

Snorkel Diving at Pondfield near Tyneham

Ordnance Survey SY 872 796

Near the lost village of Tyneham, this pretty cove is sheltered and offers dramatic scenery and caves to explore. This is between Swanage and Lulworth and is one of the better dive sites on the south coast.

Pondfield can be a tricky entry over some very slippery rocks, but can be negotiated with care and well worth the effort. It is excellent just diving in the cove. Visibility is often good due to its sheltered position, with lots of opportunity for surface dives. There is a large cave on the east side which can be accessed depending upon the tides.

If the conditions are right and with boat cover, a good dive for the more experienced is from the most easterly part of Worborough Bay around Worborough Tout (the headland) into Pondfield and exit from there.

There are also good snorkel dives along the west side of Worborough Tout with entries from the beach at the most easterly point of Worborough Bay.

If we take the boat we launch it at Kimeridge and drive it over. Kimeridge is a couple of miles to the east.

Pondfield is accessed from Tyneham village. Tyneham is famous as a 'lost village' as it was taken over by the army during WW 2 and has been frozen in time.

More details on Tyneham can be found at

<http://www.worldheritagecoast.net/place.aspx?place=10>

To get to the beach, we park in the Tyneham village car park and follow the path to sea. Pondfield is to the left past the anti-tank block-Worborough Bay to the right.

There is a toilet block at the back of the car park, you are advised to go before setting off along the path.

It is about half a mile from the car park to the sea, so be prepared to carry your kit this distance. You will also need to take a packed lunch as there are no facilities at the beach.

Directions to Tyneham

Drive to Poole, take the A35 towards Dorchester. Take the A351 to Wareham

Take the A352 towards Wool after a mile and half turn left onto the B3070 towards Lulworth. At East Lulworth turn left onto the 'ranges' road.

After about 2 miles turn sharp right downhill into Tyneham and drive through to the car park.

PLEASE NOTE: Tynham is part of the army ranges and can be closed when there are exercises. Please check that the ranges are open before going.