

# THE CHILLERTON CHALLENGE

Approx 9 miles



Nilton Road

Main Road, Rookley

Highwood Lane

Loverstone Lane

Main Road, Chillerton

Garn Lane

Hollow Lane

Berry Shute

Footbridge Stile & Ford

Cridmore

Roslin

Newbarn Farm

Short Copse

Long Copse

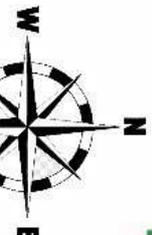
Tolt Copse

Gates

Gates

Gates

Gate



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19

# THE CHILLERTON CHALLENGE

This recommended walk of about 9 miles will take you over the river Medina, up and over Ramsdown to Chillerton village. Then north to Gatcombe to start the climb onto Newbarn Down and Chillerton Down with panoramic views across the island. Passing close to the TV mast you descend through the old marl pits and return via the water meadows of the wilderness SSSI (*Site of Special Scientific Interest*).

It is suitable for fit regular walkers. There are some steep hills.

## TO START:

Cross the road in front of The Chequers and walk down the track.

*SIGN - Public Bridleway GL5 to Lower Rill and Chillerton.*

At Rookley Farm House turn LEFT to pass in front of garden.

*SIGN - Public Bridleway G18 to Rill.*



Cross the young River Medina by way of the footbridge and head straight across the field to a metal gate (1), continue along the track to join a lane. Turn RIGHT walk up the slope to join a second lane where you turn LEFT.

Immediately after Lower Rill Farm turn RIGHT up concrete drive into farmyard (2). - You now start a gentle climb.

*SIGN - Public Bridleway G16a to Chillerton*

Look for small wooden gate on left into copse. Leave copse through second gate into field. Keep close to hedge on left-hand side for the first few yards until corner, then bearing slightly left head across the open field to a gate. Take the track uphill through the trees. At the field gate, turn RIGHT up the bank through a gate and climb the field keeping the fence on your left. Go through the gate at the top and turn LEFT (3).

Follow path to top corner of field. - Pause to look over the gate on your left to see where you've come from. Now turn RIGHT down the track between the hedges (4).

*SIGN Public Bridleway G15a To Chillerton*

After rounding the left-hand bend turn RIGHT off the track into Hollow Lane. *Waymark on post in bracken*

On reaching the main road in Chillerton turn LEFT. Walk along the road as far as Downsvie Close then turn RIGHT into Garn Lane (5).

*SIGN - Public Bridleway G6 Shepherds Trail Carisbrooke.*

A short walk up this track and you enter open fields. Go straight ahead following the hedge line. The path dips down through a gate and then, with Tolt Copse over to your left climbs steadily to join a broad track (6).

*SIGN - Public Bridleway G6 to New Barn Farm Lane*

Turn LEFT and follow the path, bearing right into the next field and continuing to a lane at



the lower end.

At lane go LEFT up towards Newbarn Farm entrance then LEFT again along by the farm buildings (7).

*SIGN - Public Bridleway G7 to Garstons Down.*

At the end of the track turn LEFT and walk uphill to a gate. The track now opens onto the hillside with fine views to the white cliffs of Culver Down at the eastern end of the island.

At the signpost *Public Bridleway G22 to Dukem Down* turn RIGHT (8) up towards the gate in the fence ahead.

**DON'T** go through the gate to Garstons Down, but instead turn LEFT along the path keeping the fence to your right.

*SIGN - Public Bridleway G22 to Shorwell and Bowcombe.*

Pass through a gate, and keeping straight ahead up the field to the fir trees, find the gate into Dukem Copse where you meet a wide, well used track (9).

*SIGN - Public Bridleway N146 Shorwell to Bowcombe.*

Turn LEFT towards Shorwell.

Follow the well defined path towards the TV mast, passing through three gates and alongside a barn, before walking under the wire stays of the mast





**(10)**. A fourth gateway will take you to a private road serving the transmitter station. Cross over the road, go through the gate opposite taking the path down through the disused marl pits.



Through another gate ( This is a National Trust conservation area ). Leave by the gate at the bottom and follow the track downhill to its junction with the road **(11)**. Turn **RIGHT** up the hill.



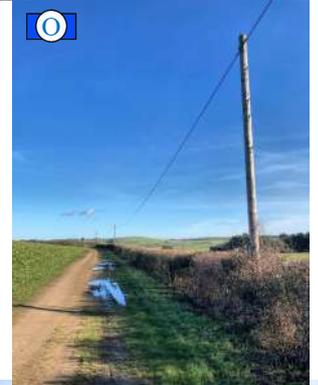
**KEEP ALERT FOR MOTOR VEHICLES ESPECIALLY WHEN CROSSING THE ROAD.**

At the top turn **LEFT** into Bury Lane **(12)** and walk along, passing Ramsdown Farm on your left as you head downhill. At the bottom of the hill, where the lane bends sharply to the left, turn **RIGHT** to Roslin **(13)**.

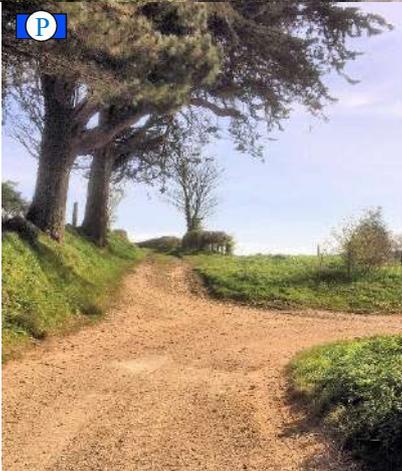


After passing the first barn turn **LEFT** into gravelled yard between barn and farmhouse. **(14)**.  
*SIGN - Public Bridleway G14 to Lower Rill and Cridmore.*

This wide path known to the locals as Sandy Lane goes through the farmhouse garden then up into a field where it follows the hedge line to a gate then turns **RIGHT (15)** and meets a lane just before Cridmore Farm.



Walk past the farm and keep to the lane as it bends sharply left to pass in front of the farmhouse and open fronted barns **(16)**.  
*SIGN -Public Bridleway G24 to Bleak Down.*



Then leaving the lane go straight ahead up a track between hedges to a gate, the track drops downhill to another gate and then ends in an open field **(17)**. Walk down the field keeping the fence close on your right-hand side.



Passing through the next gate turn **RIGHT** and follow the fence line to yet another gateway. Take a diagonal course across this smaller field to the footbridge and cross the river Medina once again **(18)** .



Now walk round the meadow with the hedge on your left to a gate. Go through the gate, up the tree lined path to the road at East Appleford **(19)**,turn **LEFT** and walk with care the last few yards to the Chequers Inn.



**Enter and refresh!**