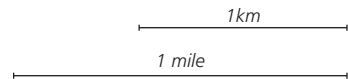


Key

- Main route
- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Roads/Tracks
- Refreshments
- Parking
- Dangerous Junctions
- Woodland



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



Verwood

Distance: 6.8 miles / 11km

Terrain: Gravel tracks, wooded footpaths and field edges

Hills: 3

Stiles: 3

1 Start - Potters Wheel car park, Verwood, BH31 6HF (next to the Heritage Centre) Free parking

Lat 50°52'51.4"N Long 1°52'40.8"W

Explorer OL22 086 090

From the car park walk across the road and into the playing fields. Keep to the left and walk to the other end, exiting around a small metal railing. Turn **R** into the lane and walk to the right of *Verwood Brass Band Hall* where there is a wooden gate and a footpath. Follow this path along the back of the houses and next to *Stephens Castle Nature Reserve*. After passing the Primary School there is a wooden gate at the end of the fenced area. Go through and turn **R** along the grassy path and as it bends left, the back of the houses are on the right. At the corner, the path crosses a small stream by a wooden gate and dog bin. Turn **R** down the track and then **L** after 30m along the signed footpath. Continue down this wide gravel travel track, past a post and chain gate and an Forestry Commission sign saying "Access to Mount Ararat

Route 8



R - Right L - Left

Cottage Only". Follow the track as it bends around to the **L** away from the houses and continue up the slight incline to a large 4-way junction.

2 4-way Track junction

Lat 50°53'09.7"N Long 1°51'26.0"W

Distance from start 1.2 miles / 1.9 km

Turn **L** and continue up, quickly passing a track on the left. Pass a track that joins from the right, close to an interpretation board and continue past a white thatched cottage. At the junction turn **L** and walk up the incline. After about 450m a track comes from the left. Continue straight on and at the next junction turn **R**, keeping parallel to the telegraph poles. The radio mast is on the left. Walk to the junction and turn **L** to a bridlway post. Turn **R** down a small path into the woods and follow to a metal gate in the post and wire fence. Shortly after, the path emerges from the woods to another gate.

3 Cranborne Common

Lat 50°53'49.6"N Long 1°51'35.1"W

Distance from start 2.4 miles / 3.9km

Go through the gate and head down the bridlway track across the common. This path can sometimes be a bit rutted. After approximately 500m a footpath goes **L** (it can be hard to spot if the marker post isn't there, but it is just before two pine trees growing together on the right). Follow this little path along (it is waymarked once off the bridlway), under the telegraph wires towards a corse clump. Go around to the right of this and head for the post and wire fence surrounding the wood. Once on the wide track adjacent to the fence turn **L** and continue to the corner of the fence. Turn **R** over the stile and follow the fenceline down. **N.B the next section can be wet and slightly waterlogged.** Cross over a little stream and carry on to the old railway bridge. A short section of gravel path takes you underneath it and up into a field over a stile. Walk along the field edges to another stile. Go over this and the stream and follow the path **L**, next to some deer fencing, over a wooden bridge to a track. Turn **L** and walk to the road.

4 B3078 / Track junction

Lat 50°54'43.7"N Long 1°51'27.3"W

Distance from start 3.6 miles / 5.9km

The next 300m section is on the road and there are no pavements, so take care. Turn **L** and follow road just past the white cottage (Upper Daggons Farm) to a footpath on the **L**. Take this path and walk through the wooden kissing gate as it bends to the **R**. Head diagonally **L** towards a large pine wood.

Keep the wood on the left and walk past a hillock on the right. Pass another wood on the left and continue through a gate in a fenceline that runs north to south. Walk straight down the wide track to a tarmac lane. Turn **L** past the cottages ignoring a footpath to the right and follow the bridlway that heads to the left to a metal gate. Keep the hedgeline on the right and follow the field edge to "Cow Bridge", via another metal gate. This crosses the old railway line to another metal five bar gate. Once in the field head diagonally **R** at about 1 o'clock towards another metal gate on the far side near the forest.

5 Field / Wood edge

Lat 50°54'02.6"N Long 1°52'01.7"W

Distance from start 5.1 miles / 8.2 km

Go through the gate and follow the bridlway marker up the hill. Half way up, cross over a track and continue up and around to the right. Pass a grassy track which goes off back to the left and walk to an obvious track junction. Turn **L** here and the radio mast is straight ahead. Follow down to another large track junction. A wide track is on the left and goes up a hill, but take the **R** fork down a signed bridlway next to the boundary edge of *Stephens Castle*, through a wooden pole gate. Keep the reserve on the left and follow the track down to a finger post sign. Turn **L** here to *Verwood*, down the track past the *Verwood Brass Band Hall* and retrace the route back through the park to the finish.

