Monday 5th July 2025- Pub Run: George, Finchdean

3 ½ mile (approx.) walk/run route.

Start by walking through the gate on the right-hand side of the car park entrance.

Follow this path, under the railway bridge and through a kissing gate, with a sign ‘Bulls in Field’. There have been none in the 4 times I have recce’d the routes.

Travel uphill, through the field, before you then reach a driveway, with a signpost on your left. Follow the sign left, and go along the driveway, slightly uphill for around a ¼ mile.

Go across the cattle grid and deviate right towards the house on the right-hand side. If you are unsure, there is a gate behind the cattle grid showing a ‘Farm Livestock ‘sign. Keep to the right of this. Follow the obvious driveway, keeping the house on the right and it will open up to a farmyard. As you reach two old troughs full of weeds, with a barn on your left showing a sign ‘Danger- Overhead Live Wires’, you will notice footpath signs. You need to follow the footpath sign to the RIGHT, do not carry straight on through the farmyard.

This path is a wide one and takes you downhill until you reach a kissing gate. Go through this gate and deviate to the right, following the obvious path. Again, the end of this path opens into a farm area, and to a T- junction of footpaths. Although not marked, go straight ahead here, on a path which winds uphill for a short distance. You reach a kissing gate and enter a field. There is a trodden path which takes you right, but you will need to look across to your left after a short distance, as the footpath you need is set between the fencing at the top of the field. The trodden path seems to wear away here, which is why you need to look left, where a gate is set to the left of the rear garden of a house. If you are heading towards the next field, or the tennis court in the far right, you have gone too far.

Go through the gate, and down a narrow path, which brings you out onto a main road, next to a house named Dunsmere. PLEASE TAKE EXTREME CARE- this is the road from Rowlands Castle to West Marden with occasional traffic. Go right on the road, there is no footpath, and travel past Beechwood Cottage on your right, downhill, where there is a layby on the left side of the road, as it bends right.

At this layby is a footpath on your left. Travel down through the cornfield to a kissing gate. Passing through this gate, take the short path to the right, to another kissing gate. Meander through the woods from that gate, being careful as there are tree roots and large stones on this path. This path ends with another kissing gate, where you then travel uphill a short distance through a field, to another gate. Follow this path for around ¼ mile, you will see a couple of gypsy caravans in the distance, on a property to your right. At the end of this path, go through the gate, and there will be a signpost on your right. DO NOT go right here, go straight on for just a few paces, before veering right where it says ‘STAUNTON WAY’. Go through this gate and drop down to the bottom of the field. This path keeps you on the right side of a couple of fields, until, after around ¼ mile, you pass through a gate, keep to the right-hand track, travel over a small wooden bridge, and you are now at a gate by the side of the road.

This is Rowlands Castle, with The Castle pub on your left. Cross the road, with caution, and go right, travelling away from the village. Using the house numbers, you will see a footpath sign on the other side of the road. Proceed up the driveway, which has a ‘No Cycling’ sign at its entrance, and go past the garages, where the path navigates behind the garages to the right. This path then enters a wheat field, where you will travel through the middle, before reaching a gate at the end. Squeeze through the gap, follow the track to the left, and at the thatched cottage, turn right. Go through the kissing gate, through another field, which then enters a wooded area. Keep on the main path, through another gate and you will reach a minor lane. Turn right down this lane, which takes you into Finchdean, and the George Pub will be in front of you. Well done!!