

# MARLOW DONKEY 2023 Important Information.

## We hope you enjoy this year's Marlow Donkey at Liston Hall, Marlow (Marlow Community Association)

Please note the CP opening times, entrants arriving early will not be allowed in. If you expect to complete the course at over 6mph please inform the Help desk at registration and please start at 09:30. **All entrants to finish by 18:00 pm**

**Transport.:** Parking is available in Marlow towns car parks at Liston RD (outside hall, see 'You are Here' on map) and 100m away at Dean Street, plus other on map below. Both are £1.10/day on a Sunday . Free parking is likely to be available just off the A404 exit in Parkway, 1km from the hall. The walk from the station is shown below : if the first train is late we will make allowances for you.



**Registration. :** YOU MUST REGISTER AT THE HALL BEFORE STARTING AND ON FINISHING ON EACH EAR. Ensure we have the correct course and details recorded. If you change from the 25 mile to the 16 mile route, all you need to do is inform the marshals at checkin on return to the hall. Register from 08:00 (hall is not open before this) and start at any time between 08:30 and 09:30. Any last minute information or changes to the route will be notified on a notice close to the door or at registration. For those who ordered them, we will send certificates by email after the walk.

**For the event. :** Please ensure that you have printed out, and brought with you, a copy of the route description as there will not be any available on the day. Also you must have the required maps (ideally EXP 171 and 172) in paper or electronic format, a mug, suitable clothing/footwear, a basic first aid kit, a compass, a fully charged and switched on mobile phone and sufficient food and drink to allow you to get round each of the loops, as there is none provided on these. Since you return to Liston Hall as a checkpoint after 16 miles, you may leave material in the hall.

**Food :** Thames Valley will provide drinks and snacks at the start, on return to the hall after 16 miles, and basic food (including a veg curry) and drinks at the finish. There is no food or drink on either the 16 or 9 mile loop. A shop with small café should be open at Hambleden (8mils) to provide supplies. The food provided cannot be guaranteed free from contamination with allergens. This is not because of carelessness on the organiser's part but because of the practicality of taking over a kitchen within a short time scale.

## MARLOW DONKEY-2023 Route Description

Place names: *Italics* = name or path number can be seen from route

Abbreviations: **ahd**=ahd: **B**=bear: **BW**=bridleway: **cont**=continue: **CW**=Chiltern Way: **encl**=encl: **F**=fork: **fld**=fld: **FP**=FP: **FPS**=FP sign: **GT**=gate: **GR**=O.S. grid ref: **immed**=immediately: **junc**=junction: **K/G**=kissing gate: **L**=left: **LHS/RHS**=L/R hand side: **opp**=opposite: **R**=right: **RD**=RD: **sli**=slight: **SP**=Signpost(ed): **ST**=stile: **TK**=track: **thru**=thru: **T**=turn: **WM**=waymark(ed) (often white or yellow arrows): **X**=cross/across **All GRs are SU xxxxxx**

### **EAR 1 : 26 km, 16.2 miles, 1260 ft ascent**

1. Leave hall, TL and ahd with car park on L. Swing L with RD and go thru gap in wall of *Liston Court* at end. TR to go thru shopping arcade. On reaching High Street, TL. X *Institute Rd* then X zebra crossing and TL on opposite side of High St. At mini-roundabout, cross *Pound Lane* and enter *Higginson Park*. Ahd on main path crossing park to river. BR on main towpath and ahd upstream along river for 2 km. At *Kyrece's Legacy Buoy*, before weir, TR away from river on lane. After 500m, keep L at FPS and BL with Lane. BR thru GT onto '*Public Footpath*' round *Lowgrounds Farm*, soon rejoining lane. After 200m, as lane turns and next to *Gt Marlow PC* board, TL on FP. GR 834 851
2. Ahd on encl FP and thru grassy area onto RHS of fld. After 550m thru GT and BR on encl FP to X Lane. Ahd uphill on large FP signs to emerge at *Harleyfield Golf Club*. Follow FP signs and white walking lane markers thru buildings and onto encl FP on side of golf course. Thru K/G then trees for 200 m. At end of fence, TR up TK to X lane and ahd (north) on encl FP to go thru K/G to RD. GR 820 849
3. Cross busy RD with care. B ½ R to take FP opposite thru gap in fence then TR away from houses to pass small electricity station on L and back thru gap into woods. Cont along green fence past *school* entrance and go thru *Marlow U3A* gate. Ahd around LHS of car park following green railings and exit at *No Parking* sign. Ahd on WMs to R of fence and railings. After 300 m, at first *Nature Reserve* sign, BR on yellow WMs, soon along LHS of fence then join RHS of another fence. **CARE NEEDED : At end of RH fence cont ahd for 120m in direction of WM post, pass the WM to reach another white 'Nature Reserve' sign with multiple FP arrows (field appearing ahd to R) ,** GR 822 857
4. **T sharp L here, heading west** and following white WM for '*Permissive Path*'. After 200m, TL at T junct, back onto yellow WMs. After 200m, just before gap in fence and house (*no 135*), BR to keep just within woods and fence. Keep L thereafter to emerge at end of Lane at *Tower House*. GR 816 853
5. Ahd down lane past polytunnels. **25 m after last of these, swing R round garage to go thru small gap in hedge onto faint downhill FP (if you reach large house on L with 3 garages you have gone too far).** Soon pick up WMs on trees and follow these downhill along fence, to reach path T junct. TL, still along RHS of fence, past tree house. Ahd 370m to junction with lane. TR

and ahd to ascend to *The Pheasantry*. Ahd past the cows head onto encl FP, eventually onto gravel lane. Ahd for 330m, onto metalled Lane, then TL at FPS opp *The Old Laundry* . Thru GT onto TK for 40 m to TR on FP. Pass *Iron Age Fort* and down on FP thru trees to *Bockmer Lane*. TL to main RD. GR 805 845

6. B sli L to X RD WITH CARE over island and down lane opp. **After 80m, immed past first house on R and large wooden gates on L, TR thru unmarked gap in hedge.** After 150m thru K/G into fld and along line of poles. Thru K/G and X construction RDs thru red GTs. At next K/G, TR on permitted path/TK. As TK bears L, ahd on FP on the RHS of fld to RD. TL on pavement for 80m then X RD to FPS for *Circular Walk* and go thru K/G GR 800 847
7. Ascend on encl path for 200m, enter trees, then BR on upper path. Follow narrow path uphill, eventually widening at top. Keep on widest path to enter fld on grassy TK. 50m into fld, BL X V shaped ST and ahd on RHS of fld. Thru GT (*Dogs on Lead*) onto encl FP, soon swinging R. After 350m, reach 4 way junct, where TL on TK. Follow TK for 200m, then TR before '*Private Land*' sign to descend along LHS of fence bordering quarry. Thru K/G onto encl FP then X ST into fld. TR to fld corner to go thru a hidden K/G to reach RD. GR 791 856
8. TR on RD for 10m then TL on FP entering *Hambleden Estate*. Ahd on RHS of fld thru K/G then encl FP. Ahd thru K/G. Thru another K/G and TL downhill. Thru K/G onto an encl FP. At the end, thru GT and BL down TK. TR at TK junction at bottom of hill. Ahd 500m on TK to T junct with Lane next to *Kenricks*. TL, soon past the *Stag and Huntsman Pub* then *Garage* to reach  
**CP1 : HAMBLEDEN CHURCH LYCH GATE, 14.1km, 8.8mls GR 784 866** NOTE SHOP ON L FOR BUYING WATER, COFFEE ETC. CLOSSES 13.00
9. Thru lych gate into churchyard and ahd to L of church. Emerge onto and ahd on lane for 100m. TR onto FP (CW). Ahd on valley bottom for 800m thru various flds and GTs and then between gardens. X lane keeping to CW and ahd. Go thru K/G and keep up valley on obvious path (CW) thru long encl FP. Eventually thru K/G onto lane. TR (CW) and ahd on lane to reach *Little Colstrove* GR 783 882
10. TR with lane out of village, leaving CW and passing *Longspring House*. Ahd uphill for 170m then BL as lane splits. 40m later at merging TK, TR on signed FP, passing sign for *Pheasants Hill Common*. Climb steeply uphill into woods. Ahd at 4 way junction at top keeping uphill. Leave continuous woods and ahd thru strip of bushes dividing two flds. Emerge and ahd on TK on LHS of fld. On reaching lane TR to reach *Rockwell End Hill*. GR 795 882
11. TR (SP : *Pheasants Hill*) and ahd at next RD junct, still on signs for *Pheasants Hill*. After 240m, on reaching edge of trees, TL after FP sign (path entrance is after overgrown stile). Ahd as path becomes TK. Keep ahd on this TK, ignoring multiple TK and path junctions, for 500m to pass pheasant coop, X lane on TK with fence on RHS, FL to merge with wider TK from L. BR on this, soon leaving woods and ahd to reach lane at bend (**note water tap on L**). Ahd on lane between avenue of trees, passing *Deliveries* sign. Ahd to T junct. GR 792 869

- 12.** TL at T junct on Lane, between hedge and fruit trees. Ahd 670m thru bollards, X Lane ahd, go round metal GT and mirror, and ahd on unmarked TK. After 330 m, immed before LH bend in TK, TR onto WM'd small path into wood thru posts. Ahd into wood, over a path junct after 100m and a multiple junct after another 100m. Keep ahd 200m downhill on WMs and parallel to fence on L to reach large a T junct in front of fence. TR following RHS of fence (do not TL to reach TK) and at end fo fence keep ahd on path which becomes TK, eventually joining the CW. Ahd along TK in valley for 1 km to reach RD at *Homefield Wood*. GR 815 867
- 13.** TR on RD for 30m (CW), then TL on encl FP (CW). Ahd for 550m, following path as it bends R. On reaching woods, keep ahd uphill to reach and X lane at *Woodland Trust* sign. Ahd on FP in woods opposite (CW), entering *Marlow Common*. Keep heading east on WMs and downhill at multiple path intersections for 750m. Eventually, as path flattens out, enter encl FP with fld becoming visible to R. After 220m along this encl FP, reach fork and keep ahd on encl FP (leaving main path which bears R into fld), soon climbing steeply. After 375m, pass onto TK thru trees and emerge on RD at *Bovingdon Heights*. GR 836 865
- 14.** TR on RD. As RD bifurcates, ahd L of *Spinfield Lane* sign, ignoring *Hilltop Rd*. TL on *Forty Green Drive*. At end, TR on FP and follow thru GTs to emerge at *Spinfield School*. Ahd to X RD at *No Cycling* and FPS and ahd on tarmac FP between houses and line of trees. Follow 320m, ignoring path with FPS to L, to go onto narrower path between two houses and bushes to emerge on RD. TL to reach RD junct. Keep ahd on *Quotings Drive* for 70m. At *FP/No Cycling* sign, TR onto encl tarmac FP. Follow this as it meanders to emerge on RD. GR 846 867
- 15.** X RD and B sli R to go thru parking area thru gates into *Riley Park*. TR and follow perimeter of park to leave at RH corner next to playground, TR and follow *Crown Rd*, passing *Sunlight Cottages*, down to centre of Marlow. TL to pass *The Butchers Tap*. Ahd 75m then TR to X zebra crossing. TR for 20m then go thru tunnel below *Anglers Court* sign, passing *Suum Restaurant*. Emerge close to Liston Rd car park and TL for 150m to return to

**CHECKPOINT 2 : LISTON HALL, MARLOW 16.2mls GR 851 867 OPEN**

**11.00 LEAVE BY 15.00 for 25 milers (you will not be allowed to continue after this time) or 16.00 for 16 milers** Please check in, at same time stating whether you are finishing here or continuing onto EAR 2, in which case please check out again. If continuing, note you need to answer question at end of Para 19

**EAR 2 14.9km 9.3mls , 950 ft ascent.**

- 16.** Retrace your steps to/thru the *Anglers Court* tunnel. Emerge on main RD and TR to X zebra crossing. Now TR and immed L at roundabout onto *Dean St* (SP: *Stokenchurch*). Ahd on LHS for 350m to TL on *Queens Rd*. Ahd 200m to reach the *Duke* pub. Swing R around far wall of pub to head up encl FP. GR 845 869
- 17.** Follow encl FP to reach allotments, where BL. Keep ahd on encl FP along railings, climbing for 750m to path junct. TL, then opp *Blounts Lodge*, TR thru trees

joining CW. Emerge and TR on RD, keeping to RH verge. After 180m X RD and TL for *Bovingdon Green* (CW). Stay on RD thru village green. Where RD swings L, TR on CW. Ahd to corner of green, where BL on TK (ignoring 'Private' track). After 250m BR thru *U3a* K/G, leaving CW. Thru another K/G, X fld on FP, and into encl FP to join gravel TK leading to RD. X RD and take FP opp thru K/G and pass info board for *Marlow Common North*. GR 825 870

- 18.** Ahd at first path crossing (*Circular Path*), join another FP from L, then 30m later BL at fork. Reach and X TK at board and ahd onto encl FP thru GT. Thru K/G into fld and BR, descend to bottom to go thru K/G, over ST and up RHS of fld opp, past owl carving, eventually thru encl FP to lane. TR on lane for 100m and just after *Meadow End*, TL on FP. Thru posts and X fld. Emerge thru K/G onto RD and TR, ignoring FP opp, Ahd 530m to entrance to *Woodend House* GR 814 880
- 19.** BR onto FP thru trees, ignoring side paths and into fld. X fld between fences. Thru GT and follow RHS of fld to reach RD. TR and follow lane downhill for 800m to reach RD. TL (SP: *Frieth*). After 200m, just before bend, TR on FP marked by partially hidden high fingerpost. **CARE NEED ON THIS SECTION : Climb along low dyke for 250 m then TL at WM to reach TK junct. Ahd on TK on white and yellow arrows. At multiple junct B 1/2 R following WM posts. After 350m X TK following WM on post to R. Keep consistently ahd to gradually descend to bottom of valley on narrowing path disrupted by forestry work : ignore newly created Xing TKs.** At T arrow sign on tree at bottom, T sharp R on TK along valley (we now stay along the bottom of this valley till end of para 20). Thru woods into clearing, where BR off TK and X grass (keeping low) to reenter woods. Eventually as TK swings sharp L, at yellow T on tree, B 1/2R to reach K/G . **REMEMBER ANSWER TO QUESTION: WHO DONATED THE KISSING GATE?, REPORT AT END .** GR SU 818 900
- 20.** Do not go thru K/G but TR and ahd on BW (blue WM) thru woods. After 350 m BL to keep to valley bottom and ahd thru several GTs to reach back of thatched house. Up to L to go thru GT (*Livestock Grazing*) and TR to descend on sunken path. After 50m, TL on BW and TL again after 120m (note we never enter area of paddocks). Swing R on upper encl BW. After 160 m BL on BW into woods (blue WMs). Thru woods for 600 m to reach grey GTs and FPS. GR SU 826 885
- 21.** Ignore TK to R and keep ahd on BW/FP uphill on stony path. Reach top at *Widmere Farm Cottage*. TR on lane and ahd to *Copy Farm*. TL at FPS to descend on stony path, eventually rising to join TK. Ascend to join Lane at *Rivendell*. Keep on Lane, ignoring FPS on R after 80m, to pass R of farm. 150m later and before row of houses, TR at hidden FPS thru K/G (*For Percy and Win Mill*) and descend on LHS of two flds. Thru short section of scrub to main RD opposite *Pinecroft*. **X RD WITH CARE** and TR on pavement and ahd back into Marlow. At end of RD, at *Dean St* car park, X zebra crossing, TL then over next zebra crossing opposite *Stocks*. TR then immed TL under *Anglers Court* arch. TL to return to

**LISTON HALL, MARLOW GR 851 867 CLOSERS 18:00 WELL DONE!**