



Imber Ultra - Route Notes CLOCKWISE



(last updated 29.02.2024)

Overview of the route & mapping

You don't have to be an orienteer to run this race. You won't really need these detailed route notes to get around as it is well signposted, and any minor misdirection will not normally result in serious lostdom (is that a word? It is now...).

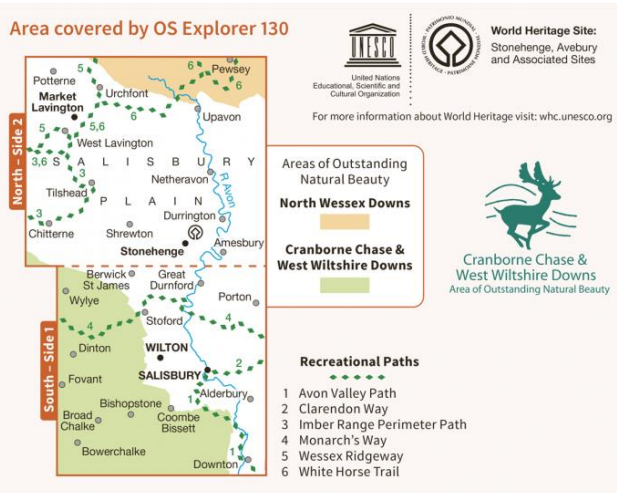
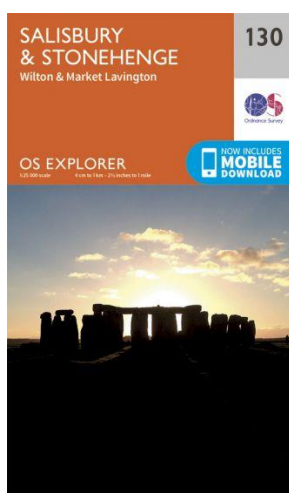
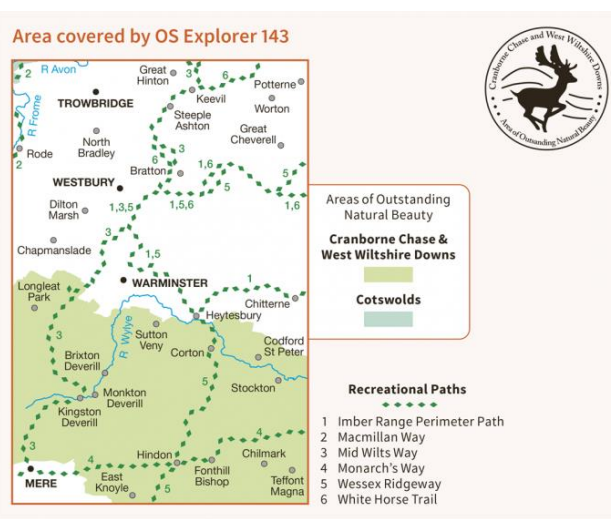
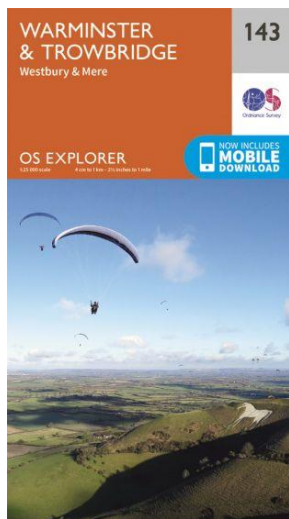
However, some people like maps, grid references, and the like, and TBH I liked writing them and then periodically checking and updating them.

And as runners ourselves we know that when you're knackered it's sometimes nice to have such notes, a GPX route on your watch, or to have had a recce beforehand. An up-to-date GPX file is available on our website – www.imberultra.run

ALL of this is on public footpaths so you can recce any bits of the route before hand if you wish. If you want a muddy and varied half day recce we would suggest the hill fort area towards the end of the route (when run clockwise) between the Heytesbury area and Westbury / Warminster. It's full of history and great views, and gives you an idea of the conditions as you get higher up on the plain. Sadly we can't get the wind to take a chill pill on run day. We did email God but his inbox was full.

Parts of the route are designated as Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) so you may occasionally come across motor vehicles, especially scramblers, and most of the route is now also open to push bikes and horses.

If you did wish to get the maps, you'll need OS Explorer #143 - Warminster & Trowbridge (1:25,000) and a little bit of OS Explorer #130 - Salisbury & Stonehenge (1:25,000).



Glossary of Terms used in the route notes below

IRPP – Imber Range Perimeter Path

SP – Signpost – Usually the official IRPP sign, which is a green cannon on a white background (see right) or the small circular discs use a blue arrow on white background.

CP – Checkpoint – A place to get free food and drink! Yes, Ultras are as much eating competitions as running ones...

FP – Flag Pole – The range often has flag poles at important points, such as when military roads meet the edge of the range ('danger area'). They tend to be white, with a large white or yellow concrete bottom. Red flags may fly to indicate live firing, but even when there is no flag please NEVER go inside the danger zone.

Military Road - Big concrete road fit for a tank or other heavy military vehicles.

Hopefully won't have tanks on them (if there are, please give way to them, they are slightly bigger and heavier than you, and not even the best Inov-8's will protect you if they run over your foot)

LHS = Left Hand Side / **RHS** = Right Hand Side

4 x 4 track = You know the sort of thing... Not a 'proper' paved road / lane, but is at least two distinct tyre width tracks for a Land Rover or similar to find its way. Could be stony or muddy, and could be rutted or relatively smooth.



Imber Range Perimeter Path (IRPP)

The Imber Range Perimeter Path (IRPP) is a 30 mile/48km long distance walk or a 32 mile/50km mountain bike ride or horse ride.

The route is made up of mixed terrain, with some challenging sections. All visitors should be aware that parts of the route are byways open to all traffic (BOATs) where you may come across vehicles.

The entire route is signed and waymarked using the IRPP logo, but it is advised you have an Ordnance Survey Map. A downloadable GPX is available on the Ordnance Survey App.

Sections of the route are provided on a permissive basis and may be closed at any time.

If you are cycling the route it is recommended that you use a well-maintained bicycle suitable for off-road conditions.

Horse riders should be aware that the IRPP varied terrain includes stoned tracks. Riders should be experienced in riding in remote areas and expect to encounter agricultural and military activities from time to time.

Horse boxing options are available at the Westbury White Horse or Tilshead Water Tower. However, please be aware that the Tilshead Water Tower is accessed by permission only and may be unavailable due to military training.

Imber Range Perimeter Path

Safety and Personal Responsibilities

For your safety and the benefit of our troops please respect and adhere to "No Entry" and "Warning" signs at all times.

- Please do not pick up any metal objects
- Please keep your dog under effective control and clear up after it – pick it up and bin it
- Do not light fires
- No camping
- Take your litter home

Whilst the MOD is committed to ensuring opportunities for public access are not unduly restricted, temporary or permanent restrictions will be required at times, particularly when military training is taking place.

Please follow any instructions given by military staff/training area wardens and give our soldiers space to train.

Public access to Imber is forbidden under the Imber Ranges Byelaws 1963.

Public access to Salisbury Plain Training Area is subject to the Salisbury Plain Military Lands Byelaws 1981.

Full copies of these Byelaws are displayed on site.

To report a problem on the path go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting

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Key:

- Imber Range Perimeter Path for walkers, cyclists and horse riders
- Imber Range Path (Perimeter Path)
- Imber Range Perimeter Path (Perimeter Path)
- A dangerous route for walkers only
- DANGER AREA
- Imber Range Path (Perimeter Path)
- Imber Range Path (Perimeter Path)

This map is for information purposes only. The document should not be regarded as a copy of the definitive map and must not be used as a true legal record. For further information regarding definitive rights of way please contact Wiltshire Council.

Approx Distance from start (miles)	Approx OS Grid Reference	Direction notes and comments
Start	ST872505	Start. Round the cricket field, back to car park and out onto road.
0.25	ST872504	Turn LEFT up paved lane. Through small wood.
0.50	ST873500	At end of wood turn RIGHT onto paved road.
0.75	ST870499	SP for Bridleway. Turn LEFT through concrete bollards. Up through the wood. This is your first hill. Enjoy. Bear slightly right at SP.
1.60	ST882495	FP. SP on RHS. Turn LEFT to join IRPP CLOCKWISE . Follow track gently uphill, past massive chalk pit on your RHS and building / antenna in small wood on your LHS.
2.70	ST892510	4 way junction. Continue straight ahead. DON'T GO DOWN STEEP HILL ON PAVED ROAD . Soon you will see the head of the Westbury White Horse on your LHS, and some great views. Stay on tarmac road, past large car park on your RHS.
3.25	ST901514	At end of tarmac road, turn RIGHT at T junction onto muddy road. Slightly uphill on mud road towards clump of trees ahead, and barns on your LHS.
3.50	ST901511	At T junction, with barns on your LHS, turn LEFT. This is the highest point on the entire route. Follow road downhill for circa 2km. Eventually you'll see CHECKPOINT 5 ahead of you, on the RHS, next to the entrance to the firing range, with small redoubt and yellow CCTV poles. Smile, you're on camera... 😊
5.35	ST929508	CHECKPOINT 5 You may be surprised to learn that from this point onwards, and all the way to about a mile beyond CP4, the IRPP is on public roads or Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs), so please keep an eye and ear out for potential motor vehicles. After this CP, it's down and up the rocky road ahead of you.
6.00	ST938512	SP at small crossroads, turn LEFT to continue on stony mud road for a short distance.
6.15	ST938514	SP. As road splits take right hand up paved road, signposted as 'Tinhead' or 'Tinhead Farm'. Continue past farm on your RHS.
6.80	ST942523	Continue on this now stony road as it passes through the middle of a small wood and boasts incongruous portalooos on your LHS. Wee break anyone?
7.20	ST946530	SP at T junction. Turn RIGHT to continue on stony road.
7.40	ST950530	At junction continue straight on, heading south east along gravel road.
8.00	ST957525	Note huge new water tank on your LHS at brow of the hill. Then run away from it.
8.15	ST959523	Ignore 'nice' looking road on your RHS; you're staying straight ahead on a muddy potholed road, which then gets better. There can be traffic on this stretch, but there's no chance of getting lost, so turn your internal compass off for a while, relax and enjoy the views, mainly on your LHS, because the RHS is rather barren plain!
9.45	ST973511	Four roads meet. SP & FP. Note 'New Zealand Farm' on your RHS but stay slightly left on paved road. Of the 33+ miles this is probably the easiest mile; downhill on a 'proper' tarmaced road. Billy whizz in suddenly in town... Just before the trees in the distance you'll see an abandoned roofless brick barn. That's the palatial CHECKPOINT 4 .
10.75	ST995509	CHECKPOINT 4 We've been a bit unfair, because there is also a rather grand old red brick building here as well, as well as another portaloo. Not sure if it'll be open though... OK, the good news is that you've had your snacks and fluids, so continue east on the lovely tarmaced road.

11.35	SU005509	Cross the big military road. Continue downhill towards 'Highland Farm' on RHS.
11.60	SU009509	At the T junction and Stop signs, turn sharp RIGHT. SP. Continue on tarmaced road past 'Highland Farm' on RHS and cottages on LHS. Your first uphill for a while...
11.95	SU005504	SP. As road curves, turn sharp LEFT down grass/mud bridleway. After 200 metres cross farm road, SP, and carry on straight ahead for short distance.
12.30	SU010503	Crossroads of tracks. SP, turn RIGHT. Up very rutted track (byway) sometimes frequented by 4x4 off-roaders and scramblers – I dare you to ask a dirt biker if they are on 'Kickstart' (if you remember that you must be V50 or more!)
12.65	SU011498	Confusing junction of many tracks. SP. Bear slightly left and follow contour. If you find yourself running uphill or away from the busy main road (A360 - barely 400m away on your LHS) you're going wrong. For the next mile or so you'll be running on undulating grass & mud tracks, parallel to the main road on your LHS.
13.50	SU017487	Lots of slightly confusing tracks and tank activity in this area. Don't fear, just keep the series of military 'keep out' signs on your RHS and you'll be fine.
14.00	SU020479	At the end of the grass track you hit a huge Military Road. Follow SP RIGHT, uphill for 100m.
14.10	SU019478	FP and SP. Turn LEFT, running along chalky track. Inconspicuous Neolithic Long Barrows are on your RHS with 'Keep Out' signs #freehistorylesson
14.40	SU022474	CHECKPOINT 3 - On North side of road on paved area / car park - Opposite the distinctive red brick water tower; all that remains here of a previous army camp. Well done, you made light work of that section (err, hate to ruin it, but it was the shortest distance between CPs so far...). After replenishing your water and filling your fizzog with snacks, cross the road (carefully) into the woods. You run parallel to the main road but not on it; thankfully the IRPP was diverted away from the actual road a few years ago. The IRRP takes a short downhill, then a dogleg RIGHT and back uphill and LEFT. Note gleamingly new, if small, footpath markers in this area. Continue downhill through line of trees. Suddenly it's like a trail run 😊 Follow wall on LHS at edge of field.
15.25	SU033477	At the end of this field turn sharp RIGHT and continue straight on into distance, along gently descending track, initially with trees on your LHS but later between unfenced fields.
15.65	SU035472	Turn RIGHT at faded SP. Uphill. Carry straight on, round slight left hand bend.
15.90	SU032468	SP at the corner of the fenced off 'White Barrow', a Neolithic Long Barrow. Continue uphill for a short distance until track forks.
16.00	SU031467	The stronger track is on your LHS, but you need to follow the fainter one on the RHS. Continue ahead between trees on either side.
16.40	SU027461	At brow of the hill there is a Trig pillar on your LHS. Straight on. At SP, straight over military road on a 4x4 track. Slight descent.
16.90	SU023454	In the dip take the road slightly right. Wood on your RHS. Straight on, following wide undulating mud road towards the 'German Village' on your RHS.
17.15	SU016450	Straight ahead. SP here. Wide 'road' comes in from right; ignore it and carry straight on.
17.65	SU011448	Keep trees on your LHS. Head straight over track, up bank. SP. Follow the faint track in the grass, bearing slightly right.
17.85	SU010447	New SP at minor junction; stay slightly right. Do NOT descend (e.g. towards the inviting looking farm buildings in distance on LHS). Take a second to look around. Yes, you are in the middle of nowhere! Yet, also close to an empty, fake village. What exactly did you put in those home made gels?! And where did you get it? #askingforafriend Continue uphill past a few scraggy trees. Track now becomes more obvious. Aim for the fence on your LHS and ultimately towards the gap in the trees at the brow of the hill ahead.

18.45	SU001445	Through trees to SP. Straight ahead with fence on your LHS. Follow mud / grass track on contour downhill.
Congratulations, you have now run so far that you're back on the original map on a new 1:25,000 OS Map (#130 - Salisbury & Stonehenge). Not many runs can boast that...		
18.85	ST995442	SP. Cross minor lane & pass large barn on your LHS. Take dirt and stone track down a tunnel of trees on RHS.
19.05	ST993441	Exit track onto patch of grass and a paved road – note sign explaining the recent-ish change to the IRPP. In order to have a safe, visible and accessible CP in Chitterne, THE FOLLOWING IS A MINOR DEVIATION FROM THE NEW IRPP ROUTE. Descend LEFT down the paved road (Back Lane) and follow it as it bends right.
19.15	ST992439	Turn RIGHT as the lane ends, and you'll see CP2 in front of you, about 30 metres away on the grass by the Church and Village Hall.
19.20	ST992440	CHECKPOINT 2. You're doing well and looking good. Well, you're not looking THAT good, but it's not a beauty competition is it 😊 <i>Note – A publicly accessible defibrillator is available at the entrance to the Village Hall. Hopefully you won't need it...</i> As you leave CP2 take any of the three little bridges over the water on your LHS and run for 250 metres on the grass footpath behind the winterbourne 'Chitterne Brook'.
19.40	ST992443	At the wider bridge turn sharp LEFT to pass through Chitterne Farm West, with a rather incongruous graveyard cum sheep paddock on your RHS. Follow paved lane uphill to the summit.
20.00	ST987450	SP – At T junction turn sharp LEFT onto gravel track and continue for about 350 metres.
20.25	ST983449	At the next junction bear LEFT , slightly downhill on a strong 4x4 track.
20.60	ST978445	At a bit of a minor crossroads of tracks, turn RIGHT and continue 700 metres slightly uphill on very rutted 4 x 4 trac. SP. Continue straight over military road and through a line of trees (including a new dark green water tank). You will soon notice a fence on your LHS.
21.20	ST970448	At the fence corner turn slightly LEFT . Follow the track, keeping fence on LHS and military range on your RHS. You can see 'Quebec Barn' away on your LHS. Continue downhill on grass and mud track, then uphill.
21.95	ST959444	SP. Straight on past the rather strange sight on RHS of another lonely large green water tank. Uphill towards FP, keeping the 'Danger Zone' on your RHS, then down that hill. At SP continue straight across the military road,
22.40	ST950445	THE FOLLOWING IS A RECENT CHANGE TO THE HISTORIC IRPP – <i>The new route is on grass and is far more pleasant, so please use it rather than the old route. Don't panic too much though if you accidentally do follow the track / military road instead, as both ways will get you to the same goal at the bottom of West Hill.</i> On your LHS / straight ahead look for a new gate and SP next to the wide military road. Down grass slope and follow SP, turning LEFT . Begin a slow descent down a petite valley with very feint mud 4 x 4 track. After circa 500 metres you'll bear right, emerge into a wider area and see a large trashed oak tree looking rather sad and dejected.
22.90	ST947440	Keep on going following a feint 4x4 track in the grass. Approx. every 300 metres a shiny new SP & slightly bizarre show jumping style fence has been put up to show you the way. Bear slightly left when needed; do not go uphill towards the (unseen) military road or blue portaloos. You should be running flat or slightly downhill all the way to the new SP & weird fency thing in the distance.
23.55	ST937441	At this SP, sharp RIGHT towards another SP barely 100 metres away. Sharp LEFT at that one, onto gravel track with cottages on your RHS.
23.70	ST935442	At the buildings for East Hill Farm, turn LEFT onto paved road (SP is on RHS by large tree) and follow it.

		Enjoy this rare section of flat paved road but beware of farm and military TRAFFIC - TAKE CARE. This is the joint lowest part of the whole run and the only problem with low points is that there's only way to go next... uphill!
24.50	ST930431	Just as you're relaxing you suddenly need to turn sharp RIGHT, up a steep rutted track with hedge boundaries that funnel you up to the wider vistas ahead. <i>Note - If you get as far as the Grade II* listed Heytesbury House (one time home of poet Siegfried Sassoon) or even the roaring A36, you've missed this crucial turning!</i>
24.65	ST927431	At end of funnel continue uphill, aiming for the gap in the trees ahead. Follow SP and obvious path across field to a prominent Bronze Age round barrow on top of Catley Hill.
25.15	ST920433	From this round barrow continue on obvious path across field to signposted gate. When it splits take right hand fork. Follow track in grass to signed gate at corner of the next field.
25.60	ST916438	Follow obvious path to SP / gate. Aim for ramparts of Scratchbury Hill, an Iron Age hill fort.
25.85	ST913440	Gain and maintain height, run on upper or lower ramparts round the north and east sides of Scratchbury Hill, before descending off the hillfort to a gate, with your final food stop tantalisingly in the near distance like some mirage of liquid chocolate.
26.50	ST910447	Cross paved road to CHECKPOINT 1 . Possible TRAFFIC - TAKE CARE. It may seem remote up here but lots of dog walkers drive up to this area. After your final refreshments head off up the next hill ('Middle Hill'). At the edge of small wood on your LHS, take path downhill at SP. <i>Note - the official path on this hill is pretty indistinct – within reason use whatever route you prefer. Ultimately you will all be going up the hill, over it and down the other side.</i>
26.95	ST907452	At the bottom, turn RIGHT to emerge out onto wide concrete Military Road. Then turn almost immediately LEFT. Follow fence on LHS uphill to gate.
27.25	ST904455	Through gate; continue straight ahead uphill to the ramparts of Battlesbury Hill.
27.50	ST901457	Enter Battlesbury Hill fort and maintain height, running on the upper or lower ramparts round the south and west sides of this Iron Age hill fort, hopefully still alert enough to admire the woodland below, on your LHS. Descend off the ramparts, heading for a kissing gate, next to an information board about the hillfort.
28.15	ST896460	Across field and down steps through small wooded area. SP. Turn LEFT and suddenly you are back out onto a concrete road and can behold the wide vista of the military units down below you!
28.35	ST897463	This road is called Sack Hill, but don't sack the run off yet! [weak attempt at humour...] Probable TRAFFIC - TAKE CARE. Continue downhill, keeping large Warminster Training Centre and its big fence on your RHS. Continue until 'T' junction next to the Garrison Church of St. Giles.
29.00	ST888458	Turn RIGHT, and follow road ('Elm Hill'), slightly uphill again (there isn't much flat in Wiltshire), through the garrison housing area.
29.45	ST882460	At next road junction, turn RIGHT (SP is on the NW side of the road). THIS IS THE ONLY MAJOR DEVIATION THE ENTIRE RUN TAKES FROM THE SIGNPOSTED IRPP – Please use it rather than going left and past the edge of the Golf course. Run along public road. Possible TRAFFIC- TAKE CARE. Go past Farm on right with 'Landmarc' sign.
29.95	ST886467	Sharp LEFT, uphill on a 'Restricted Byway', until you reach a large barn/building at the summit on your RHS,
30.20	ST883470	At barn, turn RIGHT, follow hedge on RHS towards antenna. Turn LEFT at SP at end of hedge. Head downhill on stony track. The Imber Range is behind the fence on your RHS. Past field barns on your LHS, and bear LEFT around corner.

31.30	ST881483	Just as the gravel track becomes a tarmaced lane, turn sharp RIGHT through a kissing gate, only to be greeted with a bucolic vision of Dante’s seventh circle of hell. It’s down and then immediately up a very steep slippery hill, colloquially known as ‘the big dipper’. If you haven’t yet fallen on your arse or used your hands to scabble up a hill like a drunk teenager on a gap year, this could be your best chance.
31.65	ST878488	At the top go through kissing gate and turn RIGHT. Follow stony road / track gently uphill.
32.20	ST882495	FP & SP. End of the IRPP. You’ve done about 30 miles since you first joined the IRPP. You may be slightly tired by now (if not, you should have gone faster!) and rain could be hitting you horizontally in the face, so whilst we don’t expect you to instantly recognize this landmark point PLEASE don’t miss it, as this LEFT turn is your ticket home. Turn LEFT, enjoy the downhill. Follow track through woods.
33.00	ST870499	T junction. Turn RIGHT onto paved road.
33.25	ST873501	Turn LEFT at signed footpath, through small wood. Naughty little devil incline as you get back onto the paved lane.
33.50	ST872504	Turn RIGHT, then LEFT into Recreation Centre grounds. Sharp RIGHT, across the edge of the car park and onto the grass, where a sharp LEFT takes you to the finish funnel without going on the outfield of the cricket pitch.
33.55	ST873505	FINISH – YOU DID IT. Amazing. And no need to call an ambulance either. Bonus. Collect your goodie bag, slap yourself on the back, have a rest, buy some food, admire your finishers mug (very practical! who needs yet another pointless medal, although TBF those medals that also double as beer bottle openers are at least trying to be of some use...), encourage other finishers, get changed / showered if you want, or just go home stinking. If there is one day a year you are allowed to stink and tread mud around it is the first Sunday in March... Tell ‘em we allowed it. No, tell ‘em we demanded it!

HOPETO SEE YOU AGAIN IN 2025 FOR OUR 11TH RUNNING