

Kayaking around Poole Harbour

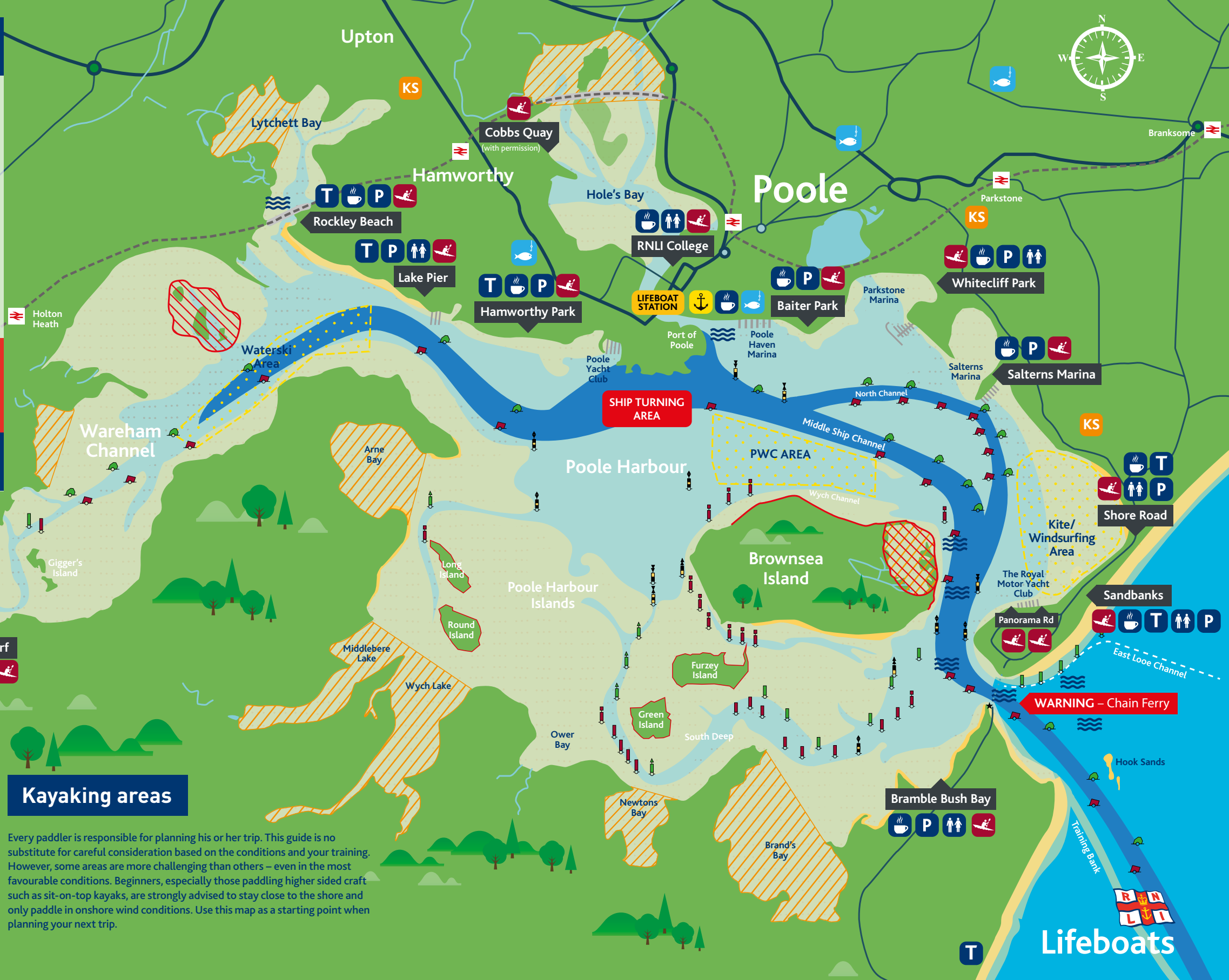
- Launch sites
- Lifeboat Station
- Harbour Master
- Kayak training available
- Public car parks
- Public toilets
- Cafe
- Kayak equipment shop
- Angling bait and tackle shops
- Muddy foreshore
- Sandy foreshore
- Sandy area
- Deep water
- Private land
- Breeding Bird Sensitive Areas (April - June)
- Overwintering Bird Sensitive Areas (Nov - March)
- Rough/fast moving water

Dangerous mud exposed at low tide in many places – If you get stuck stay with your boat and call for help if needed.

In case of emergency:
Stay with your kayak and call for help on VHF Channel 16, or dial 999 on a mobile phone and ask for Coastguard.

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

See UKHO 'Poole Harbour and approaches' chart no 2611 for full details



Kayaking areas

Every paddler is responsible for planning his or her trip. This guide is no substitute for careful consideration based on the conditions and your training. However, some areas are more challenging than others – even in the most favourable conditions. Beginners, especially those paddling higher sided craft such as sit-on-top kayaks, are strongly advised to stay close to the shore and only paddle in onshore wind conditions. Use this map as a starting point when planning your next trip.



KAYAKING AROUND POOLE HARBOUR

Poole Harbour, claimed to be the World's second largest natural harbour, is an excellent area for kayaking. However, while it includes stretches of unsurpassable peaceful, natural beauty, there are also mud banks, busy channels and strong tides to navigate. This information will help you stay safe and enjoy your time on the water.

Kayaking is a safe sport but accidents do happen. Between 2011 and 2015, there were 18 fatalities in the UK*. None were able to call for help themselves.

Always carry a means of calling for help and keep it within reach.

Protect yourself by carrying a VHF radio or personal locator beacon (PLB). Take a mobile phone in a waterproof pouch as a back-up. In an emergency, dial 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard. Consider using RYA Safetrx to log, track and send alerts about your trip: www.safetrxapp.com

*Source: Waid 2011-15

To find out more about staying safe on the water, visit RNLI.org/kayaking

How to stay safe

Always carry a means of calling for help and keep it within reach.



Check the weather and tides to plan your trip accordingly.



Wear a personal flotation device.

Tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back.



Get relevant training. It will keep you safe and you'll have more fun too!



Wear appropriate clothing for the conditions and your trip.



Weather sources

- UK Met Office: www.metoffice.gov.uk
- Inshore 24-hour forecast (including forecast for further 24 hours) Selsey Bill to Lyme Regis
- BBC Radio 4 FM/MW/LW at the following times: 12.48am and 05.20am
- Poole YC Live Weather: www.pooleyc.co.uk
- RYA SafeTrx allows easy access to Inshore waters forecast: www.safetrxapp.com

The Met Office also provides four-day surface pressure charts. HM Coastguard, announced on VHF Channel 16 then given on specified channel at the following local times (UT): 0130, 0430, 0730, 1030, 1330, 1630, 1930, 2230. Times in bold include latest inshore forecast.

What to watch out for

Tides – Strong tidal currents at Poole Harbour entrance (Sandbanks and Brownsea Island); Holes Bay to Poole Quay; Rockley into the entrance of Lytchett Bay; River Frome. Flow rates are at their strongest for a few hours either side of low tide and even more so every two weeks during spring tides. Check tides by using the anyTide app from the National Oceanography Centre, the Easytide website www.ukho.gov.uk/easytide or in a local tide table.

Wash – The Middle Ship (main) Channel from Poole Harbour entrance to Poole Quay can be busy with ships and small craft creating breaking waves. Avoid paddling in the channel. Cross the channel at right angles and lookout for craft.

Poole Harbour entrance – The chain ferry (0700 to 2300) has right of way. A black ball, hoisted at forward end, indicates its intention to move. A white strobe light flashes when the engines are engaged. Anticipate its movement and pass well clear astern of it. A flashing orange light on South Haven CCTV mast indicates when a ship is about to transit the harbour entrance.

Navigation marks – All Harbour navigation marks conform to IALA Region 'A' system. Buoys are numbered consecutively from the seaward end of the Swash Channel – port (red) buoys even numbers, starboard (green) odd numbers. Minor channels marked with red/green stakes with reflective tape – 2 stripes on port markers, 1 stripe starboard.

Invasive species can affect fish and other wildlife, restrict navigation, clog up propellers and be costly to manage. You can help protect the water sports you love by following three simple steps when you leave the water.

Other online sources
www.xcweather.co.uk
www.windalert.com

Poole Lifting Bridges – Two lifting bridges between The Quay and Holes Lake. The bridges are fitted with navigation signals.

- Leaves in any position**
All vessels stop (Emergency stop if flashing)
- Leaves fully raised**
Vessels may proceed (with caution if top yellow light lit)

Poole Harbour Special Protection Areas and Bird Sensitive Areas

Do's and Don'ts:

- ✓ Do keep noise low and speed slow around birds. Stay alert and keep your distance.
- ✓ Do use recognised landing places.
- ✓ Do keep dogs under control to prevent them causing birds to take flight.
- ✓ Allow birds and seals to approach you. Do not follow them.
- ✗ Don't cause feeding or roosting birds to take flight.
- ✗ Avoid bird sensitive areas.
- ✗ When using watercraft, don't split up large rafts of birds.

Guided tours and kayak hire in Poole

Training

- Poole Harbour Canoe Club: Membership Secretary, Lake Pier, Lake Drive, Hamworthy, BH15 4LR www.pooleharbourcanoecub.com
- The Watersports Academy: 01202 708283 www.thewatersportsacademy.com
- Rockley Watersports: 01202 677272 www.rockley.org
- Shore Sports: 07867 575280 www.shoresports.co.uk
- Harbour Challenge: 01202 772436 www.harbourchallenge.org.uk

- Wareham Canoe Club: 01929 550688 www.warehamboathire.co.uk
- Studland Sea School: 01929 450430 www.studlandseaschool.co.uk
- South Coast Canoes: 01202 914224 www.south-coast-canoes.co.uk
- Aquatic Leisure Training and Development: 07951 027733 www.aquaticleisure.co.uk

Guided tours and kayak hire

- The Big Canoe: 01929 481222 www.thebigcanoe.co.uk

- Land & Wave: 01929 423031 www.landandwave.co.uk
- Poole Harbour watersports: 01202 700503 www.pooleharbour.co.uk
- Shore Sports: 07867 575280 www.shoresports.co.uk
- Wareham Boat Hire: 01929 550688 www.warehamboathire.co.uk
- Studland Sea School: 01929 450430 www.studlandseaschool.co.uk
- Studland Watersports: 07980 559143 www.studlandwatersports.co.uk

Useful contacts

HM Coastguard, National Marine Operations Centre. For advice or to notify them of your trip, call 02392 552100. In an emergency dial 999 or 112 or call on VHF Channel 16. VHF radio MMSI 002320011.

Register your details with HM Coastguard's Voluntary Safety Identification Scheme CG66 on www.gov.uk/register-boat-coastguard-safety-scheme

RNLI Poole Lifeboat, The Quay, Poole, Dorset. BH15 1HZ. Tel: 01202 665607. For safety advice ask for the Volunteer Community Safety Officer.

Poole Harbourmaster – 'Poole Harbour Control' For advice on shipping movements, call 01202 440230 or call on VHF Channel 14.

Call sign: 'Poole Harbour Control'. Email: harbourcontrol@phc.co.uk

Harbourmaster's patrol launch 'VIGILANT' also receives on VHF Channel 14.

Visit British Canoeing: www.britishcanoeing.org.uk



For more information on kayaking and canoeing in the UK, visit www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), a charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Registered charity number 20003326 in the Republic of Ireland

