

OXON 40-2010

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: **enc**=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**=stile: **TK**=track: **thru**=through: **T**=Turn: **TP**=Thames Path
wd=wood: **WM**=waymark(ed), usually arrow: **X**=cross/across: **yds**=yards

Emergency Tel. No. 07860 758946

*Before you start: - Please check for any amendments to the route. Details will be on display.
This is a tough hilly route – please start promptly, strugglers may take 36 mile route at CP4. Torches
are recommended for slower walkers. Dogs on lead whenever in fields with animals and in nature
reserve.*

Leave YMCA and TL through gap in fence then L onto encl FP. Follow 200 yds to X RD and up *Peppard Lane* opposite. Ahead ignoring all turnings for 700 yds to reach end of road at *Cilgerron House*, then ahd on BW. Keep ahead 800 yds, eventually fence and gardens to R to reach multiple path junct at end of fence, where 1/2R on widest path (not sharp R though wooden posts) and then ahead 100 yds to RD junct (*Gillots Lane*) GR SU 747 815

1.2 miles: X *Gillots Lane* and go through K/G, immediately sharp R on unmarked FP (NOT that for *Hunts Green*). Keep parallel to hedge to R, eventually merging with another FP from L, and go thru hedge at K/g. TL 50 yds and X RD to postbox and up *Elizabeth Road* opposite. After 150 yds, keep on *Elizabeth Rd* by swinging L at junct, then at bend 40 yds later, between nos 70 & 68, TL up tarmac on encl FP (hidden FPS sign next to No 70). Follow path 300 yds thru fld to RD and X RD to go up *Highlands Lane* (FPS). After 250 yds, TR on FP (FPS: *Sonning Common*). GR SU 742 814

1.7 miles: Ahead on wide path, cross field then to lone oak tree within second field, where BR, 200 yds to fld edge, thru gap at WM, X ST and along encl FP, X 2 ST to lane, where TR. Keep L of buildings of *Upper House Farm*, passing onto grassy TK on RHS of fld and follow this 250 yds to X ST next to gate and meet *Chiltern Way Extension* (CWE.). TR on CWE, uphill on TK, passing to R of *The Old Barn*. Keep ahead on this TK for 1300 yds to reach 4 way junct, where ahead thru gate on blue WM. Ahead 1300 yds to RD. GR SU 717 829

4.3 miles: X RD and take unmarked narrow FP opposite into woods, leaving CWE, 100 yds to reach minor RD. TR on this for 120 yds, then immed before *Give Way* sign at T Junct, TL on unmarked path. Follow 150 yds to reach fence, where TL thru gate and up encl FP. BL as you pass into a wood and ahd over 3 K/gs to reach SHEPHERDS GREEN. GR SU 714 833

5.0 miles : T sharp R on lane (do not proceed to green itself) . After 100 yds, TL down encl FP follow this down fence, thru dip and past orchards, up opposite hill to reach lane. TL for 40 yds then TR thru K/G at FPS onto encl FP passing round gardens and then down into valley, watch for low branches. TR in valley bottom, 250 yds to 4 way junct. GR SU 719 841

5.8 miles : Ahd over path junct (yellow WM) on grassy TK swinging L thru spruces 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. Past broken ST and X TK and cont thru trees, 400yds to lane 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 entrance & TL on FP keeping to church wall on LHS of common to reach Village Hall behind church.

CP 1. BIX & ASSENDON VILLAGE HALL GR SU 728 853 7.0 miles.
OPEN 0830-1130

7.0 miles : T sharp left round hall and X car park to lane. TR for 100 yds, then TL onto TK next to *Bix Common* street sign (FPS: *Nettlebed 1 1/2*). Ahead for just over 1 mile, crossing field, passing mobile phone mast and several X TKs to reach lane at *Halfridge* and *Beech House* . Ahead on lane for 200 yds to reach crossroads at *Catslip* (sign to R), where TR on lane heading north. Proceed 300yds to road fork at top of hill and BL on wider of 2 lanes. Pass through CROCKER GREEN village, green and postbox to R, and ahead to FPS below power cables. GR SU 708 869

8.7 miles : X ST (FPS: CWE), and fld, bearing to L of cypress trees and large garden ahd. X ST by gate. TR on RD/RK, 120yds to gates of *Soundess House* where TL (CWE) on TK. Pass *Shepherd Cottage* on L then 120yds later, as TK turns R, keep ahead into field (CWE). Keep to RHS of fld and look closely for partly hidden ST to enter woods after 350 yds. Ahd on edge of trees to X ST into open field, and diag X fld on trajectory of clump of trees and of valley ahead (CB 0). Downhill for 250yds, and X ST to multiple path GR SU 709 884

9.7 miles : Ahd at path junct (FPS; CWE). taking encl TK up (possibly muddy) valley bottom After 550 yds, TL thru K/g. Swing R round fence corner ahead, following RH of two sets of white WMs. Ahd, with fence to R (CB 250), thru K/g after 150 yds. Up RHS of fld, along electric fence to X 2 ST then 3 fields separated by gates, following CW WMs , then X ST and TL onto encl FP, ahd to bend in lane at PARK CORNER. GR SU 694 887

10.9 miles : TL on lane. At bend after 200 yds , just before *Wild Wood*, BL onto FP,. Merge with wider path from R after 100 yds, then 40 yds later, as this becomes TK, TR on FP (FPS: *Nettlebed 1*, SW 38). Follow this path to X ST, pass to L of farm, X ST onto TK for 20 yds, then as this bends R, ahead over ST. X further ST and keep ahead to copse corner. Keep to LHS of fld, descending to LH corner of fld, where X ST. Ahead on WM (CB 135) on faint path, climbing to highest point in field to meet with ST entering wood. X ST, ahead in wood (white WM) for 100 yds to TL at T-junct. Ahd 200 yds to meet TK. GR SU 699 877

11.7 miles : TL for 40yds, turning R onto FP before sign for *Westwood Manor Farm*. Proceed on LHS of wood for 400 yards to reach gravel lane at two houses. Follow lane as it bears R on first bend then. At second bend to R after 100yds, BL off track onto FP marked by white WM on tree to R. CARE NEEDED : Follow this path thru wood, look carefully for and keep to white WMs on trees, fork L after 100 yds and eventually

emerge onto lane next to green gates. TR and descend lane (becoming *Mill Road*) 300 yds to reach B 480 at NETTLEBED. TL, 200 yds to RD junct in centre of village. GR SU 701 868

12.5 miles : X RD and ahead thru large iron gates (*Joyce Grove* – Sue Ryder Home). Cont along driveway, past large house on R, past all car parks to lodge gates & main rd (B481). TR & in 60yds X rd (**with care**) & ahd on TK (Restricted Byway : *Bix 1 3/4*) thru woodland. In 900yds keep ahd where TK joins from R. In 500yds at TK junc keep ahd on TK on valley bottom (as main TK swings R) between flds for a further 900yds to reach metalled lane and join route you followed earlier into Bix. 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 2. BIX & ASSENDON VILLAGE HALL GR SU 728 853 14.7 miles.
OPEN 1000-1300

14.7 miles : Out of door, ahd 20 yds to lone tree at edge of common. TL (CB30) along edge of common, pass goalposts on L, cont 50yds to hedge corner and RD. X & ahd on RD opp (*Rectory Lane*) & downhill for 900 yds. FL At RD junc in valley bottom. After 330yds, immed after 2 houses on R, TR on FP/TK, after 40 yds leaving TK to keep to LHS of hedge (WMs), 130yds to X ST on R . X fld to return to TK at bend and WM and immed BL off TK again onto FP, up fld to white marker post on brow of hill . Rejoin TK yet again. Downhill with hedge on R, down to bottom corner of fld. Thru gap & immed. T sharp L, following purple arrow, (CB290) up encl path. (do not proceed to RD ahd) GR SU 735 867

15.8 miles : Follow path uphill for approx 1 mile. At TK junc nr fld edge, BR (SW 33) & cont 600 yds to reach and TR on lane at yellow fire hydrant, then after 30 yds, at *Lodge Farm*, TL (OW/CW) and follow path between houses. On emerging in field, immed BR (PS12/CW) to cross field under wires. 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 K/g and down field, X 2 K/g and cont to RD at STONOR GR SU 736 886

18.0 miles: TL on road for 300 yds (CW), 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 junct (entering BUCKINGHAMSHIRE), then thru gate to X RD. Ahd on TK opp (FPS and *Neighborhood Watch* , leaving CW). After 40 yds, TL onto unmarked path thru trees (do not pass *Kiln Cottage*), passing pond. Thru trees then bearing R to cross common to emerge on TK at *Harvest Cottage*. TL 50 yds to lane at SOUTHEND COMMON GR SU 753 898

19.5 miles : KEEP TO DESCRIPTION ON THIS SECTION-DO NOT CROSS TO JOIN WALKERS ON OPPOSITE HILLSITE WHO ARE COMING OUT OF NEXT CHECKPOINT (ON 40).

TR on lane and ahead at junct immed afterwards, through 15mph sign and down lane, passing L of *Southend Farm*. Ahead downhill on TK, views across valley to Turville Windmill. . Eventually steeply downhill onto path to meet RD, where TR. Ahead to bend after 150 yds, where stay on RD turning L proceed further 120 yds, where signed FP crosses RD, where TR over ST. Ahead, pass to L of gas installation, 70 yds later keep ahead in meadow. Climb into wood to reach path T junct and TL on wider path (FPS). Follow this as it contours, descends then turns into winding path (with views from the 'Vicar of Dibley'), eventually descending to SKIRMETT. Join lane and ahead to RD, where TR. After 150 yds, TL into Village Hall at FPS.

CP 3. SKIRMETT VILLAGE HALL GR SU 775 902 21.2 miles.
OPEN 1115-1500

21.2 miles : Leave Village Hall, TR to return to RD, where TR retracing steps. After 150 yds, TL on TK you entered on, but immediately bear R of gate to take Permissive Footpath (WM) thru gap and to R of tennis court. Thru gate, BL to X fld diag, X ST, along LHS of field, thru gap in fence to X next field and emerge at RD junct. TL on lane for 350 yds, then TR on partially hidden FP (FPS), thru K/g . Up encl FP for 300 yds. At path junct, TL for 40 yds then TR thru gate. Ahd up fld to join lines of electric poles, ahead to go thru gate at top of hill & ahd LHS of next fld. Thru gate & ahd on enc TK thru gate to lane with TURVILLE COURT (CCTV sign on L) GR SU 754 908

22.9 miles : TR thru gap next to gate on TK to enter wood. 80 yds into wood take middle and narrowest of three paths_(yellow WM, CB 40). Cont ahd thru wd gradually descending for 350 yds (steep descent means you have gone too far). At WM post T sharp L to pass sign (*Idlecombe Wood*) & ahd on FP contouring along hillside. In 1100 yds at path junc (WM) TR down many steps then X stile into fld. Ahd LHS fld to X stile to lane. GR SU 749 918

24.0 miles : X lane to drive entrance (BWS) & ½R on BW to R of gate. 130 yds later, at T junc (white arrows) BR then in 80yds FL (*I4*). X concrete drive and Ahead to X stile out of wd & ahd RHS of fld. X stile & cont climbing RHS of fld & in 400yds X stile in fence on R then ahd up thru wd to reach edge of churchyard. Immed before churchyard TL on WM on FP thru wd. Ahd 400 yds then TR on path I36 (white arrows) to X stile out of wd & ahd X fld towards poplars. Thru stile or gate to lane & RD junct. Cross both RDs & TR to follow wide LHS verge of main RD. GR SU 757 926

24.8 miles : Keep ahead with flint wall on your L (IBSTONE HOUSE). At end of stone wall, TL thru gate (BWS) & ahd downhill on enc BW. Thru gate & cont ahd between wooden fences to go thru metal gate at bottom to BW T junc. TR on BW thru trees & in 65 yds at next BW T junc TL on enc stony trk. Immed after double gate on R (& before HARECRAMP COTTAGES) TR to X hidden stile & diag across fld. X stile & lane & ahd on BW opp. Follow BW along LHS of wd. Where ascending TK joins from the R keep ahd uphill (*Hanger Estate*). Emerge from wood & follow BW as it bears R uphill on RHS of fld. Thru gap & cont ahd on RHS. Thru gap and cont ahd to reach T junct with stony track. GR SU 781 925

26.5 miles : Descend 200 yds on stony TK , X TKs and BR to enter wood . Follow large wooden FP marker posts thereafter for 800 yds, ignoring all crossing paths. Eventually descend on FP, BR at junct, then encl FP, thru K/g and joining another path from L to pass between houses and reach RD at FINGEST . TL on RD 100 yds to *Chequers* pub, where TL. After passing *Fingest Farm*, TR at FPS (CW) X RHS of fld and ST. Ascend RHS of fields, then X ST at top to enter wood. Pass thru wood , thru posts into open, then back into wood at gate. 50 yds later, TR at WM (CW, *Adams Wood*). Downhill, keeping ahead downhill on reaching seat on R (WM) and descent 700 yds thru woods. Ahead as TK merges from R, ahead to meet gate, where X ST on R (do no proceed to lane ahead). X 2 fields with gates, then up TK, 200 yds to Village Hall on R.

CP 4. SKIRMETT VILLAGE HALL GR SU 775 902 28.9 miles
OPEN 12.45-17.00

(arrivals after this time will be diverted onto 36 mile route up till 17.40.
Ask for new route description if downgrading to 36 mile route)

28.9 miles: TL on leaving hall. Up to end of lane then thru gate (*Cherry Red Records*) and immed TR along RH edge of field. Ahead along fence eventually to reach lane. TR on lane back towards village for 250 yds then TL on CW before RD junct. Follow this path down valley over numerous fields, ST and K/g, crossing lane after 1500 yds and then onto RD at *Little Colstrove* 600 yds further. Ahead on RD for 130 yds to RH bend and TL back onto CW immed afterwards. Keep on directly down valley 600 yds to go through another gate labelled '*Cherry Red Records*'. 30 yds later, TL at four way FP sign up narrow lane between houses – do not follow 20s going ahead. GR SU 783 875

30.9 miles : Follow narrow lane to RD and TL uphill for 100 yds. TR at FPS after *Partridges* onto encl FP. At end, TL into woods at WM. After 350 yds, pass *Electric Fence* on L, after 60 yds along this fence, BR to join path from R at WM. 200 yds uphill on path then TL on wide TK. Ahd on main TK 200 yds to reach triangular enclosure, where BR of enclosure, and follow red FP sign ahead at next junction at end of enclosure.. Ahd further 170 yds, then at large arrowed WM before gate into field, BR onto path staying in woods. Ahd 400 yds to RD at gate. GR SU 798 876

31.8 miles : TR for 10 yds, then X ST opp. and X fld to far side then TR 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). Leave field thru gap, X TK, 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 TL and XST to TK. GR SU 804 874

32.4 miles : TR and ahd at TK junct (uphill), for 400 yds, then at bird enclosure, swing R with main TK, ignoring FP ahd. Keep fence then trees to R, after 300 yds entering woods onto narrow FP. Cont on FP, X 2 TKs, then downhill to X wide TK in valley. BR (WM) up opp side of valley, ignoring path/track to left, 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 SU 799 866

33.9 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 and follow 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, , ignoring path heading L, then downhill 400yds, and thru K/G to X fld. At TK junct TL and after 100 yds TL, Down TK past dilapidated barn and after 300 yds, TL thru K/G (rejoin 20s) then thru next fld. Thru K/G in corner & T sharp R for 50 yds then X RD in to CP in car park

**CP 5. MILL END CAR PARK GR SU 785 854 35.8 miles.
OPEN 14.15-18.45**

35.8miles : Recross RD, TR and ahd on pavement on LHS. Where pavement ends X to opp pavement & cont down RD to T junc with A4155. TR, X RD to driveway (*Hambleden Marina*) & 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 (enter BERKSHIRE). TL thru gateway & ahd on tarmac TK with Thames on L. After 200 yds, leave TK and ahead keeping to river on Thames Path. Along riverbank to end of field and thru K/g to Car Park. TR in car park and ahead up lane, eventually to reach T junc by *Flowerpot Hotel* PH on *Aston Lane*. GR SU 784 842

37.0 miles : BL/Ahd on lane, after 100 yds ignoring TP/FP on L & 100 yds further, TR immed after *Highway Cottage* (FPS). Thru K/G & up RHS of fld. X ST & ahd RHS of next fld thru K/G to FP junc (FPS) where cont ahd. FP becomes TK and follow for 800yds to X stile on L of double metal gate to lane. TL on lane & in 220yds TR (FPS) thru gap & then X fld on clear FP to FP junc immed before wood (FPS). Ahd on FP thru wd which ascends then descends to X ST out of wd. Ahd X fld in same direction to meet far end of fence on R & FP junc at FPS. TL on FP under trees to descend 150 yds to X ST then ahd X grass in same direction to X ST in hedge on R (FPS). Ahd following gravel trk & thru K/G in corner (FPS). Ahd X RD and past *Henley Royal Regatta* sign onto tarmac path, then TL 100 yds to main RD.. TR on main RD to reach Henley Bridge, crossing at traffic island to LHS of RD (back in OXFORDSHIRE). GR SU 763 827

38.9 miles Cross bridge on LHS to reach traffic lights and TL by *Angel Inn* PH & in 20yds TL to towpath. Follow towpath with river on L for 1300yds. Over small FB & TR (*Pool House*) on lane away from river. Ahd on lane, crossing over railway 600yds to main RD . Cross main rd with care & ahd up *Noble Road* to YMCA and end.

HENLEY YMCA SPORTS PAVILION GR SU 765 815 40.2miles
Total Ascent 4616ft
07.00 – 20.00

WELL DONE!