

CERNE GIANT 30/20 2017: 30 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 30 mile route has two manned clipper points and one self-clip point** - please ensure your tally card is clipped.

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

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Please note that the 30 mile route after CP2 Buckland Newton is substantially different to the previous event in 2015.

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

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

AH Ahead	BL Bear left	BR Bear right	BW Bridleway
CB Compass bearing	CP Checkpoint	CVT Cerne Valley Trail	E East
FB Field boundary	FP Footpath	GR Grid reference	Immed. Immediately
JT Jubilee Trail	KG Kissing gate	L Left	LH Left-hand
LHS Left-hand side (yours)	LMG Large metal gate	LWG Large wooden gate	N North
R Right	RD Road	RH Right-hand	RHS Right-hand side (yours)
S South		SMG Small metal Gate	SP Signpost
ST Stile	SWG Small wooden gate	T-jct. T-junction	Thru through
TK Track	TL / FL Turn Left / Fork Left	TR / FR Turn Right /Fork Right	W West
WM Waymark	WR Wessex Ridgeway	X 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^{3/4}). 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 1¼) 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).

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(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 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 - 9.8 miles, 15.7 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, passing Higher Melcombe House and chapel on RHS. **20 mile route leaves this route after the farm buildings.** AH along farm RD for further 1.0 km approx. to reach cross roads at Cross Lanes. (GR ST 760 023).

(2.2) AH on minor RD for 1.25 km to reach large entrance gates with stone eagles and pineapples on gate posts (Bingham's Melcombe House).

CLIP POINT A - MANNED CLIP POINT (GR ST 772 019)

TL thru LH gate and follow drive (**walk on gravel not verge!**) to manor house. TL in front of house. Follow TK and BR round house, wall on R. Continue AH on lawn with high yew hedge visible behind wall on R. Just before end of lawn, at last pair of trees TL thru SWG (WM). Follow FP, (CB 320°) thru wood. At next WM continue AH thru wood. Thru KG, AH FB on R for 200m to go thru gap in hedge on R, descend (CB 310°) to cross gated footbridge AH. (**Ignore first footbridge on R**). Continue in same direction FB on R. Thru KG in FB and AH FB on L passing knobbly oak tree, go thru 2 SWGs to reach RD. (Ansty). (GR ST 764 030)

(2.3) TR on RD. In 200m opposite Aller Lane, TL over ST beside bungalow. Cross second ST and follow right hand edge of field thru SMGs to descend to cross ST next to LMG. Follow enclosed FP to X ST onto RD (Cothayes Drove). X RD and thru LMG opposite. X

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field (CB 240°) to X double ST in hedge. X field (CB 290°) to far corner of field. Thru LMG, and AH (CB 310°) with hedge on L to LMG (which may be open) in LH corner. AH and just before the TK levels out, BR (CB 300°) aiming to R of house, to pass thru SWG with SP. Thru and TL up farm TK (SP Dorset Gap) (Wessex Ridgeway). BR in front of house and AH between house and farm buildings to go thru 2 LMGs (may be open). AH on stony TK to reach line of 3 LMGs. Thru RH LMG, SP Dorset Gap. TR and AH (CB 250°) FB on R, to corner of field. Thru two SWGs, and AH (CB 270°) along top of ridge. **(20 mile route rejoins here.)** At end of ridge descend between banks to LMG. Thru LMG to descend to the multiple track junction called Dorsetshire Gap. (Box with visitor's book). (GR ST 743 031)

(2.4) 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).

(2.5) 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).

(2.6) 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 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).

(2.7) 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 704041) 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).

(2.8) 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,

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TR onto RD. Continue for 400m to reach lone bungalow on R. (GR ST 691 049).

(2.9) 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 17.1 miles, 27.5 km.

Section 3 - Buckland Newton to Sydling St Nicholas (CP3 - 7.3 miles, 11.7 km)

(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 $\frac{3}{4}$) on LHS. (GR ST 669 043).

(3.3) Continue AH on track which initially bends to R (do **not** TL after bend), and in 400m TL thru SWG (SP Minterne Magna). BR on faint path 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 R). (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 BW for 500m to fork. **20 mile route leaves here.** (GR ST 657 036)

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

(3.5) TR downhill on TK . In 500m reach RD and TL. In 200m TR (SP Cerne Abbas). X field to end of line of trees ahead (CB 180°). X field (CB 150°) to RD and TR. At end of

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avenue of trees TR onto TK. In 70m TK turns L thru LMG and forks. Take right fork uphill on TK. As TK levels out, 75m past end of copse on L, TL thru hedge (SP BW). AH (CB 270°) to meet TK. AH on TK (WM BW) (CB 280°) between hedge (on R) and scrub (on L) until track turns L and after hedge ends, when continue AH (WM BW) to X field (CB 240°) to reach huge stone block (to R of tree) in gap in hedge. AH thru SMG opposite to X field (CB 265°) and go thru SMG onto farm track (WM BW). (GR ST 638 022).

(3.6) TL and continue on TK, eventually downhill between hedges, bearing R when another track comes in from L. Continue downhill and AH to meet metalled RD. Pass Up Sydling Farm (GR ST 632 012) on your R and continue AH to X ford over Sydling Brook. Continue AH along minor RD for 800m (**CARE!**) to reach cross roads. (GR ST 631 002).

(3.7) Continue AH for 300m on minor RD (**CARE!**) into Sydling St Nicholas. Shortly after passing Orchard Close on your L, reach road junction (SP Cerne Abbas) and TL over bridge over Sydling Brook. Immediately bear R (CB 180°) into narrow back RD through village (SP No through road to vehicles) between small stream and Sydling Brook. Where back road ends at Ham Farm continue X bridge and follow FP with Sydling Brook at first on L, later on R. X next bridge and TL on minor RD thru village. Continue AH to meet RD at bridge over brook. TR on RD and AH to reach checkpoint on your L.

CP3 SYDLING ST NICHOLAS VILLAGE HALL (GR SY 632 993). Open 1300-1630. Total distance - 24.9 miles, 40.0 km

Section 4 - Sydling St Nicholas to Cerne Abbas (Finish - 6.1 miles, 9.9 km)

(4.1) Leave the checkpoint and TL on main RD thru village (Dorchester Road). In 100m, TL just past house 3b with orange door. X bridge, thru KG, AH with FB on L, and X ST onto TK. TR for 8m then TL SP 'Hog Hill' up TK between hedges for 400m passing thru combined SMG/LMG (may be open). At SP TR with TK (permissive) and continue up hill for 500m until FB on R turns away and open meadow begins (lovely views of Sydling St Nicholas in valley). TR keeping FB on R (CB 170°) and continue on grassy TK between hedges to pass thru LMG. AH to go thru double LMG (**CARE**) onto concrete TK. (GR SY 639 985).

(4.2) TL downhill on stony TK (NB this is not the BW on map), thru LMG to bottom of valley, BR and follow grassy TK with FB on R. Pass to R of corrugated iron barn and head towards left hand of two LMGs among trees. AH thru gate (WM sign) and along grass TK with FB on R. Continue on TK as it curves to R with large bowl in hill on L. At far side of bowl, 40m after end of hedge on R, TL (GR SY 650 975) just before line of trees on L, and go uphill on grassy TK with scrub on R. Go thru LMG (**CARE – gate drops down**) at top (SP "The Turning Point") and X field (CB 50°) to 3-way SP. (GR SY 655 977).

CLIP POINT C - SELF-CLIP (ATTACHED TO SIGNPOST (GR SY 655 977))

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(4.3) TL and AH with FB on R. Go thru SWG and AH (CB 340°) for 220m to reach SWG in external field corner. *(Just before reaching this gate, note small frog sundial by path and Harriet's memorial cairn further away on RHS).*

(4.4) Go thru gate and continue with FB on L for 380m to reach SWG (CVT) in hedge. Thru gate and AH, now with FB on R, for 300m to LMG and Access Land sign on L. Through gate and continue AH on faint grassy TK with FB on R for 350m to LMG. Through and AH on distinct rutted farm TK. Continue AH on TK with FB on R for 1.2km to reach Higher City Farm. Pass cottage and farm buildings on LHS and AH on TK for 300m to reach RD. (GR ST 646 002).

(4.5) Cross RD (**WITH CARE**), thru gate and continue AH on enclosed TK. In 700m reach dogleg in TK (passing SP on RHS Hillfield Hill) and continue AH on main TK for 500m to reach radio mast on R. In 30m after entrance to mast compound, TR thru hedge (SP Cerne Abbas) (GR ST 645 014). AH on FP (CB 075°) (**CARE - possible electric wire across route**) for 220m to corner of small wood. TR downhill for 40m to SP then TL into wood on TK and AH steeply downhill (CB 100°) through wood, on (**very stony and possibly slippery**) path for 300m to X ST by LMG into field.

(4.6) AH across field for 300m, diagonally descending hillside (generally about CB 090°) passing large oak trees on RHS to reach ST and LMG to L of water trough (GR ST 654 014). X ST and AH to X next ST by LMG. Continue AH with FB on R (initially about CB 070°) on rough and muddy cattle track with steep hillside on LHS and FB on RHS for 500m to pass thru gateway next to ST. Immediately X second ST next to LMG and continue AH on enclosed FP under trees to reach TK.

(4.7) TR down TK for 60m to TR into field entrance. AH with FB on LHS. TL at field corner and AH with FB on LHS. TR at field corner and AH until reaching an opening onto the main RD (A352). Cross RD (**WITH GREAT CARE!**) to entrance to Giant's Viewpoint car park. (GR ST 662 016). BR down minor RD (SP Picnic Area). In 100m TL (SP Village Hall) to finish in Cerne Abbas Village Hall. (GR ST 663 014).

FINISH

Cerne Abbas Village Hall. Open 1230 – 1900.

**Congratulations! You have completed
a total distance of 30.5 miles, 49.1 km**