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**15 MILES HIGH WEALD CHALLENGE**

**An LDWA KENT GROUP Event**

**Andredsweald Circuit**

**SUNDAY 11th JULY 2021**

**TAKE CARE CROSSING AND WALKING ON ROADS**

***All distances and grid refs approximate ….***

**Abbreviations**

**CB XXX** – Compass Bearing XXX degrees; **ahd** – ahead; **BL** – bear left; **BR** – bear right; **cnr** – corner; **cont** – continue; **enc** – enclosed; **fld** – field; **fllw** – follow; **fp** – footpath; **fpsp** – footpath signpost; **HWLT** – High Weald Landscape Trail; **kg** – kissing gate; **L** – left; **LHS** – left hand side; **obv** – obvious; **R** – right; **rd** – road; **RHS** – right hand side; **sp** – signpost; **ST** – stile; **thru** – through; **TL** – turn left; **TR** – turn right; **VGW** – Vanguard Way; **WM** – (fp) waymark; **WW** – Weald Way; **X** - cross; **Xing** – crossing; **yds** – yards

*eg* **CHUCK HATCH** – name of hamlet / village

Roads etc are designated thus *(in descending order of importance)*:

**main rd** *(A22, A26)* – **main forest rd** **is the B2026** – **rd** *(two way traffic, perhaps fast)* – **minor rd** – **track/driveway/private drive**

Path or track *(particularly in the forest)*? **track – wide fp – (forest) ride** are used interchangeably

**Please ensure that all gates are closed.**

You are permitted – nay, **encouraged** – to look all around you at the beautiful and stunning countryside.

**The 15-mile route visits Checkpoints 1 and 2**

**The 21-mile route visits Checkpoints 1, 2, 3 and 4**

**The 28-mile route visits Checkpoints 1, 2, 3 and 4**

**Please follow *your* route, *not* necessarily the person in front; you could end up walking the wrong distance.**

1. Leave Village Hall and TR, after 5 yds TR on pavement. After 50 yds, at pedestrian lights, **GREAT** **CARE** cross main rd (A22), TR on pavement. After 40 yds at lamp post, with fpsp, TL **thru** archway, down steps and X car park. Ahd on gravel fp with wooden fence on L, behind houses. After 100 yds cross bridge and ahd on fp uphill.
2. After 130 yds, X ST and ahd on RHS fld. X ST in cnr, then BL and X 2nd ST at black wooden barn. Ahd with barn on L, after 20 yards, TL to X ST. TR down wide track between hedges. After 50 yds X ST, after 20 yds X 2nd ST (gate may be open). BL to cross field (CB 260) then X ST to continue ahd with wire fence on left and bushes on right. After 200 yds go thru kg to reach cross path. ***TQ 417351***
3. **TR** to X stone bridge and ahd. After 60 yds, swing L then R on wide track and ahd. After 220 yds, at end of track, TR soon on tarmac rd. Ahd *(passing impressive ruins on R, Brambletye House)*, fllw minor rd L and then uphill, Xing Forest Way *(old railway line)* and ahd.  ***1.0 miles TQ 418357***
4. **GREAT CARE**, X main rd (A22) and ahd up fp opposite. At top, ahd on gravel driveway to rd. **CARE**, X rd and pass barrier to TL on fp. *Enjoy your short visit to John Pears Field, by remaining* .. on fp as it passes ‘Street Snooker’ and Tennis Courts. BL to exit fld by gate in (L) cnr. **ASHURST WOOD**
5. TR and in **30 yds** TR up narrow track (Forge Twitten), to **TR** on minor rd. **Ahd** for **500 yds** *(dead end - Hammerwood Road).* Just after passing white buildings and Ashurstwood Abbey on R, **fork R** on **Cansiron Lane**. ***2.0 miles TQ 424366***
6. Ahd for 700 yds (ignore Xing fp) and at rd/track junction, BR soon past Nos 1 and 2, Grove Farm Cottages, and **immediately** TL over ST down steps and along LHS fld on enc fp. Cont **through** hedge and up next fld, to pass old bench and, in 5 yds, TL to X ST in hedge. Ahd to BR past telegraph pole by cnr, now along LHS fld. Over ST / thru gate at bottom cnr and soon BR to ascend next fld. X ST, track and next ST and ahd along LHS fld to X ST / thru gate into large fld (now on HWLT).  ***3.1 miles*** ***TQ 441365***
7. After 30 yds, at fence cnr, **BslightlyL** (CB 080) – *perhaps* on mown fp – and ahd down and across middle of fld aiming for far side. X ST, over wooden bridge, and ahead on broad fp thru woodlands. Continue ahd for 950 yds, along LHS of 3 flds (HWLT), to reach St Ives Farm campsite. **ST IVES FARM** ***4.1 miles*** ***TQ 457366***

***WARNING Grassy area in Para 8. may be totally obscured by tents, caravans etc – if in doubt, keep to LHS camp site (hedge) to reach fld join, then TR for about 50 yds*** ….… “to find clear **fp** across middle of fld”

1. Over / around ST in L cnr and ahd as best can, to find **dirt track**. Swing R around top of pond, but after **20 yds** **BL** across grass to find clear **fp** across middle of fld (CB 110).
2. X minor road and immediately thru / X **“gated” ST** – *beware****,*** ***flimsy gate****, stable ST –* and continue same direction (CB 110) across fld. Over ST / thru gate and BR (CB 120) across fld to bottom LH cnr. **BL** toX **ST into trees** (HWLT) and TR on fp to X bridges. Fllw fp as it descends. X ST at wood edge and ahd across fld. Over **ST** and cross top of next fld. ***TQ 470363***
3. Over ST and continue in same direction in 3rd fld *(view of Hartfield Church spire ahd)*. Just before 4-way fpsp (hidden in hedgerow), **TR** inside **this** fld (leaving HWLT) and along **LHS** fld. Ahd thru 2 gates, X bridge, thru gate, TR (CB 190) across fld to next gate, thru tunnel under Forest Way *(old railway line – yep, same one!)* ***TQ 472360*** and thru next gate. BR across fld to go thru another gate and uphill thru wood (often muddy). **Please ensure that all gates are closed.**
4. At top, keep R and thru yet another small gate, and ahd on fp. Thru large gate *(please close)* and cont on fp, thru next large gate *(please close)* and keep ahd (on RHS farmyard) to ascend gravel track, passing houses. At top of track, **CARE** *(beware speeding cyclists from R)* X rd and **TL** on pavement for 130 yds. At Hook Farm House, TR (WM) up driveway. **NEWTON’S HILL / GALLIPOT STREET**

**Checkpoint 1 HOOK FARM HOUSE driveway *5.9 miles TQ 474352* Opens 09:30 – Closes 12:30**

1. Pass by gate and fllw concrete fp ascending. BR and fllw fp. After dried out(?) pond, TR on **narrow** enclosed fp between fences and fllw this for 330 yds **(LAST CHANCE TO PICK SUITABLE TWIGS FOR POOH BRIDGE)**. At end, thru kg or gate and X tarmac drive, over ST (Pooh Bridge sp) and head down middle of fld on obv fp to far cnr. Thru kg and ahd down next fld to RH cnr. Thru kg and TL down minor rd (Mole End is on your L). When rd bends L, go ahd (WM on R) and very soon ahd on gravel fp to reach **POOH STICKS BRIDGE**. *Races optional – no time allowance given!* ***TQ 470338***
2. BR to continue on fp. TL at gate ahd *(? signed to Car Park)* and soon over ‘NOT Pooh Bridge’ *(I made that one up!)*. TR on fp going uphill and, after 250 yds, **at fpsp on L**, **TsharpL** over wood plank and fllw fp over more substantial wooden plank to find and X (broken) ST into fld (WM). Along LHS fld to end. TR (WM) up track. At top L cnr, BL (WM) to go thru 4 small but high gates *(easy to open & close if you are tall!)* crossing horse track and paddock. **CARE AT ROAD AHEAD** TL over ST to main forest rd (B2026). **CHUCK HATCH** ***7.6 miles TQ 475333***
3. **GREAT CARE** X rd *(fast traffic, max 40 mph, allegedly)* and **TL** on grass verge (facing traffic). In 200 yds (30 yds after passing mirrors), BR **down** fp (‘hidden’ white concrete sp on R). Down wide, dark, gulley turning L at first junction, to X wooden footbridge. Ahd on wide fp, gradually rising, for 575 yds to fp junction, meeting Weald Way (WW) – **fpsp** on **L**, **barrier** on R. ***8.1 miles*** ***TQ 483335***
4. **TR past metal barrier** (CB 220 initially) and begin a remorseless ascent (on sandy / grassy track), passing occasional WW posts.  *Now in Five Hundred Acre Wood.* After 700 yds, where track makes distinct turn L, **go ahd** thru (small) gate (WW) and continue ascending (**fp now**, thru trees) on this main fp – ignoring all possible deviations – for a further 800 yds, occasional WW posts. When view starts to open out, BR on wide grassy track (old WW post), still slightly uphill. ***TQ 479322***
5. In further 350 yds, ahd at next junction (track joins from L), now at top of this rise *(phew!)* and continue on wide grassy track for 600 yds. **BL** in front of clump of trees, but soon TR to shimmy **thru** clump (WW post at end), to TR on next track. ***9.6 miles TQ 478314***
6. In 100 yds, at track junction, **BL** *(leaving WW)* and ahd on wide track *(paralleling unseen rd, some 100 yds to L)* with trees on R. *(After 330 yds, clear view - 60 yds to R - of Greenwood Gate Clump (and sign), this is the highest point on Ashdown Forest, and of walk (223 metres* */ 731 feet above sea level)).* After 600 yds, cross old rd (lattice structure) and in 130 yds, TL down to ***(CP2)***

**Checkpoint 2** **BLACK HILL CAR PARK**  ***10.1 miles TQ 474307* Opens 10:30 – Closes 15:00 *(for 15 milers)***

**ALL ROUTES FROM HERE TO END**

1. From car park, return past posts and **ahd** **over** wide grass track and ahd **thru** tree clump (keeping L). At far side, **TL** for 40 yds, then TR on more minor fp. Ahd between two trees – *15 milers need to* ***STOP*** *and turn around for views of* ***South*** *Downs.*  At fp junction (hedge ahead), **TR** (CB 050) for 85 yds, then **TL** (CB 310) on a main grassy forest ride, soon becomes rutted, for 230 yds (rd visible some 500 yds directly ahd)*. Extensive views to R of where you were earlier, and* ***North*** *Downs on horizon beyond and ahd*.
2. Ahd over X track for further 300 yds and, at end, BR onto another main ride– now on Vanguard Way (VGW). After 20 yds, at multipath junction, BL. After 90 yds BR and in 120 yds, at small posts (VGW), BR on **small** fp for 35 yds to reach main forest rd opposite an entrance to Gills Lap car park.  *An Ashdown Coffee Hut is likely to be situated here – it may close at 16:30* ***10.8 miles TQ 468316***
3. **GREAT CARE** X rd (B2026) to go between two concrete blocks (VGW) and ascend horse ride. At top, TR on main track (VGW) and keep ahd, after 350 yds passing trig point (30 yds on R) and Gills Lap Clump. Keep on main track for 200 yds and TL – just before more major descent – **thru / past**

**wooden barrier** (VGW) to viewpoint / memorial (A.A.Milne, E.H.Shepard). ***11.2 miles TQ 469321***

1. Exit viewpoint at **other** end (VGW), and **immediately** TR down small fp to wide grass path. **TL** and fllw this wide fp for 330 yds to cnr of hedge on R. ***TQ 467320***
2. **TR** downhill on wide fp, with open ground to L, over Xing track and continue descending. Ahd on sandy track, swinging L, for 275 yds, with woods on R *(ignore fps going into trees)*. At major track junction, **TR** (CB 315) down **wide** track (now between trees) and continue down. Track becomes rutted and passes buildings & gardens on R. Continue, passing wooden barrier, and TL on minor road. X bridge *- or ford stream!* **KIDD’S HILL /** **NEWBRIDGE**  ***12.3 miles*** ***TQ 456326***
3. **TR** on rd (**CARE**) for 120yd. Pass over bridge, then **immediately** TL (VGW) along fp, soon uphill. Meet and **TL** along track. In 40yd **BR** (ahd) along fp (CB 250) to continue uphill. After 200 yds **BR** and continue uphill (CB 280) for 360 yds. Just before main fp bears L, **BR** (CB 320) **into trees**, along minor **fp**, and emerge to pass cricket ground & pavilion on L.
4. X minor road diagonally L, then immediately BR and ahd on wide track (VGW) to go **behind** bowling green (on R). Ahd on track to reach rd (VGW). ***13.1 miles TQ 447330***
5. **CARE**, X rd & ahd for 40 yds to meet crossing fp. **TL** along this level fp (CB 240) (VGW). After 220 yds, **ignore** obv fp (VGW) going R and **keep ahd for 40 yds** to **TR** onto **brick & gravel track**. Fllw for 350 yds down to end, by low wooden barrier (WM), with house on R. ***TQ 444332***
6. Golf Course, **always be aware of flying golf balls**, **CARE** – X over fairway (CB300) to WM post. Ahd on rough grass / undergrowth (ill-defined fp) to reach **next WM**. TR on newly laid grass path, alongside fairway, for 100 yds, then **CARE,** BL (now CB 300) for 60 yds, **Xing fairway**, heading for nearest tree and low noticeboard with WM *(LHS of fp)*. ***13.6 miles TQ 441334***
7. Fllw (either) fp down, to pass idyllic houses on R at bottom. X concrete stepping stones and ascend on main fp to soon pass along top of *(golfing)* green. Ahd (WM) on track *(“150 yds to 14th tee”).* Ignore fp at (first) bend, but after 30 yds **TL** on fp (WM) and ahd. BR at next WM *(tree)*, and ahd behind houses to reach and X a two plank bridge. Soon negotiate fallen tree and reach edge of another fairway (WM) at Bank Cottage. ***14.3 miles TQ 434339***

**Take great care in this next paragraph – follow the instructions closely**

1. **CARE** **X directly ahd** over fairway(CB 320) **to WM**, and **CARE** **BslightlyL** to cross next fairway **to next WM**. After crossing this *second* fairway, **TL** alongside fairway (CB 240) for **40** yds *(passing lone tree on R).* 30 yds before conifer ahead, **TR** on distinct fp (CB 270 initially) going downhill. Fllw **into** trees and TR down and soon **onto grass bank** above next fairway. **TR** **on** grass bank (WM) and soon BL to go down to **CARE** X fairway and over handrailed wooden bridge (WM). ***14.5 miles*** ***TQ 431339***
2. **CARE** BslightlyR around ‘top’ of next green, to TL up gravel **driveway** (WM), past clubhouse. Ahd thru (tarmac) car park, ahd on driveway, **CARE** swinging L. Keep **L** of **GIVE WAY** sign. ***14.8 miles***
3. Ahd, soon bearing **R** (ahd) on Highgate Road, which becomes unmade. Continue, past houses both sides, and descend to meeting of unmade roads. **TR** into Spring Meadows and, at end, continue on narrow tarmac fp by gates. ***TQ 426344*** Ahd on fp across top of grass triangle, and continue ahd on fp between houses. Thru metal barrier, X rd and TL on pavement downhill. TL to X rd again and TR to **CARE** X main rd via pedestrian crossing.
4. **Ahd** past front of Co-op and almost immediately TL into Lower Road, passing car park on R. Ahd for 190 yds and, just after Cyrnel Bakery, at low white concrete cone on L (lying on side), TsharpL up slope, to X minor rd to **FINISH** ***15.7 miles TQ 425352***

**Congratulations**