



MARATHON ROUTE (BLUE)

**26.3
Miles**

FAIRLANDS VALLEY CHALLENGE – July 2017

Please show your Route Card to the officials at each check point.

Should you be forced to retire from the event, please do so at the next check point, where we will arrange for transport back to the start as soon as possible. If you become hopelessly lost or are in difficulty, you can contact the organisers on the emergency number: **07748 326301**.

Key: AH - ahead TL - turn left fpath - footpath CP - checkpoint
L - left TR - turn right bway - bridleway GR - grid reference
R - right cont - continue WP - waymarker post X - cross
BL - bear left junc - junction opp - opposite SLOT - same line of
BR - bear right yds - yards thru - through travel
Imm - immediately KG - Kissing Gate

Please note that the tarmac cycleways are sometimes quite wide, but do not confuse them with roads.

GR 255 247

Section A - Marriotts School to Watton

At school gates TR down Telford Ave to end, ignoring side turnings. X over Faraday Rd & take RH main path thru wood, to L of bin. At end TL on path to X grass to L of Phoenix Nursery. Down road to cycle track. TL down cycle track to road. **X with great care**. AH keeping L on cycle track up hill to reach small road. X road and AH up grassy track until corner of wooden fence at top before road. TR and take grass path to L of house with iron railings and follow to footbridge. (**1 Mile**)

Over footbridge & cont AH to road thru black posts. (**Routes split here**). TL down hill to junc where TR. Follow road past The Crown pub. Approx 150yds past pub TL thru farm gate. Cont up thru farm to gap between buildings where follow to R. At top of hill by power poles cont SLOT to follow path downhill along LH field edge, hedge on L to reach FB. Cross FB, TL and follow path up hill to road. X road to path opp (TAKE CARE HERE). Follow path uphill thru wood, at top follow path round to R, with hedge on R, field on L to reach KG. Thru KG to X track by building on L (approx 25 yds).

Cont AH up track between buildings passing 'CCL Woodworkers' on L. At end of buildings on R, & opp house on L, TR along concrete track & follow to road, where TL. At bottom of hill, where road bears left uphill, TR on track & cont to track junc by double electricity pole & small building on L.

TR along stony track & follow as it bears slightly left uphill, passes thru hedge gap & cont to road (sign Byway 34). Cont SLOT along road as it goes downhill & then uphill to road junc. TL & cont for approx $\frac{3}{4}$ mile downhill toward Watton. (Suggest crossing to RH side of road to face any oncoming traffic), X bridge over bypass. X to LH side of road & TL at FP sign (Mill Lane) down narrow path & cont AH ignoring side turnings to exit from wood. Straight AH down hill & BL at corner of fence. Follow track, fence on L, ignoring side turnings to emerge on tarmac path. TR to checkpoint.

Check Point 1, GR 300 194 - 5.35 miles (opening times 9:00 - 11:30)

Section B - Watton to Chapmore End

TR from Scout Hut on tarmac track thru concrete bollards (signed Bypass) & cont uphill on track. At fpath (signed Watton House) by large tree, TR on fpath & cont uphill thru woodland & up steps to

emerge from trees. TR & follow edge of wood, then fence, then wood, ignoring all side paths, to emerge on road. TR on fpath over bridge & cont to mini roundabout. X road **(with great care)** to go thru KG opp. Go SLOT up field to further KG to pass thru churchyard. At church doors TL to road. X and at small green triangle TR up road, then TL on track (signed Stapleford). At gap by Woodhall Estate sign, go thru & AH thru young trees then field to enter woodland. Cont on fpath thru trees to emerge by WP in field. Cont SLOT over field to track where BL to pass wooden garages to road. X **(with great care)** to entrance of Woodhall Park. **(6.98 miles)**

Cont AH down drive, over bridge then TR to cont to R of buildings thru KG to junc. TR over bridge along track. Over further bridge then BR over grass to KG in fence. Thru & follow path over brow of hill & down to KG following river. Thru & follow path with bushes & river on R. When reaching wooden bridge on right, TL thru KG & cont uphill to reach KG. Thru & uphill thru woodland. When emerge from trees cont SLOT over open field. At WP cont AH slightly L over field to reach track where TL to T junc where TR on track. **(50k route rejoins here)** Ignoring all paths to L and R cont on track thru KG to reach road. **(8.57 miles)**

Imm TL on fpath up hill thru field to go thru gap in hedge to road. TR on road & at bottom of slope, 40yds past SLOW sign, TL on bway, trees on R. At edge of wood cont SLOT, keeping hedge on L, to enter enclosed path between gardens to emerge on road. TL to reach checkpoint by pond & Woodman Public House.

Check Point 2, GR 328 165 - 9.72 miles (opening times 9:30 to 12:30)

Section C - Chapmore End to Stapleford

Retrace steps along road & cont on road to L corner where cont AH on track (Byway 22) between hedges to reach open area where BR across field on RH track to edge of wood. Thru gap & cont, wood on R. At fpath junc BL, on Bridleway not Byway, between hedge & fence to next junc where cont AH down gravel track, ignore path on L, then at Y junc take L path uphill, to reach road. TL and X to TR on fpath into trees by wooden barrier. TL & follow path round to R, past barrier & cont to L of small car park to road.

X to fpath opp & go up between fences, bearing L then at KG TR on enclosed path. Cont down ignoring KG's on L and R, at Y junc taking LH path, fence on L, then up to just before road where TR thru KG & cont with wood on L to bottom of hill where TL by WP thru gap. At track TR & cont round L bend to reach fpath on R, by wooden seat on L. Go down fpath to footbridge. X, thru small field & under railway bridge. TR & follow edge of field following hedge line, bearing R before river, ignoring KG on R, to go thru KG to reach road. **(11.84 miles)**

TR on road and at next junc TL along residential road to end, past House No 21, to path which turns L to go thru KG. AH over field to KG thru & under bridge. AH, river on L, to road where TL. Where road bends L, X into road on R (Do not go under bridge). Where road bears R, cont AH on track past barrier then barn to gate on L. Thru gap by gate & cont on path alongside River Bean (approx ½ mile) to corner by churchyard where BL & cont to reach green & checkpoint.

Check point 3, GR 309 169 - 13.47 miles (Opening times 10:00 to 14:00)

Section D - Stapleford to Tewin

TL out of churchyard up road to T junc. TR, X road **(with great care)** to gravel track to L of Village Hall. AH up track under railway bridge, following between wooden fences thru trees, to exit into field. TL, follow edge of wood. L at corner & uphill. At top TR, bank/hedge on L, cont to end where TL, wood on R. At end of wood BR passing 'Wildlife Conservation Area' sign to X field to WP on R. X middle of field (215 degs) going downhill to trees. At bottom BL to trees. SLOT trees on L & follow path to track. TR, follow to road at corner. Follow road to L. On reaching wide track entrance on L (to Farm/stables) TR along FP (Sally Rainbows Dell) into edge of wood.

AH to reach main track junc. TR uphill cont SLOT on main track thru wood passing 2 cross tracks to reach barrier at 4 track junc (white topped red pole on L). **(18 mile route rejoins here)**. Thru TL, thru 2nd barrier. Follow main track which later descends to road at T junc by sign 'Tewin Hill/Queen Hoo'. X to road opp AH (approx ¼ mile). At junc BL to corner (Queen Hoo Hall). Where road turns R, TL on track (house on left) & follow as it passes between fields & enters wood.

Cont AH on main track ignoring tracks/paths to L or R. At WP on L follow to L At next WP bear L, for approx 100 yds to where track continues onto field edge. Here TR down path which descends to road by sign Queen Hoo Hall. TR and follow road uphill to reach green and checkpoint.

Check Point 4, GR 273 147 - 17.95 miles (Opening times 10:30 to 15:30)

Section E - Tewin to Datchworth

Leave checkpoint & X road to go along track to L of Rose & Crown Public House.(Back Lane) Cont AH following main track to pass to L of pond to TL at junc. Downhill for approx 70yds to gap in hedge on R. TR on path & follow thru trees, ignore path on R, cont SLOT following path along R field edge, wood on R to KG. Thru & cont between fences, then thru KG & cont along backs of houses to go thru another KG. Cross grass to R of cream house to reach road.

TL on road to junc. X to road opp (White Horse Lane). AH past PH on L to go approx 80 yds to FP sign on R (Coltsfoot Lane),before speed de-restriction sign. TR, follow path to reach road. TL on road downhill to FP sign on R (Datchworth Green). AH thru trees to emerge at green. TL and L again at Cricket nets. AH 120yds to WP where TR to X field to gap in fence, then X field to reach road junc. TR and X road to TL into Village Hall car park.

Check Point 5, GR 265 184 - 20.95 miles (Opening times 11:00 to 16:30)

Section F - Datchworth to Finish

TL from car park & imm TL on enclosed path. At kissing gate AH, SLOT over playing field to gap. Cont up RH side of field & at corner TL across field towards Church. At tarmac path TR & follow edge of churchyard to road. TL & cont on road, ignoring side turnings, to house on corner where cont AH onto track SLOT. Down & up track to just before road, where TR on grass verge. Before crematorium X road to Bway opp & cont to barrier before underpass. TL up narrow path to top, then TR & follow metal fence R to corner at path junc. TR down path to barrier & underpass. Thru & at corner of fence TL.

Follow fence for approx 800yds with railway line on L to wooden fence at end. TR between houses then BL to road. Cont down road (Carisbrooke Close) to main road. X **(with great care)** & TL on FP, crossing Ashburnam Walk to reach Roebuck Gate. X to cycle track opp & cont on cycle track to X road leading into football ground. At junc TL under underpass, then imm TR under further underpass, then imm TR up cycle track bearing L at top past car park.

Cont on path ignoring side turnings until green post on corner where bear slightly R over grass SLOT, aiming for gate in far corner passing to L of round copse of trees. Thru gate & cont under underpass. X cycle track & cont, bearing R, up narrow path into trees. Where path emerges from trees, by notice board, TR up avenue of trees.

Cont along tarmac path to gap in fence, on R, next to tree. Thru & X road, up bank & BL on grass following hedge line to corner. Thru gap & X over path into trees. BL & in 5yds BR on main path to emerge on grass. Cont AH following hedge line to end where go thru gap to path. Do not go up steps opp. TR up path & at road TR to go thru school gates to finish.

FINISH, GR 255 247 - 26.30 miles **WELL DONE!**