

OXON 40/20 routes - 1999

Route Description

Place names: **CAPITALS** = name appears on O.S. Landranger 175 (1:50,000)

Italics = name can be seen from route

Abbreviations: **T**=turn **L**=left **R**=right **LHS/RHS**=left/right hand side
enc=enclosed **FP**=footpath **BW**=bridleway **tk**=track **rd**=road **junc**=junction
X=cross/across **ahd**=ahead **thru**=through **opp**=opposite **nr**=near **fld**=field
wd=wood **fm**=farm **K/G**=kissing gate **G/way**=gateway **FPS**=footpath sign
WM=waymark(ed) **CB**=compass bearing (magnetic) **GR**=O.S. grid ref **RWP**=Ridgeway Path
cont=cont **immed**=immediately **PH**=Public House **m**=metres

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Before you start: - Please check for any amendments to the route. Details will be on display.

1. **Start** Out of main entrance & TR to rd (A4155). Xrd diag R (**with care**) along *Mill Lane* (*Jet Service Station* on corner). Follow to river (**Do not X bridge**). TL along towpath for 1500yds. At rd junc (the *Angel Inn* on R) TL on main rd (A4130). After 75yds X rd (**with great care**, for safety reasons consider using the zebra crossing 30yds further) to follow tarmac path thru churchyard (*St Mary the Virgin* on R) & past almshouses to rd & TL. At end of rd (*The Globe Restaurant* on R) TR (Don't X rd!) to reach mini-roundabout. GR 760 831

2. **1.6 miles** Take the A4130 (signed *Nettlebed*) keeping to the RH pavement. 20yds beyond the 40mph sign TR up FP. Enter copse & after 50yds FL (WM) uphill. At top, go thru K/G & ahd (CB350) over the MOUNT. Cont ahd thru 2 gates & FL on tarmac drive (*Henley Park Private* sign). Pass posh houses. 600yds after passing the last house on R (*Tanglewood*) TR over stile (FP30). Ahd, with fence on L. X stile & ahd, fence now on R. X stile, fm tk, & stile opp, then ahd along RHS of 2 flds. X stile in corner & down to rd. X & up enc path opp. At wide x tks (FPS) TR & ahd for 440yds. At FPS TL (CB130) alongside fence on your L to reach & go thru a heavy K/G. Ahd (CB130) down flds to **CLIPPER POINT** at rd. GR 763 849

3. **4.3 miles** **Do not X stile.** Turn sharp L (CB0) across fld. Thru white gate. Ahd uphill (WM) with fence on L. Follow path (WM), still keeping fence on L to reach rd thru white gate (FPS). TL uphill. In 400yds, just before postbox, TL on drive thru *Benhams Lodge* (Please handle the residents' gate with care! **Do not climb over!**). X drive & ahd down thru trees to go thru K/G in bottom L corner. Ahd (CB260) thru K/G & cont in same direction to reach gate in top L corner of fld. BR across fm tk & go thru gate opp. Ahd intially (CB290) following FP thru young trees & after telegraph pole, round to L, keeping close to garden fence on L. X stile in corner & TR on tk to rd. GR 752 863

4. **5.7 miles** X rd to fld opp. X fld diag R (CB345) to hidden stile in fence. X (with care!) & BL down fld (CB340) to K/G into wd. TR down path. At bottom, X tk & follow WM path down to X gate/stile. TL on rd. At T junc TL (*Middle Assendon/Henley*) & follow rd for 1 mile. GR 739 857

5. **7.0 miles** At T junc, X rd (**with care**) diag R & take FP, just L of telephone kiosk. In 60yds X stile & go diag R up fld to stile in corner. Cont up enc FP, up steps, up steep grassy slope to X

gate/stile at rd. TL uphill to BIX COMMON. At sharp RH bend take FP on L (CB250) across common. At far side BR to checkpoint in Village Hall (white building R of church).

**CP 1. BIX & ASSENDON VILLAGE HALL GR 728 853 7.8 miles.
08.30 - 10.30**

OXON 40 Route only:

- 6. 7.8 miles** From checkpoint TL (CB60) 50yds to hedge corner then (CB30) to rd. X & ahd on rd opp (L of 3 *Tonne restriction* sign) & downhill. At rd junc FL. In 330yds, immed after 2 houses on R, TR on FP, up RHS of fld & in 100yds X stile on RHS. Ahd (CB90) up fld to marker post on brow of hill. Ahd (CB80) to further marker post & with hedge on R, down to bottom corner of fld. Thru gap & immed turn sharp L (CB290) up enc path/tk. GR 735 867
- 7. 9.0 miles** Follow tk for approx 1 mile. At tk junc BR & cont to reach fm rd. TR (*Lodge Farm*). 6yds after black gate, TL on BW (OW). After 55yds, ahd with hedge on L. At corner follow round (with hedge still on L) for 40yds, then FR (CB10) X fld into wd. Cont ahd on OW/PS17 & down to rd at MAIDENSGROVE. GR 723 888
- 8. 10.7 miles** X rd & cont on OW (ignoring side tks) eventually downhill to X tk. Cont on OW along RHS of fld. Ignore gap on R & cont ahd along fld edge. At end of fld cont ahd on OW & ahd down lane, passing PISHILL church on L (water tap on wall inside gateway) to reach rd (B480). GR 727 900
- 9. 11.5 miles** X rd (**with care**) & TR. In 50yds, at *Pishill Farm House*, TL on OW. Follow the tk/OW along the valley bottom & at wd edge immed R over (broken?) stile (OW). Follow narrow WM tk uphill. At top ahd on WM tk. 20yds before stile (**Do not cross**) turn sharp L downhill (leaving OW) on path (PS8) to descend thru wd. GR 722 913
- 10.12.7 miles** At bottom, ahd (CB240) up FP (W21) & follow WM path thru wd. At path junc BL downhill. At bottom ahd for 50yds. TR on FP (W19). In 500yds, at T junc, TR (CB340) uphill, still on FP W19. At top, leave wd, ahd (CB0) with newly planted hedge on L, then on metalled drive to reach rd at GREENFIELD. GR 711 918
- 11.13.8 miles** X rd (**with care**) & go thru single wooden gate in wall opp. Follow WM FP (W15) thru wd. Over X tks & stile opp into conservation area. Cont ahd on narrow FP (W10). X stile with green gate on L & ahd along LHS of fld to X stile to rd (B480). GR 698 926
- 12.14.8 miles** TR. In 70yds X rd (**with great care**) & ahd on FP to R of garage (*Dumble Dore*). Follow enc path for approx ½ mile. At far end, TR on tk (W22). Pass house & barn on R & cont ahd along tk. On reaching fm entrance on L (DAME ALICE FARM) ahd along metalled rd. Just before rd, TL on wide tk (*Ridgeway*). In 1200yds reach & X rd to checkpoint.

**CP 2. THE RIDGEWAY: Bottom of BRITWELL HILL GR 681 922 16.4 miles.
10.15 - 13.00**

- 13. 16.4 miles** Leave checkpoint & cont along the RW. In 350yds, where the RW turns L, cont straight ahd, (now following the “Swan’s Way”), for 1 mile (ignoring R turn then L turn) to reach rd. TR along rd & in 100yds TL on BW. Follow BW initially along L edge of fld, then with hedge on R. X drive (DOWN FARM) & ahd on wide tk for 1000yds to reach X tks in dip. TL (CB110) gradually ascending valley. Later, follow fence on L, then up RHS of fld, keeping hedge on R to reach *Ewelme Park House* at top & go over X tks (RW). GR 674 892
- 14. 19.6 miles** Cont ahd on metalled BW between hedges. Pass row of 4 cottages on L, & in 30yds TR on tk, just inside wd edge. At far end of small clearing, TL along grassy tk & then ahd along RHS of fld to TR thru gap. Immed TL along fld edge. Pass a small plantation on R & TR (WM) along fld edge, still with plantation on R. Ahd, X stile by gate into wd. In 20yds, at X tks, TL. Go straight over next X tks & ahd. In 50yds, at path junc, TL & cont to follow path just inside wd edge. Ignore path on R & cont ahd along enc tk to reach rd at PARK CORNER. GR 692 885
- 15. 21.3 miles** X rd (**with care**) & TR. In 20yds TL along rd (signed to *Park Corner*). After 440yds, at junc (*Park House* ahd of you), TR along tk. At far end go thru gate & between fences, then follow FP thru wd (PRIOR’S WOOD) descending to dip. Ahd, ascending with wooden fence on R at first, then between wall & fence. On reaching fm buildings TL immed before black barn. In 10yds TR, with wall & then fence on L. X drive & descend to path junc. GR 705 894
- 16. 22.5 miles** At T junc TR for 1200yds, ignoring stiles on L & R of path to junc. Ahd over stilr opp. Ascend fld (CB200) to X stile near wd edge & cont ahd between trees up L edge of fld. X 2 stiles & TL (CB180) along fld edge. X stile next to metal gate & ahd along wide tk to reach rd, at entrance to *Soundess Lodge*. GR 709 873
- 17. 24.0 miles** TR along rd. In 120yds, X stile on L & cross fld (CB185), keeping just to R of 3 cedars. At far side, X stile, just to R of beech hedge, & cont ahd to reach rd at CROCKER END. TL along rd, passing a small postbox on L. When rd bends R cont ahd on grassy tk passing *Field House* on L. Ahd to reach stile between metal gate & wooden gate (FPS). X & keep to R edge of fld to reach stile. X stile into wd & cont ahd. Keep to main tk, which eventually descends out of wd to reach rd. (Note, old ruined church on L). GR 727 869
- 18. 25.6 miles** TR along rd. Pass house & garages on R, & in 20yds TR thru gate (FPS). Pass between fm buildings to a 2nd gate. Cont ahd for 200yds, then TL up bank (FPS) & over stile. Go up L edge of fld, with fence on L, to reach corner of wd. X stile & ahd for 10yds, where TR on tk thru wd. In 110yds, fork L (CB200), following WM arrows. When main tk bends R (for second time), cont ahd (CB190)(white WM arrows on tree). Follow WM path thru wd to reach remains of stile. Ahd across fld (CB190). At X tks, in mid-fld, TL on wide tk becoming drive to reach rd at BIX. TR & in 130yds TL to Checkpoint at Village Hall on L.

**CP 3. BIX & ASSENDON VILLAGE HALL GR 725 853 26.9 miles.
11.55 - 16.00**

Remainder of route common to OXON 40 and OXON 20.

- 19. 26.9 miles** From checkpoint TR (CB140) to corner of churchyard wall by telegraph pole. Follow wall to rd & ahd along enc FP, just to L of telephone kiosk, to reach main rd (A4130). TR along pavement. 40yds before *The Fox* PH, X A4130 (**with great care**) & go down lane opp.

When lane bends L, cont straight ahd on tk. After approx 1 mile (ignoring any earlier tks) follow tk (FPS *Witheridge Hill* ¾) (loose sign post!) as it curves very tightly L & up. Cont on tk past large house (MERRIMOLES) on L, & in a further 30yds TL (*HM24* on tree). At X tks cont ahd to reach rd (B481) at *Dog & Duck* PH. GR 701 848

20. 29.0 miles TR on verge for 50yds, then X rd (**with great care**) along drive of house (*Greenman*). Follow hedge on R to X stile & along L edge of paddock to X stile into wd & after 10yds FL to reach wall corner. TL to gate. BL over drive & thru gate & X stile opp. Aim for stile in corner (next to hedge) (CB240). X this stile & ahd to stile in RH fence. X & immed TL along fld edge, with fence on L. At corner, thru gate, X tk, & stile opp, & cont along LHS of fld. X stile at fld corner & cont ahd along enc FP. TL on drive (*Witheridge Hill Farm*). In 40yds TR down tk. X drive & down narrow FP to reach rd. TL to X rds. GR 693 842

21. 29.8 miles X (**with care**) & along the *Highmoor/Henley/Nettlebed* rd opp. In 260yds, TR on tarmac (becoming unsurfaced) tk. In 300yds, at far end of fld on L. TL)FPS). X stile & down FP along edge of wd. At bottom, TR inside wd, with old wire fence on R. Cont ahd for 1000yds, to reach X tks. TL (CB100) up WM tk. Where path joins from R, cont uphill. At top, cont ahd on narrow path to reach rd (B481). GR 706 833

22. 31.2 miles X rd, diag L, & along rd opp. At rd junc, with *Lamb* PH on R, TR along rd. In 800yds, TL on minor rd, just before telephone kiosk. Cont ahd on rd becoming rutted tk & at far side of green, straight on tk (FPS *G25*). In 140yds, TL, down & up enc FP (*G24*) to reach rd opp *Rose Farm*. TR for 250yds. Where rd bends R, TL down BW (*BW31*), to reach X tks. GR 718 838

23. 32.6 miles Go straight over & thru gate opp. Cont ahd, steeply uphill, passing to L of *NT Vermin Control* sign. When fence on R bends R cont uphill (CB70) (ie leave fence) following faded white WM arrows on trees for 800yds. At FP junc TL on FP 15 (junc easily missed!). 10yds before end of wd TR, X stile (ignore stile into fld). Cont thru wd to go thru gate. Ahd fence on R thru another gate. TL along drive to shed on R & checkpoint, 30yds before rd.

CP 4 SHED BY LODGE COTTAGE GR 729 847 33.8 miles

13.05 - 18.00

18.00 is the cut-off time. Marshals will retire walkers who arrive at this checkpoint after the cut-off time!

24. 33.8 miles Leave checkpoint, ahd to rd. TR along rd. At junc T ½L on BW/gravel drive (*BW52*)(entrance to *Lambridge Wood/Road* sign). After 500yds ignore entrance of *Lambridge Farm Private* & cont on BW/drive following WM. After 200yds pass outbuildings on L & immed after large (cream-walled) house. FR on BW (CB100). After 300yds at X tks TR on FP 51 (CB220) following yellow WM arrows. Cont over X tks & downhill on narrow path to reach X tks in valley bottom. T sharp R up rutted tk. In 70yds TL to X stile into fld (FP50). Cont ahd along RHS of 2 flds to rd.

GR 736 834

25. 35.6 miles TR & in 60yds TL (FPS) along metalled drive. At junc cont ahd. In 300 yds, just after passing a small pit on L, TL over stile. Down RHS of fld with hedge on R to bottom corner. TL, with hedge on R. X stile & ahd, with hedge now on L. Straight on at X tks, X stile & ahd to pass

LOWER HERNES HOUSE on L. Cont in the same direction for a further 800yds to X stile, BW & stile opp. GR 748 825

26. 37.3 miles Cont ahd on FP to reach rd. TR to T junc. TR. At roundabout, cont ahd along *Valley Road*. About 300yds later, ignore turning L (*Valley Road* & House Nos) to pass *A E Hobbs* PH on L. At T junc TL (*Elizabeth Road*). At next junc, TR. In 60yds, just after No 281 (*Lawns*) on L. TL along enc FP. At multi path junc, cont ahd (CB230) for 100yds to reach rd. TL, passing entrance to *Gillott's School* & downhill to reach T junc after 1000yds. GR 754 808

27. 39.0 miles TL on rd into HARPSDEN. Pass Village Hall on L, & in 40yds TL on enc FP (*Henley 1 mile*). X stile. Steeply uphill, with fence on L, to stile. X & in further 50yds TR along rd. At far end, TL along pavement. In 200yds, at rd junc, TR down enc FPO, 10yds before telephone kiosk. In 300yds, just before rd, TR thru gap, into the YMCA grounds & **THE FINISH!**

**HENLEY YMCA SPORTS PAVILION GR 766 815 39.9 miles.
07.00 - 20.00**

WELL DONE!