

2023 Blackwater Marathon 18 Mile Route Description

Start / Finish - Rugby Club, Drapers Chase, Heybridge, Grid Ref. TL 868 081

Participant Parking – Rugby Club Car Park. The entrance track to the Car Park is next to Heybridge Swifts Football Ground at Grid Ref TL 866 085 CM9 8JA

Finish Closing Time 17- 30 If you retire you must advise a Marshal.

Reminders

Please take care on roads and note warnings on the route description. Face oncoming traffic unless otherwise stated. Use pavements when available.

Stiles and Bridges can be very slippery at this time of year, take care. Caution should be taken throughout over rough ground.

Maps

OS Landranger No. 168, Colchester & The Blackwater Area, covers the whole route.

The route spreads over three OS 1:25,000 Explorer Maps, Nos. 176,183,184

Abbreviations Used :-

AHD Ahead (In same direction), BL Bear Left, BR Bear Right, BRG Compass Bearing, BW Bridleway (Blue Waymarks), FP Footpath, FPS Footpath Sign, GR Grid Ref, KG Kissing Gate, L Left, LH Left Hand, R Right, RD Road, RH Right Hand, ST Stile, TL Turn Left, TR Turn Right, TRK Track (Vehicle width or more), WM Yellow Waymark, X Cross over, yds Yards

BW Marathon Leg 1 Heybridge to Goldhanger 8.5 miles

1. TL from clubhouse past black metal railings on L. AHD through gap in treeline. Keep Rugby pitches on R and trees on L to end of field. BR up grass bank, TR fence on L to tarmac path. TL on enclosed path between fences to RD. TL on pavement to RD junction, TR X RD and continue AHD on RH pavement, pass Redshank Drive on L. X Sandpiper Close and AHD to Coop Shop on R. BR to X Coop car park. TL on pavement, red railings of school on R, to TL at Sanderling Gardens. Pass through bollards and continue round L bend on LH pavement. X to RH pavement and at T-junction TR on pavement for 110 yds to reach main RD. X RD using pedestrian crossing. TL on Pavement. X Wood Rd and in 80 yds. at FPS, TR through barrier (next to gates) into Plantation Hall Sports grounds. Keep to RH side of car park. At end of car park, TL hedge on R. Pass building on L and continue on RH side of sports ground, hedge on R. At end of playing field through railings and TR on FP and in 8 yds TR on RD which becomes gravel TRK. Follow TRK round to L, (becomes tarmac) houses on L and R. At end of tarmac, X gravel to FPS, and follow concrete path. At FPS pass through barrier/gate/barrier, and follow tarmac path between houses and gardens. At end of path, through metal gate, TL on gravel

TRK and in 30 yds TL on tarmac RD for 150 yds to where RD bears right. TL, (canal towpath), canal on R. GR TL 854 082 1.4 miles

2. Follow canal towpath, canal on R, for 450 yds to pass under RD bridge. Continue on towpath for a further 500 yds and TR to X canal bridge (marked Hall Road). AHD, Hedge on L, metal railings on R. Follow pavement on L through houses (ignoring all side RDS) to T-junction (Northey view sign opposite). X RD and through gap in low barrier, arrow signs on posts. TR on path, hedge on R, for 220 yds. BL across rough ground, X TRK, and BR up path with wooden railing fence on L to top of sea wall. TL through fence. GR TL 859 072 2.2 miles

3. Follow the top of the sea wall, Blackwater estuary and Maldon on R, for 1.4 miles to lock gates at Heybridge basin. TL down steps and cross canal on path over lock gates towards Old Ship PH. TR towards seawall. FPS, TL on tarmac path onto sea wall passing Jolly Sailor on your L, CRS Marine boat yard on your R. (*The top of the sea wall is now followed for 4.4 miles to the head of Goldhanger Creek keeping the Blackwater Estuary on your R.*) After 1 mile, 300 yds after Maltings, BR with RD crossing bridge to boat yard (Saltcote Sailing Club) then BL onto sea wall. After passing Mill Beach and Osea Leisure Park, at end of caravans and holiday homes, X TRK and continue AHD on sea wall. (*The TRK to the R is the causeway to Osea Island, access at low water only.*) GR TL 891 070 5.8miles

4. The sea wall is now in more open country. After 1.9 miles pass a small hut with aerial and green seats either side. The sea wall now turns L up Goldhanger Creek past a third green seat. After fourth green seat at the head of the creek BL off sea wall down path. GR TL 906 084 8.0 miles

5. At bottom of slope BR to red dog bin and information board, TL (sharp L) on enclosed path. Pass play area on L, then through metal barrier to RD. TR on RD for 300 yds to Chequers Pub. TL on Head Street for 200 yds. to Village Hall on R.

Checkpoint 1 Goldhanger Village Hall GR TL 902 089 8.5 miles

Opening Time 09-30 Closing Time 12-30

(Note the 26 mile route splits off at this point).

BW Marathon Leg 2 Goldhanger to Tolleshunt Major 4.1 miles

6. Leave Village Hall, TR on RD using pavement. Where path BR at bus shelter, continue AHD on grass verge to main RD. **BUSY ROAD, CROSS WITH CARE** and go through gap in hedge opposite, FPS. AHD on path on field edge, hedge on R, field on L. After 200 yds. TR through hedge gap to RD. TL on RD for 240 yds. BL at FPS X foot bridge. BR across field, BRG 270. After 600 yds X farm TRK and continue AHD on BRG 270 across field. At hedgeline cross through hedge on bridge

and continue AHD BRG 270 across field to hedge. X bridge through hedge to RD. (Wash Lane). GR TL 889 090 9.4 miles

7. TR on RD. In 350 yds ignore lane on R. In a further 800 yds pass Clarks Farm. In 350 yds at RD junc. AHD and in 60 yds BR round RH bend (Ignore RD on L). Continue on RD for 250 yds to T-Junc. X RD and TL to face traffic. In 250 yds TR into Beckingham Street. In 500 yds TR at FPS on R. X bridge and AHD on broad grass field edge. After 350 yds through hedge X bridge, WM. BL on broad grass field edge. In 250 yds X bridge through hedge. TL, WM, on field edge for 60 yds. At WM, pass through hedge X bridge. BR to X field, BRG 100, for 400 yds towards house. TL on TRK, WM. GR TL 902 103 11.0 miles

8 Pass house on R, follow TRK R then L with hedge on R, field on L. Where TRK turns R through hedge, continue AHD on grass path, BRG 10, up field edge, hedge on R, field on L. At end of field go through large gap in hedge. TL, hedge on L, field on R to field corner. X bridge, WM, into next field. BR, BRG 320, X field towards large tree, WM. At tree, BL with power lines (telegraph posts). Through gap in hedge, WM. TR, hedge on R, field on L. At field corner go AHD on enclosed path. In 130 yds X gravel drive to crossroads. X RD **WITH CARE** and TR on pavement (walkers coming in the opposite direction will have already been to the checkpoint). In 130 yds at RD junction TL and X RD **WITH CARE** to

Checkpoint 2 Village Hall, Tolleshunt Major GR TL 902 114 12.6 miles

Opening Time 11-15 Closing Time 15-40

BW Marathon Leg 3 Tolleshunt Major to Rugby Clubhouse 5.4 miles

Note The 18 mile and 26 mile routes join here.

9. Leave checkpoint and X Rd. TR on RD using pavement on R for 130 yds to RD junction. TR on RD (Mill Lane) for 120 yds and just before give-way sign TL, FPS, on enclosed FP for 200 yds. Through hedge and AHD, hedge on L, fence on R for 100 yds. BL, X bridge through hedge, WM. TR, hedge now on R, field on L to RD. TR on RD. In 170 yds pass under power lines. In a further 80 yds, at double metal gates, TL FPS through gap. Follow field edge path, hedge on L field on R. Continue to corner of field. Turn R and follow path for 90 yds to TL through gap in hedge and cross footbridge. Continue hedge on L field on R to pass building on R. Go to L of wooden gate (ignore small gate on R) and BR on gravel drive. Follow drive to RD at Little Totham. (Pub The Swan opposite). GR TL 889 117 13.5 miles

10. TL on RD for 110 yds. to FPS sign on R next to red dog bin. TR and follow enclosed path into field, hedge and ditch on L field on R. Follow grass path to end of field where BL over earth bridge. Take wide grass path ditch on R for 35 yards and

turn R over concrete bridge. Follow grass path, ditch now on L field on R to pass to L of metal gate to RD. GR TL 885 113 13.9 miles

11. TR on road for 200 yds. At road junction TL on gravel drive (5 M.P.H.sign, Moor's Farm Chase). AHD on drive to brick wall where turn L on TRK, paddock on L, hedge on R. BR through small gate, WM, onto enclosed path, fence on R, ditch/hedge on L. Follow enclosed path round paddock. At end through gate and take grass path to field. AHD hedge on L field on R. At end of field go through gap in hedge to X footbridge and BL on wide grass path hedge on L. At end of field continue on enclosed track between high hedges. Pass small wooden building on R and continue AHD passing a house behind the trees on the L towards large metal container. TR with TRK to TRK junction. GR TL 883 103 14.8 miles

12. AH on wide earth TRK passing two Oak trees on R of TRK, BRG 280. At RD, X, to wide gravel TRK opposite (Sheepcotes Farm) pass to L of large metal gates and AHD on TRK, BRG 280. Pass electricity pylon on L (metal gates here usually open). Continue on TRK, then BL, WM, round side of farm buildings. Keep farm buildings on R. TR at end of farm buildings into farmyard and immed. TL, WM, through gate and then roofed passage way to emerge opposite farmhouse. BR in front of farmhouse on gravel drive. BL with drive and continue for 600 yds. Through KG on R to RD. GR TL868 108 16.8 miles

13. TL on LH side of RD, after 100 yds. Keep on RD round sharp R bend. In 100 yds at FPS TL on gravel TRK. Stay on TRK for 1100 yds to pass farmhouse (Sains Hall) on L. Continue AHD on TRK for further 400 yds. to where TRK bears R. TL leaving TRK, WM, on path on field edge, hedge on R, field on L. After 400 yds at WM, TR X bridge. Cross field, BRG130, to L of house. At end of field, WM, exit past metal gate then through low wooden barrier, WM, to RD. (Don't use drive). GR TL 873 095 17.1 miles

14. TR on RD. In 500 yds. pass Slough House Farmhouse on R. In a further 500 yds. at start of houses on L X RD. Continue AHD to metal gate at end of houses. TL in front of metal gate, WM. Follow enclosed path for 20 yds to next WM. TR, electric fence on L, for 80yds to go through KG, WM. Continue AHD fence on R, hedge on L **Take care rough path, after 100 yds beware hole.** In further 150 yds continue AHD on enclosed FP and follow for 300 yds. to Rugby Clubhouse on R.

FINISH – WELL DONE Closing Time 17-30 GR TL 868 081 18.0 miles

Please remove muddy footwear before entering the Clubhouse to check in.