

# Broadmayne North West Route

## Summary:

This route goes west from Broadmayne and has a real mix of trails, road, cycle path, rough field tracks and bridleways. I have ended the route in Dorchester town centre as there are many ways back to Broadmayne from there and have left it up to riders to decide which route home is best for them. This route has a mixture of all surfaces and terrains, it has some short but steep climbs, cross's some very busy roads and is really for experienced and confident riders.

The route does pass several places to get food or drink and I have mentioned them where applicable. However it also passes through Dorchester on the way out and back and obviously there are many places to choose from in the town.

Route length - 22 miles (not including the return from Dorchester).

Total ascent - 1900ft.



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## Route Instructions:

Starting from the centre of village, head south on Chalky Road. Go past Martel Close and South Drive and after about another 300m take the BW on your right. The BW goes

straight for about 100m then turns sharp right and through the woodland down to the farm buildings at the top of South Drove (If you want to miss the woodland section turn right up South Drove and go straight on to the farm buildings instead). Go past the buildings and then after 20m go left following the BW signs across the field. Go through a gate and across the field up to the hedgerow. Follow the hedgerow left and where it peters out (there used to be a gate here) go right and follow the hedgerow (on your left) across the next field (this is a BW, but has no marker signs). At the end of the field go down the bank through a gap in the hedgerow and turn right on the BW. Follow the BW for about 400m to where it joins another BW, turn left here. At the start of the field follow this track (hedgerow on your left), go through the gates and across the gallops track and descend down the incline to the Whitcombe road.

Cross the road and straight on to the BW opposite. Follow the track across the field, this field can be rough to ride over as it is ploughed for farming. At the end of the field go through the gate in the hedgerow then right and left around the edge of the field. At the end of the field you meet a BW and turn right. This goes down a chalky track and meets another BW where you should turn right again. Follow this track down the hill, past the farm cottages where it bends left and meets the drive to Came House. At the drive turn right and go down to the Winterborne Herringston road. Cross the road and go up the hill on the track in front of you. At the top of the hill in the woodland area go through the gate and take the track right down and alongside the fields then up to the Max Gate roundabout.

From this point you need to make your way across town to High West Street. Although I have plotted a route around the town centre you may know some short cuts or safer routes or may want to stop for a coffee, so I won't be prescriptive with this part of the route.

On High West Street just up from the new museum building go through the alleyway on to Clyde Path Road, go past the Colliton Club and court buildings on your left and down the hill to Northernhay. Follow the road round to the left and you will emerge on to West Walks. Turn right here, it is best to walk along the pavement past Lidl's, cross the road over to the petrol station and from there you are National Cycle Route 26. This is a traffic free tarmac path running alongside the B3147 and A37.

Stay on this path go past the roundabout where the B3147 joins the A37 and continue on. About 3/4 of a mile after the roundabout you come to Wrackleford, Soder Lane goes right and there is a BW opposite. Carefully cross the road, the traffic can be heavy and fast (!), and take the BW. This is a stony track with bridges crossing two rivers; it can get very water logged after prolonged heavy rainfall. Follow the track up to the crossroads and turn right up the hill towards Bradford Peverell. If you want to avoid this track and the hill stay on the A37 path for another 800m and take the left turn into Bradford Peverell.

From this point NCR 26 is a mixture of quiet country lanes, BW's and farm tracks all the way to Maiden Newton. It is well sign posted and relatively flat. If you choose to stay on NCR 26 rather than the route as described, the Chalk & Cheese pub in Maiden Newton used to do good food and there are two shops in the village. Or you could detour into Stratton where the Saxon Arms is situated, it's a bit more expensive, but does very good food and has a nice outdoor seating area.

To continue on this route, after Bradford Peverell stay on NCR 26 for about 3 miles until you get to Southover. Here the BW meets an offset crossroads. Right goes to Frampton, straight over is NCR 26 continues on to Maiden Newton, but stay left up the hill and follow the road to Longlands Farm where the tarmac ends and it becomes a BW. Ignore the BW to the right and follow the track downhill where it turns sharp left. Ignore the BW's to the right and left and continue on past Hogleaze Farm up to the road (Roman Road).

At the road turn right and after about a mile there is a wide BW track to the left. Take this track and enjoy the long fast descent into Winterbourne Abbas, take care though this can be a very fast bumpy descent.

At Winterbourne Abbas go left along the main road (A35) for a short distance to the Martinstown turning (B3159) on the right and take this road to Martinstown. This is a very pleasant road to ride along, but the occasional traffic can be quite fast. For some long sections there is a stream alongside road and I have seen Kingfishers along here on many occasions. In Martinstown (aka Winterbourne St Martin) there is a shop as well as the Brewers Arms pub which does excellent food and beer and has a very nice garden area.

At the end of the village take the left turn (this road eventually comes to the Monkey's Jump roundabout on the A35/A37 junction). After about 200m there is a turning to the left and a BW to the right, take the BW. Follow the BW up the hill and through the farm yard, take care as this is a working dairy farm and large vehicles may be moving around. Follow the signs through the farm yard and on the other side you are on a track with Maiden Castle to your right. Follow the track down the hill until you meet the road (Maiden Castle Road). Go left on Maiden Castle Road and stay on it until it meets Weymouth Avenue opposite the cemetery.

I have stopped the route instructions here as there are a multitude of ways to get back to Broadmayne and you can choose the one best for you and where you live. Some options are:

- The cycle path alongside the relief road to the top of the Ridgeway Hill, past the golf course and descend on Chalky Road.
- Go to Greys Bridge and follow the BW alongside the river to Bockhampton and back via West Stafford.
- Go to Lubbecke Way and follow that past the recycling centre and use the BW to West Stafford.

- Go to Max Gate and use the cycle path alongside the West Stafford bypass to West Stafford.
- Go to Max Gate and use the outward route to return to Broadmayne.

Gary Biles - May 2021