

## CERNE GIANT 30/20 2017: 20 MILE CHALLENGE ROUTE

### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION and INSTRUCTIONS**

**DIRECTIONS TO PARKING LOCATION IN CERNE ABBAS. Grid Ref. ST 661 017, Postcode DT2 7AL.** The parking location is at the north end of the village.

From Dorchester ring road head north on the A352 for 6 miles to reach village. At cross roads do not turn right into village but continue ahead. After 500 yds ignore turn right at car park sign and continue for another 100 yds to park at the Grain Store on the left, where marshals will be located.

From A303, head south to Sherborne and then follow A352 for 9½ miles to village. Just before reaching the village turn right into the Grain Store, where marshals will be located.

Please be respectful at all times when using the parking area at the Grain Store as the company that owns it has kindly permitted parking on the hard standing for this event.

You then need to walk 300 yds to the Cerne Abbas village hall. From the Grain Store turn right and cross the A352 with care. After 100 yds turn left down the road and in a further 100 yds turn left to the village hall.

There is no parking at the village hall. Please follow directions of parking marshals. DO NOT obstruct pavements, driveways, gateways or junctions - doing so is likely to jeopardise the future of the event and may lead to a parking ticket.

**REGISTRATION** – is from 7.00am.

**THE START** – 08.00am (Runners 09.00am). Do not leave early, as tally cards may be clipped before you start. Take notice of checkpoint open and closing times as these will be enforced.

**AT THE CHECKPOINTS** – When you arrive at a checkpoint ensure you are recorded and your tally card is clipped. Cold refreshments will be available at checkpoints, and a basic hot meal at the finish.

**CLIPPER POINTS** – **The 20 mile route has one manned clip point (clip point B) and one self-clip point (clip point D)** - please ensure your tally card is clipped. (N.B. There is no clip point A or clip point C on the 20 route.)

**RETIREMENT** – If you are unable to continue **please retire at a checkpoint** where you will eventually be transported back to Cerne Abbas. If you are unable to reach a checkpoint please hand your tally to another walker and someone will come to your aid. Do not leave the event without informing the organisers.

**CHANGING FROM 30 MILE ROUTE TO 20 MILE ROUTE** – The first leg of the two routes is the same; thereafter the routes are substantially different. If you decide to swap routes, you must

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do this at the first checkpoint, Lyscombe Chapel. **Please inform the checkpoint marshals if this is your intention.**

**EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER – 01300 342090** – This number will be on your tally card and on each page of the route description. You may not get a signal on your mobile phone from parts of the walk.

**THE FINISH** – Do not forget to check in. Your tally will also be scanned and your finish time digitally recorded. A certificate will be made out showing your completion time. The results list will be available on the LDWA Dorset Group website in due course.

**UNABLE TO TURN UP ON THE DAY?** – Please let us know [dorset.ldwa@gmail.com](mailto:dorset.ldwa@gmail.com)

**DOGS** – Any entrant accompanied by a dog on the walk will be disqualified and asked to leave the event immediately. The event takes place over land that is used for sheep farming. Late March sees the start of the lambing season.

**MUGS** – Please bring your own mug, as plastic cups are not provided.

#### **Standard abbreviations**

<b>AH</b> Ahead	<b>BL</b> Bear left	<b>BR</b> Bear right	<b>BW</b> Bridleway
<b>CB</b> Compass bearing	<b>CP</b> Checkpoint		<b>E</b> East
<b>FB</b> Field boundary	<b>FP</b> Footpath	<b>GR</b> Grid reference	<b>Immed.</b> Immediately
<b>JT</b> Jubilee Trail	<b>KG</b> Kissing gate	<b>L</b> Left	<b>LH</b> Left-hand
<b>LHS</b> Left-hand side (yours)	<b>LMG</b> Large metal gate	<b>LWG</b> Large wooden gate	<b>N</b> North
<b>R</b> Right	<b>RD</b> Road	<b>RH</b> Right-hand	<b>RHS</b> Right-hand side (yours)
<b>S</b> South		<b>SMG</b> Small metal Gate	<b>SP</b> Signpost
<b>ST</b> Stile	<b>SWG</b> Small wooden gate	<b>T-jct.</b> T-junction	<b>Thru</b> through
<b>TK</b> Track	<b>TL / FL</b> Turn Left / Fork Left	<b>TR / FR</b> Turn Right /Fork Right	<b>W</b> West
<b>WM</b> Waymark	<b>WR</b> Wessex Ridgeway	<b>X</b> Cross / across	

**SP** followed by another abbreviation or words indicates where the signpost is pointing e.g **SP FP** or **SP** Milton Abbas. **WM** followed by another abbreviation or words indicates what sort of waymark e.g. **WM FP** or **WM WR**. Please note that **FB** stands for field boundary, **not** footbridge. Not all paths on this route are shown on OS maps. Some gates may be open. **A compass will aid navigation on this event.**

## Section 1    Cerne Abbas to Lyscombe Chapel (CP1 - 7.3 miles, 11.8 km)

**(1.1)** Leave hall and TR on TK over bridge. In 30m TL and in 30m TR by barn. In 10m FR and AH on path. In 150m thru KG. AH on path (not up steps) along bottom of hill (in 50m ignore ST on R). **Beware low branches and fence lying on ground** and continue with fence on R to T junction with path. (GR ST 669 016).

**(1.2)** TL on path with FB on R for 1km to reach LMG. Thru and AH with FB on L to go thru LMG. In 10m through next LMG (may be open) and TL thru SWG. Cross field (CB 300°) to meet 4 way SP (Giant Walk) at corner of copse. TR and AH with FB on L for 300m to reach SP (Alton Pancras 1<sup>3/4</sup>). TR (CB 90°) across field, on unclear path, to gates and main RD. (GR ST 675 029).

**(1.3)** X RD **WITH GREAT CARE** to campsite entrance opposite. AH thru campsite (CB 90°) to rusty LMG in hedge. Do not go thru but TR (WM) with FB on L and in 50m exit campsite thru SWG. AH with FB on L for 400m. At SP (Alton Pancras 1<sup>1/4</sup>) TL thru SWG, and immed thru SMG, and in 70m go thru LMG (which may be open) (WM WR). AH with FB on R for 700m and thru two LMGs (which may be open) (Black Barn). In 10m sharp TR and around LMG to reach 4 way SP by corner of barn. TL on TK through LMG (which may be open) (barn on L). Continue on farm track with FB on L for 1km. When main TK swings sharp R, continue AH thru LMG (which may be open), and continue on grassy path downhill (FB on R) for 250m to reach LWG by house. Go thru and AH down tarmac drive for 50m to reach RD (Alton Pancras) (GR ST 699 028).

**(1.4)** TR on RD (**BEWARE OF TRAFFIC**) thru village for 420m with railings and ditch on L. At SP on L, TL thru LMG (village map notice board on L) up TK and continue AH on TK uphill to reach Millennium Seat. Leaving TK continue AH on grassy path uphill soon with FB on R to reach LMG. Go thru and uphill to next LMG. Thru and continue uphill on wide grassy TK (CB 50°), soon joining TK from R, to reach double LMGs. Go thru LH gate and AH on TK with FB on R to reach LMG in field corner. (GR ST 709 027).

**(1.5)** Thru LMG and bear half right across field on indistinct path (CB 110°) passing to R of oak tree and in 100m (20m before hedge) down thru gorse bushes to join X TK at LMG (WM) by wood. Go thru and AH on TK with wood on L. Thru next metal gate and AH for 600m on wide stony TK downhill (**CARE - SLIPPERY WHEN WET**) to reach SMG and RD at Plush. TL on RD and in 50m TR at Brace of Pheasants PH. Continue thru village. In 300m pass Millers Barn on your L and in 80m TR thru gate on FP. Follow grassy TK as it bears diagonally R uphill to reach ST in fence. Over ST and across field (CB 130°) to reach broken ST in hedge. X ST and AH (CB 110°) for 300m across field towards wood. At wood TL (CB 40°) across field to reach SMG (WM and access land sign) in field corner (GR ST 723 020). Go thru gate and AH on ridge, passing thru SMG, with FB on R and scrub on slope to L. In 300m pass trig point in field on your R to reach wood. Continue AH now with mature wood on R and in 400m (just after small blackthorn thicket) reach gate with four way SP. (GR ST 730 024).

**(1.6)** TR thru LWG and TR (CB 200°) along FB with wood on R. In 700m go thru LMG and AH with FB on R for 200m towards pig farm (behind FB on R) (GR ST 730 013). When level with tall mast BL (CB 140°) - no distinct path - diagonally across field to reach 2 LMGs by trees. Go thru LH

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gate (WM) and AH with FB on R to next LMG. Go thru and down (CB 95°) with FB on L (no distinct path) to reach gate. Thru and TR on TK to reach LMG before Lyscombe Farm. **DO NOT GO THRU but TL before gate** and cross stream on small footbridge by wall to reach Lyscombe Chapel. If stream is in flood, follow directions of marshals.

**CP1 LYSCOMBE CHAPEL (GR ST 736 011). Open 0930-1100. Total distance 7.3 miles, 11.8 km**

**Section 2 Lyscombe Chapel to Buckland Newton (CP2 - 6.8 miles, 10.9 km)**

**(2.1)** Exit chapel yard. TR (N). In 15m TR thru LWG. BL (CB 30°) uphill to LMG on horizon to R of wood. Thru gate (**which must be closed!**) TL (CB 20°) to 2nd LMG, (**beware badger holes**). Thru gate FB on R (CB 30°) to go thru 3rd LMG. Continue on same bearing to 4th LMG in NE corner. Thru gate and immediately TR thru LWG SP Higher Melcombe. Thru LMG and AH FB on left. Descend on TK to LMG. Thru gate (which may be stiff) and AH, FB on R. Just before farm buildings TR (WM) thru SMG. Follow left hand FB to next SMG. Thru gate, TL onto new cement area, then TK, to go thru LMG (**BEWARE, LIVE ELECTRIC WIRE NEXT TO GATE**) to farm RD (Higher Melcombe Farm). TR along farm RD for 450m, Higher Melcombe Manor and chapel on RHS. 80m after last barn TL thru middle LMG (SP Melcombe Park). **(30 mile route leaves this route here)**. Follow RH field boundary to gateway. Thru gateway, AH 10m, BL up grassy track between banks towards top of hill. At corner of hedge on R, BL (CB 250°) along ridge to meet another FB on R (WM). Follow FB on R until it turns sharply away, then continue AH (WM) (CB 290°) on faint FP until main FP joins from R **(30 mile route rejoins)**. (GR ST 746 031).

**(2.2)** AH (CB 270°) just south of ridge between banks and descend to LMG. Thru LMG to descend to the multiple track junction called Dorsetshire Gap. (GR ST 743 031). (Box with visitor's book on left).

**(2.3)** At 4-way finger post, continue AH (ignoring LMG on R) downhill on sunken BW thru woods. Thru LMG (**CARE**) into field, AH on faint FP to large concrete water trough, then BL uphill to gateway (CB 280°). Admire extensive views across Blackmore Vale to R. Thru gateway, BR, in 8m TL thru LMG, and descend steep hill, keeping wood on L, fence on R. AH with dead oak trees on your R. Pass beneath another oak tree to go thru double SMGs in hedge on L behind brambles (do not turn R thru gap in fence). (GR ST 736 036).

**(2.4)** TL on broad sandy TK for 15m to electric fence. Thru, X TK, then AH thru SWG. Cross field on (CB 260°). Pass between 2 metal water troughs to SMG on TK. Thru gate, X TK and thru SMG opposite (WM). Continue on BW with FB on L. When FB turns L continue AH towards small red-roofed building behind tree (CB 310°). At SP, go thru SMG and TL onto concrete RD. (GR ST 730 038).

**(2.5)** X tarmac RD to continue on concrete RD past Armswell Farm House on LHS. Continue between farm buildings on concrete TK (thru gates if necessary) (WM), and uphill where TK

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becomes unsurfaced. AH on main sandy TK, (ignoring side TK to L) for 500m until TK reaches wood on RHS. Pass thru 2 LMGs (may be open) next to wood. **Immed** after the 2nd gate BL thru gap in fence on LHS, and head up field to join FB on L. Continue AH with meandering wood edge on L for 1km, passing thru 2 electric fence gates (if present) and LMG (**drops down – CARE**) to a second LMG by edge of wood (may be open). (GR ST 711 038).

**(2.6)** Pass thru LMG and AH (CB 280°) down field towards corner of tree-line on R. Here join tarmac TK, AH to X cattle-grid and uphill thru woods. TR on tarmac TK at top of hill. At T junction TL and 60m after barn on R, TR thru LMG (SP Sharnhill Green). (GR ST 704 041) Go thru field (**very muddy – CARE**) with FB on R, when FB turns R continue AH to corner of hedge opposite, by metal trough (CB 010°). Then follow this FB 15m to WM post. TL across field, aiming for hedge 25m to R of LMG (CB 280°). X double stiles in hedge and continue over brow of hill (CB 290°), for 380m to reach corner of FB on R (WM). BR at corner and continue to LMG (may be open) in far corner of field. (GR ST 698 046).

**(2.7)** Thru gate. TL onto stony TK. TK joins from right, continue down to RD. **CROSS WITH GREAT CARE** and go thru gateway (or gate, if it has been reinstalled) to R of minor road opposite. Cross field (CB 270°) to LMG, passing under power lines. Thru LMG, TR onto RD. Continue for 400m to reach lone bungalow on R. (GR ST 691 049).

**(2.8)** Just after bungalow (as RD bears L) continue AH to X ST into field (SP) and AH across field (CB 020°) to reach double STs in hedge. Cross STs and TR with fence on L and X ST. Follow FP which bears L below low concrete wall, then R downhill with hedge on L to reach RD. TL and in 150m TL into checkpoint.

**CP2 BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL (GR ST 693 052). Open 1115-1430. Total distance 14.1 miles, 22.7km**

**Section 3 - Buckland Newton to Cerne Abbas (Finish - 6.0 miles, 9.7km)**

**(3.1)** Leave village hall and TL. In 50m TL at crossroads. AH on RD passing school on LHS. TL at junction (signed 'Gaggle of Geese pub') and AH on RD passing Veronica Cottage on R to reach the pub on your L. AH past pub and after phone box BR uphill with RD. At grass triangle (with notice board behind tree "Buckland Newton village pound") TL on TK. AH on TK with houses on RHS. AH through LMG gate into field. Follow FB on L (**CARE - possible tape or electric wire across route**) to go thru LMG. (GR ST 685 050).

**(3.2)** TR uphill on wide metalled farm road. Road bends to L and in 800m, after road levels (and just before the main road) TL onto grass towards metal gates (CB 190°). Thru either gate and AH (CB 230°) in field following FB on R. In 200m, TR thru SMG (**which must be closed!**) (BW sign) to RD (Gales Hill). (GR ST 675 045). Cross RD half L (**EXTREME CARE !!! – blind hill**) aiming at start of TK opposite. AH on TK and in 500m pass SP (Minterne Magna ¾) on LHS. (GR ST 669 043).

**(3.3)** Continue AH on TK which initially bends to R (do not TL after bend), and in 400m TL thru

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SWG (SP Minterne Magna). BR on faint FP down field (CB 280°) to reach SP. BL down field (CB 250°) to go thru SWG and AH (CB 230°) on grassy path towards trees. Go thru SWG and AH (with FB on R) downhill to go thru SWG by LMG. AH on TK (shortly via footbridge on L) and in 200m reach main RD in Minterne Magna (church on RHS). (GR ST 659 043).

**(3.4)** X main RD (**WITH GREAT CARE**). *The next section is not as shown on older OS maps.* AH on BW and TR just before farmyard. AH (trees on L) and TL (SP BW) to reach TK. TL on TK and then AH uphill (CB 230°). In 500m reach T-junction in trees at top of hill (GR ST 654 040). TL on WM'd BW for 500m to FL . (**30 mile route leaves here**). (GR ST 657 036).

### **CLIP POINT B - MANNED CLIP POINT** (GR ST 657 036)

**(3.5)** At large gate post follow FP L. After 20m emerge into field, X the newly sown grassy area diagonally, aiming initially for the LMG in the far corner (CB 140). (Alternatively follow FB around field). Look for gap in fence with SP 10m to the R of the LMG. Thru gap onto RD. (GR ST 661 030). TL for 100m to junction with main RD, at junction **CROSS WITH GREAT CARE**. BL on FP opposite, thru wood to RD.

### **CLIP POINT D - SELF-CLIP** (ATTACHED TO SIGNPOST 'Minterne Parva' (GR ST 663 032))

**(3.6)** TR on minor RD to Minterne Parva. Continue on RD past round building on R (thought to be an C18th cock-fighting ring, it is fronted by an old preaching cross). Follow RD thru farmyard, after barns continue on TK 100m, TR at X TK (SP Alton Pancras). (GR ST 665 035). AH on TK for 100m, TL with TK for 160m. As TK swings R continue AH on grassy TK with FB on R. At SP, thru gap and continue AH (CB 100°) to X field to pass thru SMG. Follow way-marked FP thru copse and uphill, bearing R. At Wessex Ridgeway Trail post, continue along contours to pass bushes on L. At X path by SWG TR (SP Cerne Abbas). (GR ST 671 030).

**(3.7)** Continue on path with FB on L and steep drop on R for 400m. Thru SMG, after 4m TL uphill between fences to pass thru LMG. Continue AH (on WR) 100m. At end of wood on LHS, TR at X paths (CB 230°). At corner of field, X stile on R. (GR ST 669 024).

**(3.8)** Follow sign to Cerne Giant, heading on path slightly downhill for 200m (initially CB 220°). Pass between holly and yew tree (CB 230°). (Cerne Abbas can be seen AH). (**Beware small stump in ground**). Follow narrow FP around hill for 600m to reach boundary fence for Cerne Giant. Continue AH with boundary fence on L initially, to trees. Descend steps to FP. (GR ST 666 015).

**(3.9)** Pass thru KG and follow FP thru trees (SP Kettle Bridge). At junction with TK, TL for 15m. At concrete TK by barn TL and continue to junction with broad TK. TR and X bridge over river. Take 2<sup>nd</sup> turning on L to arrive at Cerne Abbas Village Hall.

**CERNE ABBAS VILLAGE HALL (ST 663 014) Open 1230-1900**

**Congratulations! You have completed a total distance of 20.1 miles, 32.4 km.**