

## Monday 9 April: OUTLINE of LONG ROUTE 108km (67miles)

This route takes you out of the Forest and into the Western Downslands in Wiltshire, through the villages of Broad Chalke, Cranborne, Whitsbury and Breamore.

- On a clear day the descent of Braggers Lane offers fine views as you drop into the Avon Valley.
- Back lanes take you to the edge of Ringwood where you use a short stretch of the Castleman Trail, a gravelled disused railway track with two former railway bridges, to cross the flood plain south of this market town.
- Fordingbridge offers cafés for early elevenses plus shops. The town's most famous resident was the controversial painter Augustus John. There is a statue of him near the George Inn on the banks of the Avon, by the medieval seven-arched bridge. As you leave the town westwards you pass the Augustus John pub, said to be his favourite watering hole when he lived here.
- You now follow the Allen River through the village of Damerham, passing the Compasses Inn, to Tidpit and Martin, soon climbing over Knowle Hill and descending steeply into Broad Chalke in the valley of the river Ebble. Here a short diversion can take you to the Queen's Head pub in North Street. Notable local residents past and present include Sir Antony Eden, Sir Cecil Beaton, Terry Pratchett and Toyah Willcox.
- Turning southwards you follow the little river Chalke to Bowerchalke, where novelist William Golding is buried. After climbing back over Woodminton Down, you enjoy a long, long descent.
- The charmingly named Sixpenny Handley has a pub, the Roebuck Inn, which is a short distance along the B3081 to your right.
- Wimborne St Giles lies on the chalk plateau known as Cranborne Chase and you will pass the Bull Inn on the route.
- Just before Cranborne village you pass the Cranborne Manor Garden Centre on your left with an excellent cafe and toilets - a good lunch stop.
- The route then crosses itself to take you to the village of Rockbourne (whose Roman villa is off the route) and thence to Whitsbury, known for its race horse stud and training. Here you pass the Cartwheel Inn.
- Narrow lanes lead you to the village of Breamore (pronounced Bremmer), in the Avon valley. There may be geese on Breamore Common. The magnificent Elizabethan manor house, completed in 1583, is an interesting visit worth a short detour. It also has a café open to the public on the left of your route with a countryside museum. Breamore church, just beyond the café, is a Saxon building dating in part from the 10th century. After circuiting the Common using a short length of gravel track, you start your homeward route along the edge of the Avon valley to Fordingbridge again.
- Leaving Fordingbridge you briefly retrace your route before following more small lanes through the Avon valley and across water meadows to a stone bridge over the river at Ibsley (watch out for many swans in the water meadows). Zig zag across the A338 passing the Old Beams pub/restaurant.
- At Mockbeggar you pass on your right RAF Ibsley, a former WW2 airfield. There is a memorial on your right just as you turn right. There are plans to restore the abandoned control tower. Cycling south towards the outskirts of Ringwood you may catch glimpses to your right of lakes which were formerly gravel workings. Some are used for water sports, others as wildlife reserves.
- Near Crow you pass the New Forest Raptor and Reptile Centre on your right and then retrace your route back to Avon Tyrrell.

**Western Downlands, Broad Chalke, Cranborne, Breamore**

km	Instruction	total
	R at T from centre	
1.70	R at X (sp Ringwood)	1.7
5.70	L at T (no sp)	7.4
0.20	R at T (sp Ringwood) onto B3347	7.6
1.00	L at O into Bickerley Road [Cul de Sac sign] and immediately L onto cyclepath opposite Coxstone Lane (sp Castleman railway)	8.6
1.20	Cross River Avon bridges to reach small car park and leave R then L at T (sp Verwood) and continue under bridge	9.8
1.40	Fork R (sp Alderholt)	11.2
6.10	Fork R (no sp) [6'6" sign]	17.3
0.70	Keep L (sp Fordingbridge)	18.0
1.80	R at stg X (sp Fordingbridge) onto B3078	19.8
1.90	R at T (sp Salisbury) for café(s) on left in High Street [If café not required L at T (sp Sandheath)]	21.7
1.40	Retrace from café and continue in direction of Sandheath SO at mini O (sp Damerham)	23.1
4.23	In Damerham cross small bridge and R (sp Martin) into High Street	27.3
7.63	SO at X across A354 dual carriageway (sp Broad Chalke) [unsuitable heavy goods] Climb over Knowle Hill and descend	35.0
5.05	L (sp Bowerchalke)	40.0
0.25	L at T (sp Bowerchalke)	40.3
10.71	SO at X (sp Blandford Forum)	51.0
0.24	L at T (no sp)	51.2
1.42	SO at X across A354 (sp Wimborne St Giles)	52.6
5.35	L at T (sp Cranborne)	58.0
0.98	R (sp Ringwood) onto B3081	59.0
1.08	L at X (sp Cranborne) onto B3078	60.0
1.30	L into Cranborne Manor Garden Centre Café	61.3
0.00	L from café to continue	61.3
5.54	Fork L (sp Rockbourne)	66.9
0.62	R at T (sp Rockbourne)	67.5
0.22	1st L (sp Rockbourne)	67.7
1.91	L at T (sp Rockbourne)	69.6
1.07	R (sp Whitsbury)	70.7
2.40	Follow road sharp R (sp Whitsbury)	73.1
2.46	L (sp Outwick)	75.6
0.54	L at T (sp Outwick)	76.1
1.68	L at X (sp Breamore)	77.8
0.94	Follow road sharp R and then L on gravel drive to Breamore Café	78.7
0.00	Retrace from Café and L at T onto road to continue	78.7
0.17	1st R (sp Breamore)	78.9
0.49	L at T facing Breamore Common (no sp)	79.4
0.40	R along old road beside A338 and R at grass triangle behind school and keep R onto track	79.8
0.41	Follow track R	80.2

**Western Downlands, Broad Chalke, Cranborne, Breamore**

0.19	Follow track L thro' gate onto road	80.4
0.38	R at T (no sp)	80.8
0.47	L on RH bend (sp Fordingbridge)	81.2
1.22	R at T (no sp)	82.5
0.60	Follow road sharp L (sp Fordingbridge)	83.1
0.61	L at T (no sp) into Whitsbury Rd	83.7
1.05	L (sp Through Traffic) into Alexandra Road	84.7
0.22	R at T (sp Town Centre)	84.9
0.50	R at mini O (sp Alderholt)	85.4
1.27	L at mini O (sp Fordingbridge Business Park) into Ashford Rd	86.7
1.00	SO at stg X (sp Somerley)	87.7
1.86	L (sp Ibsley)	89.6
2.26	L at T (sp Ibsley)	91.8
0.82	Over Ibsley bridge and R at T onto A338 (sp Ringwood)	92.6
0.16	1st L in front of Old Beams Pub and L (sp Mockbeggar) into Mockbeggar Lane)	92.8
1.33	Over CG and R at X (sp Moyles Court)	94.1
1.01	Cross ford at Moyles Court and keep R (sp Rockford)	95.1
0.60	CG	95.7
1.10	Follow road R through ford (probably dry)	96.8
1.20	L at mini-O (no sp ) beside White hart Inn	98.0
0.50	L at mini-O (no sp)	98.5
0.28	R before No Entry sign into Nouale lane	98.8
0.73	R at T (no sp)	99.6
0.49	L at grass triangle beside Elm Tree PH (sp Burley)	100.0
1.00	SO (L/R) at stg X (sp Bransgore)	101.0
1.20	L at T (sp North Ripley)	102.2
4.30	L (sp Avon Tyrrell House) into Braggers Lane	106.5
1.70	L into UK Youth FINISH	108.2

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Miles	Instruction	total
0.0	R at T from centre	
1.1	R at X (sp Ringwood)	1.1
3.5	L at T (no sp)	4.6
0.1	R at T (sp Ringwood) onto B3347	4.7
	L at O into Bickerley Road [Cul de Sac sign] and immediately	
0.6	L onto cyclepath opposite Coxstone Lane (sp Castleman trailway)	5.3
	Cross River Avon bridges to reach small car park and leave R then	
0.7	L at T (sp Verwood) and continue under bridge	6.1
0.9	Fork R (sp Alderholt	7.0
3.8	Fork R (no sp) [6'6" sign]	10.7
0.4	Keep L (sp Fordingbridge)	11.2
1.1	R at stg X (sp Fordingbridge) onto B3078	12.3
	R at T (sp Salisbury) for café(s) on left in High Street	
1.2	[If café not required L at T (sp Sandleheath)]	13.5
	Retrace from café and continue in direction of Sandleheath	
0.9	SO at mini O (sp Damerham)	14.4
	In Damerham cross small bridge and	
2.6	R (sp Martin) into High Street	17.0
	SO at X across A354 dual carriageway (sp Broad Chalke) [unsuitable	
4.7	heavy goods] Climb over Knowle Hill and descend	21.7
3.1	L (sp Bowerchalke))	24.9
0.2	L at T (sp Bowerchalke)	25.0
6.7	SO at X (sp Blandford Forum)	31.7
0.1	L at T (no sp)	31.8
0.9	SO at X across A354 (sp Wimborne St Giles)	32.7
3.3	L at T (sp Cranborne)	36.0
0.6	R (sp Ringwood) onto B3081	36.6
0.7	L at X (sp Cranborne) onto B3078	37.3
0.8	L into Cranborne Manor Garden Centre Café	38.1
0.0	L from café to continue	38.1
3.4	Fork L (sp Rockbourne)	41.6
0.4	R at T (sp Rockbourne)	41.9
0.1	1st L (sp Rockbourne)	42.1
1.2	L at T (sp Rockbourne)	43.3
0.7	R (sp Whitsbury)	43.9
1.5	Follow road sharp R (sp Whitsbury)	45.4
1.5	L (sp Outwick)	47.0
0.3	L at T (sp Outwick)	47.3
1.0	L at X (sp Breamore)	48.3
0.6	Follow road sharp R and then L on gravel drive to Breamore Café	48.9
0.0	Retrace from Café and L at T onto road to continue	48.9
0.1	1st R (sp Breamore)	49.0
0.3	L at T facing Breamore Common (no sp)	49.3
	R along old road beside A338 and R at grass triangle behind school	
0.2	and keep R onto track	49.6
0.3	Follow track R	49.8

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0.1	Follow track L thro' gate onto road	49.9
0.2	R at T (no sp)	50.2
0.3	L on RH bend (sp Fordingbridge)	50.5
0.8	R at T (no sp)	51.2
0.4	Follow road sharp L (sp Fordingbridge)	51.6
0.4	L at T (no sp) into Whitsbury Rd	52.0
0.7	L (sp Through Traffic) into Alexandra Road	52.6
0.1	R at T (sp Town Centre)	52.8
0.3	R at mini O (sp Alderholt)	53.1
0.8	L at mini O (sp Fordingbridge Business Park) into Ashford Rd	53.9
0.6	SO at stg X (sp Somerley)	54.5
1.2	L (sp Ibsley)	55.6
1.4	L at T (sp Ibsley)	57.1
0.5	Over Ibsley bridge and R at T onto A338 (sp Ringwood)	57.6
	1st L in front of Old Beams Pub and L (sp Mockbeggar)	57.7
0.1	into Mockbeggar Lane)	
0.8	Over CG and R at X (sp Moyles Court)	58.5
0.6	Cross ford at Moyles Court and keep R (sp Rockford)	59.1
0.4	CG	59.5
0.7	Follow road R through ford (probably dry)	60.2
0.7	L at mini-O (no sp ) beside White hart Inn	60.9
0.3	L at mini-O (no sp)	61.2
0.2	R before No Entry sign into Nouale lane	61.4
0.5	R at T (no sp)	61.9
0.3	L at grass triangle beside Elm Tree PH (sp Burley)	62.2
0.6	SO (L/R) at stg X (sp Bransgore)	62.8
0.7	L at T (sp North Ripley)	63.5
2.7	L (sp Avon Tyrrell House) into Braggers Lane	66.2
1.1	L into UK Youth FINISH	67.3