

## ***OXON 20 - 2005*** ***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 **trk**=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**=continue **immed**=immediately **PH**=Public House

**GR**=OS grid ref **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. Note that the 20 & 40 mile routes are completely different so don't assume that people ahead are on the same 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 & ½L thru car park then at far corner TL on FP (FPS). Cont ahd RHS of grass area then ahd thru trees & follow RHS of metal fence (railway on L). At end cont ahd on rd to T junc where TR towards River Thames. TL with river on your R. Immed before *Angel Inn* PH TL to X rd **with care** & TR on opp pavement to traffic lights. TL to use pedestrian crossing to X rd. TR towards church & then ½L on FP thru churchyard (*Dusty Springfield's* grave on L). BL at almshouses to reach rd. TL on rd & X to opp pavement when safe. After passing the *Theatre* TR at the T junc to cont on pavement. Ahd ignoring *Private Road* on R & keep on RHS pavement past 2 mini-roundabouts. GR760830
- 2. 2.7km/1.7miles** Ahd on pavement to pass *Phyllis Court* entrance on R & in 100m TR thru G/Way (FPS) & ahd on trk then grass (rugby pitches on L) thru K/G to fld. ½L towards river & cont ahd with river on your R. Ahd on FP crossing several FB & thru gates (ignoring any tempting FP on the R to various islets). After reaching TEMPLE ISLAND (with its folly) cont ahd in same direction (now gradually away from river) on FP thru uncultivated grounds & woodland to X stile to main rd. GR772855
- 3. 5.7km/3.5miles** TR on pavement. X rd **with extreme care** to *Henley Management College* entrance on L then cont on LHS of rd to TL thru barriers just before dangerous right hand bend in rd. Immed TR thru K/G X small fld then X trk via 2 stiles & ahd X fld in same direction. X stile on L of gate then ignore stile on R but cont ahd on LHS of hedgerow. At end of fld thru gate into wd. Ignore 1<sup>st</sup> BW on R & in 10m X junc ½R to go uphill on FP. At T junc at top cont ahd (ignoring BW to L). Keep ahd on main FP which descends past cottages to rd. X rd & ahd on rd opp (*Pheasants Hill 1*) & follow on RHS into the centre of HAMBLEDEN village. At church on L TR on drive leading to CP.

**CP 1 HAMBLEDEN**

**GR784865**

**7.4 km/4.6 miles**

**08.30 –11.15**

4. **7.4km/4.6miles** Return to main rd & X rd to go thru churchyard arch/gate towards the church. At church porch FL on path around the LHS of the church & leave churchyard thru gate into lane. TR on lane & in 100m TR thru K/G (FPS CW) & ahd on FP across fld that bears L to run parallel with hedge on R. Thru K/G & ahd thru next fld. Thru K/G into copse & ahd to X stile. Ahd LHS of fld & thru K/G to enc FP with houses on R. X drive (FPS CW) to go past barrier. Ahd RHS of fld then thru K/G & cont RHS of fld. Thru K/G (white arrow) then LHS of fld. Thru another K/G & ahd with farm buildings on R thru K/G to lane (FPS CW). GR782881
5. **9.2km/5.7miles** TR on lane (*Colstrove Farm* on R) & ahd with large yew hedge on L. Where lane bends R cont ahd on enc BW (BWS CW) then ahd LHS of fld. Cont ahd on enc BW to lane. X lane & X stile (FPS – this points L as the official FP follows the 3 sides of the fld). Ahd X fld & thru new K/G. Ahd in same direction X next fld (*Turville Windmill* should be visible in the distance). Thru next K/G & ahd RHS of fld to X 2 stiles & trk. Ahd LHS of fld to X stile (WM CW) then RHS irregular hedgerow then X fld to go thru gate (or X stile) to lane in front of houses at SKIRMETT (FPS CW). GR776899
6. **11.2km/7.0miles** TR on lane & in 200m TL X stile (FPS CW). Ahd LHS fld to FP T junc at far fence with gate ahd. TR to follow wire fence on your L. X stile by gate on L (WM CW) & ahd to X stile to trk. TL on trk uphill to enter wd & cont ahd on trk (WM arrows). In 550m at trk junc cont ahd uphill. Thru gap in fence on RHS of gate (WM CW) & TL on trk. Ahd then thru gap on L of gate (WM CW) then ½R X fld to wd. Ahd thru wd to X stile by gate (WM CW) into fld. Descend LHS of fld to X stile & cont LHS to reach rd at *Fingest* (FPS CW). GR778911
7. **13.5km/8.4miles** TL on rd & TR on lane opp *Chequers* PH on L (*Chequers Lane*). Ahd with church on your L & immed after *Church Cottage* on R TR on enc FP (FPS). Ignore stile on L & cont ahd on enc FP. X stile & ahd RHS of fld to X stile to trk. TL uphill on trk pass *Hanger Wood* signs & at sheds on L FL uphill between posts. Cont uphill ignoring all trks on L & R following edge of wd with flds visible on R. At end of wd where trk joins from L cont ahd. Cont ahd at next trk junc (with marker posts on L) & ahd to church. TL on lane then TR to CP next to church.

CP 2 CADMORE END

GR784926

15.7 km/9.8 miles

9.45 – 13.30

8. **15.7km/9.8miles** TL on lane towards church & ahd pass church ignoring all trks to the R to continue on rough trk (*Ramps Caution*) with houses on R. Ignore next trk to R & ahd on trk between houses. At end of houses on R (& before *width 6'6"*) FR on FP across common then TL on drive coming from R (*HILL FARM*) to reach main rd. TR on rd & ahd on grass verge for 150m & TR on drive (FPS). GR790925
9. **16.4km/10.2miles** X stile on R of cattle grid & ½R across grass passing between 2 ponds & thru gap in hedgerow to X stile. Ahd on enc FP to X stile into fld. Ahd downhill RHS for 100m then X stile on R & cont descending thru woodland (**Mind the steps**). At the bottom X stile into fld then ½R across fld still descending to X double stile. Cont ahd in same direction across large fld (*HANGER FARM* in distance) to post with white arrows at corner. TL with hedge on R & in 40m X stile & up steps to lane (*FINGEST LANE*)(FPS). GR787916

10. **17.4km/10.8miles** TR on lane & follow RHS with care to *Double Bend Sign* where ½R on FP with hedgerow on R to rejoin lane at T junc. X to RHS of lane opp (*Frieth 1½*) & cont up RHS verge of lane. By gate at corner of wd TR between posts (FPS) & ahd on FP ascending thru wd (ignoring trk on R). At top follow white arrows to FP junc (WM post). TL & follow FP contouring thru wd. At FP junc with WM post on R) TR to cont on enc FP. At end ahd on drive to lane (FPS). TL on lane which starts to descend & in 200m TR & X stile to enc FP (FPS).  
GR795906
11. **19.2km/11.9miles** At end X stile & ahd RHS of fld. X stile in corner & ahd on enc FP to reach rd (FRIETH -Church on R). X rd **with care** thru K/G opp (FPS) & ahd on enc FP. X double stile into fld. Immed TR & ahd RHS (hedge on R) to X next stile to trk. **Do not X next stile ahd to lane** but TL on trk then cont ahd RHS across grassy area with hedge on R to X stile in corner. Ahd thru gap & cont ahd across g/way to wide grass verge with lane on the R. Cont ahd on verge to reach FPS at RH bend of lane. Cont on lane & in 30m FL at triangle (ignoring BWS to R) to cont on lane & in 100m pass *St Katherine's Convent Parmoor*. Ahd pass T junc (*Hambleden*) & *Little Parmoor Farm* to reach on the R the drive entrance of the *Pheasants*. TsharpR to follow the enc FP to the R of the drive entrance (white arrow).  
GR793889
12. **21.2km/13.2miles** At end of fence TL thru gate then ½R across fld aiming to the R of the houses, X stile in corner to drive & TL 10m to lane. TR on lane & after *Beeches Farmhouse* on L X stile on L (FPS). Ahd on FP thru woodland for 550m keeping on main FP & pass thru gap by stile. **Then don't miss the FL on FP with white arrow on tree leaving main track** (which descends steeply back to lane). Follow FP that contours along hillside with the wood edge visible on the LHS. In a further 550m ahd over X trk. In a further 500m FR remaining on main FP which now starts to descend steeply to reach steps down to lane. X lane **with care** & ahd down steps on enc FP (FPS) down between houses. At end ½L then ½R & ahd down drive to FP junc (FPS). TL on enc FP with houses on L then thru K/G & ahd RHS of fld. X stile thru copse & K/G into next fld. Ahd X fld thru K/G. Ahd LHS of next fld & midway TL thru K/G onto rd. TR on rd to reach church on R. TR on rd to village centre then TL into CP.

CP 3 HAMBLEDEN

GR784865

24.2 km/15.0 miles

10.45 – 19.00

13. **24.2km/15.0miles** Return to rd with church ahd & TL on rd. Immed after small bridge TL thru K/G (FPS) & ahd X fld on FP parallel to main rd to the R thru K/G on R of bridge ahd. X trk & thru K/G & ahd thru next fld. Thru K/G in corner & ahd on pavement LHS of main rd Where pavement ends X to opp pavement & cont down rd to T junc with *A4155*. X rd to driveway (*Hambleden Marina*) TR & in 15m TL between houses (FPS). Ahd on drive towards white gate where TR & follow enc FP across weir & lock gates to far bank of River Thames. (May be an ice cream van here!).  
GR784851
14. **26.2km/16.3miles** TR & thru gate then follow riverbank with river on your R for 2.3 miles. Just before Henley Bridge follow enc FP as it bears L up to main rd.(FPS TP). TR & in 15m TL to X rd via island then TR over Henley Bridge. At traffic lights TL by *Angel Inn* PH & in 20m TL to towpath. Follow towpath with river on L for 1300m. Over small FB & TR (*Pool House*) on lane away from river. Ahd on lane 600m to main rd. Cross main rd **with care** & ahd up *Noble Road*. At end ahd to YMCA hall & finish.

HENLEY YMCA SPORTS PAVILION

GR765815

32.1 km/ 20 miles

07.00 – 20.00

WELL DONE!