

OXON 20 - 2004 ***Route Description***

Place names: **CAPITALS**=appears on OS Explorer 171(1:25,000) ***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 **PH**=Public House **GR**=OS grid ref

RWP=Ridgeway Path **CB**=compass bearing (magnetic) **CW/CWE**=Chiltern Way/Extension

TP=Thames Path **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 Sports Pavilion car park, TL then immed TR towards main rd. X main rd **with care**, ½R & immed TL along *Mill Lane*. Cont over railway & at car park on L, TR on FP diversion (FPS TP). X stile to L of gate & ahd on enc FP (houses on L). Bear L with FP over temporary FB to reach riverbank. TR & ahd to follow riverbank thru flds (River Thames on L). Eventually FP bears R away from main river. X FB & ahd on enc FP thru trees. X tk & ahd on enc FP (WM TP). Cont ahd with drive on L (note private railway with fancy continental style station on L). At end of FP (FPS) cont ahd on drive. FL at junc (FPS TP) to keep ahd. Ignore drive on L (to *White House*) immed after fork. Cont ahd on drive with large houses on either side. In 600m at *Rivermead House* on R TR on FP (FPS TP) to X drive & ahd on enc FP. Thru K/G & immed TL (ignoring stile ahd). Ahd on enc FP with railway now on R to rd (FPS).
GR776797
- 2. 3.2km/1.9 miles** TR to X railway level crossing & ahd on rd. Immed after *Baskerville Arms* PH on L TL into *Mill Road*. Ahd on rd for 500m to pass junc with *New Road*. In 400m at Post Box on L TL on drive (WM). X bridge & in 20m TR (FPS *Shiplake Lock* ¼). Down steps X stile & ahd across fld. X stile & immed TR. Ahd RHS of fld. X tk & ahd on enc FP to lane. TR on lane (FPS). At end of wall on L TL & ahd on enc tarmac FP (high flint wall on L) to reach River Thames.
GR776787
- 3. 4.4km/2.7 miles** Immed before bridge (ignore teas/ice creams etc) TR thru K/G & ahd along riverbank thru fld with River Thames on L. Thru gate & ahd thru next fld. X stile & cont ahd (river on L) to reach grassy area before raised FB. ½R across grass (leaving TP) to pass L of *Shiplake Colleges Boathouses* (WM) & ahd on stony FP. At T junc with lane TsharpR on BW (BWS). Ahd up BW with occasional steps to reach church. TL before church & ahd on drive (*St Peters & St Pauls* now on R) becoming lane to main rd.
GR765783

4. **5.9km/3.7 miles** X main rd **with care** & ahd on rd opp (*Plowden Arms* PH on L). Ahd passing *Plowden Way* twice on R & immed after *Tudor Cottage* on L TL on concrete farm tk (FPS). Where tk bears L cont ahd thru K/G at R of barrier (may also need to go thru gap on L of electric fence) & ahd on tk on LHS of fld to X stile. Immed TR & ahd on RHS of fld. At fld corner TL (FPS) & ahd on FP between flds passing L of trees. At single power pole (others are double) ½R across fld on FP. At end of fld X BW & thru gap opp into fld. Ahd on FP on RHS of fld passing L of trees then ½L downhill on FP to L of wooded dip below & ahd to X stile into wd. **Can take either of 2 FP ahd thru wd (however the FP on L is less muddy)**. Cont ahd thru wd with wire fence on R to X stile into fld. Ahd on FP on LHS of fld (initially wd on L). Pass K/G & ahd LHS of next fld to main rd (FPS *Shiplake* 1½). GR743781
5. **8.3km/5.2 miles** TL & ahd on rd to rd junc with church on L. TR into *Gravel Road* & ahd on rd. At *Heath Drive* on R TL on FP (FPS). Ahd across fld to L of wooded clump. Beyond clump TR on FP to follow RHS of fld. Thru gap in corner to T junc with BW. TL on BW (TAGG LANE). Ahd on BW for 400m. 50m after double gate to fld on R & 20m before drive TR over FB & X stile (WM) into garden. ½L thru trees & across grass to X drive (house on R) & over FB to X stile into fld corner. TL & ahd on LHS of fld to X stile on L of gate to lane. GR737772
6. **9.8km/6.1 miles** TR on lane & in 15m TL on BW (*BWS Foxhill Lane*). Ahd RHS of fld to meet & cont ahd on farm tk still on RHS of fld to reach lane (FPS). TR & ahd on lane. At rd T junc TL on rd. In 100m TL X stile (FPS) & ½R across fld passing 10m to R of telegraph pole & cont ahd to X stile in hedge to lane (FPS). TL on lane & in 25m TR into *Bryants Farm*. Ahd on Lhand drive & FL at wall then before *Cotswolds Fayre* sign leave drive & ahd on LHS of fld away from farm buildings towards housing estate. Pass stile at fld corner & ahd on enc FP between houses. At end TR on rd & in 50m TL X rd & ahd on FP (*Leading to Tower Close*). Ahd along rd *Tower Close* (Water Tower can be seen on L) to main rd. GR721775
7. **11.8km/7.3 miles** TR & in 20m TL & X main rd **with care** to tk opp. Ahd on stony tk & FR after G/way & ahd on enc BW (Riding stables on L). Keep ahd on BW ignoring gates on either side. Just before L bend TR thru gap into car park of rugby club to CP (You should be able to see rugby posts on R well before).

CP 1 ABBEY RUGBY CLUB

GR716782 12.8km/8.0 miles
08.45 –11.15

8. **12.8km/8.0 miles** Leave car park back thru gap to BW, TR & ahd along enc BW. Cont ahd as BW becomes a lane between houses. Cont on lane at L bend (ignoring FPS on R CWE). At rd T junc (seat on L) TR along rd (*Kidmore End/Stoke Row*). At next rd junc TsharpL into *Tanners Lane*. Ahd on lane then at L bend TsharpR (FPS *Tokers Green*) X stile to enc FP on R of *Crispins Way* (ignore BW on L of *Crispins Way*). Ahd on enc FP to X stile into fld. Ahd downhill across fld to X stile at bottom into lane. TL on lane & ahd uphill. At T junc TL & ahd on lane. At TOKERS GREEN FL to rd. GR701776
9. **15.3km/9.5 miles** TL on rd (FPS CWE) then X rd to grass verge & TR on next rd (*Rokeby Drive*). Ahd on rd (past recreation ground on L) to T junc with main rd. X rd **with care** ½R to FP (FPS CWE). Ahd X fld towards wd. At wd TL & ahd RHS of fld (may see WM post on R) to X broken stile to rd (FPS CWE). GR691773

10. **16.4km/10.2 miles** X rd & TL. In 100m just before power pole TR on FP (FPS *Mapledurham 1½* CWE). Ahd & in 15m TR on joining FP & cont ahd on sunken FP. Cont ahd on FP with golf course on L. Ahd to reach FP junc at top of fld (WM). TL on enc FP & ahd to X gravel tk between golf links. Over next X tks & thru G/way (white arrows) then immed FR on grass tk (CW). Follow white arrows past stile (WM CW) & ahd on concrete farm tk past farm buildings & onto tk T junc (WM). Ahd X fld on FP (CW) towards wd. Ahd on tk thru wd (white arrows CW). At far side of wd before open area TL on FP (WM CW). X chalky tk & ahd on FP. After contouring around hill FP then descends rapidly. X stile & ahd downhill to edge of woodland where FP bears R then L to X stile into fld. Ahd X fld & X stile on L of gate into drive. TR & ahd on concrete drive (white arrows) to T junc with lane (BWS CWE). GR671768

11. **18.9km/11.7 miles** TL on lane (post box on L) thru MAPLEDURHAM past almshouses on R thru to church car park on L & CP (River Thames ahd, St Margarets church with Mapledurham House beyond on L, Country Park with mill on R).

**CP 2 MAPLEDURHAM GR670767 19.1km/11.9 miles
9.45 – 13.30**

12. **19.1km/11.9 miles** Return back along lane past almshouses to junc by post box. Ahd on lane. Ignore BW on L (BWS CWE) by house (**Note Oxon 40 leaves here**). At R bend TL onto concrete farm tk (BWS *Goring Heath*). Ahd on tk thru G/way & past *Bottom Farm Cottages* then in 50m TR thru G/way into fld. Ahd uphill on RHS fld. X stile & cont ahd uphill RHS of next fld. At top X stile on R at far end of line of trees. TL (WM) & ahd on tk past *Whittles Barns* to rd. ½R X rd & thru K/G into fld (FPS). Ahd LHS of fld thru K/G into wd. Ahd on FP thru wd & cont with mesh fence on L (white arrows) to X tk (FPS *Mapledurham 1½*). TL on tk to hedge corner with seat on L (BWS). TR on BW thru wd (**Note OXON 40 rejoins here**). At wd corner cont on BW which bends R. At X tks cont ahd now with fld on R. At junc at end of fld keep ahd on L most tk passing thru wd. On leaving wd cont on tk on LHS of fld. As tk bears R, FL thru gap & ahd with wire fence on L & tree plantation initially on R. (CANE END HOUSE is visible on L). Ignore stile on L & cont ahd to go thru gate. X fld & thru another gate then ahd on FP thru trees to X stile to main rd at CANE END. GR679794

13. **22.7km/14.1 miles** X main rd **with care** & ahd on rd opp (*The Fox* PH on L). At rd junc TR & ahd on main rd (*Peppard/Henley*). In 250m immed after *Owlswood* on R TR to X stile into fld (FPS *Kidmore End 1*). ½L across fld & X stile in fence. Cont ahd on FP (CB100) across next fld thru gap into next fld & cont on FP in same direction across fld to tree with white dot then ½L with FP towards transformer pole in fld corner & X stile to rd (FPS *Cane End 1*). TR & ahd on rd. Cont on rd at L bend (ignoring BW on R). Cont on rd around R bend to CP in *St John the Baptist Kidmore End Parish Room* opp telephone box.

**CP 3 KIDMORE END GR697794 24.8km/15.4 miles
10.45 – 19.00**

14. **24.8km/15.4 miles** From CP TR & cont ahd on Wood Lane to junc with well on R. Cont ahd with church on R (*Sonning Common/Chalkhouse Green*). Past pond on L & *New Inn* PH on R. Immed before *Sharon* on L TL on enc FP (FPS) between houses. X stile & ahd X fld to X stile to tk. TR on tk (ignoring stile ahd) & cont ahd past *Vines Farm* on L. Where tk bends R with wooden fence ahd TL & X stile on L of white gate & ahd on RHS of fld. Ahd on tk thru wd then thru gap & ahd on FP across fld. X stile thru bushes & ahd on enc FP then drive to rd (FPS *Bur Wood ¼*). GR713792

15. **26.9km/16.7 miles** ½R X rd & thru K/G (FPS) then ½R across grass aiming for wooden barriers ½way across fld & then to gap in hedge thru K/G to main rd (*Bird in Hand* PH opp)(FPS CWE). X rd **with care** & ahd on rd opp (*Dunsden Green Sonning*). In 100m TL pass stile into fld (FPS *Crowsley Park* CWE). Ahd RHS fld to X double stile & ½R X fld to wd top corner. Over stile/cum horse jump & cont X next fld in same direction to X stile on L of gate in corner & ahd on enc FP. Keep ahd on drive to lane (WM). TR & ahd on lane past *Jasmine Cottage* on R, keep L at next fork & past *Crowsley Grange* on R to reach rd (FPS CWE). TL on rd for 100m to reach gates into CROWSLEY PARK on R. GR726797
16. **28.6km/17.8 miles** TR thru gates (use R hand gate – may be stiff) & ahd up drive past 2 entrances to CROWSLEY PARK on R then ½R thru gate in railings. Ahd between railings & thru gate at far end. ½R across fld to X stile behind large horse chestnut trees. Cont ahd across next fld in same direction on vague FP passing white posts (WM). Over X tk to 2nd post then ½L across fld to bottom R corner with wd on R. Thru KG to rd. GR733804
17. **29.7km/18.5 miles** TR on rd & in 15m TR on BW into wd (BWS *Binfield Heath* 1½) Ahd on BW thru wd X gravel drive & ahd on gravel to cont ahd on BW. Follow white arrows & ignore R fork. Over X tk (*No horses*) & keep ahd as another tk appears on R. Leave wd & ahd RHS fld. Cont ahd on enc BW & then on farm tk past *Bottle & Glass* PH to rd. GR744793
18. **31.3km/19.4 miles** TL & ahd on rd. At wd corner on R TR on BW (BWS) past gate & ahd thru wd. Keep ahd where FP joins from R & then ahd on drive (yellow arrows). In 50m X stile on L then TR (WM) & ahd RHS of fld. X stile at FP junc & ahd X next fld to X stile. Ahd X fld to opp corner. Thru G/way & ahd to 2nd G/way to drive (*Harpsden Wood End*). Ahd on drive. Where drive from *Harpsden Wood House* joins from L T½R on FP thru wd (yellow arrows) to reach rd (FPS *Binfield Heath* 1). X rd to FPS & ahd on FP by sign (Ignore FP on L). Ahd thru woodland ignoring all side FPs & gradually descend to rd junc with churchyard on L. TR on rd (*Henley* 1) past *St Margarets Church* on R then X rd to grass verge & cont ahd on opp side of rd round L bend (*Harpsden Way*). Ahd & immed after *War Memorial Place* on R X rd & TR on BW before bus stop (BWS). Ahd to reach YMCA on R to finish.

HENLEY YMCA SPORTS PAVILION GR766815 34.8km/21.6 miles
07.00 – 20.00
WELL DONE!