

OXON 40-2008 ***Route Description***

Place names: **CAPITALS** = name appears on O.S. Landranger 175 (1:50,000)-or Street Name
Italics = name can be seen from route

Abbreviations: **ahd**=ahead: **B**=Bear: **BW**=Bridleway : **CB**=compass bearing (magnetic)
:cont=continue: **CW**=Chiltern Way: **CWE**=Chiltern Way Extension: **encl**=enclosed:
F=fork: **fld**=field : **fm**=from: **FP**=Footpath : **FPS**=Footpath sign : **G/way**=Gateway :
GR=O.S. grid ref : **immed**=immediately: **junc**=junction : **K/G**=Kissing gate: **L**=Left :
LHS/RHS=L/R hand side : **nr**=near : **opp**=opposite : **OW**=Oxfordshire Way : **R**=Right :
RD=road : **RW**=Ridgeway : **ST**=ST : **TK**=track : **thru**=through : **T**=Turn : **TP** =
Thames Path **wd**=wood : **WM**=waymark(ed), usually arrow: **X**=cross/across: **yds**=yards

Dogs on lead in fields with animals and where signposted please
Emergency Tel. No. 07860 758946, 07884 266309

From YMCA entrance, thru car park then turn immed very sharp L at *Noble Rd* sign gate onto encl FP. Proceed 200 yds to RD, and X RD then TL on Harpsden Way on pavement. Single file when pavement ends after 300yds, then downhill to BR at RD junction, to pass in front of church. At arch at entrance to second cemetery, TL (*Woodlands Rd*), then TL immed on BW. Uphill by fence and FR after climb, following yellow WM. On reaching RD, B slightly R of FPS (*Binfield Heath*), taking RH of two FPs., follow yellow WM to join metalled TK after 200yds at *Harpsden Wood House*.
GR SU759805

1.0 miles : Ahd on metalled TK 250 yds, then X 2 ST at *Harpsden Wood End* into fld, X fld and ST, then thru encl FP, over and ahd at further ST, along LHS of next fld and X ST to Lane. TR then at end of metalled lane (*Highwood House*) ahead on FP to BR after 40 yds on blue WM on BW (not FP), and follow 600 yds thru woods to RD. TL to follow RD as far as *Bottle and Glass* pub GR SU744793

2.2 miles : TR into pub car pk and ahd on BW past farm. After 400 yds, BL on BW at entrance to thick woods (blue WM). Descend on partially sunken FP/BW, BR at path junct after 300 yds to cont straight downhill between 'No Horses' signs to valley bottom. Up opp side for 550yds and along railings to pass *Keepers Cottage* on R and descend to RD GR SU733804

3.2 miles : TL on RD (CWE) and in 100 yds TR up lane (CWE). In 500 yds, TL on encl FP just past *Kingsfield House* (FPS). X 2 ST and 2 gates then down wood edge. At bottom TR in wood on new TK. Follow path along valley bottom, ignore FP to R, then at end of wood TR to go thru 2 K/G into field. Ahead RHS of fld to wood then ahd at junct on LHS of woods 850 yds (fence then golf course to L) to reach wide TK at double metal gates GR SU722819

4.6 miles: TR and follow TK 100yds then TL thru wooden gate. Ahd then after 160 yds TR over ST into field. X 2 flds and 3ST to pass L of church then to RD at ROTHERFIELD GREYS. TR on RD then opp. phone box, X into field and take LH of 2 FPs, leading X fld into wood at ST in 150 yds. Down thru holly trees on same trajectory to leave wood at broken ST. TL 300 yds along field edge then up thru woods, but just before reaching RD, TR on FP for 150 yds that parallels and eventually meets RD. Ahd on road verge for 50 yds, then X RD with care at T – Junct. GR SU725832

5.6 miles: Ahd up lane (CB 295), past crossing of CWE then 130 yds later, at end of trees on L, TR thru K/G, passing NT *Vermin* sign. Follow path 400yds into wood then BL at junct, after further 250 yds reach multi-path junct, where XST them immed L thru wooden gate and T sharp R (BW) (CB 10). Follow valley bottom, woods to R, field to L, for 200 yds, then R at 4 way junct to keep to valley bottom in spruce/pine plantation. GR SU719841

6.4 miles : Ahd on TK on valley bottom 900 yds, then approx 100yds before you reach end of plantation, FR (yellow WM) and climb 250yds to X 2ST next to farm. X TK and cont thru trees on right of woods, following faint WM on trees, 500yds to RD where TR. After 150yds reach main road at start of dual carriageway. X main RD (A4130) with care. TR on pavement & in 200 yds BL (FPS) between houses to reach *Bix Church*. X RD to R of church & TL on FP keeping to church wall on LHS of common to reach Village Hall behind church.

**CP 1. BIX & ASSENDON VILLAGE HALL GR SU728853 7.6 miles.
OPEN 08.30-11.30**

7.6 miles: TL on leaving hall, thru car pk, then TR on lane. After 100 yds, TL (FPS). . 200 yds into fld centre, TR at path crossing (CB 10), 120 yds to enter woods (CW) and follow WMs thru trees, ignoring paths to L, eventually joining TK from L and head downhill thru trees. Ahead on FP (WM) FL as TK enters field, sharp L at end of trees, X ST into fld, down to next ST and TR on TK. At farm, FL to go thru gate and yard to emerge on lane at *Valley End Farm*. GR SU727867

8.6 miles: TL on RD for 400 yds then TR up TK at BW sign uphill for 1300 yds through Nature Reserve (dogs on lead) to reach RD at yellow gas pipeline marker. TL on RD (20s head right) Follow RD for 200 yds to second yellow 'H' Pipeline marker, where BL on TK and after 80 yds, keep L to head up LHS of common, hedge then bushes to L, to reach RD after 300 yds. Here, T immed L on TK (CW) then after 130 yds, TR on FP (CW/SW 22). Downhill on FP (CB 240) thru field, and twice thru sections of Nature Reserve, eventually downhill into fld to emerge at five-way junct in valley bottom. GR SU710884

10.6 miles: Take TK opp (SW 28: only path that is not CW or CWE) and follow this past white house after 200 yds, then uphill on TK for 1400 yds, . BL at fork at rattan fence to reach RD after 100yds at PARK CORNER TL on RD past *Darkwood Farm* and follow as it swings to R to meet main RD at T Junct GR SU693885

11.8 miles:. TR for 40yds on verge then X RD WITH CARE at *Hollyhock House* and take BW (*Ewelme*) opposite. Ahd at path junct at 400yds and BR keeping to valley bottom after 600 yds, , X broad TK (white pole to L), then after 200 further yds reach path crossing, TR and X ST at steel gate (WM). Along LHS of field then swing L following WM onto RHS of second field, becoming TK. Keep to TK as it swings R to reach T-Junct with lane, where TL. Follow lane for 600 yds, bearing R at fork to reach Ridgeway (RW) at EWELME PARK HOUSE GR SU674893

13.3 miles: TR onto RW and follow RW and WM signs as they bear R. After 300 yds, pass on RHS of field, ignore path to R, then descend on RW thru trees to pass thru 2 K/Gs to valley bottom. TR (RW) on TK, 500 yds to ST BODOLPHS CHURCH. Pass to L of church then TL up lane. X RD and ahead on RW as it descends then rises on LHS of field . Follow RW WMs on TK uphill then downhill through woods, ignoring all sidepaths, eventually turning to L on RHS of fld to descend to NORTH FARM (1 mile from church). TR at two T juncts onto wide track (RW) and ahead to checkpoint GR SU680922

**CP 2. BOTTOM OF BRITWELL HILL GR SU680922 15.7 miles.
OPEN 1030-1245**

15.7 miles : Ahd on RW track and X RD (SP: *Watlington*), ahd 1000 yds, using walkers footpath on R where available to pass *Ridge Farm* on R. Ahd to RD at 4 way junct (RW) and after 400 yds, X busy B480 road and ahd on TK opposite (RW). After another 900 yds, reach minor RD, where leave RW, turn R then R on FP after '*Landscape*'. GR SU698940

17.3 miles: After 130 yds uphill, pass thru K/G and follow steep grassy path uphill onto downs. Path levels out at top and swings L, keep L at fork on trajectory of mast ahead, keep on LHS of ridge, then at end of open area with views, BR to go thru K/G and join gravel path , 250 yds to car park. GR SU710936

18.2 miles : Thru car park to join RD at *Watlington Hill Farm*, TR and follow RD for 400 yds to *Christmas Common*. TR at T-Junct and after 120 yds, just in front of postbox on L, TL on marked FP. Follow this cross fld and thru houses onto lane, then 100 yds later, as lane swings L, TR on FP (PY3). Ahd 250 yds to junct with FP SH4, where TR. After another 80 yds, BR on FP SH5, keeping to top of wood (do not descend on SH4) and follow WM as path runs along top end of wood. After 300 yds enter field, X on RHS and follow path as it swings R at grill fence to meet RD. GR SU722931

19.4 miles : TR on RD for 40 yds, then X ST on L and X Fld (CB230), X broken ST (care needed) into encl FP and follow this 300 yds to lane. TL on lane between hedges and after 150 yds, TL on FP (OW/PS 3). Follow path downhill, BR after 300 yds (OW/W18), then join TK after further 700 yds. After 600 yds reach 4-way junct, where TR uphill (PS4/OW), entering fld after 120 yds. X Fld (CB 225) and up LHS , farm and pond to L, to X Lane and ST and cont on OW/PS5 opposite. After 120 yds, X ST to wood and BL at junct (OW/PS5), follow downhill for 800 yds then BL at WM s into fld and 750 yds to RD. TR on RD for 60 yds then TL up lane (OW) to reach PISHILL CHURCH. GR SU727898

**CP 3. PISHILL CHURCH CAR PARK GR SU727898 22.2 miles
OPEN 1200-1500**

22.2 miles : Pass church and *Old Vicarage* then left at *Chapel Wells*, and ahead thru posts into fld (PS17) – ignore turning for PS22. Ahd on LHS of field for 450 yds to dip, then steeply up opposite side in woods. Keep ahead on WMs for 500 yds, then follow OW WM's at forks to X RD and ahd on OW ½ R, ignoring logging TK to L. Keep on OW/PS17 and after 250 yds enter field, X to RHS and along edge of fld to path marker at far RH corner next to farm. GR SU724884

23.2 miles : Do not proceed on encl FP ahead, but turn v sharp L (CW) and recross fld going under electric posts again on CB 80 (rejoin Oxon 20 route) Continue into wood. Down thru wood on WM'd path, then thru K/G and X field in direction of village. Pass L of copses to ST and down field, X 2 ST (care needed) and cont to RD at STONOR GR SU736 886

24.1 miles: TL on road for 300 yds, single file on RHS with great care at bend. Thru metal turnstile on R (CW) into deer park. Follow path uphill, after 100m keeping to deer fence and passing R of STONOR HOUSE, eventually leaving deer park thru another metal K/G, then cont along path, after 130yds merging with TK, then 350 yds uphill. Ahd at multiple TK, then thru gate to X RD. Ahd on TK opp (FPS, leaving CW). After 50 yds, TL onto unmarked path thru trees (do not pass

Kiln Cottage or follow walkers rejoining this TK from the checkpoint). Pass to L of pond. Thru trees to emerge onto common and ahd to CP

CP 4. SOUTHEND COMMON GR SU753898 25.6 miles.
OPEN 1300-1615

25.6 miles : Retrace the route you came on cross common and thru woods, past pond to rejoin TK and TL to pass *Kiln Cottage*. After 130 yds, where TK bears L to house, cont ahead over ST into field. Ahead on RHS of field, ignoring STs to R, for 500 yds, eventually leaving field over ST at far RH corner. Follow FP by fence downhill to path crossing and cont ahead up opposite bank for 300 yds, eventually leaving wood at ST, then X fld (CB 185 and further ST to RD junct. GR SU757887

26.4 miles : TL on RD (sign for vineyard), fence and field to L, then after 40 yds, as road enters woods on both sides, TR thru grass for 20 yds to meet power line. TL to follow line of poles downhill. 30 yds in front of fourth pole, TR on WM'd path entering wood, then ahd thru wood for 350 yds on faint WMs, ignoring path heading L, to leave wood at ST. Keep to RHS of first field, then ahead across 2nd field (CB 230) to X ST to meet BW, where TL. GR SU760881

27.2 miles : Follow encl BW downhill, eventually entering woods after 400 yds. Keep on main WM'd path and descend to 4 way TK junct in valley bottom. Ahead uphill for 350 yds on wide TK on opposite side of valley to reach marker post, where TL on winding FP through woods. Eventually, after 300 yds, emerge at TK junct, where cont ahead on TK (WM), then ahead at four way TK junct to join TK merging from L at sign for *Built Farm*. Follow metalled TK downhill to reach house (*no 84*) after bend, where cont ahd to leave main TK to pass under electric wires, then as TK turns uphill, cont ahead (CB25) on path across field in direction of trees and white house, eventually through gap in hedge to reach RD at *Colstrove Lane* GR SU780880

28.7 miles : Up *Colstrove Lane* to X bridge, then take path on R (FPS), and X ST. X further ST and ladder, then diagonally across fld in direction of house on hill (CB125) to reach fenced gap in hedge under electric wires, X ST and TR to go thru gate. Follow path down valley across LHS of 2 fields, X lane, then in between gardens (CW), thru 3 K/Gs to enter field paralleling RD to L, village ahead Thru further K/G, then follow path bearing to R of church, thru K/G to RD. TL on RD to pass to R of church, eventually emerging in centre of village. Cross RD junct to cont on gravel TK thru gate to signed *Village Hall*

CP 5. HAMBLEDEN VILLAGE HALL GR SU784865 29.7miles
OPEN 1400- 1700 (40 milers) -1845 (35 milers)

Strugglers have the option at this point to jump ahead to the 35.0 mile point and return to Henley, making a total walk length of 34.7 miles. Those arriving after 17:00 at this checkpoint must take this short-cut

29.7 miles : Return to RD with church ahd. TR on RD, then ahead to pass *The Stag and Huntsman*. Continue up lane, pass *Kenricks* on R, lane becomes path then TK leading uphill. Pass thru gate at top of hill onto wider TK, pass barn on R then after 200 yds, TL at 4 way junct onto RD to pass *Huttons Farm* on R. Continue ahd then, 50 yds after sharp turn to L, TR thru gate onto TK (FPS, *No Biking*). Ahd on TK for 220 yds, swinging R into wood, then ahd on main TK branching R at two forks ('FP' signs at second). Ahd (WMs on trees) and after 170 yds, BR at WM onto grassy path. Ahd 800 yds to RD ignoring FP to L across fld. GR SU798876

31.1 miles : TR for 10 yds, then X ST opp. and X fld to far side then continuing on fld edge to enter wood at ST. TR and follow path to edge of wood, then pass along RHS of fld for 50 yds, then as field edge swings R, cont on current bearing (CB 150) to X fld (Left track of two faint tracks). On reaching wide TK on far side of fld, pass thru wooden posts into wood and after 40 yds, TL to take path at CB50. Continue ahd to X TK then down LH side of wood to game bird enclosure on R (DANGER ; ELECTRIC FENCE). X ST on L to TK. GR SU804875

31.6 miles : Ahd at TK junct (uphill), for 400 yds, then at second bird enclosure, swing R with main TK, ignoring FP ahd. Pass down side of fld, fence then trees to R, after 300 yds entering woods onto narrow FP. Con on FP, X 2 TKs, then downhill to X wide TK in valley. Up opp side of valley, X ST, BR on WM to pass house to L on v faint FP, circumnavigating garden to meet RD at *Woodside House*. TR on RD for 350 yds, then take CW path on L, X 2 STs then field (CB 260 – aim for houses ahead), X STs and further fld to reach houses at ROTTEN ROW. GR SU799867

33.5 miles : Ahd on RD past duckpond for 150 yds, then TL thru gate (FPS), follow path along LHS of field and ahd thru wood ignoring paths to L and R. Swing L with TK into valley after 200 yds, joining TK from R, then 40 yds later, before grass clearing, TR on FP follow path uphill to edge of wood. Take TK ahd across fld to reach lane at gate. TR on lane for 200 yds to RD. Cross RD and ST. TL on FP parallel to RD for 250 yds to X ST. TR thru K/G and ahd on path with barbed wire fence to R, over small rise, ignoring path heading L, then downhill to join TK downhill. Ahd thru K/G to X fld. At TK junct TL and after 100 yds TR (do not shortcut to join any walkers you see in valley ahead!). Ahd on TK for 600 yds, then TL on lane back into Hambleton Village with *The Stag and Huntsman* on L. Ahead 200 yds to church, where TL to enter checkpoint

**CP 6. HAMBLEDEN VILLAGE HALL GR SU784865 35.0 miles
OPEN : 1400-1845**

35.0 miles : Return to RD with church ahd & TL. Immed after small bridge TL thru K/G (FPS) & ahd X fld on FP parallelling RD to R. Thru 2 K/Gs thru next fld. Thru K/G in corner & ahd on pavement on LHS of RD Where pavement ends X to opp pavement & cont down RD to T junc with A4155. X RD to driveway (*Hambleton Marina*) TR & in 15yds TL between houses (FPS). Ahd on drive towards white gate where BR & follow encl FP across weir & lock gates to far bank of River Thames. GR SU782851

36.2 miles: TR & thru gate then follow riverbank with river on your R for 2.3 miles. Just before Henley Bridge follow encl FP as it bears L up to main rd.(FPS: TP). TR & in 15yds TL to X RD via island then TR over Henley Bridge. At traffic lights TL by *Angel Inn PH* & in 20yds TL down road and join to towpath. Pass *Hobbs & Co* office and keep to towpath with river on L for 1300yds. Over small FB & TR (*Pool House*) on lane away from river. Ahd on lane 600yds to main rd. Cross main RD with care & ahd up *Noble Road* to YMCA hall.

**HENLEY YMCA SPORTS PAVILION GR SU765815 40.0 miles
07.00 – 20.00
WELL DONE!**