

## ***OXON 40 - 2003*** ***Route Description***

Place names: **CAPITALS**=appears on OS Landranger 175(1:50,000) **Italics** = name can be seen on route  
Abbreviations: **TL/TR**=turn left/right **FL/FR**=fork left/right **LHS/RHS**=left/right hand side  
**FP**=footpath **BW**=bridleway **FPS/BWS**=footpath/bridleway sign **tk**=track **rd**=road **junc**=junction  
**FB**=footbridge **fld**=field **CP**=Checkpoint **enc**=enclosed **wd**=wood **fm**=farm **K/G**=kissing gate  
**G/way**=gateway **WM**=waymark **X**=cross/across **ahd**=ahead **thru**=through **opp**=opposite  
**cont**=cont **immed**=immediately **CB**=compass bearing (magnetic) **GR**=OS grid ref  
**PH**=Public House **RWP**=Ridgeway Path **CW**=Chiltern Way **ROW**=Right of Way **m**=metres

### **Emergency Tel. No. 0774 7773862**

Please check for any amendments to the route.

**BEFORE YOU START REGISTER YOUR START TIME WITH THE START DESK.**

- 1. Start** Thru Henley YMCA Sports Pavilion car park, TL then immed TR towards main rd. In 80m TL along slip rd. At end ½R to cont on pavement for 700m to 2<sup>nd</sup> mini-roundabout. TL up FP (SP *Holy Trinity Church*). At T junc at top, TR on FP. After church TL up *Greys Hill*. In 200m, immed before *The Saracen's Head* PH car park on R (*Caution Concealed Entrances*), TR on lane to X main rd (**with care**). Thru K/G to R of Scouts HQ G/way & ahd on FP. Down steps to T junc. TL on FP to join rd. Ahd on rd for 200m. TR along *Tilebarn Close*. In 80m, TL & take FP on R (FPS)(CB280) between fences for 400m thru K/G to BW junc. X stile opp & ahd RHS fld then between fences to X stile to fld. Ahd RHS of trees to X stile. Ahd along FP to reach & cont on tk. Over X tks (*Hernes Estate Keep Out* on L) & ahd over fld. In 300m where tk bends L cont ahd for 15m (*Hernes Estate Keep Out* on L) then ½R to X stile into fld. Ahd along LHS of fld to gate/stile (**DO NOT CROSS**). TR (WM) up LHS of fld to X stile at top. TR(FPS) along tk (RHS of fld), ignore concrete drive on R, & ahd thru gate to main rd. GR 735 835
- 2. 5.5km/3.4 miles** TR for 50m, X rd (**with care**) to X stile (FPS). Cont along LHS of fld to X stile into next fld. Cont along LHS passing trees. X electric fence to X stile into wd. In 10m TL at FP T junc (arrows on tree) & follow prominent yellow arrows. In 200m at X tk keep ahd on FP (*No. 25*). In further 100m at next X tk, TL on wide tk (CB275). Ahd thru LAMBRIDGE WOOD (following arrows – **if in doubt keep near LHS wd edge**) to rd by house (FPS). GR 730 838
- 3. 7.5km/4.6 miles** TL on rd & in 15m TR on FP by *Forge Works* sign. In 50m at works entrance, TL sharply (FPS) & X stile. Cont on FP past works on R. X stile on L & immed TR. Ahd RHS fld to X FB. Ahd (WM) on RHS of 3 flds to painted ticket office at GREYS COURT. Ahd down drive & after 300m (where drive bends L) ahd over grass to X stile to rd. X stile opp & ahd uphill to X stile into wd. Cont uphill X stile to GREYS GREEN. ½R (pavilion & hedge on R) to drive (FPS). TR past houses on R. Ahd thru gate & then thru gap into wd. Ahd along LHS of wd to leave on enc FP. X stile & ahd LHS of fld then ½L on enc FP & X stile to SHEPHERD'S GREEN. GR 716 833

4. **9.4km/5.8 miles** Ahd along RHS of green to FR on grass path thru trees to X stile (FPS). TL along LHS of fld & X stile to next fld. Ahd to R of trees & cont along LHS of fld to X stiles. Ahd over fld to X stile to L of gate & ahd to X stile into wd (PADNELL'S WOOD). Ahd 20m to FP junc (arrows on tree). Cont ahd on faint FP (yellow arrows)(CB310) thru wd to lane. TL for 10m to rd junc. GR 704 838
5. **10.8km/6.7 miles** TR on main rd (**with care**). In 150m TL (FPS)(*Highmoor*) into sports fld. X ½R (CB280) to X FB & stile. TR & ahd (pigsty on R)(WM) to X stile. Ahd on drive. X stile & cont down RHS of fld. X stile to enc FP to rd. X (**with care**) to rd opp (*Witheridge Hill*). GR 698 842
6. **11.6km/7.2 miles** Ahd up rd for 80m & TR on tk to pass R of *Bucksbarn*. Cont on tk & after FPS, FL down hill. In 60m X tk & down FP to lane. TR along lane. In 300m keep ahd (ignoring lane to R) then in 150m TL (FPS) sharply up BW (CB210) (ignore FP ½R) thru wd to lane cnr (BWS). Immed TL away from lane & in 15m TR into sports fld. Ahd RHS towards car park & CP.

**CP 1. STOKE ROW GR 686 841 13.0km/8.0 miles.  
08.45 - 11.15**

7. **13.0km/8.0 miles** Ahd to car park entrance & immed TL over stile & ahd on enc FP. X green ½R (CB250) to main rd. X main rd, over grass triangle, & TL on minor rd. In 15m TR on FP (after *The Church House* on R) for 30m to L of white bungalow. Cont ahd on enc FP to rd. TL on rd for 20m. TR on enc FP (FPS) between fences. Ahd thru wd to follow faint winding FP thru holly bushes to T junc by wooden garden shed. TR on FP (CB300) thru metal barrier to *School Lane*. TR to main rd. X **with care**. TR on pavement & pass MAHARAJAH'S WELL (cottage), then immed TL thru metal barrier, on enc FP thru metal barrier to lane. TL on lane by *Pond House* & cont ahd to pass *Stoke Row Farm* on R. Ahd on BW for 1600m passing Hundridge Farm to rd. GR 668 856
8. **16.2km/10.0 miles** TR on rd & after 40m (FPS), TR thru wd, over tk, to X stile into fld. Ahd RHS fld then follow marker posts to X stile into lane. X stile opp. ½R (CB80) over fld & X stile. Ahd between hedge & tennis courts to drive. TL (WM) on drive (house on L). X cattle grid & ahd along LHS of fld to lane. TR (FPS) on lane (ENGLISH FARM) then TL (wooden barn on L) on tk which curves L & R downhill. Thru gate on L. by stile into large fld. ½L (CB30) up fld to fir trees & X stile in opp corner of fld. TL on tk & in 15m TL on enc BW. Follow BW for 1200m thru wd to drives by *Elderberry Cottage*. ½R on pebbled drive to rd. TR along rd & in 150m, TL on clear tk (**No signs & not shown as FP on maps**) across NUFFIELD COMMON GOLF COURSE to main rd(FPS). X rd (**with care**) to bus shelter. TR along pavement & in 90m TL on rd. In 600m ahd into Her Majestys Young Offenders Institution Huntercombe. Pass *Visitors Centre* then bear R to marked pavement & ahd 300m past *Main Entrance* on R, fork R on rd, ahd (rd with housing on R) thru CP to rear of Staff Club.

**CP 2. STAFF CLUB – HM YOUNG OFFENDERS INSTITUTION HUNTERCOMBE  
GR 681 883 20.6km/12.8 miles.  
9.45 - 17.45**

- 9. 20.6km/12.8 miles** Leave CP & retrace steps past main entrance, visitors centre & ahd along drive to main rd (A4130). TR along pavement to bus shelter. X rd (**with care**). TR & after *The Crown* PH. TL on RWP (FPS) between garage & house (*Fairway Cottage*). Ahd following numbered white marker posts (Nos.1 to 4) across golf course, thru wd then (Nos.5 to 8) to pass R of clubhouse. Ahd (WM post) X grass (CB250) thru K/G & next fld to rd. TR on rd to pass church (***Drinking Water***) at NUFFIELD. At end of flint wall TL thru barrier (FPS) along LHS of fld. Ahd at end of fld on FP thru trees. TR on RWP (FPS GRIM'S DITCH 5.5Km)(CB280). Ahd on FP roughly following line of ditch. In 400m X private track (**Water tap on L**), thru K/G (FPS)(farmhouse on L) & ahd. Thru next K/G & ahd over dip. Thru further K/G (optional stile on L) & ahd. In 2km thru K/G (FPS) X lane & X stile(RWP Info Board). In 600m X stile & another lane (farmhouse in distance on R) & ahd (pig farm on L). In 1400m thru gate to main rd A4074. GR 616 879
- 10. 28.1km/17.5 miles** TR on pavement for 35m, X rd (**with care**) thru K/G (RWP). In 15m ignore FPS on R & cont ahd on main FP thru wd for 550m, thru K/G & ahd (rd on R) for 180m to FP junc (FPS). TR on BW under rd & ahd (BWS) on paving stones. TL before gate on pebbled tk (BWS). Ahd for 400m (pass chapel on L) to NEWNHAM FARM on L. X stile to R of gate into farmyard & immed TR between house & fm buildings. Ahd 90m thru K/G. In 45m TL at (FPS) X fld to RIVER THAMES & TR along riverbank. X two FB-K/G & keep to riverbank under Wallingford Bridge. Immed TR up steps to pavement. TR X bridge & immed after telephone box TR (FPS *Thames Path*) into *Castle Lane*. In 20m TR (FPS) to riverbank. GR 610 894
- 11. 30.4km/18.9 miles** TL on towpath (river on R) & follow for 2km to BENSON LOCK & WEIR. TR X FB over ditch to lock. TL & in 25m TR (*Thames Path*) to X lock & weir to rd &

### DRINKS STOP AT BENSON LOCK

GR 616 911 32.5km/20.1 miles

- 12. 32.5km/20.1 miles** TR on rd & in 100m TL (FPS) before house with swan wind vane. Ahd on enc FP for 250m to main rd (A4074). X (**with care**) & ahd on FP (FPS) 250m to rd. X rd & ahd on FP between houses then over drive & cul-de-sac rd to main rd. TL on pavement (later with stream on L) to rd junc (*Crown Square*). GR 621 918
- 13. 34.1km/21.2 miles** TR on rd (**with care** – initially no pavement) & ahd 200m on rd (stream on R) to pass *Blacklands Road* on the L. In a further 70m TL immed after bungalow No. 61 on stepping stones between chain linked posts & side of house No. 65 & ahd over grass to enc FP leading to rd (B4009). X rd (**with care**) & TL on pavement. In 75m TR (FPS) on tarmac FP for 700m to lane. TL then immed TR (FPS) on gravel drive. In 35m ahd on enc FP (FPS) X stile & ahd LHS fld for 600m to X stile. Ahd on enc FP then ahd on rd to T junc (*Treegon* on R). TR on rd to T junc at *Home Sweet Home* PH in ROKE. GR 627 935
- 14. 36.2km/22.5 miles** TR on rd 950m to T junc (B4009). X rd & ahd on BW (TIDMARSH LANE). In 550m (50m before rd with garden fence corner on L) TL (WM) up bank to X stile. Ahd RHS fld to lane (COTTESMORE LANE). X lane & X stile. Ahd RHS of 2 flds to X stile to lane. TR

(ignore FP ahd) on lane for 280m to T junc. X rd & ahd on BW (BWS)(farmhouse on R). Ahd 650m to junc at fld corner with gate on R. TL onto gravel drive then immed TR to cont on tarmac where TR on rd (*Chaucer Court*) out to main rd junc. TL on rd & X rd. In 75m at LH bend ahd on minor rd (*Swyncombe 3 miles*) towards church. In 100m by railings bear R on FP leading down to drive & ahd to rd. TL on pavement & ahd on rd at rd junc. Ahd pass school sports fld & houses on R to reach football/cricket ground. Ahd to CP in car park on R at rd junc.

**CP 3. EWELME      GR 648 912    39.7km/24.7 miles.  
11.00 - 15.45**

- 15. 39.7km/24.7 miles**      Thru 2 gates at end of car park into fld & ahd LHS of fld (COW COMMON). In 300m (stile on L) ½R X fld to go thru K/G to rd. X rd & ahd on BW (BWS) (GRINDON LANE). In 950m at BW T junc TL for 380m to X tks (BWS). TL (CB10) & ahd 980m on BW to X tarmac drive. Ahd (CB20) for 850m to rd. TR on rd & in 70m at sharp RH bend ahd on tk (BWS *Swans Way*). GR 666 914
- 16. 43.2km/26.9 miles**      In 30m (FPS)(*Chiltern Way*) TR on tk. In 15m TL to X tree log & ahd (CB90) on FP thru wd. Ascend for 800m to meet FP joining from L at top of SWYNCOMBE DOWN. Ahd for 1000m then fork R uphill (FPS CW) to X tk (FPS CW & RWP). TR on FP following WM posts up then down to reach fld. Ahd RHS fld thru K/G to rd. X rd & ahd on rd opp for 300m to Swyncombe Church GR 683 904
- 17. 46.1km/28.7 miles**      TL (FPS leaving RWP, but still CW) thru gate into churchyard (**in 25m water tap on wall on R**). Ahd to go thru gate at rear of churchyard, TL. & ahd (ignoring L & R paths) X drive to FP on R of fence (FPS) & thru K/G. Ahd (CB100) up fld to R of circular enclosure & thru K/G into CHURCH WOOD. In 8m TR on FP & in 200m TR on tk (CB220). In 200m X private rd. In 35m ahd on FP thru plantings (ignore main tk turning R) to X stile into parkland. Ahd on LHS for 900m to X stile in LH corner to FP junc (FPS). GR 678 894
- 18. 48.0km/29.8 miles**      TL(RWP) & ahd LHS fld thru gate & ahd RHS fld to FP junc (FPS) in farmyard (EWELME PARK). TL & in 70m TL (leaving RWP) on wide tk between hedges. In 200m ahd on metalled drive. 35m after last cottage on L, TR on tk thru wd. Ahd X clearing. At far end TL (FPS) on tk (fld on R). In 150m (FPS) ahd RHS clearing & TR thru gateway (FPS). Immed TL on tk & ahd LHS fld. At end of fld cont ahd with copse on R. At end of copse TR (FPS) & ahd RHS fld for 250m to X stile to wd. Ahd over X tks & in 40m TR (FPS) thru wd. In 80m TR on main tk & ahd for 190m to car park at rear of staff club & CP.

**CP 4 STAFF CLUB - HM YOUNG OFFENDERS INSTITUTION, HUNTERCOMBE  
GR 681 883    50.8km/31.6 miles  
9.45 - 17.45**

**Remainder of route common to OXON 40 and OXON 20**

- 19. 50.8km/31.6 miles**      TL thru car park entrance & ahd with enclosed area of Young Offenders Institution on L past main entrance, visitors centre & ahd on drive. In 100m TL on drive to pass *Huntercombe Manor* on R. Cont ahd & thru barriers on FP thru wd (PARK WOOD) for 600m (CB100) thru K/G to rd. TL on rd by *Mayfield Cottage*. In 200m TR on FP (FPS *Nettlebed 1 mile*). Follow FP (CB160) on R of tree line. Just after wood corner TR pass hidden stile into wd

(GROVERIDGE WOOD). ½L on vague FP & in 30m TL on tk (WM)(**If unsure follow LHS wd until you reach tk**). Follow tk which bends to LHS wd edge. Ahd on tk & at vague X tks at end of fld on L cont ahd (CB165) on faint FP (faint yellow WM) thru trees to pass R of stile at wd edge. ½L (CB120) up fld to gap/stile on L of wd. TR on FP (WM)(broken stile) on RHS of fld to X broken stile & TL to rd (A4130)(*Port Hill*). GR 695 869

**20. 52.7km/32.7 miles**      **With care** X rd. TL along pavement for 800m thru NETTLEBED. Where houses end, TR thru large iron gates (JOYCE GROVE – Sue Ryder Home). Cont along driveway, past large house on R, past all car parks to lodge gates & main rd (B481). TR & in 60m X rd (**with care**) & ahd on tk (ROW) thru woodland. In 900m keep ahd where tk joins from R. In 500m at tk junc keep ahd on tk between flds for a further 1000m to main rd (A4130) at BIX. GR 726 853

**21. 57.5km/35.7 miles**      X main rd (A4130) **with care**. TR on pavement & in 250m ½L (FPS) between houses to rd by Bix Church. X rd to R of church & ahd on FP (FPS) on RHS of common. In 100m at end of cricket ground ½L across common (CB70) to hedge cnr & lane. TR on lane (WHITE LANE) for 500m. TR (FPS) passing R of gate & ahd to X stile. Cont downhill then down steps on enc FP to X stile to fld. Cont downhill across fld to X stile to tk. TL on tk to main rd (*The Rainbow Inn* PH at MIDDLE ASSENDON on L). GR 739 857

**22. 59.1km/36.7 miles**      X rd **with care** & TR on slip rd to junc with *Mill Close* opp. TL up lane. Immed after houses TR uphill on tk (FPS *Oxfordshire Way*). Cont uphill across fld to tree belt (CB80). X stile onto enc FP & X stile into fld. ½R across fld (CB90) to X stile in wire fence then cont ahd over fld to X stile to rd. GR 748 857

**23. 60.0km/37.3 miles**      X rd (**take care**) to tk opp (FPS *Oxfordshire Way & Pond Cottage - Private Road*) & follow for 1200m passing large houses on the L. Where tk bends L ahd thru KG (WM) & ahd on LHS fld. Thru next KG & ahd (CB160) across fld to KG into wd. Downhill on FP thru wd leading onto enc FP to rd (A4130). TL on pavement passing *The Old White Horse* PH to mini-roundabout. Cont ahd on LHS of rd. TL into *New Street*. In 50m X rd when safe (**great care!**) & cont ahd on RHS. Immed after Brakespears Brewery & *Old Brewery House* TR into *Church Avenue*. Ahd passing almshouses & thru churchyard (Note Dusty Springfields Grave at end on R) to church. TR in front of church to pedestrian crossing in 20m. X rd & TL towards river. At traffic lights TR & in 20m X rd (**great care!**) to towpath behind *Angel Inn*. Follow river for 250m. At *Hobbs & Sons Ltd* boathouse, TR with rd, & in 60m TL into *Meadow Road*. Just past *Hewgate Court* on R, ½R on enc FP (FPS), with railway on R. Ahd on FP for 350m then along LHS of fld & thru car park to rd. TR on rd. Over railway bridge to main rd (A4155). X main rd **with great care**. Ahd to Henley YMCA Sports Pavilion to finish.

**HENLEY YMCA SPORTS PAVILION GR 766 815 65.6km/40.7 miles.**

**07.00 - 20.00**

**WELL DONE!**