

Sunday 8th April: OUTLINE of SHORT ROUTE 51km (32miles)

This route starts northwards along the western edge of the New Forest, before heading east to cross the central Forest plateau and down through the Bolderwood and Rhinefield Ornamental Drives to Brockenhurst.

- 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 Hickes 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.
- 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.
- From here the route turns east to climb the escarpment, passing the Red Shoot Inn on left and eventually leaving the trees to cross heathland on the Stony Cross Plain, which is the highest part of the Forest.
- 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.
- On the right it is a short walk to see the Knightwood Oak – (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 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.
- Back through the Watersplash and left takes you out of Brockenhurst onto Hinchelsea Moor to climb steadily up to Wilverley Plain. The old road used to cross Wilverley Plain beside the "Naked Man" gallows, but following the Brockenhurst to Ringwood railway being axed by Beeching, the road was diverted and the section of straight road, which goes under the A35, was built on the former railway track - hence the Station Tearooms on the left.
- The final stretch to Burley and Avon Tyrell crosses Burley golf course, which is one of several Forest rough-golf courses on which no chemicals are allowed and ponies provide the grass maintenance on the greens.

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	into Gorley Rd	12.2
1.3	Follow road L after ford (probably dry)	13.5
1.1	CG	14.6
0.5	R at grass triangle before ford (sp Linwood)	15.1
9.6	Continue under A31T and then 1st R (sp Bolderwood Arboretum / Ornamental Drive) 2 CGs in next 3km descending Ornamental Drive	24.8
4.2	SO at X across A35 + 2 CGs {fast traffic on A35}	28.9
2.9	CG	31.8
4.1	L through Watersplash (sp Village centre via ford) Brock and Bruin café on R recommended	35.9
0.5	Retrace thro Watersplash and L at T (sp Burley)	36.4
5.9	CG	42.3
2.1	CG	44.4
3.3	L (sp Bransgore) at Burley Cross into Pound Lane	47.7
3.5	R (sp Avon Tyrrel) into Braggers Lane and over CG	51.2
0.5	R into UK Youth FINISH	51.7

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	into Gorley Rd	7.6
0.8	Follow road L after ford (probably dry)	8.4
0.7	CG	9.1
0.3	R at grass triangle before ford (sp Linwood)	9.4
6.0	Continue under A31T and then 1st R (sp Bolderwood Arboretum / Ornamental Drive) 2 CGs in next 3km descending Ornamental Drive	15.4
2.6	SO at X across A35 + 2 CGs {fast traffic on A35}	18.0
1.8	CG	19.8
2.5	L through Watersplash (sp Village centre via ford) Brock and Bruin café on R recommended	22.3
0.3	Retrace thro Watersplash and L at T (sp Burley)	22.6
3.7	CG	26.3
1.3	CG	27.6
2.1	L (sp Bransgore) at Burley Cross into Pound Lane	29.6
2.2	R (sp Avon Tyrrel) into Braggers Lane and over CG	31.8
0.3	R into UK Youth FINISH	32.1