

OXON 40-2012
Route Description
O.S. Landranger 175 (1:50,000)

Emergency Tel. No. 07970 609642 – Gerry Garland

Directions

Ahd=Ahead
BL or *BR*=Bear Left or Bear Right
Cont=Continue
FL or *FR*= Fork Left or Fork Right
LHS or *RHS* = L/R Hand side
L =Left *R*=Right
Immed = immediately
Frm=from
Nr=near
Thru=through
Opp=opposite
X=cross
TL or *TR*=Turn L or Turn R

Descriptions

BW=Bridleway
CB=Compass bearing
CW=Chiltern Way
CWE=Chiltern Way Ext
K/G=Kissing Gate
OW=Oxfordshire Way
Fld=Field
FPS =Footpath Sign
TK=Track
WM=Way marked
GR=OS Grid Reference
RD=Road
ST=Stile
Encl=Enclosed

Note: Follow your route description, not the person in front. Some paths are common to 20 and 40 mile routes but then split in different directions.

Tricky bits in bold, pay extra attention.

Start

- 0.1 Thru Henley YMCA Sports Pavilion car park, Ahd 80yds to main rd. TL along main RD 1000yds to traffic lights, passing Esso garage on right.
- 0.2 TL up FP (SP Holy Trinity Church). At T junction TR, past church and continue to end of *Church St*.
- 0.3 Cross main RD. to Deanfield Ave. TL in front of youth centre (FPS) and ahd. up TK / FP. After 400yds, ahd on RD and after 200yds, TR along Tilebarn Close.
- 0.4 In 120yds, TL at Paradise Rd sign and take encl FP to R (FPS: Rotherfield Greys).

GR SU753 822

1.2miles

- 0.5 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 on TK over X TKs and ahd over fld.
 In 300yds where TK bends L, BR to X ST into fld.
- 0.6 Ahd along LHS of fld , keep ahd up valley in direction of white house for 800 yds, ignoring two paths to left. Through K/G and enter trees.
- 0.7 After 100yds, before reaching RD, TR on path parallel to road. After 160yds, when path intersects with RD, cross RD (with care) and TL at bend onto minor RD.

GR SU724 831**3.3miles**

- 0.8 Proceed up minor RD for 200yds, then TL through K/G (FPS:CWE) and uphill to K/G into wd. Cont uphill through K/G ignoring cross paths to reach GREYS GREEN.
- 0.9 TR (FPS:CWE) , In front of pavilion and follow hedge to reach drive. TR past houses then and thru gate & then encl FP into wood. BL along LHS of wood to leave on encl FP. Through K/G and and on LHS of fld then BL on encl FP to K/G to SHEPHERD'S GREEN.

GR SU716 832**4.0 miles**

- 0.10 X small RD and and along RHS of green, passing in front of 'The Strip' cross grass then thru trees to KG (FPS). TL along LHS of fld behind gardens, through KG to next fld. And to right of trees & cont along LHS of fld to X 2 STs. And over fld to KG by gate and and to KG into PADNELL'S WOOD.
- 0.11 And 40yds to FP junc (WM on tree) where TR on FP that swings along RHS of wood to reach KG to RD. X RD and cont on FP (FPS) opp, X fld and ST into wood, then 70yds to T-junct ahead (WM). TL (CB 230) and cont straight for 250yds to main RD at HIGHMOOR, ignoring 2 FPs to R.

GR SU703 840**5.1miles**

- 0.12 X main RD (with care) and take FP opposite into sports fld. Follow LHS of field 250yds until TL to FP through bracken. X bridge & through K/G, TR to pass burnt down sheds on right to K/G. And on drive. X ST and 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**

- 0.13 And up RD for 60yds, then TR on TK to pass R of Bucksbarn. cont on TK ignore FPS on left, then 20yds later at Witheridge Hill farm, FL down hill on TK. In 60yds X TK & down FP opposite 300yds to lane.
- 0.14 TL along lane for 100yds to reach X RDs. TR up wider road 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 border of wood, TR, then after 70yds, TL into recreation ground.
- 0.15 Cross to car park. At car park exit take enclosed FP to L. 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 in 300yds on L.

CP 1. STOKE ROW VILLAGE HALL**GR SU680 840 6.6 miles****OPEN 08.30-17.00**

- 1.1 From Village Hall, TL on main road for 160yds, pass school, then TL in front of church onto *School Lane*. After 220yds, at end of houses, cont on TK (ignore FP to R), then 130yds further, TR on encl FP (WM : *Checkendon* on inside fence). X Fld on encl FP and ST and TL into woodland, BL with corrugated iron shed on L. Path passes by fence to L then merges and descends thru woods (fence now to R), 200yds to 4 way junct. TR on path, becoming TK at house, 300yds to RD at *Checkendon*. X ST opposite into fld and follow LHS of field to join TK in corner. Ahd 350yds on TK, to Rd.

GR SU662839**8.3miles**

- 1.2 X RD and cont ahd. on TK (FPS) to R of houses. Ahd. through gate on TK for 300yds, **half way down slope TL on TK between four beech trees**, and after **15 yds, TL** on faint FP. Follow this (CB 135) with WMs on trees for 250 yds, ignoring faint track leading R, to reach edge of wood, & K/G, TR to cross field (CB 180), through K/G to RD.
- 1.3 X RD (FP: *Checkendon*) and ahead on LHS of fld then into woods. After 350yds, just after FP bends L, FR on encl FP, keeping small fence to your R, and cont 600yds to RD (ignore FP to L).
- 1.4 TR on RHS of RD for 100yds then X RD to postbox and ahd on BW. After 400yds, **TR where small FP crosses TK/BW**, X ST, then keep to RHS of fld, X ST into wood. After 80 yds, BR at gate (on L do not go through gate) to emerge on LHS of fld. Keep to LHS, joining TK, then 100yds later, as TK bears L, continue ahd on enclosed FP to reach RD at EXLADE STREET

GR SU659 819**9.9miles**

- 1.5 TL on RD, passing *Highwayman pub* to R. Ahd at RD junct (sign to A4074). After 400yds, at edge of wood on R, take marked BW to R, 150yds to main road. X RD (with great care!). BL to follow white WMs on trees for 200yds to reach wide flint track. TR, (CB225) **after 500yds, as track turns right and descends, descend 20yds then take path on right, faint white WMs on tree**. Cont ahd, following WMs, for further 1000yds thru woods, ignoring 2 cross-paths, then X RD and cont ahd on FP opp further 600yds to RD.
- Ignore FP opp, and TR on RD for 300yds, passing sawmill to L. TL on FP after sawmill (FPS: *Coldharbour*) immediately BR, and stay right to follow path thru woods and RHS of fld, then wood, through gate onto track to RD at COLD HARBOUR

GR SU636 799**12.2miles**

- 1.6 X rd then ahead on lane for 200yds, bear L of houses, ignore fps to R then L, cont on for further 400yds to pass thru g/way (BWS:*Goring 3*). At sign for *Chalkwood House*, TL on BW thru gate (WM). Follow gravel drive then BL into wood on encl path,. Follow path thru wood (CB 270, CW/BW), after 400yds, BL (CW) keeping to edge of wood with field to L, then encl path and onto RD at farm after further 200yds.
- 1.7 TL (CW) on RD, follow for 500yds, then at LH bend TR on TK into trees (WM), joining narrow path after 20yds, where TR. Follow path downhill for 700yds then as path widens to TK, TL thru gate (WM) into field/*Nature Reserve*.

GR SU615 797**13.9miles**

- 1.8 Ignore paths leading into nature reserve to L but cont ahead up grassy slope to viewpoint, then down other side of hill (CB 220), thru gate past *Nature Reserve* sign to TR onto Thames Path. Proceed with river to L, for 600yds, then TL (WM) to return to river. Cont on TP along side of river, under railway bridge, then further 1800yds to reach GORING Bridge. Before the arches of the road bridge, TR up lane to reach main road next to *Village Hall*. Continue up main road, the *Miller of Mansfield* pub to your left onto *High St*, then TR at '*Toilets*' sign up small FP into Village Car Park and CP.

CP 2. GORING VILLAGE CAR PARK (Outdoor)**GR SU599 807 16.1 miles****OPEN 10.15-13.00**

- 2.1 Return to High Street and TR, cont ahead to X railway bridge. X RD and continue ahead on drive (FPS : CWE). In 150yds TL on encl FP between fences (WM). At end of FP ahd along RD. At end of RD bear L on FP/Cycleway with tall privet hedge on L and in 30yds FR thru G/way, X rough TK & ahd on encl FP (FPS: CWE). X ST and TR on path, then BL to X ST into fld. Ahd on FP contouring around LHS of fld to X ST onto encl FP. Ahd ignoring FP/ST on L, B/R to pass metal rail and ahd on encl FP (fences to L) to reach RD.
- GR SU614 814** **17.1miles**
- 2.2 TR and in 20yds TL to X RD to encl FP to L of drive. Ascend on path to woods then cont ahd to reach 4 way FP junc. TR on TK between wire fences (leaving CWE). Eventually leave wood with flds on R. Ahd on encl FP 300yds to reach track. TL uphill. cont on TK over fld to reach farm buildings.(FPS : CWE).
- 2.3 TR on lane and in 300yds TL on stony TK (FPS CWE). Descend on TK to woodland. Do not cont on TK but BL on FP thru wd (CW) Later over

- X TK and ahd on FP. Cont on FP with occasional white arrows to K/G out of wood. Over fld to K/G on L of gate to lane (FPS CWE).
- 2.4 TR and ahd on lane. In 250yds TL on TK (FPS CWE) and ahd RHS fld, for 600yds to tennis court at valley bottom. TR at tennis court, then keep to L of all buildings, taking WM'd route round shed, and ahd 1100 yds uphill on drive/TK to RD at WOODCOTE. TR on road for 200yds to reach X RDs and CP on green to L

CP 3. WOODCOTE VILLAGE GREEN (outdoor)

GR SU645 821 20.2 miles

OPEN 11.00-14.00

- 3.1 Return to X RDs and TR on route you came in on for 100 yds, then TR onto *Tidmore Lane*. Ahd & in 300yds TL on drive (FPS: CWE). Ahd on drive between hedges & FL before 1st house. At gravel drive before *Field Cottage* TL & ahd on encl FP to X ST to main RD A4074. X with great care & X ST (FPS : CWE). Ahd on RHS of fld to X broken ST to lane. TR on lane (leaving CWE). Ahd 100yds & at G/way FL. At T junc after 700yds, TL on TK. Ahd on TK thru wd ignoring all paths L & R passing *Woodland Trust* sign. Cont ahd downhill to leave wd & reach lane.

GR SU644 835

21.5miles

- 3.2 TR on lane. At entrance to *Bottom Farm House* X ST on L (FPS : CWE) and ahd over grass lawn passing R of the pond & then aiming for the trees/bushes by the fence on the L. Cont ahd on encl and arched FP to K/G ahd initially on RHS of fld to then gradually ascend to K/G. Ahd up fld to K/G (*Johns Gate*) into wood. Up steps to T junc. TR on FP. Ahd & eventually descend to path junc in open area where BL on grassy TK which gradually ascends up valley bottom thru wood. In 800yds at X TKs (WMs on tree) TL on FP (CB315)

GR SU656 844

22.4miles

- 3.3 Climb thru woods to reach lane after 250yds. TL on lane, pass farm on R, then TR at WM onto small encl FP, X fld on encl FP, X ST, then BL as path swings into wood, **after 100yds TR (opposite no entry sign & barn) to follow path downhill.** X ST into and cross fld, X ST and keep to RHS of next fld to descend to RD.

3.4 X RD and take WM'd FP opposite in trees. After 150yds at corner of new fence, TL on path leading downhill (not marked). Follow encl FP down hill in direction of farm and X 2 ST across farmyard to reach TK.

GR SU651 853

23.2miles

- 3.5 TR up wide track along valley bottom. Pass *Lower Handsmooth Farm*, cont ahead on valley bottom, ignoring all side FPs for 1200 yds, eventually climbing thru trees on TK to reach metalled RD.
- 3.6 TL on RD for 150 yds then TR on wide WM TK (CB 160) Pass skips and house to 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, under barrier and keeping to encl FP. Pass MAHARAJ's WELL on R, to emerge on main road. X RD to village hall.

CP 4. STOKE ROW VILLAGE HALL
GR SU680 840 **25.8 miles**
OPEN 10.15-17.00

Note : Struggling 40 milers have the option to switch to 20 mile route at this stage, making a walk length of 35.2 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.

- 4.1 Leave hall and TR on main road. After 250yds, TL onto *Nottwood Lane*. Follow this lane for 500yds until you reach the *Crooked Billet* pub. 50yds after the pub, TL at WM onto lane leading to gates into *Bushwood House* and before gates, TR on FP descending thru woods, ahd at path junct, to reach RD after 400yds.
- 4.2 X RD and continue uphill on TK opposite on same bearing (CB 90), then ahd over X RDs, fence to L (SP:*Little Farm*). Cont ahd, swinging L, after 300yds passing houses on R. Just past houses, X ST at gate on R and X fld (CB 80). X 2ST, then ahd cross field to far LH corner in valley bottom, where X ST and climb other side of valley. X ST and keep to LHS of fld. X further ST and keep L to avoid garden and enter encl FP. Ahd at 4 way junct on leaving encl FP, for 250yds X broken ST, RHS of field, enclosed path to reach main RD. X RD with great care, TR on grass verge for 100yds, passing the closed pub.

GR SU701 848 **27.5miles**

- 4.3 Continue on pavement past pub for 100yds then TL at FPS. Ignore TK leading into fld to R and cont to fork in paths after 40yds. TL keeping field to your L. Ahd on LHS of wood then swinging into wd and joining another path after 600yds BL then **Ahd 50yds to crossing of gravel path.**

GR SU707 847 **27.9miles**

- 4.4 **TL onto gravelly path between bushes** and ahead for 400yds, passing white house to L. At X TKs (SP:*Merrimoles House*), TR, 300yds on drive, passing house on R. At 4 way junct- cont ahead on FP (yellow WM). **After 300 yds, TR at post FPS.** Follow white WM then ahead

200yds then over TK onto white WM. Proceed uphill.. After 400yds, **BR (WM: NE13)**, and after 60yds, BL at junction with other path and 250yds ahead to main A4130 RD at *Catslip*

GR SU709 863

29.1miles

- 4.5 X main RD (with great care) and cont ahd on minor road (SP: *Catslip*). Proceed 500yds to road fork at top of hill and BL on wider of 2 roads. Pass left of village green and post box to right. and ahead to FPS ahead below telegraph wires. TR (FPS: CWE), X ST and fld, bearing to L of cypress trees and large garden ahd. to K/G by gate.
- 4.6 TR on RD/TK, 120yds to gates of house, where TL (CWE) on TK. Pass *Shepherds Cottage* on L then 120yds later, as TK turns R, keep ahead into field (WM : SW 27). Keep to RHS of fld for 350yds to reach K/G on right. (WM).TR and follow edge of trees to K/G into open field, BL diagonally X fld to valley bottom (CB 0). X ST to multiple path junct,

GR SU710 884

30.6miles

- 4.7 Take encl TK opposite up valley bottom directly ahead (FPS; CWE)) for 500yds to reach path crossing, where TR, through K/G and climb steeply up side of field, after climb, path swings R, then TL through K/G up steps to encl FP, leading 200yds further to RD. TR on RD for 250yds , passing *Five Horseshoes* pub on R and white house on L to reach CP on L.

CP 5. RUSSELLS WATER COMMON (outdoor)

GR SU713 889,

31.2 miles

OPEN 12.30-17.15

- 5.1 Ahd on grass TK paralleling RD for 1100 yds, as road bends left, cross and continue 600yds on right side of common to reach lane at yellow 'H' pipeline marker.

GR SU720 887

32.3miles

- 5.2 BR on lane for 400yds and at next yellow pipeline marker and before *Lodge Farm*, TR (OW). Proceed downhill on OW, ignoring turning to L after 650yds to reach road after further 750yds.
- 5.3 TL on RD, pass ruined church. After 400yds, pass garages on R, and in 20yds TR into farmyard. Pass between fm buildings to a gate. Thru gate and cont ahd for 200yds, then TL on path up bank (FPS/CW) through K/G. Go up L edge of fld, with fence on L, to reach corner of wd. Through K/G then bending R on TK thru wd. In 110yds, fork L (CB200), following WMs. When main TK bends R (for second time), cont ahd (CB190, white WMs on tree). Follow white WMs, eventually bearing R to enter fld at CW sign. Ahd X fld (CB190), 150 yds , then TL at 4 way

junct on wide TK which leads out of field to reach RD at BIX. Continue AHD on road for 600yds to reach CP on common.

CP 6. BIX COMMON (outdoor)
GR SU728 853 34.9 miles.
OPEN 11.15-18.30

- 6.1 Leave CP and continue AHD down hill on lane for 400yds.
- 6.2 TR (FPS) just before wooden fence on R, passing R of gate & ahd to X ST. Cont downhill then down steps on encl FP to X ST to fld. Cont downhill across fld to X ST and ahd between houses to main RD.

GR SU739 857 35.8miles

- 6.3 X RD with care & TR on slip RD to junc with *Mill Close* opp. TL up lane. Immed after houses TR uphill on TK (FPS *Oxfordshire Way*). Cont uphill thru trees then across fld to tree line (CB80). X 2 ST then X fld in direction of shed (CB90). X ST to RD.

GR SU748 857 36.4miles

- 6.4 X RD to TK opp (FPS *Oxfordshire Way* and Pond Cottage - Private Road) and follow for 1100yds, passing large houses on the L. Where TK bends L ahd thru KG (WM) and follow track across Henley Park 1200yds to reach KG into wd. Downhill on FP thru wd leading onto encl FP to RD (A4130).
- 6.5 TL on pavement 200yds to mini-roundabout. Cont ahd on LHS of RD. TL into New Street opp Teddy Bear shop. In 50yds X RD. and cont ahd on RHS. Immed after Hotel du Vin TR into Church Avenue. Ahd passing almshouses & thru churchyard to road. Use pelican crossing to X RD.
- 6.6 TL towards river.
- 6.7 At traffic lights TR to towpath behind Angel Inn. Follow river for 1750yds on Thames Path until reaching a footbridge across river. **Do not cross.**
- 6.8 Leave Thames Path and TR on lane. Ahd 700yds, over railway bridge to main RD. X RD ½ R. Then retrace steps to Henley YMCA Sports Pavilion.

HENLEY YMCA SPORTS PAVILION
GR SU766 815
40.0 miles.
07.00 - 20.00
WELL DONE!