, shortly afterwards turn left and cross the Stour using the suspension bridge. Then follow the footpath to your right to Ham Lane. Turn right, then turn left up Fox Lane to Wimborne Road West.

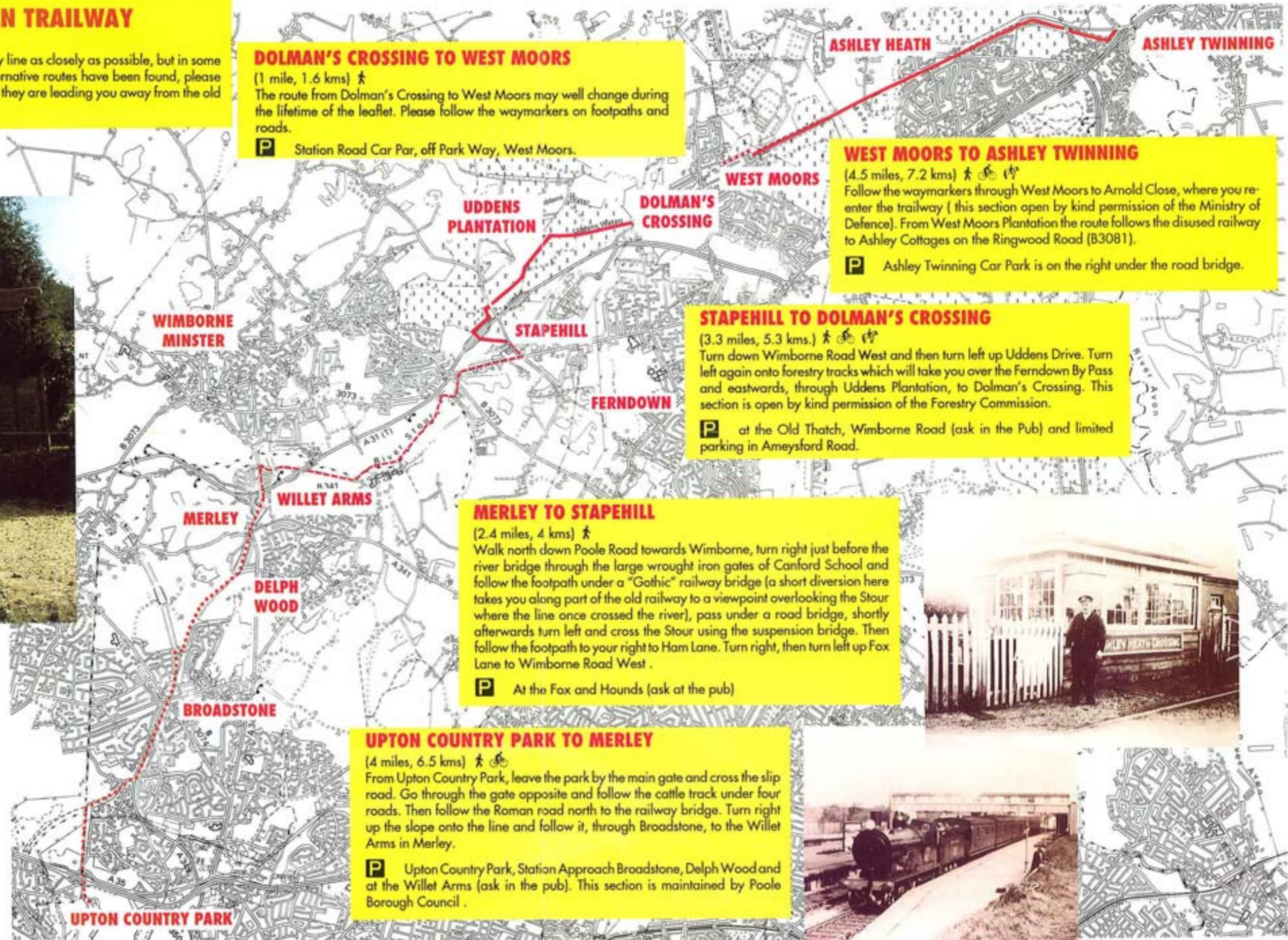
At the Fox and Hounds (ask at the pub)

UPTON COUNTRY PARK TO MERLEY

(4 miles, 6.5 kms)

From Upton Country Park, leave the park by the main gate and cross the slip road. Go through the gate opposite and follow the cattle track under four roads. Then follow the Roman road north to the railway bridge. Turn right up the slope onto the line and follow it, through Broadstone, to the Willet Arms in Merley.

Upton Country Park, Station Approach Broadstone, Delph Wood and at the Willet Arms (ask in the pub). This section is maintained by Poole Borough Council.



KEY

- Walkers, Cyclists and Horse Riders
- Walkers and Cyclists
- Walkers only
- Horse Riders
- Cyclists
- Walkers
- Parking



TRAILWAY



THE CASTLEMAN



THE CASTLEMAN TRAILWAY

The Castleman Trailway is 1.6 miles long, much of it follows the route of the old Southampton to Dorchester railway line, which was closed in the 1960's. The Trailway can take you on foot, bike or horse through some of South East Dorset's most attractive countryside. When all the links are in place you will be able to travel from Poole to the edge of the New Forest without needing a car, and for the most part you need not even see one.

At the moment a continuous path is available for **walkers only** from Upton Country Park near Poole to the River Avon near Ringwood, passing close to Delph Woods, Uddens Plantation and Moors Valley and Avon Heath Country Parks.

Parts of the route are also open to cyclists and horse riders (see map) and much of it is suitable for wheelchair users.

The route is marked by waymarkers, please keep to the indicated path and follow the Country Code.



The **Castleman Trailway** is provided by Dorset County Council's Countryside Service in partnership with Poole Borough Council and with the support of the Forestry Commission and the Countryside Commission.



CASTLEMAN AND THE RAILWAY.

Early in 1844 the "Southampton and Dorchester Railway Company" was formed to build a line between these two towns. The route finally chosen snaked across the New Forest to Ringwood, then via Wimborne to Dorchester. Because of the twists and turns the line was nicknamed "Castleman's Corkscrew" after Charles Castleman, the Wimborne solicitor who was chiefly responsible for the building of the line. The railway was opened to the public on the 1st of June 1847, with festivities in many places along the route.

The Southampton and Dorchester Railway Company lost its independence in July 1848 when it was taken over by the London and South Western Railway.

In 1888 a new main line was opened from Brockenhurst through Bournemouth to Poole. The stretch of line between Brockenhurst and Hamworthy was downgraded until after the Second World War, when increasing competition from road traffic led to a fall in passenger numbers.

In the years following 1964, as part of Dr. Richard Beeching's plan to make the railway system viable, the branch line between Brockenhurst and Hamworthy was closed to passenger traffic and the process of demolition started.

Upton Country Park is run by Poole Borough Council. Poole's other facilities include Delph Woods, Ham Common and several smaller open spaces, as well as a full programme of events and guided walks. For details ring **01202 633555**.



Avon Heath Country Park, a large heath and woodland Country Park near Ringwood is run by Dorset County Council. The Council also provides picnic sites and car parks for walkers. There is a programme of events and guided walks throughout the year. For details please ring the Visitor Centre **01425 478470**, or the Rangers **01425 478082**.



The play trail at **Moors Valley Country Park** is provided by Forest Enterprise, part of the Forestry Commission, who also own Uddens Plantation and numerous other woods in Dorset, many of which are open to the public. There is a programme of events and guided walks throughout the year. For details ring **01929 551811**.

The trailway is a permissive path and, except where it follows existing rights of way, there is no legal public right of access, nor can one be created by prolonged use. The trailway is available for public use for the foreseeable future by kind permission of the landowners.

For further information regarding the Castleman Trailway, please contact Dorset County Council's Countryside Service Eastern offices at Avon Heath Country Park, near Ringwood. Telephone **(01425) 478082**

