

# Route 2

Cranborne

## A gentle walk in the Cranborne Chase

Reach into the heart of the Cranborne Chase ancient hunting grounds, with this short walk around the Cranborne Estate. Once a hunting lodge and larder to the aristocracy for over 1000 years, Cranborne has become a magnet for an eclectic mix of food and drink producers and enthusiastic local food champions.

Enjoy the wide open expanses of this chalk plateau, with lots of food places for you to get a true taste of this fertile landscape!

### CRANBORNE VILLAGE

Cranborne village now offers a fantastic "larder" for all to enjoy. A short detour from your walk will take you to the Sixpenny Brewery, an award winning brewery producing a range of quality cask ales using only the finest ingredients including Maris Otter barley.

### ROYAL HUNTING GROUND

The original manor house was built as a royal hunting lodge in the 12th century, when Cranborne Chase was an important royal hunting ground. Although the modern perception of Medieval hunting forests is of great swathes of trees, in the Medieval period it meant a place that was outside normal laws. Both the terms 'Forest' and 'Chase' meant hunting grounds at this time.

As you walk round, you will see the Cranborne Estate Farm is living very much in the present. A fully productive farm (producing wheat, barley and beef), it also devotes much time to wildlife with beetle banks, brood strips and rough field margins. Look out for the brown hares on your way around!

### ANCIENT LANDSCAPE

You can still see remnants of the area's ancient past – look out for Neolithic round barrows as you approach the walk. The Ancient Technology Centre in Cranborne take a very hands on approach to learning about our past – great public events and workshops too.

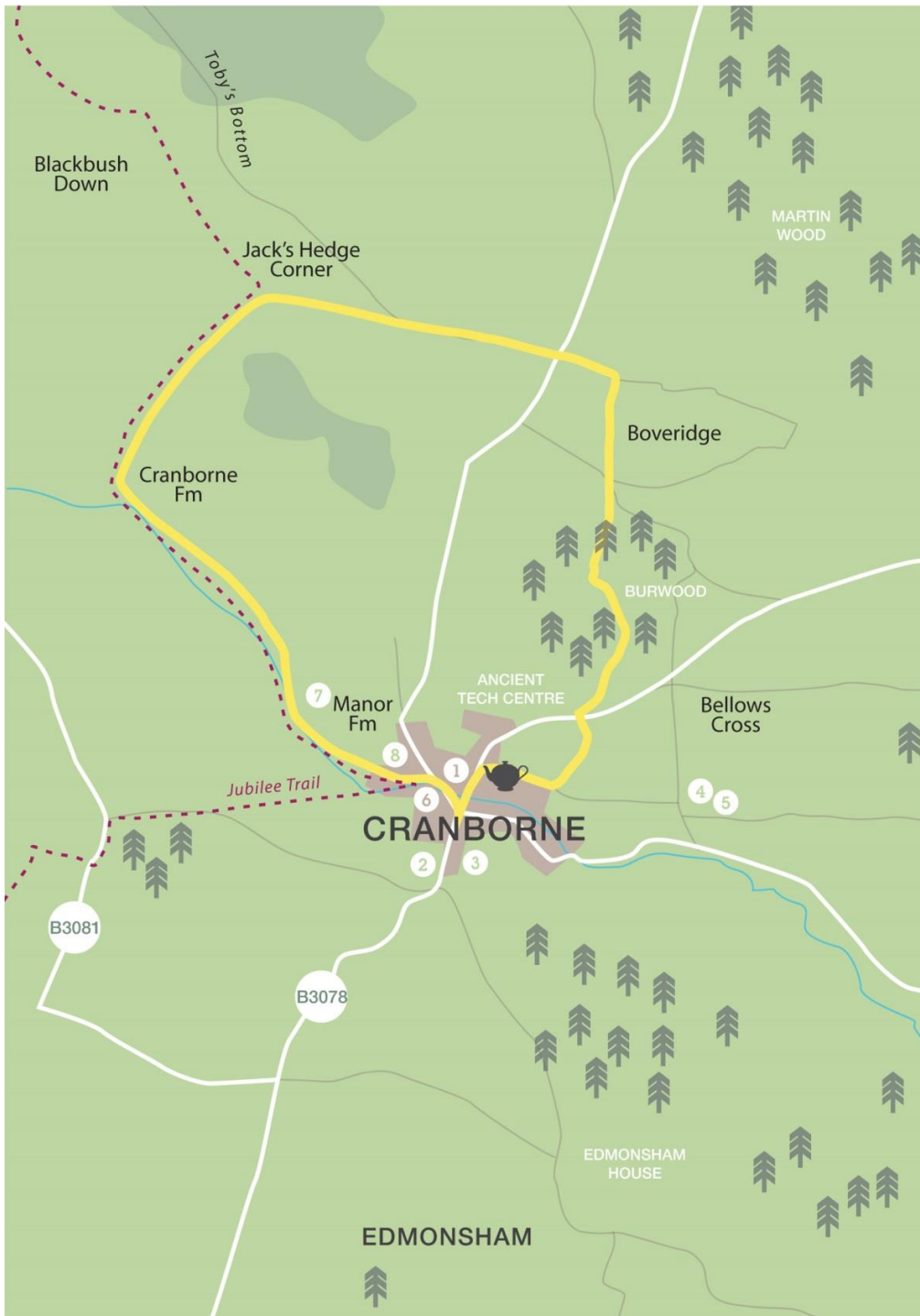
[ancienttechnologycentre.co.uk](http://ancienttechnologycentre.co.uk)



If you are intrigued by the Chase and the ancient hunting landscapes, explore more of the Cranborne Chase  
[AONB ccwwdaonb.org.uk](http://AONB.ccwwdaonb.org.uk)



**Chalke Valley Cheese** produces fine handmade cheeses from a single local herd of Holstein/Friesian cows, enjoying the beautiful chalky pastures of North Dorset.  
[chalkevalleycheese.co.uk](http://chalkevalleycheese.co.uk)



-   
Eat & drink
-   
Great view
-   
Farm shop
-   
Sleep bit
-   
Your route
-   
NCN route

**DISTANCE: 5 miles**

**EAT THE VIEW**

- 1 LA FOSSE**  
Delight in Chef Mark Harstone's finest, local & seasonal ingredients. [la-fosse.com](http://la-fosse.com)
- 2 CRANBORNE GARDEN CENTRE**  
Freshly prepared food inc vegetables grown in our own kitchen garden. [cranbornegardencentre.co.uk](http://cranbornegardencentre.co.uk)
- 3 INN AT CRANBORNE**  
A C16th country inn serving cask ales and a '30 Mile' locally sourced menu. [theinnatcranborne.co.uk](http://theinnatcranborne.co.uk)
- 4 SIXPENNY BREWERY**  
An award winning brewers of quality cask ales [sixpennybrewery.co.uk](http://sixpennybrewery.co.uk)
- 5 ORCHARD BAY BAKERY**  
Artisan baker using traditional methods, and ingredients for breads & sourdoughs [fb](#)
- 6 CRANBORNE VILLAGE STORES**  
A true village shop, extensive range of own meats, local cheeses & deli. [cranborne.co.uk](http://cranborne.co.uk)
- 7 ALIX FAUVEL CAKESMITH**  
Marvellous handmade cake creations. [www.alixfauvel.co.uk](http://www.alixfauvel.co.uk)
- 8 CHALKE VALLEY CHEESE**  
Fine handmade cheeses from local herd. [chalkevalleycheese.co.uk](http://chalkevalleycheese.co.uk)

Suppliers only

Full list of Dorset Food & Drink members can be found at [dorsetfoodanddrink.org](http://dorsetfoodanddrink.org)



**Route 2**

Before you set off, check detailed maps & updates at [dorsetfoodanddrink.org](http://dorsetfoodanddrink.org)