

OXON 40-2011

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 SU=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.
Please start promptly, 40 milers may take 35 mile route at CP5 . Torches are recommended for slower
walkers. Dogs on lead whenever in fields with animals and in nature reserves.
Get your card, tick box or fill in start time, detach serrated part, place in box provided, get your card
clipped then.....*

- 1. Start Henley CP 1.** Out of main entrance & TR to RD (A4155). X RD diag R (**with care**), then ahd on *Mill Lane* (pass L of *Jet Service Station*). Follow over railway to river (**Do not X bridge over river**). TL along towpath for 1500yds, pass *Hobbs & Sons Boat Rental* . At RD junc (the *Angel Inn* on R) TL on main RD (A4130). After 100 yds X RD at controlled crossing and TR to church. TL at church entrance to take tarmac path thru churchyard (*Dusty Springfields* grave on L) & pass almshouses to RD, X RD & TL. Follow RD for 200 yds and at end of RD (opp. *Asquiths Teddy Bear Shop* on L) TR (Don't X RD!) . Ahd 200 yds to reach 2nd mini-roundabout. GR SU 760 831
- 2. 1.6 miles** Cross the *Marlow Road* and take the A4130 (signed *Nettlebed*) keeping to the RH pavement. Opposite *Fairmile Court*, just after closed pub, TR up FP. Enter copse & ahd on WM uphill. At top, go thru K/G & ahd uphill (CB350). Cont ahd on open ground, thru k/g to FL on tarmac drive (OW : *Henley Park Private* sign). Pass posh houses and ahd. to RD . X RD following OW sign, X 2 ST into fld. X fld (CB 270) and ST, thru encl FP into further fld, X ST and fld on same bearing and follow FP steeply downhill to RD at MIDDLE ASSENDON GR SU 739 857
- 3. 4.0 miles** TL 30 yds on minor RD then TR at B480 to pass R of the *Rainbow Inn*. 200 yds later, TL at second road labelled '*Unsuitable for HGV*' (SP: *Bix Bottom*), passing *Sarsens*. Up lane in valley bottom for 1000 yds . At RD junc in valley bottom TR. In 330yds, immed after 2 houses on R, CARE NEEDED HERE : TR on FP, then after 30 yds as TK swings behind house, leave TK and go ahead on RHS of fld, following faint WM.. After 120 yds, X ST (CB90), X fld to rejoin TK , BL uphill on TK to white topped marker post on brow of hill, ignoring side TK leading to red topped post. Ahd (CB80) over hill and down to gap at bottom corner of fld. Thru gap & immed. TL, following purple arrow, (CB290) up encl path/TK. (do not proceed to RD ahd) GR SU 735 867

4. **5.3 miles** Follow TK uphill for approx 1 mile. At TK junc nr fld edge, BR (SW 33) & cont to reach lane at yellow fire hydrant. TL on lane, then after 250 yds at next fire hydrant, BL and keep bearing L at following TK juncts, passing *Tuckers Cottage*, to follow LHS of common 500 yds to RD. Take grassy TK on RHS of RD for 400 yds, then opp *Cookley Hill Farm*, TR on TK for '*Nuttalls Farm*' After 120 yds, TL on path (not on map) Xing common in direction of gap in copse. Follow this path through gap joining path from L and ahead on LHS (west side) of common 700 yds to meet TK. Turn L and follow TK, 300 yds past duckpond to meet RD, with Village Hall on R

**CP 2. RUSSELLS WATER VILLAGE HALL GR SU 708 898 8.2 miles.
OPEN 0845-1100**

5. **8.2 miles** Leave Village Hall and TL back onto on gravel TK to pass duck pond again. Cont on this TK past where you previously joined it, X common and keep ahead to pass through farm (PS 22), ignoring all turnings. Ahd descending on encl pathfor 1200 yds, then TL (PS 22) to join lane to pass through PISHILL, passing to R of church. Ahead on lane to meet RD, where TR for 40 yds, then L onto FP at *Pishill Farmhouse* and immed after garden, TR on encl FP (PS 6) up side of hedge. Uphill entering *Stonor Estate* to X lane after 350 yds, where go ahead then downhill to go over another X TKs in valley 250 yds later. Uphill steeply on TK for 750 yds, then where TK swings R, , ahead thru K/G to X field, thru several more gates to emerge on RHS of garden. Keep on FP to R of main gate of *Saviours* and ahead to RD at bus shelter. GR SU 743909
6. **11.0 miles** Cross RD with care and take lane opposite. At junc after 100 yds, TL on BW (CB 0). After 250 yds emerge on grass to bear L of brick house to join TK to R of *Clovers*. Ahead on winding TK downhill through wood to gravel TK and then RD in valley bottom at *Spinney Farm* . X RD, up steps and bear left to cross stile into fld , X fld to K/g and ahead to cross private lane, then up fld to *Arthur Harris's* K/g and TL at T-junct thereafter. Follow path uphill, eventually keeping R of and then finally joining lane just before *Litmore Shaw*. Ahead on lane for 400 yds, TL onto concrete driveway at sign for *Loxwood Cottage* GR SU 751 931
7. **12.6 miles** Up driveway to *Loxwood* then BL on encl FP . Keep ahead on FP to K/G, BR across field and d/hill on WM thru trees for 700 yds, cross grassy valley, into woods again to emerge thru K/g into field. X field to reach 5 way junc and T sharp R on 1st turning up valley (CB 10). Ahead up valley for 1300 yds, ignoring all side paths . Merge onto TK, pheasant coop to L, then 220yds further to meet RD coming in from L. Cont ahd 500 yds on RD, passing yellow house (WELLGROUND FM) to reach multiple RD/path junc (*No Public Access* sign ahd). Take marked BW to L before Black and White House, passing 'please keep to FP' sign. Follow sunken path uphill for 900 yds to four way path junc, and TL (L23), heading downhill on narrower path, winding thru trees to reach LOWER VICAR'S FM. Pass thru deer gate, passing to L of house, and thru further gate to RD. GR SU 738 956
8. **15.4 miles** TL on RD for 35 yds, then TR thru gap in hedge to go thru K/G. Cont steeply uphill (CB 280) heading for top of hill and end of telegraph poles. At top of hill, pass thru K/G (marked with L23 WM).. Enter wds and keep stratight ahd , ignore FP to R after 30 yds, follow WMs thru pine wds for 700m intially keeping fence to L, then swing into wood on L23 WMs. Ahd at X TKs, under telegraph wires, then after 20 yds, bear L (following L23 again) and cont to COWLEAZE WD CP GR SU 725 956

CP 3. COWLEAZE WOOD CAR PARK (southern end) GR SU 725 956 16.3 miles.
OPEN : 1045-1300

9. 16.3 miles TL on path running parallel to RD. Pass under telegraph wires and cont to RD opp 'Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve' sign. TL on RD, pass black chain link fence then X RD at house to take FP opposite. X fld on FP (CB 250), then X ST and TK, following white WM 80 yds to K/g. Pass thru gate then steeply downhill on path. Bear L at foot of hill to reach K/g marked with white arrow. Pass thru K/g and bear R, following WM. Follow path along fence (fence and flds to R, wds to L) for 900 yds – take care over rootlets, following WM PY 16. joining track from left BR to pass through K/G then 400 yds on meandering grassy TK as TK bears right follow FP sign to RD. TL on RD for 250 yds to reach *Pyrton Hill House* GR SU 707 940

10. 18.0 miles Pass through logs and cont ah on waymarked OW path. Pass under telegraph poles continue ahead uphill for 550 yds on chalk path. To reach K/G on right. (OW/PY1). Thru K/G and cont on RHS of fld to RD., ignoring side path to R. Thru K/g to RD , TR 40 yds to junct, ahead (SP: *Nettlebed*) , then BL at next junct at post box after 130 yds, As this road swings L 100 yds later, keep ahead on TK/lane. Follow lane, thru *Queen and College Woods*, and ahead for further mile until TK clears trees and passes between two fields, with dip to R. At end of this field, TR over ST, (CW/PS5). GR SU 725 916

11. 19.9 miles Ahd LHS of field, X ST into wood and after 30 yds TR (CW/PS8). (follow CW to next checkpoint) Downhill to multiple junct, B slightly left to follow WM on wide FP on opp side of valley. Follow WM'd winding path , merging with another TK on starting downhill again after 800 yds, and ahead in dip 100 yds later (CW/W21). 50 yds later at map board, follow WM for CW uphill (do not turn R on unlabelled WMs up valley). Keep on CW waymarkers (CB 230) over next two rises and several X TKs, eventually descend thru trees after 1000 yds emerging onto RD at *Grove Fm*. TL on RD for 400 yds, then take FP to R at *Glade House* (CW). BR after shed on partially sunken path and follow uphill then onto RHS of common. Keep to RHS of common and after 500 yds, TR (CW) into trees , eventually emerge on TK next to houses. Follow TK swinging L then R past duckpond to RD to reach village hall to R

CP 4. RUSSELLS WATER VILLAGE HALL GR SU 708 898 21.8 miles.
OPEN 1200-1430

12. 21.8 miles Leave hall and TR on RD, follow for 600 yds, then TL at FPS (*Cookley Green*) Take faint path X field in direction of gap in hedge and electric wires (CB 280). Under wires and XST, TR on lane and proceed to main RD. TL for 20 yds, X with great care and take WM'd FP (CW) opposite. Follow on RHS of green, emerging at 7.5t signs. Ahead on RD through these signs for 300 yds, taking second FP on L (CW). Descend thru trees, ahead on CW at junct, eventually entering fld at gate. Descend thru fld, keep L of enclosure then BL to join fence at bottom and thru K/G into encl FP. X lane (CW), into trees for 50 yds, then TR thru gate into churchyard. Keep L of ST BODOLPHS CHURCH then leave yard at gate. TL to leave CW. GR SU 682 902

13. 23.6 miles At signpost opp *Gardeners Cottage*, ahead on Ridgeway (RW) along valley bottom for 400 yds, then TL uphill on RW. Thru 2 K/G and steeply uphill in woods. Keep ahead on RW at top, swinging round on LHS of field, then onto TK to reach farm at EWELME PARK HOUSE. After farm, TL on BW/RD at 4 way junct, leaving RW. After 400 yds, just after white houses, TR at WM. Follow TK

, swinging L at WM after 250 yds, then thru trees and onto grass to meet wider TK from L. Ahead LHS of field, swinging R after copse to go down RHS of next field to meet gate. GR SU 683 885

14. 25.6 miles Over step to R of gate and X TK and uphill on path opp on white WM. TR thru metal posts and BL up LHS of wood. At T junct just before houses, TL to enter field and proceed up RHS of field next to houses for 400 yds. At T-junct after gap in fence (sports field to R), TL and thru wood 300 yds to K/G onto RD. TL on RD for 250 yds, X ST on R and take LH of two FPs down RHS of hedge (CB 150), At end of hedge, enter wood soon joining winding grassy TK. Ahead on this, ignoring all side paths, swinging left for 700 yds., then cross TK at 3 way WM sign and take smallest FP opp (*Welcome*). Follow FP thru glades, swinging R round fld edge and corner and merging with another path. 200 yds from field corner, TL then R to emerge in grassy field., brown houses ahead. BL of brown houses to meet main RD, down RD on TK/pavement for 400 yds. TR where FP and byway emerge from R (black gate on opposite side of road) and take FP to L down thru allotments, 400 yds to RD. TL on pavement, 200 yds to Village Club on L.

CP 5. NETTLEBED VILLAGE CLUB GR SU 699 868 27.9 miles
OPEN : 1315-1615

Note : Struggling 40 milers have the option to switch to 20 mile route at this stage, making a walk length of 35 miles. You must inform the marshals if you do this and collect a new route description. Walkers arriving after the cut-off time MUST take this shorter option.

15. 27.9 miles Cross road via pedestrian crossing, TR, 150 yds to TL onto encl FP after church (**watch your head!**). Ahead on to gravel lane past farm. Ahd 250 yds to *Private* sign on R, ahd 50yds then BL off lane into field at WM. Cross field to L of copse (CB 160)., 900 yds to reach far LH corner of field, X TK-and thru gap onto FP entering trees. At T-junct after 30 yds, TR (20s go L). GR SU 700 857

16. 28.8 miles Follow path on RHS of wood for 900 yds until it emerges on lane at bend. TL uphill on lane for 400 yds. At junct BR for *Howberrywood Farm*, then 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. Cont. ahd. along LH edge of wood, then into field and downhill to far LH corner, where X ST to L and continue on grassy TK downhill. Eventually cont on TK on RHS of field, then swing L then R to do a semi-circle all the way round buildings of ENGLISH FARM, past portaloo, to reach tarmac lane. Just after hitting tarmac, TL onto TK (WM), after 150 yds ; ahead RHS of field, L of hedge., across cattle grid, BR at end onto lane, and follow for 100 yds, At end of hedge TR (WM) onto grass and pass R of tennis court to X ST into field. X Fld, then over lane, Xing 2 STs. In next field , BR to X fld diagonally (CB 250) aim for electricity pole, X ST into trees and ahead, X TKs to RD (field may have frisky horses, if this worries you, return to lane and TL on this and on RD to get to same point.) GR SU 668 857

17. 31.3 miles TL on RD for 40 yds then TL on wide WM'd TK (CB 160). Pass scrapyard and house to L. Follow path for 800 yds to X TK leading to house on hill. Ahd 300yds to FP on L. TL and X ST, then up encl FP, X ST, then 400 yds along fence to X third ST. TR on encl FP for 500 yds to reach lane at *Oakingham End*. Cont on lane 350 yds, to bend and wooden sign pointing back towards *Oakingham End*, TR onto FP. Uphill, thru K/g and then several more, ignoring all gates on L until you reach the *Crooked Billet* pub. TL on lane here, for 100 yds, then TL down lane (FPS), passing R of gates of *Bushwood House* to descend on rocky FP, 300 yds to RD, TR on RD 200 yds, to reach checkpoint at RD junct.

CP 6. NEWNHAMHILL BOTTOM GR SU 689 843 33.4 miles
OPEN :1415-1800

- 18. 33.4 miles** Ahead on RD gradually descending After 500 yds, swing round bend with large garden to R Just after bend, opposite chimney of *Rose Cottage* , TL on unmarked climbing FP. Ahead on TK to first crossing, concrete mushrooms on L, ahead 60yds to *Witheridge Hill Farm*. TR on TK to RD at *Bucksbarn* . BL and descend to main RD at *Witheridge Hill* signpost. GR SU697 842
- 19. 34.0 miles** X RD and up encl FP to L of white house, continue on LHS of fld to X ST onto drive. After 100 yds, reach bend at wooden garages, where ahead X ST on FP past dilapidated sheds. Ahead into cricket field and exit at far RH corner onto RD at sign for *Highmoor*. X RD **with great care** and take unmarked FP opposite. After 300 yds, after 2 paths join from L, TR to take path heading for field to R, On entering field, BL on LH of 2 FPs (CB 100) , cross field to reach lane junct. TL on lane (SP : *Bix*) Ahead thru gate to R of cattle grid , ahead on lane for 300 yds As lane continues swinging L, cont on grass downhill, R of large cedar tree, 150 yds to TR and X ST (Rejoin 20s) GR SU 711 844
- 20. 35.1 miles** X ST and cont on FP down wooded valley bottom. After 900yds at X paths, TR on blue WM. Follow path for 200 yds, then TL thru gate, immed TR over gate past *NT* sign on ground. BR after 250 yds, then 400 yds to reach lane. TL on lane and follow to junct with main RD, ignoring CW crossing. GR SU 725 832
- 21. 36.6 miles** X RD with care, TR and follow LH verge for 50 yds, then BL on FP into trees. TL after 150 yds then down thru trees to X ST to fld (into valley you will now follow all the way to Henley). Keep ahead down valley on RHS of three fields. Ahead with hedge on R. X stile & FL on wide TK, continuing down valley. Straight on at X TKs, continuing on path with fence and fld to R, X ST & ahd to pass LOWER HERNES HOUSE on L. Thru trees to X ST and cont in the same direction for a further 800yds to X path that crosses diagonally, cont ahd (CB 110) down bottom of valley, soon passing rugby pitches to L. Cont ahd on FP to reach RD. GR SU 753 823
- 22. 38.6 miles** X RD, with *Henley College car park* on L, bear L to go up tarmac FP ahead to R of '*The Dene*'. After 150yds, as main path swings L up steps, go ahead on gravel path to L of fence, finally emerge at *Lower Lodge*. Ahd 150 yds to RD and TR downhill on *Deanfield Ave*. Follow 300 yds to X RDs, passing more *Henley College* buildings, X busy road with care and ahd on *Church Street* opp. Cont onto gravel TK L of churchyard, then 120 yds later, TL at school gates and down metalled FP to main RD. Turn R on pavement, soon pass over *Hamilton Ave*, then follow signs for *A4155 to Reading*, ahd L of *Three Horseshoes*. 120 yds after *Esso* station, BR of old well onto lane paralleling main RD. After 200 yds, TR on *Noble Rd* to finish.

CP 7. HENLEY YMCA SPORTS PAVILION GR SU 765 815 40.0 miles
Total Ascent 4264ft
07.00 – 20.00

PLEASE REGISTER!
WELL DONE!