



EAST OF CRANBORNE WALKS



CRANBORNE ESTATE OFFICE
Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PS
Tel: 01725 517289

CRANBORNE FARM
Pound Farm, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5RN
Tel: 01725 517310

CRANBORNE GARDEN CENTRE
Open all year Monday to Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Sundays & Bank Holidays 10.00am – 5.00pm
Tel: 01725 517248

CRANBORNE STORES
1 The Square, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PR
Open Monday to Saturday 6.00am – 6.00pm
Sundays 9.00am – 5.00pm
Tel: 01725 517210



CRANBORNE

WELCOME TO CRANBORNE

This circular walk takes you to the east of Cranborne village. It is approximately four miles long and takes the average walker one and a half to two hours to complete. We hope you enjoy the walk and ask that you please keep to the clearly marked rights of way and keep your dogs under control.

1. Your walk starts at the centre of the village, adjacent to Cranborne Stores. Here you can pick up some locally produced bread, cheese, beer and more to set you on your way. With the Stores on your right, turn right up Wimborne Street. When you reach The Inn at Cranborne, turn left and follow Castle Street. Please take care as some of this section involves road walking. On your right you will pass 10 Castle Street – also known as Cranborne Lodge. This Queen Anne house forms part of the Cranborne Estate and is currently run as a hotel, restaurant and private members' club.

2. At the end of Castle Street, turn up Castle Hill Lane and, almost immediately, enter an arable field on your left and follow the footpath which starts next to some double gates. Cross the arable field to a stile. The field you are crossing forms part of the Estate in-hand farm. The crops grown here rotate in a pre-planned sequence in order to reduce the impact of weeds, insects, pests and diseases. A diversity of cropping allows a mosaic of habitats to thrive across the farm.

If you carry on up Castle Hill Lane at this point you will eventually come upon Castle Mound, on your left, just past the entrance to Mill Lane. Here you can find an early Norman motte and bailey earthwork. Little is known of its history, but it is likely it was abandoned when King John built a hunting lodge in Cranborne where the Manor now stands.

3. Climb over the stile and turn left down Mill Lane. This route can get quite muddy so make sure you wear the right footwear. Mill Lane runs along the boundary between the Cranborne Estate to the north and the Edmonsham Estate to the south.

4. After about a mile you will reach a junction where you have the option to carry on, or turn left – a wooden sign marked 'BYWAY Open to All Traffic' points back the way you have come. At this point, turn left and head towards the Cranborne to Alderholt road. Having crossed over the River Crane once, you will come to a wooden footbridge over what was a mill leat. Cross here and head north towards the main road.

5. On reaching a layby, turn right, walk for a short stretch along the road before crossing and following a footpath sign taking you

north-east through an area of woodland known as Gilhams Copse. The copse, as with all Cranborne Estate woodland, is managed under a Continuous Cover Forestry regime; this method favours natural regeneration and selective thinning over clear felling and replanting. Once into the woodland turn right, up a made-up forest track until you reach a footpath sign on your left pointing up a narrow path. Follow the sign, leaving the forestry track, and head north-east. You will eventually come out onto an open arable field. Cross the field and head through a gate onto a track.

6. Turn left onto the track and continue, passing a house on your right, and into the woodland. Ignore the first footpath on your left, carrying on, to turn on to the second, left-hand footpath.

7. Continue through the wood on a narrow path until you reach a stile (and hunt jump) and, beyond, a grass field. Head left and downhill, between bramble bushes to meet another stile, on your right, leading to a farm track between hedges.

8. Continue over the stile and follow the farm track to reach a complex of buildings.

9. Holwell Farm buildings, once used by the Estate farming and forestry enterprises, are being converted into a variety of commercial units. Particularly of note is the Sixpenny Handley brewery and tap room. The taproom is open for business Monday-Tuesday from 16:00-20:00, 11:30-20:30 Wednesday to Saturday and 11:30-16:00 on Sunday. A perfect stop for a pint of Sixpenny Gold! If you fancy some bread with your beer, then Orchard Bay Bakery, also based at Holwell, sells home-baked bread from 17:00-19:00 on Fridays and 10:00-12:00 on Saturdays – it is also stocked in Cranborne Stores and pizzas are available most Friday evenings.

10. Once you have had your fill, carry on westwards, over the road and onto a surfaced footpath bordering an arable field on the right and hedge on the left. Head up Potterne Hill from where you will have views of Cranborne village. Descend into the village and, just before you reach the first house, turn left onto a footpath. At the end of the short path, you will come to a residential cul-de-sac called Friday's Heron. Cross the road turn right, to Water Street and the River Crane. Turn right and follow the Crane back to the centre of the village.

