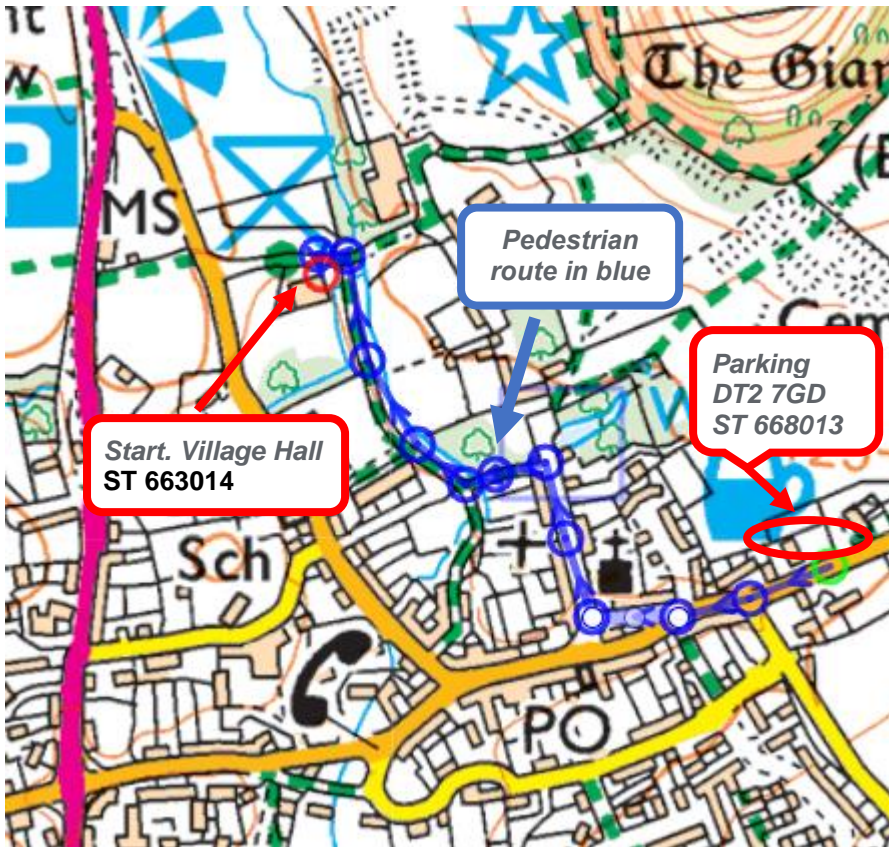


DORSET LDWA. CERNE GIANT CHALLENGE 2024: 30 MILE ROUTE

ROUTE DESCRIPTION and INSTRUCTIONS

PARKING – PLEASE park only in the Event’s Designated Car Park. Grid Ref. ST 668 013, Postcode DT2 7GD, as directed by Marshal’s.

You then need to walk 600m to the Cerne Abbas Village Hall. See map. Follow road (Long St.) towards village centre, pass Abbey Cl. on R . BR to Church. R onto Abbey St. After 120m L onto FP between house and garage. In 50m BR. AH 200m with stream on R. At end of path L onto Kettle Bridge Lane and L to Village Hall.



REGISTRATION – is from 0715.

THE START – Cerne Abbas Village Hall, Kettle Bridge Lane, DT2 7GY. Rolling start between 0800 and 0900. No separate start for runners, but time your start time according to your likely pace. Please ensure your tally card is scanned before you start. Take notice of checkpoint open and closing times as these will be enforced.

AT THE CHECKPOINTS – Please ensure you are recorded and 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.**

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER – 01300 342090 – This number will be on your tally card and on each page of the route description. Parts of the route may not have mobile coverage.

CLIPPER POINTS – There are 3 Clipper points on the 30-mile route and 2 on the 20-mile route. Please ensure that your tally card is clipped.

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.

EQUIPMENT - Remember to bring map or electronic mapping, compass, waterproofs, first aid kit, spare food and drink and a headtorch if you may finish after dark.

Standard abbreviations

AH Ahead	BL Bear left	BR Bear right	BW Bridleway
CB Compass bearing	CP Checkpoint	FB Field boundary	FP Footpath
GR Grid reference	JT Jubilee Trail	KG Kissing gate	L, R Left, Right
LH Left-hand	LHS Left-hand side (yours)	LMG Large metal gate	LWG Large wooden gate
N, S, E, W North, South, East, West	RD Road	RH Right-hand	RHS Right-hand side (yours)
RD Road	RH Right-hand	RHS Right-hand side (yours)	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
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.

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. Follow FP AH on path (not up steps) along bottom of hill (in 50m ignore ST on R) (beware low branches). Continue with fence on R to T-jct. 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 (CARE gate drops, or 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 1¾). 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 "Beware of Bull" sign on 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 in 70m go thru gap. AH with FB on R for 700m and thru LMG (may be open) (Black Barn). In 10m sharp TR and thru LMG (may be open) to reach 4 way SP by corner of barn. TL on TK through LMG (which may be open) (barn on L). Continue on farm TK for 1km, initially fenced then with FB on L. When main TK swings sharp R, continue AH thru LMG (CARE – sharp edges, 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 or SWG (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) TL down 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 (CARE – slippery). Over ST and across field, indistinct path (CB 125°) to reach gap in hedge. Thru gap and AH, indistinct path (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 BR onto 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 water trough on R) TR to reach gate with 3-way SP on RHS. (GR ST 730 024).

(1.6) 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 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 LMG. 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 in flood cross (**WITH GREAT CARE**) at sluice 40m north of footbridge.

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 at end of wall BR (CB 20°) gently up aiming for a SWG 50m above stream/woods on L. Thru and faint path gently up to broken LMG. BR thru gap continue for 400m with FB on R to go thru LMG. Cross field (CB 30°) to LMG in NE corner. Thru gate (CARE, drops on hinges) and immediately TR thru LWG SP Higher Melcombe. Thru LMG and AH FB on left. Descend on TK to LMG. Thru gate and AH, FB on R. Just before farm buildings TR (WM) thru SMG. Follow FB on LHS to next SMG Thru gate, TL onto cement area, then TK, to go thru LMG to farm RD (Higher Melcombe Farm). TR along farm RD for 450m, Higher Melcombe Manor and chapel on RHS. **20 mile route leaves this route after the farm buildings.** AH along farm RD for further 1.0 km 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 - SELF-CLIP (ATTACHED BY CHURCH NOTICE BOARD (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 tree TL thru gap (WM) on LHS. 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 (WM) 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 descending to cross ST next to LMG. Follow enclosed FP to X ST onto RD (Cothayes Drove). X RD and thru LMG opposite. X 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 in LH corner. AH aiming to R of house, to pass thru SWG with SP. Thru and TL up farm TK (Wessex Ridgeway). BL in front of house and AH between house and farm buildings to go thru 2 LMGs (may be open). AH on farm 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 multiple track junction called Dorsetshire Gap. (Box with visitors' book on RHS). (GR ST 743 031).

(2.4) At 4-way finger post, continue AH (SP Armswell Fm) (CB 310°) (ignoring LMG on R) downhill on sunken BW thru woods. Thru LMG into field, AH on TK to large concrete water trough, then BL uphill to LMG (CB 280°). Admire extensive views across Blackmore Vale to R. Thru gate, BR, in 8m TL thru LMG (WM), and descend steep hill, keeping wood on LHS. AH with dead oak trees on your R. Pass beneath another oak tree (**CARE – low branches**) to go thru double SMGs (CARE – gate broken) in hedge on L behind brambles. (GR ST 736 036).

(2.5) TL on broad grassy TK for 15m to possible electric fence. Thru, X TK, then AH thru SWG

(CARE – gate post broken). Cross field on (CB 260°). Pass between 2 metal water troughs to SMG on TK. Thru gate, X TK and thru SMG or gap opposite. Continue on BW with FB on L. When FB turns L at electric fence gate, go thru continue AH aiming to right of farm (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 (ignoring side TK to L) where TK becomes astroturf. AH on main TK for 400m until TK reaches wood on RHS. Pass thru 2 LMGs (may be open) next to wood. Immediately after the 2nd gate BL (unsigned) thru gap in fence / electric fence on LHS, and head up field (CB 280°) to join FB on L. Continue AH with meandering wood edge on L for 1km, passing over one electric fence **(CARE)** and thru LMG. Pass to L of temporary electric fences, on rough ground to a second LMG by edge of wood (Gate is broken. Leave it 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 filled cattle-grid **(CARE)** and uphill thru woods. TR on tarmac TK at top of hill. At T junction TL and 60m after barn on R, TR thru 2nd LMG (SP Sharnhill Green)(beware possible slurry!). (GR ST 704 041) Follow FB on RHS to corner. BL following electric fence on RHS (CB 330°) for 250m. TL across field, aiming for hedge 40m to R of LMG (CB 280°). X double stiles **(CARE- slippery when wet)** in hedge and continue over brow of hill (CB 290°), for 200m to reach corner of FB on RHS. BR at corner and continue to LMG **(CARE – drops on hinges)** 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 LMG 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).

(2.9) Just after bungalow (as RD bears L) TR and thru SMG into field (SP) and AH across field (CB 020°) to reach 2 x SMGs in hedge. Pass thru and TR with fence on L and thru SMG. Follow FP which bears L below bank of brambles/wall, then R downhill with hedge on L to reach RD. TL and in 150m reach checkpoint.

CP2 BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL (GR ST 693 052). Open 1115 - 1415. Total distance 17.1 miles, 27.5 km.

Section 3 - Buckland Newton to Sydling St Nicholas (CP3 - 7.5 miles, 12.1 km)

(3.1) TL out of hall and in 50m TL at crossroads. AH on RD passing school, then cemetery on LHS. TL opposite The Rectory 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 slab beside tree "Buckland Newton village pound") TL on TK. AH on TK with houses on RHS. AH through LMG gate onto fenced track and follow to 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 **(must be closed and chained!)**

(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 bridleway fingerpost 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 SWG (SP). BR on faint FP down field (CB 280°) to reach redundant pair of gate posts. 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 (ignore SWG by LMG on R) 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 enter trees at top of hill to reach T-junction. TL on BW for 500m to fork. (**20 mile route leaves here**). (GR ST 657 036).

CLIP POINT B – SELF CLIP (GR ST 657 036) Total distance 20.4 miles, 32.8 km
Manned from 15:15. Anyone arriving after 15:15 will be asked to take the 20 mile route back to Cerne (2.6 miles)

(3.5) TR downhill on TK . In 500m reach RD and TL. In 200m TR (SP FP). X field to end of line of trees ahead (CB 180°). X field (CB 150°) to RD and TR. At end of 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). BR (CB 270°) across field to meet TK. AH on TK (CB 280°) between hedge (on R) and scrub (on L) until TK 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 240°) 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. Pass on RHS end of drive to Up Sydling Farm (GR ST 632 012) to meet metalled RD 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 LHS.

CP3 SYDLING ST NICHOLAS VILLAGE HALL (GR SY 632 993). Open 1300-1630. Total distance - 24.6 miles, 39.6 km

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

(4.1) TL on main RD thru village (Dorchester Road). In 100m, TL (SP FP). 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 300m

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 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) 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 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))

(4.3) TL and AH with FB on R. Go thru SWG by LMG 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. 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 200m to reach RD. (GR ST 646 002).

(4.5) Cross RD (**WITH CARE**), thru gap next to LMG 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 X field (CB 075°) for 220m to corner of small wood. TR downhill for 40m to SP then TL into wood on TK, where path forks, take right fork and AH steeply downhill (CB 100°) through wood on path (**GREAT CARE - very stony and possibly slippery, trip hazard fallen trees and branches**) for 300m to X ST by LMG (**CARE – trip hazard, electric wire by ST**) into field. (GR ST 650 013).

(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 another LMG (**CARE - electric wires across route for next 120m**) (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 X ST by LMG. Immediately X second ST next to LMG and continue AH on enclosed FP under trees to reach TK.

(4.7) TR down TK for 150m and AH through SWG by LMG. Ahead to main RD (A352). Cross RD (**WITH GREAT CARE!**) to go through LWG. TR on permissive path parallel to road, passing Giant View Point on R to reach picnic area and car park. Cross car park and minor road (**CARE!**) 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 30.7 miles, 49.5 km