

## **OXON 40-2016 Route Description**

### **Parking spaces are limited please car share if possible.**

Place names: *Italics* = name can be seen from route

CAPITALS = name appears on O.S. Landranger 175 (1:50,000) - or Street Name

Abbreviations: **ahd**=ahead: **B**=bear: **bld**=building: **BW**=bridleway:  
**ByW**= ByWay: **CB**=compass bearing (magnetic): **cont**=continue:  
**CW**=Chiltern Way: **CWE**=Chiltern Way Extension: **enc**=enclosed:  
**F**=fork: **fld**=field: **flw**=follow: **FP**=footpath: **FPS**=footpath sign:  
**GR**=O.S. grid ref: **immed**=immediately: **junc**=junction: **KG**=kissing  
gate: **L**=left: **LHS/RHS**=L/R hand side: **nr**=near: **opp**=opposite:  
**OW**=Oxfordshire Way: **R**=right: **RD**=road: **RW**=Ridgeway: **SP**=  
signpost: **ST**=stile: **TK**=track: **thru**=through: **T**=turn: **wd**=wood:  
**WM**=waymark(ed) (often white arrows): **X**=cross/across: **yds**=yards  
**All GRs are SU xxxxxx**

#### **Start GR 766 815 Henley YMCA Pavilion:**

Leave car park & TR, at T-junc TL, BR with RD to T-junc TL, thru enc FP to Zebra crossing, X RD (**with care**) then TL 60 yds, TR into *Mill Lane*. Ahd over railway to river. TL on towpath (TP) for 1500yds, passing *Hobbs of Henley* & cont ahd on river bank. At *Angel Inn* TL, X RD then TR 10 yds to main RD, TL on main RD (A4130). After 100 yds X RD at controlled crossing & TR to church. TL at church entrance to take tarmac path thru churchyard (*Dusty Springfield's* grave on L) & pass almshouses to RD, X RD & TL. Fllw RD for 200 yds & at end of RD (opp. *Asquiths Teddy Bear Shop* on L) TR on RH pavement for 200 yds to 2nd mini roundabout. **GR 766 831**

1.9 miles: X the *Marlow Road* & take the A4130 (SP: *Nettlebed*) for 400yds keeping to the RH pavement. Immed after *Rupert House Playing Fields* sign on R TR on enc FP. Enter copse & BL uphill. Thru KG & ahd uphill (CB340) on open ground for 1100yds, thru KG & ahd another 1100 yds on tarmac drive past houses then on TK to RD. X RD fllw OW sign, X ST/gate onto TK between paddocks, X 2<sup>nd</sup> ST/gate into fld. X fld (CB270) & X 3<sup>rd</sup> ST into enc FP, X 4<sup>th</sup> ST (may be missing) into fld with open views ahd, fllw fence on LHS downhill to enter trees, X ST & fllw FP to RD at MIDDLE ASSENDON **GR 739 857**

4.3 miles: TL 30 yds on minor RD then TR into slip RD before B480, ahd on RH verge to pass the *Rainbow Inn* on L. 200 yds later X RD at houses, pass *Sarsens* on L & TL at 2<sup>nd</sup> RD (SP: *Bix Bottom*). Up lane in valley bottom for 1000 yds to TR at RD junc. In 330yds, immed after 2 houses on R, TR on FP, then after 30 yds as TK swings R behind house, leave TK & ahd on RHS of fld, fllwing faint WM. After 120 yds, X ST in hedge (CB90), X fld to rejoin TK, BL uphill on TK to brow of hill, ignoring side TK.

Ahd (CB80) over hill & down to hedge gap at bottom corner of fld. Thru gap & immed. TL back on yourself on enc TK (CB290) (Do not proceed to RD). **GR 735 867**

5.6 miles: Fllw TK uphill for 1 mile to TK junc near 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 & keep bearing L at TK juncs, passing *Tuckers Cottage*, to fllw LHS of common 500 yds to RD. Ahd on grassy TK on RHS of RD for 400 yds, then opp *Cookley Hill Farm*, TR on TK for *Nuttalls Farm*. After 120 yds at faint Xpath TL (CB300) in direction of gap in trees. Fllw this path thru gap joining path from L & ahd on LHS (west side) of common for 700 yds to meet gravel TK. TL & fllw TK for 300 yds, past duckpond to RD, BR to Village Hall.

**CP 1. RUSSELLS WATER VILLAGE HALL. GR 708 898 - 8.5 miles. OPEN: 08.50-10.30**

8.5 miles: Leave Hall & TL back on gravel TK to pass duck pond again. Cont on TK past where you previously joined it, Xing common & ahd to gate, thru gate and farm (PS22). Ahd for 1500 yds on enc path ignoring all turnings, then BL (PS 22) to join lane thru PISHILL, passing church on L. Ahd on lane to meet RD. **GR 726 900**

9.8 miles: **CARE NEEDED ON ROAD.** TR for 40 yds, then L on FP at *Pishill Farmhouse* & immed after garden TR thru gate on enc FP (PS6). Uphill for 350 yds to X lane, ahd downhill with hedge on R for 250 yds to X TKs in valley. Ahd uphill steeply on TK for 750 yds becoming encl, when TK swings R ahd thru KG to X fld (CB40), thru 3 more gates to RHS of garden (final gate catch thro hole). Keep on FP to R of main gate of *Saviours* & ahd to RD at bus shelter. **GR 743 909**

11.5 miles: **X RD WITH CARE** & take RD opp. At junc after 100 yds, TL on BW (CB0). After 250 yds emerge on grass to join TK to L of brick house & to R of *Clovers*. Ahd on winding TK downhill thru wd to join gravel TK from L & then X RD at *Spinney Farm*. Up steps BR & after 5 yds BL to X ST into fld, X fld (CB30) to KG & ahd to X lane, thru wds, thru KG & up fld (CB20) to X ST. Up bank thru *Arthur Harris's* KG & ahd 20 yds, TL at T-junc. Fllw path eventually keeping RHS of wd, ignoring TK on L & then finally joining lane just before *Litmore Shaw*. Ahd on lane for 400 yds, TL at FPS onto driveway at sign for *Loxwood Cottage*. **GR 751 931**

13 miles: Up drive past *Gatehill* then before next cottage BL on enc FP. Ahd on FP to KG, ahd to X fld (CB290) thru KG to fllw WMs downhill, at end of wd X ST, ahd over grassy valley & thru KG into wds again. Ahd on fp, TR before 'No Public Access' sign to emerge thru KG into fld. X fld (CB240) to reach 5 way junc & T sharp R on 1st turning up valley (CB10).

Ahd up valley for 1300 yds, ignoring all side paths. Merge onto TK, pheasant pen to L, ahd 220yds to meet drive from L. **GR 743 945**

14.4 miles: Cont ahd 500 yds on drive, passing thatched house (WELLGROUND FM) to reach multiple RD/path junc before speed ramp. Take marked BW to L passing '*please keep to FP*' sign. Fllw path uphill for 900 yds, ignoring TK on R after 60 yds, to four way junc. TL at WM'd tree (L23) downhill on narrow path thru trees & X ST, BL across fld, thru deer gate at LOWER VICAR'S FARM - PLEASE ENSURE GATE SECURED WITH BUNGEE - around garden & thru further gate to RD. **GR 738 956**

15.8 miles: TL on RD for 35 yds, then TR thru gap in hedge & thru KG. X fld uphill thru 2<sup>nd</sup> gate & ahd (CB280) to top of hill thru KG. Enter wds & keep ahd ignoring FP to R after 30 yds, and FP to L after 700yds. Ahd at X TKs under telegraph wires then 20 yds later BL (on L23) & cont to:

**CP 2. COWLEAZE WOOD CAR PARK. GR 725 956 - 16.6 miles.**

**OPEN: 10.40-13.00**

16.6 miles: From CP CB225 on path running parallel to RD. Pass under telegraph wires & cont to RD opp '*Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve*' sign. TL on RD for 30 yds, X RD to X ST (FPS), X fld (CB250). X ST & TK, fllw white WM 80 yds to KG. Thru/past KG then downhill on path. BL in dip to reach KG marked with white arrow. Thru KG & immed BR fllwing WM. Fllw path for 900 yds on RHS of wds joining TK from L to pass thru gate. Ahd 400 yds on grassy TK, as TK bears R go ahd thru trees & gate to RD. TR on RD for 500 yds to X TKs (RW). **GR 703 945**

18.6 miles: TL (RW) for 750 yds to KG on L (FPS), thru KG - DO NOT GO UP STEPS -TL on FP, BR then uphill for 1 mile ahd at all WMs to KG. Thru KG TR & fllw RHS of fld thru KG to RD. **BE CAREFUL ON THE ROAD PAST JUNCTIONS.** XRD & TR 40 yds to junc, ahd (SP: *Nettlebed*) 130 yds to next junc, BL at post box (SP: *North End*). After 100yds as RD swings L keep ahd on ByW (SP: *Stonor*) Fllw TK, thru *Queen and College Woods*, & ahd for further 1500 yds to X FPs (50yds before farm on L) & TR over ST, (CW/PS5). **GR 726 916**

21.4 miles: Ahd LHS of fld, X ST into wd & after 30 yds TR (CW/PS8) downhill to multiple junc, B slightly L to fllw CW (WM on tree opp side of valley). Fllw WM'd winding path for 1000 yds then ahd at X TK (TK into fld on R) 40yds to 2<sup>nd</sup> X TKs in dip & take path uphill (CW). Keep on CW for 700 yds ignoring all X TKs, at top of 2<sup>nd</sup> rise note tall wire fence in wood on L. 30yds past fence corner TL on permissive path (sign) fllwing fence & descend thru trees to RD. X RD & up *Glade House* drive (CW). As drive TR ahd on FP, BR (CB210) on sunken path uphill & onto RHS of common. Keep to RHS of common & after 400 yds, TR on BW into trees, eventually

emerge on TK next to houses. Fllw TK L then R past duckpond, BR to Village Hall.

**CP 3. RUSSELLS WATER VILLAGE HALL. GR 708 898 - 23.5 miles.**  
**OPEN: 11.50-15.00**

23.5 miles: From CP TL on RD for 150 yds (**BEWARE TRAFFIC**), TR at FPS (CW) on TK between houses. Fllw TK downhill to junc (WM), TR for 1100 yds on TK & eventually lane to main RD. TL for 20 yds, X RD **WITH GREAT CARE** & take WM'd FP (CW) opposite. Fllw on RHS of green then ahd on RD for 300yds thru 7.5T road signs, take 2<sup>nd</sup> FP on L (CW). Thru trees & ahd ignoring all X TKs to KG. Ahd X fld (CB290) then BL under power lines thru KG into enc FP. X lane into trees for 50 yds, then TR thru gate into churchyard. Keep L of *St Botolphs Church* & leave at gate. TL on TK to leave CW and join RW at *Gardeners Cottage*. **GR 682 902**

25.1 miles: Ahd on RW along valley bottom for 400 yds, then TL uphill (RW). Thru 2 KGs & steeply uphill in wd. Cont on LHS of fld then ahd to enc TK to reach farm at EWELME PARK HOUSE. TL thru farm blds. After farm, at 4 way junc TL on BW/RD, (leaving RW). After 400 yds, just past white houses, TR at WM. Fllw TK 250 yds to TL at WM, then thru trees & onto grass to meet wider TK from L. Ahd on TK on LHS of fld, TR after copse(WM) & fllw RHS of next fld to gate. **GR 683 885**

26.9 miles: Thru gate, X TK & uphill on path opp on white WM. TR thru metal posts & BL up LHS of wd. At T-junc just before houses, TL to enter fld then TR on RHS of fld next to houses for 400 yds. Thru gap in fence & immed TL at junc, 300 yds thru wd & thru gate to RD. TL on RD for 250 yds (**BEWARE TRAFFIC**), X ST on R & take LH of two FPs on RHS of hedge (CB150). **GR 689 875**

27.9 miles: At end of hedge, enter wd soon joining winding grassy TK. Ahd for 450 yds on grassy TK ignoring all side paths & eventually swing L to 4 way offset junc, XTK & ahd on FP opp (white WM on tree). At end of wd into fld, B½L towards gap in trees on skyline (CB100), thru gap & ahd ½L for 500yds keeping to LHS fld as fld edge TL, TR & TL. Then 70yds after fld edge swings ½R TL over ST in hedge (WM). TR on TK for 80 yds to junc. TR on enc TK & at end TR into FP for 400 yds thru allotments to RD. TL 200 yds to Village Club on L.

**CP 4. NETTLEBED VILLAGE CLUB. GR SU 699 868 - 29.5 miles**  
**OPEN: 12.50-16.50**

**Note:** Struggling 40 milers have the option to switch to a 35 mile route at this stage. If so you must inform the marshals & you will be given a new route description. Walkers arriving after the cut-off time **MUST** take this shorter option or retire.

29.5 miles: From CP TR, X RD via controlled crossing & TR 150 yds. Immed past Church TL onto enc FP. At end ahd 250 yds on gravel TK past farm. At end of trees BL into fld at WM. Cross fld 900 yds, L of copse (CB140) to LH corner of fld, X TK & thru gap onto FP into trees. At T-junc after 30 yds, TR (note 20s go L). **GR 701 857**

30.3 miles: Fllw path on RHS of wd for 900 yds to emerge on lane at bend. TL uphill on lane for 400 yds. At junc TR towards *Howberrywood Farm*, then before farm take marked *Permissive Path* to L. Thru gap in 1<sup>st</sup> hedge, X fld to gap in 2<sup>nd</sup> hedge, then TR along RHS of fld, X ST & TL to fllw fld edge round to opposite corner. Cont ahd LH edge of wd, then into fld & downhill to far LH corner, X ST on L, TR on TK downhill, BL at blds of ENGLISH FARM & as TK TR at WM BL thru gate. **GR 676 859**

32.2 miles: TL on TK for 1400 yds to reach lane at bend. TR 30 yds then ahd on FP (*SP: Stoke Row*) at *Donnelly*. Uphill, fence on L, thru 2 KGs. Cont ahd thru derelict KG & thru gate into fld with car park. Fllw path ahd (CB180) thru wooden fence & between blgs to RD at *Crooked Billet*. **GR 685 844**

33.4 miles: TL on RD for 70 yds then TL down lane (FPS), passing R of gates of *Bushwood House* to descend on FP, 300 yds to RD. TR on RD for 700 yds to RH bend (large garden on R) just after bend & 7yds before electricity pole on R (danger of death sign), TL on unmarked FP uphill thru trees. X TK & ahd on gravel for 60yds to *Wetheridge Hill Farm* on L. TR on TK to meet RD at *Bucksbarn*. BL & descend to main RD at *Wetheridge Hill* signpost. **GR 698 842**

34.3 miles: X RD & up enc FP to L of white house, thru KG & cont on LHS of fld thru KG to drive. After 100 yds, at wooden shelter, ahd thru KG & fllw LHS of fld past wooden bld. Thru KG & X plank bridge into cricket fld. TR & fllw RH fld edge to far corner, thru KG to RD. X RD **WITH CARE** & take unmarked FP opposite. 300 yds later, at WM, TR for 80 yds to exit wd. Take RH of 2 FPs (CB150) & X fld to reach lane. **GR 707 840**

35.0 miles: X lane, ahd thru fence gap on BW 200yds to WM. TL 80 yds to KG, X fld & KG then X TK into wd. Fllw LHS wd to KG into fld, ahd CB120 to KG, thru & fllw RHS of fld behind houses. Thru KG & ahd 80yds later to:

**CP 5. SHEPHERD'S GREEN. GR 713 833 - 35.7 miles OPEN: 14.00 to 18.45**

35.7 miles: Ahd on gravel TK, X RD ½L thru KG to enc FP. Thru 2<sup>nd</sup> KG & fllw RHS fld to KG into enc FP to wd. BR & fllw RHS of wd & enc FP to exit thru 2 gates. IMMED after 2<sup>nd</sup> gate TR on FP (WM) thru trees to RD. X RD

to FP (FPS) to 2<sup>nd</sup> RD. (**CAUTION TRAFFIC**) X RD & thru gate to BW (*SP: CWE*), ahd 1400 yds, thru gate XTK & eventually thru gate to WM at X TK. **GR 723 819**

37.0 miles: Ahd on ByW for 1500 yds to junc at blds (*Flowercroft Cottage* on L). TL to X ST (*SP: FP Henley on Thames*). Fllw LHs fld to farm, TR on TK past blds & X ST on L before 'Private' signs. At end of enc FP between paddocks X ST, TR for 3 yds & TL thru hedge gap to X fld (CB50) past solitary tree then CB40 to hedge gap in LH corner of fld. BR across fld (CB80) to RD, TL to main RD. X RD ½R to FP at *Hernes Estate* drive (FPS). X fld (CB60) to pass corner of wd & into enc FP to RD, flw RH pavement to main RD. **GR 745 816**

39.1 miles: TL on RD 40 yds then X RD to KG. Thru KG & TL, flw LH fld edge & thru KG in corner. X *Gillots Lane* on R & ahd on gravel TK 200 yds to junc. ½L on BW (3<sup>rd</sup> on L - CB80), after 1000yds becomes RD (*Peppard Lane*). Ahd on RD ignoring all side RDs & FPs, eventually onto pavement in front of houses on L to 4 way RD junc at *Vicarage Road*. X RDs to enc TK ahd (also *Peppard Lane*) & cont to gate on R into **FINISH**.

**HENLEY YMCA SPORTS PAVILION. GR 765 815 – CLOSES AT 20.00**

**40.2 miles approx. 4200 ft ascent**

**WELL DONE!**