

OXON 40 -2009

Route Description

Place names: **CAPITALS** = name appears on O.S. Landranger 175 or Explorer 171 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 WM: **X**=cross/across: **yds**=yards

Dogs on lead in fields with animals and where signposted please
Emergency Tel. No. 0786 0758946, 07884 266309

Thru Henley YMCA Sports Pavilion car park, TL then immed TR towards main RD. In 80yds TL along slip RD. At end ½R to cont on pavement of main RD, past *Esso* garage then 600yds past mini-roundabout and *Jewsons* to traffic lights. TL up FP (SP : *Holy Trinity Church*). At T junc at top, TR on FP, pass church and continue to end of *Church St* and main RD. X RD with care and ½ L on LHS of *Deanfield Ave* for 30yds. TL in front of youth centre (FPS) at *No Parking* sign and ahd. up TK, cont on encl FP. After 400yds, ahd on RD and after 200yds, TR along *Tilebarn Close*. In 120yds, TL at *Paradise RD* sign & take encl FP to R (FPS: *Rotherfield Greys*)(CB280) heading up bottom of valley.

GR SU753 822

1.2 miles : Cont ahd up valley bottom, ignoring all cross tracks, for 1300yds to X ST. Ahd RHS of trees passing L of house, to X ST. Ahd along FP to reach & cont on TK. Over X TKs & ahd over fld in valley bottom. In 300yds where TK bends L (*Hernes Estate Keep Out*) , BR to X ST into fld. Ahd along LHS of fld, thru gate and keep ahd up valley for 800 yds, ignoring two paths to left. Thru gap in fence and enter trees. After 100yds, immed before reaching RD, TR on path paralleling road. After 160yds, when path intersects with RD, 50yds on RH road verge then X RD (with care) TL at bend onto minor RD.

GR SU724 831

3.3 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 fork L at junct, after further 250 yds reach multi-path junct, where XST them immed L thru wooden gate and T sharp R (B26) (CB 10). Follow valley bottom for 200 yds, then TL at 4 way junct (B27). Keep to valley bottom for 900 yds. X ST and ahead on same trajectory (CB 340) , pass to L of overgrown pit, X lane and 100 yds ahead to X ST (not gate to R of this). Ahd into woods (picking up Builders Tape marking this section) for 500 yds then TL on wider gravel path for 200 yds, downhill into dip. Just as this path starts to climb again, TR at faint yellow WM on tree on faint path with WMs, eventually TK, for 450 yds. At fork in paths BR, then after 100 yds, TL on grassy path and follow this, ignoring path bearing R, to RD at HIGHMOOR

GR SU 700 843

5.0 miles: TR on pavement of main RD for 100 yds, X RD with care at *Stonehouse* and take marked FP up gravel Lane, to pass R of houses and swing R at wooden garage. Ahd on drive to X ST & cont down RHS of fld. X ST to encl FP to RD. X (with care) to RD opp (*Witheridge Hill*).

GR SU698 842

5.4 miles: Ahd up RD (not FP!) for 60yds & TR on TK to pass R of *Bucksbarn*. Cont on TK & after 2nd FPS, at *Witheridge Hill Farm*, FL downhill. In 60yds X TK & down FP to L of concrete mushrooms, 300yds to lane. TL along lane for 100yds to reach XRDs. TR up wider road (*Stoke Row*), then after 80yds next to entry to *Bushwood*, TR into wood (FPS). Follow path in wood uphill for 500yds (CB 270), ignoring fork to R. At T-junct with path on edge of wood, TR, then after 70yds, TL into fld and recreation ground. Proceed uphill, passing to R of pavilion and on leaving car park, X ST on L to take encl FP on far side of hedge. Follow FP over ST to village green, cross green ½ R, then TR on main road thru village, passing *Cherry Tree* pub to reach Village Hall on L immed after *Power Garage*.

CP 1. STOKE ROW VILLAGE HALL GR SU680 840 6.6 miles
OPEN: 08.00-10.00

6.6 miles : Leave hall and TR back along main street, then take 2nd left just before pub (*Nottwood Lane*). Ahd 400 yds, then immediately before *Crooked Billet* pub, TL thru car park between pub and shed and take FP X fld. Thru K/G and 150 yds to bottom of hill, TR thru 2 gates and new paddock and follow path to RD after 300 yds. TR on RD for 50 yds then TL on faint FP on LHS of wood. Follow this uphill along fence into encl FP to reach RD. Ahd up RD passing L of *Newnhamhill Farm Cottage* and R of unlabelled farm thereafter, then thru gate and K/G and up LHS of fld. After 350 yds enter wood at K/G, BR to follow path to wide track, where TL. Follow TK northwards, leaving wood after 500 yds and BL to *Howberrywood Farm* GR SU688 857

8.1 miles : Just before farm, take marked Permissive Path to L. Thru gap in 1st hedge, across field to gap in 2nd hedge, then R along RHS of fld, X ST and TL to follow field edge round to opposite corner. Enter wood taking path on LHS.. Leave wood at gate, downhill to another gate, where do not exit field over ST, but TR within fld (CB 20) and up LHS, thru gate to path junct, where TL on TK, pass mast and *Studio One* to reach main RD GR SU684 872

9.6 miles : X RD with great care and X ST opp. Ahd on FP, becoming TK, 700 yds to X ST to RD. TL for 150 yds, then R thru metal gate into wood. Ahd 400 yds to TR thru gap in fence just before sports pitch, and up LHS of fld. After houses to L, BL to enter wood, then BR away from houses and descend on wood edge to benchmark and gateway, where BL downhill on yellow WM, X wide path in dip and thru gap on LHS of second gate to join TK in fld. Pass white and red pole and after 300 yds, swing L with TK/path, up RHS of second field, then swing R in wood to eventually join lane. TL for 500 yds to reach Ridgeway at *Ewelme Park House* GR SU 674893

11.7 miles : TR on RW, swinging R after farm buildings. Ahd on WM, as main TK swings L. Up smaller TK onto path on RHS of fld, then on meeting row of trees on R, TR at wooden FPS (leaving RW) into trees then X ST into fld. Follow path along top of hill and on RHS of fld for 800 yds then enter wood at ST. Thru plantation, X TK and metalled RD, thereafter immed after fld corner and gate on L, BL downhill to path junct, where BL to go thru K/G into large field [CW]. Ahead downhill towards houses, BR of trees at bottom onto encl FP then X lane and proceed to back of *St Bodolphs church*. Just before gate, TR thru K/G into churchyard. Pass immed L of church and leave c/yd at gate, TR onto wide TK GR SU 682902

13.3 miles : Pass L of church then TL up lane to RD (RW), X RD and take RW opposite, down to dip then uphill with fence to R. At end of large fld, ahead into trees. 200 yds after commencing descent, TL

at marker post onto Chiltern Way (CW). Follow CW for 1000 yds till reach open area on downs, TL (CW) thru K/G onto open ridge with views. Thru 2nd K/G and downhill thru trees to checkpoint.

CP 2 SWYNCOMBE DOWNS GR SU666 914 15.1 miles
OPEN: 10.00-12.30

15.1 miles : Ahd thru trees to RD and TR (west) for 80 yds, then TL on BW (CB 190). Ahd up LHS of fld on FP. bec TK after 500 yds. Ahd over TKs at 900 and 1500 yds, staying on CB 200, , then on reaching wood 150 yds after second of these X TKs, ahd into wood (BW) as TK bears L. Ahd over ridge for 750 yds, then at T-junct just after starting descent, TL on grassy TK. Ahead to houses after 1000 yds, after these TL on TK, then after 20 yds TR on encl BW up valley bottom [CW]. After 500 yds, TR on RW, 500 yds uphill to main RD at NUFFIELD COMMON GR SU674 877

18.1 miles : X main RD WITH GREAT CARE, up partially hidden steps opp (RW), TR to pass in front of white house and follow white posts across golf course (RW). BR of clubhouse, ahd across grass, Thru K/G and field to reach RD at NUFFIELD. TR and pass R of church (water tap available). After house next to church, TL onto RW. Ahd to descend to dip where keep ahead leaving RW as it bears R for *Grim's Ditch*, up opp side of valley thru trees. After 500 yds, swing round house on encl FP, X ST at entrance, follow fence then swing L to X fld. Ahd at X TKs then X 2 flds and K/Gs to reach HOMER FARM GR SU 663 857

19.8 miles : Ignore TK heading R, instead BL between house and barn (*Footpath* sign) to reach Lane, where TL 600 yds to reach RD. Ahd on wide WM'd TK opp (CB 160) (not narrow FP to L), Pass skips and house on L. Follow path and track for 1.2 mls to reach *Stoke Row Farm*, and cont. ahead on RD for 350yds. Immed after passing entrance to *Pond House* on R, TR at FPS, ignoring K/G and keeping to encl FP. Pass MAHARAJ's WELL on R, to emerge on main road. X RD with Village Hall 1/2 L.

CP 3. STOKE ROW VILLAGE HALL GR SU680 840 21.6 miles
OPEN: 11.30-14.00

21.6 miles: From Village Hall, TL on main road for 160yds, pass school, then TL in front of church onto *School Lane*. After 220yds, cont on TK (ignore FP to R), then 130yds further, TR on encl FP (marked on inside of fence : *Checkendon*). X Fld on encl FP and TL into woodland, bear R at path junct 50 yds after passing corrugated iron shed. Descend thru wood and X improvised ST into fld. Ahd on LHS of field, over ST in front of house and further ST to reach RD. TL on RD and after 30 yds, TR over ST. X fld to corner of trees ahd, pick up earth path to L of wood, and ahd to ST at far corner of fld at end of line of electric posts. X RD and take FP opp, bec TK at house, where BR on RH of two FP (do not proceed to pub on right), ahead thru trees to emerge at SCOTS FARM, GR SU662 839

22.7 miles: X RD and cont ahd.on TK (FPS) to R of houses. Ahd. at X TKs (WM) after 200yds, then descend thru woodland for 500 yds to 4 way junct in dip, ignoring all paths to R and L. At 4 way junct, TL on TK and follow this for 800 yds thru trees into grassy area, where BR on FP which rises uphill, sporadic views thru trees to L. After 200 yds, TL down steps to reach *Johns Gate*. Thru gate and downhill, thru K/G into next field, then BL at bottom thru K/G (FPS) into encl FP. Ahd and BL of pond to emerge on RD at entrance to *Bottom Farm House* GR SU 646 836

24.1 miles : TR on lane for 300 yds, then TL on restricted byway. Follow path uphill for 1200 yds , bec TK then RD to meet main RD at T-junct after passing *Hammonds*. TL on RD (**care needed : single file**)

please) for 250 yds passing postbox and ignoring TK to R. After 30mph sign, take encl FP to L for 200 yds, then TR thru 2 green K/Gs and X fld to R of hedge/wall bounding large country house. Thru K/G to lane then TR, passing R of church to reach RD, TL on RD, pass church and next house to reach village hall on L

CP 4 CHECKENDON VILLAGE HALL, GR SU664831 25.7 miles

OPEN: 12.00-15.00

25.7 miles : X RD in front of hall ½ R and take FPS opp up TK to R of cricket pitch. Pass thru gate/ST to L of *Timbers Yard*, then up TK, At hut on L, ahd on WM into wd, ignoring all side paths. Thru wood on main path to emerge at end on TK, X ST into fld and X to reach RD. TR on RD for 400 yds to *Larchdown Farm*, Take BW on R to L of farm sign, ahd 250 yds to reach four way junct where ahead over small mound onto unmarked FP, which swings L after 30 yds (not on OS map). Follow this downhill to reach RD at T-junct. GR SU677 827

26.9 miles : TR on RD at T Junct (CB 180) for 400 yds, pass house on L, then take FP on L immed afterwards (FPS : *Stoke Row*). Uphill past forestry sign, thru K/G and BL at top, to emerge after 300 yds at stables. Take RD for 40 yds (*Private* sign ahead), then BL on marked FP for 150 yds to 4-way junct, where T sharp R Follow this path into housing estate, TR to pass small roundabout and continue on WM'd path ahead. After 200 yds, BL at path junct, do not X ST, then follow waymarked path thru trees to reach fld and cont on RHS of fld. After 300 yds, thru gate and TR on BW. Follow BW for 500 yds to RD. GR SU683 814

28.8 miles : : Builders tape will be on trees over this section. TR 30 yds and X RD, take BW sign opp, but immed BL on unmarked FP. Merge with another path after 200 yds then BL 200 yds later on WM'd path, keeping edge of field in sight to your L (but not entering field). Continue on path close to LH side of wood thru holly for 500 yds to meet path leading in from field/trees to L at gap between wooden and wire fence, Thru gap in fence and TL at *Access on Foot only* sign on wider path, Ahd on this for 750 yds to pass overgrown pit on L, then 100 yds later, as main path swings sharply R, go ahead on smaller waymarked path. BL at second path junct after 120 yds to leave wood at K/G. X fld to LHS, ahead ignoring path crossing diagonally, and ahead to K/G at far LH corner of field. Ahd LHS of fld to RD, where TL for 100 yds, then TR at old well, on FP with partially hidden sign and follow yellow WMs on CB130, avoiding paths bearing L, 450 yds to gate at RD end. Ahd down road with houses (*no 75 to R, passing Beech Rise on L and Orchard Ave on R*) for 800 yds to main street and TR to village hall next to *Somerfield* supermarket.

CP 5 SONNING COMMON VILLAGE HALL GR SU 707803 30.8 miles

OPEN: 14.00-17.00

Note : you may if you wish change to a 36 mile route here and **must do so** if you are later than the closure time . If you do so, please have your card marked accordingly and you will be given a new route description back to Henley (20 route).

30.8 miles : TL on *Wood Lane* (main street) for 100 yds, then X RD and take marked FP to R (FPS : *Library*) . Follow this between houses, with one RD crossing, for 250 yds to reach main B481 road. X with care and up *Blackmore Lane* opp. . After 600 yds, immed before *Pond Farm Cottage*, TL onto nWM FP, X 2 steep STs and swing left into fld. After 100 yds swing R to X fld 200 yds to RD (DANGER : BEWARE TRAFFIC AS YOU STEP ONTO ROAD). TR for 40 yds, then L on FP (FPS: *Henley*) . Ahead X fld and down LHS of wood, ahead at FPS in valley bottom and up opp side of valley,

X 2 ST and 2 gates to emerge on lane at *Kingsfield House* . TR on lane (CWE), 400 yds to RD, TL 100 yds to where 2 FPs are signposted off to R GR SU 732804

32.8 miles : Take FP labelled *Crowsley ½*, NOT that labelled *Binfield Heath*, which will be taken by the 20s.. Ahead over grassy hill, following marker posts, ignore path leading R, to leave park at K/G after 1200 yds. X RD and ST opp, X fld and ST and TR on lane to reach *Harvest House*, where TL onto FP round side of garden. Keep to RHS of fld as it swings L, after 500 yds follow WMs to left past horse jump to go thru gap in trees and ahd on TK on LHS of field. Keep on WM to swing L to CB 130 after 400 yds, then ahd over multiple path junct , follow TK on LHS of several fields, 1100 yds to enter trees, pass to R of house, onto metalled TK and reaching RD, 500 yds later. SU 734783

34.6 miles : Ahd on FP opp, 500 yds to lane. TL on lane, swing to R, ignoring FP on L, ahead to house and down BW (*Dunsden Green*) . 100 yds from house, at end of fence, TL on FP, up LHS of fld to RD. TL for 10 yds, then R down encl FP to R of *Little Manor*. Cont behind gardens and TR on TK and follow 200 yds to RD. TL and follow RD with care for 600 yds, TL down *Kings Common Road*, and BR to CP, following signs to *Recreation Ground*.

**CP 6 BINFIELD HEATH RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK GR SU746785 35.5. miles
OPEN: 15.00-18.45**

35.5 miles : . Return to main RD and TL for 100 yds,.TR at FPS onto *Fosters Lane*, Ahead on FP and down LHS of field for 300 yds. At far LH corner of fld, TL to X ST. Down thru wood and up LHS of next fld. Ahd thru gap in hedge to path crossing and ahd thru next fld to swing L along line of electric poles. Along these for 100m, then BL to X 2 ST and up to houses at SHIPLAKE ROW, *White Hart* pub to L . SU 756785

37.0 miles : X RD and take marked FP to R of *Rosemary Cottage* and *Waylands*. Up LHS of fld to TK and TR. After 150 yds. As TK swings sharply R, TL on encl FP. Ahead for 1100 yds, crossing TKs, thru dip on wood and X fld, to meet lane at barrier. TR on blue WM, ignoring FPS opp, 100 yds to junct, where ahd on TK opp (FPS : *Lower Shiplake*) , passing L of *Little Beeches* . Ahead on TK 750 yds downhill to main RD SU770801

38.2 Miles : Cross busy Main Road with GREAT CARE and up *Bolney Lane* opposite. Pass playing fields to left and cross railway bridge. At T-junct, TL and after 250 yds BL onto encl FP. Pass model railway and ahd to river. Follow west bank of RIVER THAMES on TP, eventually crossing wooden bridge to lock. Ahd crossing back to west bank of river next to *Pool House*, where cont ahead up *Mill Lane*, leaving river. Cross railway to reach main road, cross ½R to go up *Noble Road* to YMCA and end.

**HENLEY YMCA SPORTS PAVILION GR SU766 815 40.2 miles./ 3340 ft ascent
07.00 - 20.00
WELL DONE!**