

CTC DORSET DIRT Start 10.00 hrs

Maps: *Pathfinder 1:25000 1299 ST 60/70 & Pathfinder 1:25000 1318 SV 69/79*
or *Landranger 1:50000 194*

Route Listing

0.0km 0.0m 688907 Dorchester, Top o' Town Car Park.

CHECK POINT (10.00 - 10.30)

Turn left out of main car park entrance onto main road B3150 **straight on** at roundabout and east out of town, over river at Grey's Bridge to

1.5km 0.9m 703910 **Turn left** on to B3143 signposted to **Piddletrenthide**. **Go past signpost to Puddletown** and keep on road towards Piddletrenthide. Go over stream and on until the road makes a sharp Left hand turn at chevrons in the hedge at

7.2km 4.5m 727958 Here the road goes Left but you **go right** on to the Bridleway (no bridleway sign) following the telephone wires. Continue to the start of the wood on the right (Dole's Hill plantation). Here there is a crossroads with a clear track on the left and a path through the woods on the right. Go **straight on** following the side of the wood and keeping it to your right. At one bar iron gate (blue arrow) **turn right** and follow edge of wood to a T junction.

10.7km 6.7m 739987 This is the NE corner of Dole's Hill plantation. **Turn left** along the field edge and then along a track to

11.2km 7.0m 740991 Here there is a small gate to your right, **go through small gate** (don't go left along the hillside). This takes you along a track with thick hedges and vestigial wire fences on both sides and then to Drake's Lane which is a metalled road at

12.2km 7.9m 746004 **turn right** along the road to

12.9km 8.1m 748000 **turn left** on to a Bridleway indicated by a wooden post with a horse type bridleway sign on top onto a green track with no gate. Continue on the track to a metalled road at

13.9km 8.7m 755013 **turn left** into the road and continue along the road to the signpost (Private road to Higher Melcombe) at Cross Lanes

15.0km 9.4m 760023

CHECK POINT(10.30-11.30) – (No mobile signal here phone box no 01258880479)

Turn left and continue past copper beeches on the left. At the end of copper beeches and just before farm there are three gates on right. **Take centre blue gate**, signposted Dorset Gap (Two blue arrows)

16.6km 10.0m 751025 **Go through this blue gate on the right** and then **immediately left** along the field edge (with the hedge on the left but no path marked) in the direction of the Dorset Gap. Carry on along the path at the edge of the field (the electric fence should be negotiable) and **through blue gate and then the steel gate** (blue arrows). Continue along edge of field and 100m before the end of the field **go through a steel gate** (blue arrow) into a green lane with hedges and then high banks on each side. Carry on until you **fork left** leaving the well marked path which goes to the right. The hedge on the left is now a lot lower.

17.0km 10.6m 745030 Carry on along this left hand fork in the bridleway up a steep path between two high banks and then **through a gate** (Wessex Ridgeway). Cross to the far righthand corner of the field, go through a **small gate** and across another field, aiming to go **past a water tank** on the horizon and under phone wires to the double hedge at

18.0km 11.3m 737028 Here you **turn right** (blue arrow) and follow the path between the trees to

18.1 km 11.3m 736029 where you go **through a gate** (blue arrow). Continue on path and **bear right** into track which joins from the left

18.8km 11.8m 728032 Cross the road (Piddletrenthide to Mappowder) and go up a steep track (sign posted "Bridleway Alton Pancras") and continue through the wood. Go **through gate** (Blue Arrow Wessex Ridgeway). Continue across a rough field and **through a gate** and across another field and then **through a wooden gate with stile**. **Bear slightly left** and cross to the field hedge opposite. **Follow the hedge keeping it on your right** and go **through steel gate** at the end of the field.

21.5km 13.4m 703036 Take the well defined white track and **through steel gate**

22.1km 13.8m 699031 **Turn right** on to the road (B3143) to Henley Farm (Henley's Hillbillies) at a red telephone box.

23.4km 14.7m 693051 **Turn left** into the village hall Buckland Newton
CHECK POINT (11.30-13.00) - (No mobile phone signal)
Turn left after leaving the village hall **Turn Left** at cross roads 693052

23.8km 14.8m 693051 **Turn left** and continue on the road past the Gaggle of Geese pub to red telephone box to the corner at

24.0km 15.0m 687050 **Turn left** on to a side road and straight to the farmyard at Knapp's Farm at

24.4km 15.2m 686047 Here **turn right** on to a Bridleway signposted to Watts's Hill. Follow a narrow track and then uphill through a wood. Continue between wire fences to the Old Sherborne Road at

26.1km 16.3m 673040 **Turn right** along the road to just before a 14% sign partway down the hill

26.7km 17.0m 675046 Here you turn **sharp left** and back on to the track (the remnants of a previously metalled county road) to the main road at Dogbury Gate.

29.0km 18.1m 656053 **Turn left** on to the main road (A352) and carry on to the **first turn to the Right** on an unclassified road to Evershot and Batcombe at

29.3km 18.3m 655050 **Turn right** on to this road. Go past Batcombe Picnic Area on right and **passed** a track and do not go downhill but **Continue on main lane for a further 600 metres to**

32.5km 20.2m 630037
CHECK POINT (12.00-14.00)

Go **left along this Bridleway track**. Follow this main track until it turns sharply to the right and here **continue straight on onto green lane** towards and past a television mast to a metalled road at

35.8km 22.4m 646002 **Carry on across the road** (blue arrow, Higher City Farm), through the farmyard and past a bungalow on the Right. Continue along the lefthand edge of the field and **through a gate**. At the end of the next field go **left** through a small gate (blue arrow) and into the next field so that you continue with the hedge on your Right. At the end of this field you go through a **small gate** (blue arrow) and into a new field. Here you make a diagonal short cut across the field (there is a track). Go by a **small gate** (blue arrows) and continuing, you pass a stile on your Left.

38.8km 24.3m 654977 **Carry on** and through the next **gate**. You are now in a trackway between hedges. Go past a white memorial stone (now very hidden) recording "Tim's Trees". Go through the next gate (two blue arrows) where you are joined by a better track coming in from the Left. Continue to T junction.

40.1km 25.1 m 652965 **Turn left** along the edge of the field and continue along the left hand edge of the woods. (You can divert here to view Jackman's Cross the base of an old gibbet. There are dangerous hidden ruts in the field if you divert, you have been warned)

40.8km 25.5m 649960 **Turn left** at the gate. **Here there is a wooden bridleway finger post sign to Charminster and Forston. You will now cross several open fields following this bridleway as indicated below until you reach a metalled road.**

42.0km 26.3m 661959 **Continue right** across field keeping **near to the right field hedge** and through gate

42.9km 26.8m 662951 **Continue towards** and through an **iron gate** and onto a track which passes a barn. **Through a gate** across field **to the far end and through a steel gate** into the next field (blue bridleway signs) **across next field** and **through gate onto track** and continue to the **metalled road referred to above.**

44.6km 27.0m 672934 **Turn left** and immediately **left** again, down a steep hill to the **main road** (A352) at

45.1 km 28.2m 677935 **Cross** the road into a track at the sign (unsuitable for Motorists). Follow the track (through the ford) to a T-junction (at the Linney cottage). **Turn left** uphill to the staggered crossroad. Go **across** (Right then Left) along the main road. At T junction **right** towards Dorchester. There is a cycle path on the right.

47.2 km 29.8m 688917 **Left onto** cycle path at the Sun Inn

47.8 km 30.0m 689912 **left at** cycle path **T**

48.2 km 30.1m 690910 sharp **left at** Hangman's Cottage

48.5 km 30.3m 691907 **Right at T** into Higher West Street, **Straight on** at Roundabout and immediately **right** into car park

48.8km 30.5m 688907
FINAL CHECKPOINT (13.00 -16.00)

Phone Numbers: Police 01305 222222 Top o'Town Cafe 01305 269199