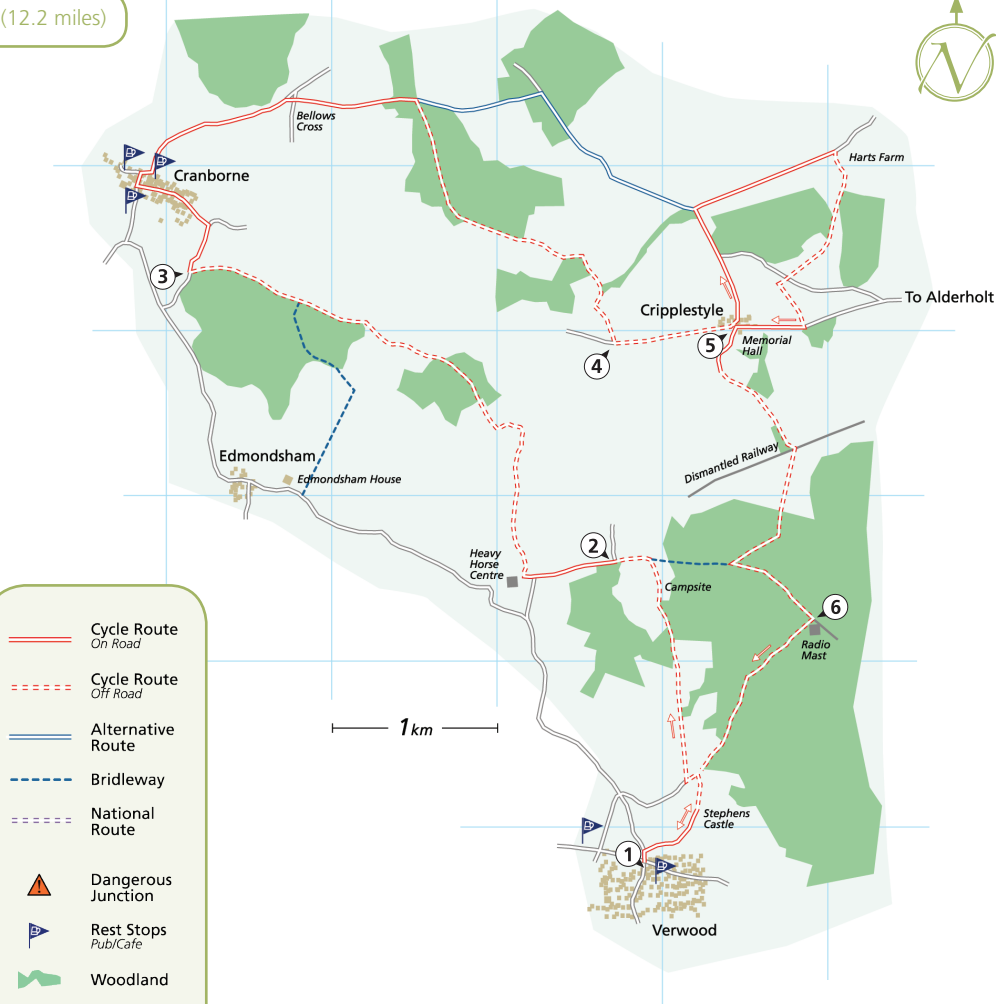


19.7 km (12.2 miles)



Level
Hard

Route
6

Stephens Castle, Verwood



Cranborne Chaser

Terrain:

Mix of bridleways, roads and grassy tracks. Some bridleways can be rutted and very muddy

On road: 25%

A few short sections on a B road

Off road: 75%

Hills:

1 up to
Telegraph Hill



Start:

Heritage centre car park,
Verwood. FREE PARKING.

OS Ref:

Explorer OL22 086 090

1 Heritage Centre Car park, Verwood

Lat 50:52.51.8N Long 1:52 40.3W
2.5km / 1.5m to next point

Exit car park and cross the road. Walk your bike **L** then **R** down a road that is now blocked off to traffic (Edmonsham Road).

Take 1st **R** into Moorlands Road and ride past British Legion Club and on up the track keeping left and following the bridleyway sign. At the end of the track turn **L** then **R** down the byway (Burrows Lane).

Cycle down this off road track for just under a mile passing Hillside campsite. This track can be bumpy. Once past campsite turn **L** to the road.

2 Track / road junction

50:53'53.6N 1:52'52.4W
3.9km / 2.42m to next point

Turn **L** on road and go straight along road until you get to the Heavy Horse Centre. Go down drive and then just before gate on the right is a bridleyway. Follow this all the way for 3.6km / 2m, bearing **L** where bridleyway's converge,

Be warned, 1st section can be very muddy and wet!

3 Bridleway / road junction

50:54'51.0N 1:55'04.4W
4.8km / 3m to next point

Turn **R** until you get to the main road (Castle Street).

Turn **L** and then **R** at T-junction. Follow this road up hill following signs for Damerham, past the school for 1km until you come to a triangulation island (Bellows Cross).

Take **R** fork, then straight on following signs for Crendell. Carry on for about ½ km until you enter a wooded area. 200m on from this is a bridleyway turning with a 5 bar gate on your right.

Cycle down this lovely wide track. Carry on past the house until you come to a bridleyway T - junction at White House farm. Go **R** to the road.

4 Bridleway / B3078 Rd junction

50:54'37.2N 1:52'51.8W
3.9km / 2.4km to next point



With caution turn **L** onto main road. Ride down here for 700m, passing road on **R** and take the 1st **L** road signed to Crendell, opposite Memorial Hall

(To shorten route and miss out the next loop section, turn **R and follow instructions from 5)**

Carry on up this road on turn 2nd **R** towards Lower Daggons. About 800m up here a bridleyway goes off to the **R** by a post box. Cycle down it through the farmyard, keep **R** past the large metal silo (be aware this track can be very muddy).

Cross over the road and just after take the bridleyway **L** back onto B3078. Turn **R** to junction just after Williams Memorial Chapel.

5 Williams Memorial Chapel Cripplestyle

50:54.605N 1:52.316W
2.5km / 1.6m to next point

Turn **L** down this road, signposted Cripplestyle. Keep cycling and the road will become a grassy bridleyway. Keep **R** across field and over the old railway line bridge.

The bridleyway then heads right to the top right hand corner of field. You should now be at the edge of the Forestry Commission plantation. Continue to follow the bridleyway, over a gravel track, up a steep climb and straight on until you get to an obvious bridleyway marker post.

Turn **L**, almost doubling back on yourself and follow the good gravel track until you come to a radio mast.

6 Radio Mast

50:53'42.5N 1:51'53.8W
2km / 1.3m to finish

The bridleyway actually runs down to the **R** before the mast and joins a forestry track. Follow it, bearing **L** at the bridleyway junction, all the way down through the forest past a single bar gate and past *Stephens Castle Nature Reserve*.


Take the **L** bridleyway, signposted Verwood, past British Legion to a T - junction. Turn **L** at road, cross over and Heritage centre and car park is on the left.

Rest Stops:

Fleur de Lys, Cranborne (Pub)
Sheaf of Arrows, Cranborne (Pub)
Cranborne Manor Garden Centre

Places and things of Interest:

Verwood Heritage Centre
Stephens Castle Nature Reserve
Edmondsham House

For information , contact the Tourist Information Centre, details on back page of folder.

Abbreviations:

L - Left **R** - Right

Route Profile - This representation of the route should be used only as a guide.

