

OXON 40 - 2005 ***Route Description***

Place names:**CAPITALS**=appears on OS Explorer 171/172(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 **OW**=Oxfordshire Way **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 1st mini-roundabout. After 2nd mini-roundabout TL to X rd via island & ahd on RHS of rd opp (*Stonor Park*). GR760830
- 2. 2.7km/1.7miles** In 300m immed after the *Old White Horse* PH TR on FP (FPS OW). Ahd on FP up RHS of fld (actual FP is enc on R but gets overgrown). At corner thru gap to rejoin FP & ahd thru wd. Keep to main FP which bears L uphill & thru K/G into fld. Ahd X fld aiming just L of nearest copse of trees & cont in same direction (CB 340) to top of hill & ahd thru K/G on L of farm buildings (WM). Ahd on enc trk thru Pig Holiday Camp & thru K/G to FP junc (WM). Ahd thru G/way (*Henley Park*) on drive passing several houses on your R including *Henley Park* then thru another G/way (*Henley Park*) & ahd on stony trk. In another 500m TR thru gap in trees to X stile (WM No. 30). Ahd LHS of fld then on enc FP, X stile, drive & **dodgy unstable** stile. Down then up RHS of fld. X stile & cont RHS of fld. X stile then thru trees to X lane thru barrier & ahd on enc FP to reach T junc with trk (grand gates on R)(FPS). GR753858
- 3. 6.0km/3.7miles** TR on trk thru G/way pass sign *Stray Animals* on your L & ahd on trk between enclosures with various odd looking strays (Emus? Llamas? Deer?)(*Please Don't Feed the Animals*). Ahd on trk thru woodland then immed before gate TL on FP (FPS) & ahd still between enclosures to exit wd via tall K/G (FPS). Ahd downhill X fld. At bottom cont ahd thru G/way on L of lone tree (FPS) & ahd RHS of fld. At end **DO NOT X STILE** to rd (FPS). GR763849

4. **7.3km/4.5miles** **TsharpL** on FP X fld away from rd (CB360) aiming for tall gate in opposite corner. Thru tall wooden gate into wd & follow FP (White arrows) which bears R to follow RHS of tall wire fence. Follow this fence for 700m (white arrows) eventually passing some sort of monument on other side of fence where FP gradually bears R away from fence (white arrows) to bear R thru tall gate & down steps to lane (FPS). TL on lane gradually ascending past *Benhams Lodge* on L (ignoring FP on L) & cont past grand entrance to *Benhams* on L, then after next house TL thru tall K/G (FPS) & ahd LHS of fld. At end of hedgerow on L cont ahd in same direction X grass & thru another tall K/G & ahd on enc FP with trimmed hedges. Thru metal gate & ahd on enc FP then drive to lane with church on far L (FPS). GR754867
5. **9.6km/6.0miles** TR on lane (*Marlow 7*) pass *Fawley Village Hall* on R & ahd at lane junc (*Southend 2*). Ahd 600m pass ex PH on L. At L bend (*Roundhouse Farm*) TR on BW between houses (BWS). Ahd on stony trk then at gateway to house on L cont ahd on enc BW. Cont on BW/Trk thru woodland. Ignore all trks on L & R but bear L with main trk (white arrow on tree) Again ignore all trks to L & R but keep to main trk with occasional white arrows. **Ignore trk to the R at G/way (with arrow)** but keep ahd. Trk starts to descend. At end of wd ahd downhill X fld. At bottom cont ahd on trk to reach T junc (BWS). TR on trk with house on R & in 100m TL on BW (BWS). Ahd on enc BW. Ignore first L fork & cont ahd for 250m with wd edge on R to reach BW junc with FP on L & R. Here TL uphill. 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

14.3 km/8.9 miles

08.30 –11.15

6. **14.3km/8.9miles** 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
7. **16.1km/10.0miles** 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
8. **18.1km/11.2miles** TL on lane (leaving CW) & at T junc with main rd TL along rd **with care** (*Hambleden*). Follow main rd around L bend then immed before 1st house TR to X stile to enc FP (FPS). Uphill then following FP to the R on a level section then to the L to continue steeply uphill into woodland becoming a trk. Follow this trk as it contours along the hillside (If it is blocked by fallen trees make your best way around the obstacle to rejoin the trk). Keep ahd where another trk ascends from the L. Bear R with main trk (WM on tree – *Keep dogs on lead*). At next trk joining from L (on level) TR with main trk (there are wooden barriers on the R just after this junc). In 50m FR on trk (WM arrow on tree) which starts to descend. FL at next junc still

descending (trk on R ascends). Then keep ahd on main trk (ignoring steeply descending trk to L). Where main trk does sharp L bend TR on trk then immed TL on FP thru trees into fld then ½R towards end of opp treeline (windmill ahd in distance) to join FP from the R. TL on FP thru trees to X stile on R of gate to lane. GR765905

9. **20.2km/12.6miles**X lane & X stile then ½R up fld to multi-WM post. TR on LHS of fld & in 100m TL thru gate & ahd up fld. At WM by seat bear L to follow RHS of fld thru gate & ahd LHS of next fld. Thru gate & ahd on enc trk thru gate to lane with TURVILLE COURT on L (BWS). TR on trk to enter *Churchfield Wood* & at 1st junc keep ahd then in 30m at next junc (WM post) ½R (2nd FP counting from R). Cont ahd thru wd gradually descending. At WM post TL to pass sign (*Idlecombe Wood*) & ahd on FP contouring along hillside. In 1km at T junc (WM) TR down many steps then X stile into fld. Ahd LHS fld to X stile to lane. X lane to drive entrance (BWS) & ½R on BW to R of gate. At T junc (white arrows) TR then in 80m FL (*I4*). At WM post TL (*I4*) on FP X concrete drive (WM post). X stile out of wd & ahd RHS fld. X stile & cont RHS fld & in 400m X stile in fence on R then ahd up thru wd to reach edge of churchyard. Immed before churchyard TL on FP thru wd. Ahd ignoring next FP on R into churchyard. At next T junc (white arrows) TR to X stile out of wd & ahd X fld towards poplars. Thru stile or gate to lane & TL to junc (with school on far L) X rd & TR to follow LHS verge of rd. GR757926
10. **24.9km/15.5miles**Keep ahead with flint wall on your L (IBSTONE HOUSE). At end of wall/fence TL thru gate (BWS) & ahd downhill on enc BW. Thru gate & cont ahd between wooden fences to go thru gate at bottom to BW T junc. TR on BW thru trees & in 60m at next BW T junc TL on enc stony trk. Immed after double gate on R (& before HARECRAMP COTTAGES) TR to X stile & ½L across fld. X stile & lane & ahd on BW opp (BWS). Follow BW along LHS of wd. Where ascending trk joins from the R keep ahd uphill (BW *Hanger Wood*). Emerge from wd & follow BW as it bears R uphill on RHS of fld. Thru gap & cont ahd on RHS. Thru another gap & cont ahd. Thru next gap then immed TL thru woodland to pass R of pond & reach X trk. TL on trk to reach houses & church at CADMORE END. TL on lane then TR to CP next to church.

CP 2 CADMORE END

GR784926

28.0 km/ 17.4miles

9.45 – 13.30

11. **28.0km/17.4miles**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. X rd with care & TR on pavement for 150m & TL on road (BWS *Kensham Farm*). GR790925
12. **28.7km/17.8miles**Ahd on bridge over M40 then TR on trk (BWS *Cadmores End Common*). At WM post on L TR on FP & in 15m FL on FP thru woodland. Ahd keeping to main FP. At cottage on L keep ahd & X stony drive (with house on R) to FP thru open woodland. X 2nd drive & ahd on FP in same direction. At choice of paths in wood keep ahd but if uncertain take rightmost FP to reach rd. TL on rd **if necessary** to reach sign on R *Wycombe District Council Wheeler End Common* (FPS) where TR on trk. GR801928
13. **30.2km/18.8miles**At common FL over grass & follow LHS with hedgerow on L. In 50m cont ahd with bracken now on R but still following hedgerow. Ahd over FP junc to lane. TL on lane & after bungalow on R TR (FPS) & ahd L of garage on enc FP. X stile & ahd X fld initially following bottom of dip then RHS of fld to X stile into wd. Ahd on FP then TL on trk which joins

from R (with flds now on R). Ahd on enc trk to reach FP/trk junc. TR on trk & in 15m FL up bank on FP thru wd. Ahd over X trks (white arrow on tree) & ahd on FP following faint white arrows to a X trk from fld on L. Ahd over trk (**DO NOT TR** on trk down to gate into fld) & cont ahd on FP (white arrows) which proceeds thru wd close to LHS of fld below. At end of fld on R cont ahd on FP over X trk to next X trk (WM post on R) where ½R on FP thru wd. Ahd on FP as it contours along hillside following LHS of open area pass broken stiles & uphill to reach FP junc (WM post with large yellow arrows). TL on FP & ascend to pass broken stile then RHS of wire fence. to leave wd & ahd RHS of fld. At end of fld pass post & ahd with wall on R to reach drive. TL on drive & in 100m see statue on your R with view down to WEST WYCOMBE HOUSE.

GR827938

14. **33.5km/20.8miles** Cont ahd on drive & at junc TR on descending drive. Cont ahd pass next junc (BWS on L). Ahd now on tarmac lane down to main rd (A40). X main rd & TL for 15m then TR thru gap (FPS) & ½L up fld. Thru gap by stile & cont ½L up next fld then ahd RHS of hedge (white arrows). Cont ahd where hedge bears L & into wd to X stile. Follow FP thru wd (white arrows). Leave wd in corner to T junc. TR on trk then in 50m at next T junc TL on grass trk (white arrows) initially between hedges then with wire fence on L. Thru gate (WM post) & immed TL to follow LHS of fld. At corner ahd on enc FP to X stile & follow RHS to X another stile 15m to L of gate (WM) then down LHS of fld. X two stiles then ahd RHS of fld towards farm. X stile (WM) then bear R thru farmyard & TL on trk thru G/way to main rd (BWS).

GR807943

15. **36.5km/22.7miles** X main rd & ahd on rd opp (*Dashwood Arms* PH to L). In 50m TR on trk (BWS) thru G/way (*West Wycombe Estate*) & follow to pass on L of FILLINGDON FARM. 50m before finger of woodland ahd bear ½R then TR thru gap in hedgerow to FP junc (WM post). Immediately TL on LHS of fld to TL into finger of woodland. At junc (white arrows on tree) TR (S52) to follow trk gradually uphill thru woodland. At FP junc X stile & ahd on trk thru BARN WOOD. Keep ahd to pass thru gap by barrier (*No Horses*) & cont ahd on main woodland trk to end of wd. Cont ahd on trk over short open area to next wd (white arrow). Cont ahd on main trk (which becomes tarmac) ignoring all signs on L & R. Trk initially ascends & then descends to go thru tunnel under M40. After tunnel cont on trk to pass barrier thru car park to main rd (FPS). TR on pavement & immed before bus stop TL & X rd & ahd on FP opp thru trees to reach lane. TL on lane & in 100m TL to CP.

CP 3 CADMORE END

GR783926

40.1 km/ 24.9miles

10.30 – 15.30

16. **40.1km/24.9miles** 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

17. **40.8km/25.4miles** 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 20m X stile & up steps to lane (FINGEST LANE)(FPS). TR on lane using grass verge on R (where practical) At RH bend TL **with care** to FP opp (FPS)

GR788914

18. **42.0km/26.1miles** X stile & ascend RHS of fld. X stile in corner & cont RHS of next fld & then ahd on enc FP. X stile (white arrow) & ahd on trk on RHS of next fld. At fld corner TL & cont on RHS. X stile on L of gate into wood. Ahd on enc FP to X stile out of wd & ahd LHS of fld to reach fence ahd. **Do not X stile in fence** but TR with fence on L. At fence corner **do not X stile** but TR again & descend with fence still on L. At next corner X stile on L of metal gate & TR to cont descending on RHS of fld with wd on R. Where fence on R bears R cont ahd to pass on the R of a small enc area of rough ground to X stile thru trees to lane. X lane **with care** up steps & thru K/G into fld. Ahd uphill to go thru small gate into wd. At T junc (WM) TL to follow FP on LHS of wood. Cont ahd at drive (FPS) to reach lane. TR on lane to ascend. In 200m after houses on L TL & X stile to enc FP (FPS). GR795906
19. **44.0km/27.3miles** 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
20. **46.0km/28.6miles** 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 which contours along hillside with the wood edge visible on the LHS. In a further 550m at X trk. TL uphill on trk which bears L & R to leave wd & ahd on enc trk between flds. Cont ahd on LHS of fld to reach rd (FPS). GR794883
21. **48.3km/30.0miles** TR on rd & at T junc cont ahd on rd opp (postbox on R). TL at next rd junc passing *Rockwell End Farm* on your L. 25m after drive to house on R TR X stile (FPS) & ahd on stony trk (fence on R). Where trk bears R cont ahd in same direction X fld towards woodland. Ahd thru gap into wd to T junc. TL on FP thru wd to X stile on L of gate to lane. ½R over lane to X stile & ahd X fld towards wd. At wd TR (WM) to follow LHS fld. X stile in corner (WM) & in 5m BR to follow FP thru wd. X stile (white arrow) & ahd RHS of fld. At corner cont ahd X fld to reach stony trk at far side. X trk & stile into wd (WM). In 20m TR at FP junc (white arrows). Follow FP to leave wd at gap in fence (WM) & TL on stony trk. At end thru gate, X lane & ahd on *Private Drive*. At X trk where tarmac drive bears R cont ahd on gravel trk to pass R of farm buildings thru G/way (stile on R) into wd & ahd on trk. Where trk bears L FR towards gate then immed TL on FP descending thru wd. Cont ahd downhill when FP becomes tarmac drive to descend into *Hambleden*. Pass the *Stag & Huntsman PH* into the centre of the village & TL opp the church to the CP.

CP 4 HAMBLEDEN

GR784865

51.8 km/ 32.2miles

11.30 - 19.00

22. **51.8km/32.2miles** Return to rd with church ahd & TR on rd. At T junc Cont ahd to pass *Stag & Huntsman* PH on R then immed TR thru village car park. Thru gate then ½L across sports ground & thru K/G (or gap just to the R) on L of trees in far corner. TR on trk with tennis courts on R. Ahd to T junc where TL on trk (FPS). As trk enters fld TR & ahd on RHS of fld (FPS) to X stile in corner into wd (WM). In 15m TR at WM post & thru K/G into fld. X fld to end of wd on far side of fld & thru K/G. Ahd LHS of fld to X stile in corner & down steps to lane (FPS). ½R X lane & drive entrance to ascend steps & X stile. Follow LHS fld as it bears L up & thru K/G into wd. Ahd on FP ascending thru wd. TL at T junc with trk by new plantation (WM post) & follow up to next trk T junc (WM post). TR uphill then BR on FP with double wire fence on L & wd on R. At fld corner BL now on FP between wire fences. At end ahd on trk X fld thru G/way with stile on L into wd (WM). Follow trk which initially bears R to newly planted area with tank on L. Ahd on FP thru new plantings (WM) then ahd thru mature woodland & FP starts to descend. TL at FP junc (WM post) & cont downhill to X stile to main rd (FPS). GR799847
23. **55.1km/34.2miles** X rd with care & TL on pavement opp with conifers on R. In 100 m TR thru gap in conifers then TL (Permissive FP) & follow trk on LHS with conifers now on L. Cont thru gap into next fld & at FP junc (Permissive Post with stile on L) TR to follow RHS of fld. At WM post on R at bend ½L X fld towards marker post. Ahd thru gap in woodland & ahd X fld to another marker post. Thru K/G (WM) X concrete trk & ahd X fld in same direction. X another concrete trk & thru G/way (WM). X fld to single power pole then TR to follow line of single power poles. At end thru K/G (WM) & TR on drive. At T junc with lane at bend cont ahd (FPS). Follow lane as it bends R after *Mill End House* to main rd (WM). TL & follow rd on RHS **with great care**. Initially there is no pavement or verge then use pavement on R. At rd T junc TL to X main rd with care to opp pavement with bus stop. TR along pavement then TL on FP between houses (FPS) GR785850
24. **57.8km/35.9miles** Ahd on drive towards white gate where TR & follow enc FP across weir & lock gates to far bank of River Thames (FPS TP)(May be an ice cream van here!) TL thru K/G or gateway & ahd on tarmac trk with Thames on L. Cont on trk as it bends away from the river (leaving TP) In 800m as the trk bends R towards houses TL on FP (FPS) with small fld on your R then across gravel to lane (FPS rejoin TP). TR on lane. Ahd at T junc by *Flowerpot Hotel* PH on *Aston Lane*. Ahd on lane ignoring FP on L (FPS leaving TP) & TR immed after *Highway Cottage* (FPS) thru K/G & up RHS of fld. X stile & ahd RHS of next fld thru K/G to FP junc (FPS) where cont ahd. FP becomes trk which is followed for 800m to X stile on L of double metal gate to lane. TL on lane & in 250m TR (FPS) thru gap & then ½L X fld on clear FP to FP junc immed before wd (FPS). Ahd on FP thru wd which ascends then descends to X stile out of wd. Ahd X fld in same direction to meet far end of fence on R & FP junc (FPS). TL on FP under trees to X stile then with short fence on L then ahd X grass in same direction to X stile in hedge on R (FPS). Ahd following gravel trk & thru K/G in corner (FPS). X lane & ahd thru posts then LHS of fld to end of railings of car park where TL on drive & ahd to main rd (FPS rejoin TP) GR764826
25. **62.3km/38.7miles** 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 64.3 km/ 40.0miles
07.00 – 20.00

WELL DONE!