

Walk 10 – Halstock to Melbury Circuit – Description

Start and finish: At Clarkham Cross point **(A)**, where there is parking.

Clarkham Cross to Melbury Osmond: Follow the signed bridleway downhill into a field, keep left and head to a bridle gate in the left corner. Descend the bank and cross a clearing **(B)** (spot tiny Lewcombe church on the right). Ascend a path half left through the wood, over a stile and, then follow the right-hand field edge up to a gate. Cross a private track and still on the bridleway, continue towards Melbury Osmond past huge oaks.

Melbury Osmond to Evershot: On reaching the metalled road, at the junction turn right **(C)** and head downhill through peaceful Melbury Osmond. Use the footbridge to cross the ford and carry on up the road as it bears right at Walnut Tree cottage. Pass Townsend Dairy House on the left and enter Melbury Park **(D)**. Walk the drive towards Melbury House, an ancient manor. The public access bears right before the manor and follows the drive to Evershot



(E). Look out for herds of deer. On reaching Evershot (the second highest village in Dorset) follow the pretty main street. A rest stop can be made at the bakery in Tanyard Lane or The Acorn Inn. The iron seat outside the church provides views down the iconic main street, used occasionally as a film set.

Evershot to Girt Farm: Just past the church turn right at Tess Cottage **(F)**, signed Back Lane. Pass an information board and, at the bottom of the lane turn left and follow a gully to a track. Turn right onto a grassy path to a fingerpost. Leave the bridleway here, turning left over a stile onto a footpath across two fields heading upwards to Girt Lane **(G)**. Climb the stile and turn right towards Girt Farm. Bear left along the private road. The views here are spectacular - in the middle ground is a Motte and Bailey castle. Continue downhill and just after an old building keep right **(H)** to follow the path around the farm.

Girt Farm to Halstock: Head along a grassy track, with the high fence of Melbury deer park on the right. Follow the farm track down across a gully and up through a field to a gateway where it becomes a waymarked footpath. Follow the footpath, tracking diagonally downwards and gradually levelling off across another three fields. Travel the length of the third field keeping a triangular enclosure of trees on the left. A stile into a gully becomes visible, in the far hedge **(I)**. Descend the steep bank into the gully with care, cross the stream and climb out into a field. Bear right and go through gate into another field. Head to the opposite left-hand corner of the field and go over stile onto Lewcombe Manor Drive. Turn left up the drive and at the junction with the road turn right **(J)** returning to the start.

Walk 10 – Halstock to Melbury Circuit – Map

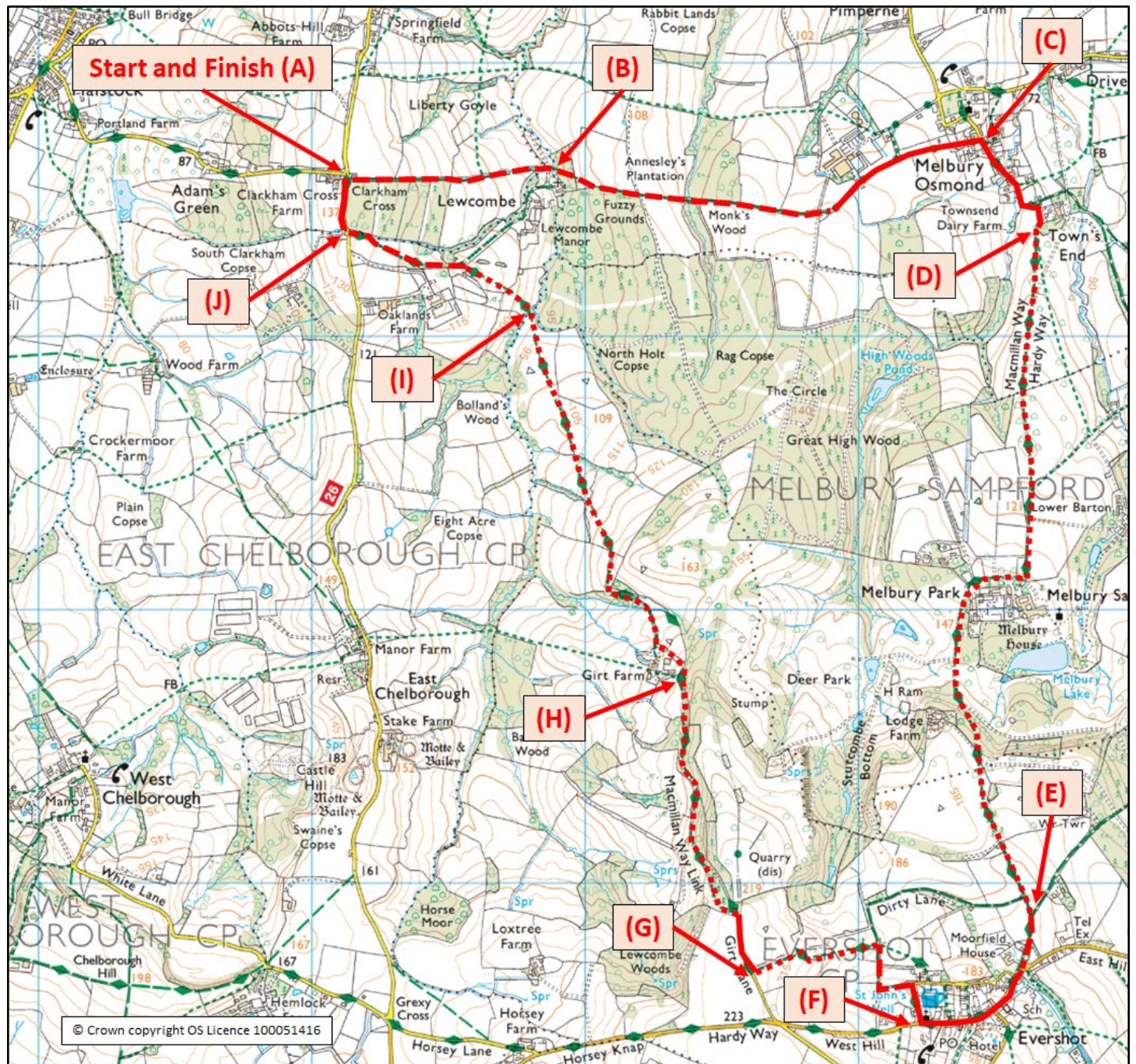
Distance – 11km. Total Ascent – 270m. Duration – 3.5hrs.

Difficulty – Moderate (long steady ascents and descents).

Clothing – Some sections stony requiring good footwear

History – Evershot – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evershot>

Connecting Routes – Macmillan Way Link



<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/11727360/Walk-10-Halstock-to-Melbury-Circuit>