

Broadmayne North East Route

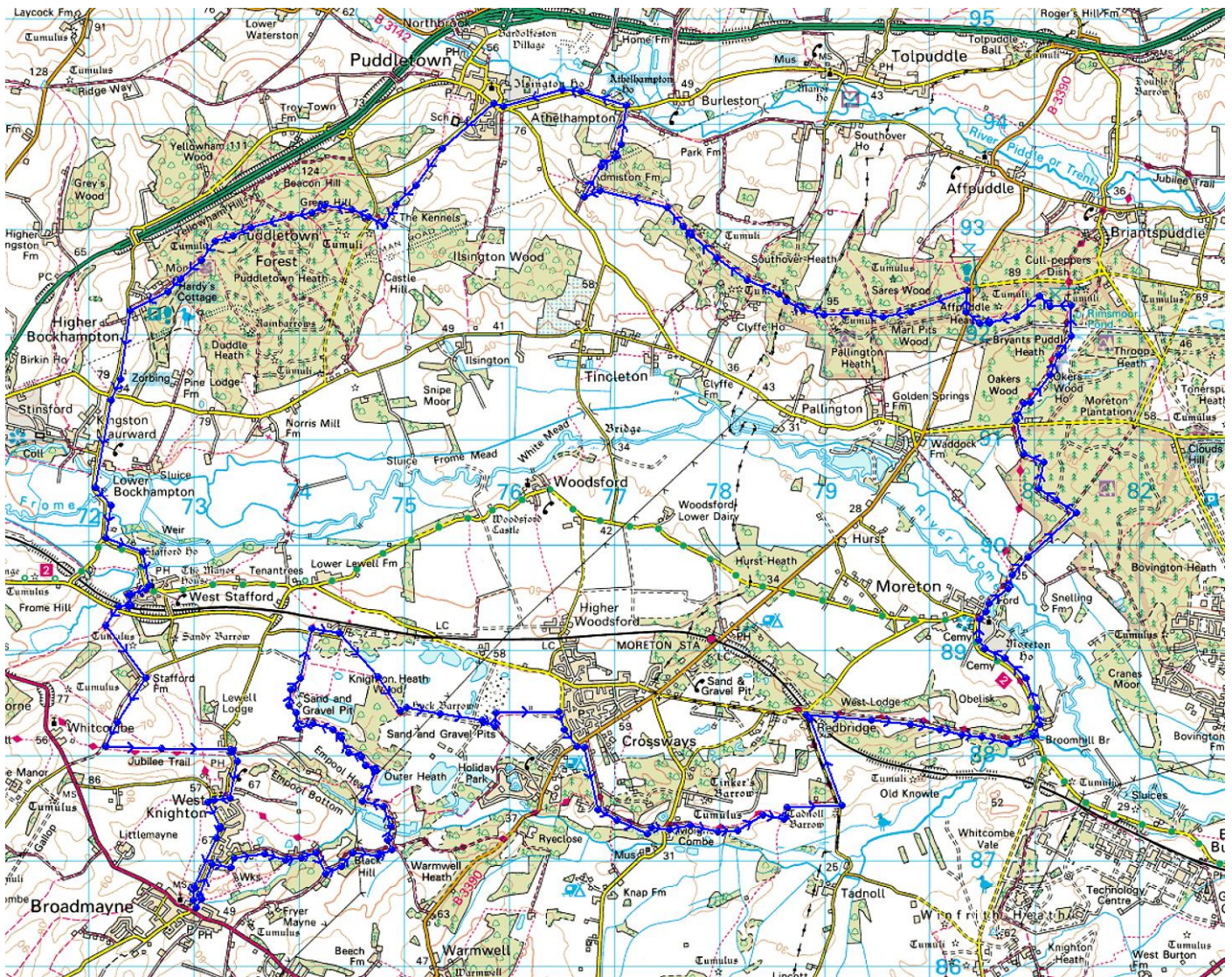
Summary:

This route goes north and east from Broadmayne and has a real mix of trails, road, cycle path, rough field tracks and bridleways. While it is 80%+ off road this route has a mixture of all surfaces and terrains, it has some short but steep climbs and is for experienced and confident riders.

The route does pass several places to get food or drink and I have mentioned them where applicable. However you should always take your own just in case.

Route length - 25 miles

Total ascent - 1600ft.



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Route Instructions:

Starting from the centre of village, head north up Knighton Lane. Halfway up the hill turn right on to Watergates Lane and stay on the BW down to and over the Wash Pond bridges

then up the incline to the T junction with another BW. Turn left and follow the track until you come to a BW crossroads above the Watercress Farm. Go left and down through the farm yard, take care of vehicles moving around. Go diagonally across the yard and up the stone track on the far side. At the top of the track you come to a T junction, go left and after about 200m the track goes sharp right up a short incline. This track goes around Empool Heath and has some dips in it which can hold deep puddles after prolonged rainfall. After the dips the track goes sharp left along a woodland edge. Continue on after the woodland edge follow the track along the edge of the field until you come to a gate. Go through the gate and turn right, follow this trail as it goes over a "horse friendly low bar gate", bends around to the left then right, over another horse friendly gate and then turns left between two hedgerows. After about 600m go over another horse friendly gate and emerge on to a narrow lane.

Turn right down the lane and after about 400m when the lane goes sharp left there is a BW on your right, take the BW. Follow this track between the lakes up to Knighton Heath Wood. Follow the BW signs through the wood and on the diagonally opposite corner of the wood from which you entered it, you will find a BW heading across the Silverlake holiday home development, take this BW. The track is sand and gravel and goes between the lakes. Go through two gates outside the estate offices and continue on the track until you get to a T junction with another BW. Go left on this BW and follow it until it emerges on to Highgate Lane in Crossways.

At Highgate Lane go right and on to the junction with the B3390, then left and almost immediately right on to a small lane. Go down this lane and past the village hall. After about 350m keep left and follow the BW past a few cottages and down the track between two hedgerows into a small woodland area. Follow the track through the woods, across a (very) small stream and then up to the road (Moreton Road).

At the road go left and then immediately right on to a BW. This BW goes through 6 gates and across 3 fields before turning into a narrow trail after the last gate. Follow this trail to the road (Redbridge Road). At the road turn left and go up the hill to the T junction (Redbridge) where you turn right and almost immediately take the BW on your right just over the railway bridge. Follow this track, which is mostly on a slight descent, for just over a mile until it meets the road (East Burton Road).

At the road go left towards Moreton. In Moreton the Walled Garden is a good place to stop for coffee and cake. Else just after their entrance go right and down to Moreton Ford, then cross the river over the bridge. In summer it can be shallow enough to ride through the river, your choice! Follow the track from the river for about 0.5 mile and then turn left and follow this track for about another 0.5 mile to the road. Go straight over the road and into Oakers Wood. Follow the track through the wood, go through a gate on to Bryants Puddle

Heath. About 500m after the gate the trail is crossed by a wide gravel track, go left on this track. Stay on this track until it meets the road (B3390).

Go right on the road and after 200m at the crossroads go left onto the BW opposite a lane on your right. Stay on this track for about 2 miles through the woods on Southover Heath until you come to a gate. Go through the gate and follow the edge of the field to another gate at the end of the field.

This area, just before the first gate and in the woods surrounding the second gate, has amazing Bluebell displays in late April/early May.

Go through the gate and turn right up a small incline into Cowpound Wood and follow this track as it bends to the left and drops down to the BW T junction. Go right and descend this narrow stony track which emerges next to the church opposite Athelhampton House on Athelhampton Road.

At the road turn left towards Puddletown. If you are in need of refreshments Athelhampton House has a tea room, there is a shop in Puddletown and the Blue Vinny pub in Puddletown does excellent food and beers as well as having a large garden area.

As you enter Puddletown take New Street on your left and go up and past the school heading towards Puddletown Forest. About 300m past the school there is a farm track on your left with a BW beside it. Take the BW and follow it up to and through the woods until you meet a wide track, turn right and go up to the road (Rhododendron Mile). Turn left on the road then at the parking lay-by almost immediately on your right turn right into Puddletown Forest.

The forest section of this route can be tricky if you don't know the area very well, all the trails look similar and can be moved around by the forestry workers! Follow the trail from the car park uphill until you get to the top, at the second crossroads go left and that trail should lead you to a 5 way crossroads where you go straight over and down to Hardy's Cottage. There are usually lots of MTB'ers or dog walkers around so if in doubt ask someone to direct you to Hardy's Cottage.

After the descent from the forest, go past Hardy's Cottage and follow this track up to the road (Cuckoo Lane). Before you get to the road you will go past the visitor centre and Under the Greenwood Cafe, an excellent stopping place for refreshments.

At the road turn left and follow the road downhill, straight over at the crossroads and down to Lower Bockhampton, continue through the village and over the bridges until you get to a T junction. Go left at the junction and follow the road into West Stafford. Opposite the church turn right into Rectory Lane. If you feel the need for some refreshment The Wise Man pub is just around the corner from the church. Go to the end of Rectory Lane where there is a BW alongside the river, this bends round to the left, past the children's play area, under a railway bridge and emerges on to the West Stafford bypass.

Carefully cross the bypass to the BW on the other side. Go through the gate and follow the hedgerow for about 200m where there is a gate and track on your left going up a short steep hill. Go up the hill and at the buildings (Stafford Farm) at the top there is a T junction, turn right along this track. The track descends between two hedgerows until it joins another BW at the bottom of the hill, turn left onto this track. Follow this track until it emerges alongside Crooks Yard, turn right on the road and you are in West Knighton. Hopefully you have timed the ride to coincide with The New Inn being open or follow the road down into Broadmayne for a drink at The Black Dog.

Gary Biles - May 2021