

Saturday 7th April: OUTLINE of LONG ROUTE 109km (68miles)

This route goes northwards along the western edge of the New Forest, briefly leaving the National Park at the north, before heading south across the central Forest plateau and down through the Bolderwood and Rhinefield Ornamental Drives to Brockenhurst. From there you continue south to visit Lymington, before a short excursion along the coast and back to Burley.

- From Avon Tyrell to Burley then head west through Crow towards the Avon Valley.
- Skirt the edge of Ringwood to cross the A31 and run north along the edge of the western Forest escarpment and beside the Avon Valley. Most fords in this stretch should be dry unless there was heavy rain the previous day (the streams running off the Forest to the Avon are very flashy and rise and fall quickly).
- Glimpses of water through trees to your left are all large lakes formed by gravel extraction in the Avon Valley floodplain.
- Pass the Alice Lisle pub on your left. Dame Alice sheltered John Hicke at her home here after the battle of Sedgemoor. He and his men were arrested the following morning. Lady Alice was tried by Judge Jeffries at the Bloody Assizes in Winchester and was sentenced to be burnt for treason. This was commuted to beheading by James II as being more fit for her station.
- Continue thro' the ford at Moyles Court. There will probably be water here. There is a footbridge if required.
- Fairy shrimps, although rare, are locally common in the vernal pools beside the roadside along here. They thrive from the trampling of the ground by ponies drinking in the pools
- Swing right to climb Buddle Hill up the escarpment and out of the Avon Valley.
- At the top a right turn for a very short distance off route will take you to a café (The Stables Tearoom) in the nursery on left.
- Continuing, the route descends Blissford Hill, which is not very long but at 25% is claimed to be the steepest road in the Forest.
- A couple more ups and downs brings you to the B3076 from Fordingbridge, which you take for a short spell before turning left along the edge of the Forest plateau again. From Castle Hill there are fine views out to the left over the Avon towards Breamore House and the Dorset beyond.
- A drop down to Woodgreen (Horse and Groom pub) is followed by a short climb back into the Forest passing the village cricket pitch on a Forest Lawn on the right. The road continues beside Hale Purlieu, an area enclosed and "stolen" from the forest and a good habitat for the rare Dartford Warbler.
- Whiteshoot hill takes you out of the National Park and through Lover. Photo opportunity beside village name sign.
- Hamptworth Golf and Country Club on left has a café and restaurant open to the public. The Cuckoo Inn is a bit further on. Interesting old pub, but usually a bit short of food.
- Heading south again the route returns to the Forest beside the Lamb Inn at Nomansland from where a short sharp climb takes you back across the B3078 again.
- From here the route crosses Stony Cross Plain, which is the highest part of the Forest. The road follows the main runway of a WW2 airfield. This heathland is great in fine weather, but a bleak place with no shelter on a rainy day with a south-west gale!!
- A dip down under the A31 flyover and up again leads to the Canadian war memorial cross on the left and then Bolderwood car park. There are picnic benches and toilets at this car park (and quite often ice creams for sale too). It is a very short walk to the viewing platform overlooking a deer sanctuary - follow the signs from road beside cattlegrid.
- Enjoy the downhill run along the Bolderwood Ornamental Drive through Ancient and Ornamental woodland – mostly beech, oak and holly. As you start down the cottage and paddock on the left is a typical New Forest commoner's smallholding with modest farm buildings, run-back enclosed pasture and direct access to the open forest.

- It is a short walk to see the Knightwood Oak (see car park sign on roadside) – 7.4m girth and one of the oldest in the Forest. A spectacular example of pollarding.
- After crossing the A35, the road continues as Rhinefield Ornamental Drive, lined with redwoods. These were planted in the 1850s when they were first introduced to Britain, but despite their height are still mere youngsters. The two tallest trees (giant sequoia) in the Forest are also here about 100m from the road either side of a grass ride on your right.
- Rhinefield house on the right is a former hunting lodge built in 1887. Now a hotel and much extended
- From here the route crosses the large Whitemoor Forest Lawn to reach Brockenhurst. Through the Watersplash and into the High Street. There is a choice of pubs and cafes and there are public toilets in the car park. The Brock and Bruin café on the right is recommended.
- A short run out of Brockenhurst and across the A337 to reach and cross the Lymington River and then over the causeway of the old toll bridge to cross the river again. Cross the Lymington branch line level crossing and turn left to arrive beside the river and dismount for a short walk along a footpath beside the river to reach Lymington Town Quay. The Quay was once a busy commercial port exporting salt to Newfoundland and timber for boat building to Norway. A brewery on the quay shipped beer to the Isle of Wight. While still home to about 12 commercial fishing boats, today it is a tourist destination with berths for visiting leisure boats. The Puffin ferry operates a foot passenger service to the Isle of Wight in summer months. There are public toilets on the Quay.
- From the Quay into the town centre High Street. Lymington is a Georgian market town. The weekly street market is held on Saturdays (morning and early afternoon). There is a local museum in New Street with interesting displays about all aspects of history and life of Lymington. There are numerous pubs, restaurants, cafes and fish and chips. Leave Lymington by Church Lane, opposite St Thomas' church. On the right here is a fine example of crinkle-crankle walling of which there are many examples in the town.
- The area of lanes south of Lymington is called Normandy, leading to the coast with views over salt marsh to the Isle of Wight and onto a short stretch of gravelled road (The Ancient Highway). There are otters on the salt marshes and in the Lymington River, but you will be very lucky to see one.
- The Ancient Highway leads into Keyhaven opposite the Gun Inn, from where the route continues through a sea defence gate beside the marsh to Hurst Spit. At the end of the spit you can see a Tudor castle, much extended at various times since it was built. This is one of two Tudor castles defending the Solent as "bookends" to the National Park coast between Hurst Spit and Calshot Spit, (which you will visit on Sunday).
- Beyond the spit the route continues via Milford on Sea to run beside the open sea of Christchurch Bay with views of the Isle of Wight and the Needles.
- North through Hordle and Tiptoe to the Rising Sun pub, where the route re-enters the open forest and returns via Burley to Avon Tyrrell. The section of straight road, which goes under the A35, was built on the former Brockenhurst to Ringwood railway line hence the Station Tearooms on the left.

km	Instruction	total
0.0	L at T from UK Youth	
0.5	Over CG and L at X (sp Burley)	0.5
3.5	L at T at Burley Cross (sp Ringwood)	4.0
2.0	L (actually SO) as road turns right (sp Crow)	6.0
1.8	CG	7.9
2.0	R (sp Crow) into Crow Lane	9.9
1.0	L at T opposite Elm Tree PH into Hightown Rd (no sp)	10.9
0.7	R at T onto slip road (2 way traffic) (sp Southampton)	11.6
0.2	L (1st exit) at mini-O over A31T (sp Poulner)	11.8
0.4	R (2nd exit) at mini-O beside White Hart Inn (sp South Gorley) into Gorley Rd	12.2
1.3	Follow road L after ford (probably dry)	13.5
1.1	CG	14.6
0.5	Cross ford at Moyles Court (sp Mockbeggar)	15.1
2.7	Ford	17.8
0.8	R at small grass triangle (sp Hyde)	18.6
1.1	R at X (sp Ogdens) for café at Garden Centre on left	19.7
0.4	Retrace from café and continue SO (sp Frogham) to R at X (sp Stuckton)	20.1
0.6	SO at X (no sp) into Blissford Hill [25%]	20.7
0.7	L at T (sp Godshill) into Abbotswell Rd	21.4
0.4	Ford and CG	21.8
0.7	R at T (sp Brook)	22.5
1.2	CG and L (sp Woodgreen)	23.7
0.7	Ford	24.4
0.3	L (sp Castle Hill)	
2.3	L at T (sp "byway") into Woodgreen	
3.2	R at T (sp Downton) and	27.7
0.1	R immediate after Horse and Groom PH (sp Hale Purlieu)	27.8
4.4	R at T and over CG (sp Woodfalls)	32.1
0.3	R at green and immediate SO at X across B3080 into Whiteshoot (sp Lover - <i>not obvious</i>)	32.5
1.6	R at T (sp Landford)	34.0
0.5	R at T (sp Lyndhurst) into Hamptworth Rd	34.6
3.0	Coffee available in golf club on Left	37.6
0.5	R into Lyburn Rd (missing sp)	38.0
3.7	Over CG and R at T (no sp) to pass Lamb Inn on R	41.7
2.2	SO at X across B3078 (sp Fritham)	43.9
0.9	R at T (sp Fritham)	44.8
1.7	R (sp Linwood)	46.5
4.1	L at T (sp missing) and continue under A31T	50.5
3.1	1st R (sp Bolderwood Arboretum / Ornamental Drive) 2 CGs in next 3km while descending Ornamental Drive	53.6
4.2	SO at X across A35 + 2 CGs {fast traffic on A35}	57.8
2.9	CG	60.7
4.1	L through Watersplash (sp Village centre via ford)	64.8
0.3	R (sp Sway) into Sway Rd and continue thro' TLs on weak bridge	65.1

**Tandem Club Rally
Easter 2012**

**Long Ride:
North and Central Forest, Lymington and Coast**

SATURDAY 7/4/12

1.9	L at T (sp Lymington)	67.0
0.8	CG and R at T (sp Lymington) onto A337	67.8
0.6	1st L (sp Sandy Down) into Sandy Down	68.4
1.5	R at X (sp Boldre) into Royden Lane	69.9
1.0	L at T (sp Boldre Church)	70.9
0.9	R (sp Vicars Hill)	71.8
0.8	R at grass triangle with tree (no sp) [broken road surface at bottom of hill]	72.6
1.5	R at T actually SO (no sp)	74.1
0.4	Continue over causeway and immediately after level crossing 1st L into Waterloo Rd (no sp)	74.5
0.2	SO at X (no sp) into Mill Lane	74.7
0.2	At end of lane keep left and walk along path beside river to reach Town Quay	74.9
0.3	Leave Quay L and then R at T (no sp)	75.1
0.3	Follow road R to L at T (no sp) and climb hill into High St	75.4
0.5	L opposite Church into Church Lane (no sp)	76.0
1.0	SO at X into Normandy Lane (no sp)	77.0
1.5	L at T with grass triangle (no sp) and immed R into Poles Lane (no sp)	78.5
0.3	R at T into Ridgway Lane (no sp)	78.9
0.6	L at T (no sp)	79.4
0.2	2nd L into Lower Pennington Lane (no sp)	79.6
2.3	Continue onto gravel road	82.0
1.4	Continue thro' gate onto tarmac road	83.3
0.5	L at T opposite Gun Inn (no sp)	83.8
1.0	Follow road R at Hurst Spit	84.9
0.9	L at T (no sp)	85.8
0.6	L in Keyhaven (sp Memorial Hospital) into Sea Rd	86.3
0.6	R at T (no sp) opposite Needles Eye Café	86.9
0.7	L at T (no sp) onto B3056	87.6
2.3	R (sp Shorefield Park - brown sign)	89.9
1.0	SO at X Over A337 (sp Applecourt Garden)	90.9
1.2	Fork L into Stopples Lane (no sp)	92.1
1.3	R at T into Ashley Lane (no sp)	93.3
0.1	L at mini O (sp Tiptoe) into Vaggs Lane	93.5
1.6	R at T (sp Sway) into B3055	95.0
0.2	1st L (sp Wootton) into Wootton Rd	95.2
1.9	CG	97.1
0.3	R (sp Wilverley) beside Rising Sun PH	97.5
1.9	L at T (sp Burley)	99.4
0.1	CG	99.5
2.1	CG	101.6
3.3	L (sp Bransgore) at Burley Cross into Pound Lane	104.8
3.5	R (sp Avon Tyrrel) into Braggers Lane and over CG	108.4
0.5	R into UK Youth FINISH	108.9

Miles	Instruction	total
0.0	L at T from UK Youth	
0.3	Over CG and L at X (sp Burley)	0.3
2.2	L at T at Burley Cross (sp Ringwood)	2.5
1.2	L (actually SO) as road turns right (sp Crow)	3.8
1.1	CG	4.9
1.2	R (sp Crow) into Crow Lane	6.1
0.6	L at T opposite Elm Tree PH into Hightown Rd (no sp)	6.8
0.5	R at T onto slip road (2 way traffic) (sp Southampton)	7.2
0.1	L (1st exit) at mini-O over A31T (sp Poulner)	7.3
0.2	R (2nd exit) at mini-O beside White Hart Inn (sp South Gorley) into Gorley Rd	7.6
0.8	Follow road L after ford (probably dry)	8.4
0.7	CG	9.1
0.3	Cross ford at Moyles Court (sp Mockbeggar)	9.4
1.7	Ford	11.0
0.5	R at small grass triangle (sp Hyde)	11.6
0.7	R at X (sp Ogdens) for café at Garden Centre on left	12.3
0.2	Retrace from café and continue SO (sp Frogham) to R at X (sp Stuckton)	12.5
0.4	SO at X (no sp) into Blissford Hill [25%]	12.9
0.4	L at T (sp Godshill) into Abbotswell Rd	13.3
0.3	Ford and CG	13.6
0.4	R at T (sp Brook)	14.0
0.7	CG and L (sp Woodgreen)	14.7
0.4	Ford	15.2
0.2	L (sp Castle Hill)	
1.4	L at T (sp "byway") into Woodgreen	
2.0	R at T (sp Downton) and	17.2
0.1	R immediate after Horse and Groom PH (sp Hale Purlieu)	17.3
2.7	R at T and over CG (sp Woodfalls)	20.0
0.2	R at green and immediate SO at X across B3080 into Whiteshoot (sp Lover - <i>not obvious</i>)	20.2
1.0	R at T (sp Landford)	21.1
0.3	R at T (sp Lyndhurst) into Hamptworth Rd	21.5
1.8	Coffee available in golf club on Left	23.3
0.3	R into Lyburn Rd (missing sp)	23.6
2.3	Over CG and R at T (no sp) to pass Lamb Inn on R	25.9
1.4	SO at X across B3078 (sp Fritham)	27.2
0.6	R at T (sp Fritham)	27.8
1.0	R (sp Linwood)	28.9
2.5	L at T (sp missing) and continue under A31T	31.4
1.9	1st R (sp Bolderwood Arboretum / Ornamental Drive) 2 CGs in next 3km while descending Ornamental Drive	33.3
2.6	SO at X across A35 + 2 CGs {fast traffic on A35}	35.9
1.8	CG	37.7
2.5	L through Watersplash (sp Village centre via ford)	40.2
0.2	R (sp Sway) into Sway Rd and continue thro' TLs on weak bridge	40.4

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SATURDAY 7/4/12

1.2	L at T (sp Lymington)	41.6
0.5	CG and R at T (sp Lymington) onto A337	42.1
0.3	1st L (sp Sandy Down) into Sandy Down	42.5
0.9	R at X (sp Boldre) into Royden Lane	43.4
0.6	L at T (sp Boldre Church)	44.1
0.5	R (sp Vicars Hill)	44.6
0.5	R at grass triangle with tree (no sp) [broken road surface at bottom of hill]	45.1
1.0	R at T actually SO (no sp)	46.0
0.2	Continue over causeway and immediately after level crossing 1st L into Waterloo Rd (no sp)	46.3
0.1	SO at X (no sp) into Mill Lane	46.4
0.1	At end of lane keep left and walk along path beside river to reach Town Quay	46.5
0.2	Leave Quay L and then R at T (no sp)	46.7
0.2	Follow road R to L at T (no sp) and climb hill into High St	46.9
0.3	L opposite Church into Church Lane (no sp)	47.2
0.6	SO at X into Normandy Lane (no sp)	47.8
1.0	L at T with grass triangle (no sp) and immed R into Poles Lane (no sp)	48.8
0.2	R at T into Ridgway Lane (no sp)	49.0
0.4	L at T (no sp)	49.4
0.1	2nd L into Lower Pennington Lane (no sp)	49.5
1.4	Continue onto gravel road	50.9
0.9	Continue thro' gate onto tarmac road	51.8
0.3	L at T opposite Gun Inn (no sp)	52.1
0.6	Follow road R at Hurst Spit	52.7
0.6	L at T (no sp)	53.3
0.3	L in Keyhaven (sp Memorial Hospital) into Sea Rd	53.6
0.4	R at T (no sp) opposite Needles Eye Café	54.0
0.4	L at T (no sp) onto B3056	54.4
1.4	R (sp Shorefield Park - brown sign)	55.8
0.6	SO at X Over A337 (sp Applecourt Garden)	56.5
0.8	Fork L into Stopples Lane (no sp)	57.2
0.8	R at T into Ashley Lane (no sp)	58.0
0.1	L at mini O (sp Tiptoe) into Vaggs Lane	58.1
1.0	R at T (sp Sway) into B3055	59.0
0.1	1st L (sp Wootton) into Wootton Rd	59.1
1.2	CG	60.3
0.2	R (sp Wilverley) beside Rising Sun PH	60.6
1.2	L at T (sp Burley)	61.7
0.1	CG	61.8
1.3	CG	63.1
2.0	L (sp Bransgore) at Burley Cross into Pound Lane	65.1
2.2	R (sp Avon Tyrrel) into Braggers Lane and over CG	67.3
0.3	R into UK Youth FINISH	67.7