

MARLOW DONKEY 2024 Important Information.

We hope you enjoy this year's Marlow Donkey at Liston Hall, Marlow (Marlow Community Association)

Please note the CP opening times, entrants arriving early will not be allowed in. If you expect to complete the course at over 6mph please inform the Help desk at registration and please start at 09:30. **All entrants to finish by 18:00 pm (16:30 for 16 milers)**

Transport : Parking is available in Marlow towns car parks at Liston RD (outside hall, see 'You are Here' on map) and 100m away at Dean Street, plus others on map below. Both are £1.20/day on a Sunday. Free parking is likely to be available just off the A404 exit in Parkway, 1km from the hall. The walk from the station is shown below: if the first train is late we will make allowances for you. There are buses from Wycombe and Reading, we will also wait for the latter.



Registration : YOU MUST REGISTER AT THE HALL BEFORE STARTING AND ON FINISHING. Ensure we have the correct course and details recorded. If you change from the 25 mile to the 16 mile route, all you need to do is inform the marshals at check-in at Frieth (CP 1) Register from 08:00 (hall is not open before this) and start at any time between 08:15 and 09:30. Any last minute information or changes to the route will be notified on a notice close to the door or at registration. For those who ordered them, we will send certificates by email after the walk.

For the event : Please ensure that you have printed out, and brought with you, a copy of the route description as there will not be any available on the day. Also you must have the required maps (ideally EXP 171 and 172) in paper or electronic format, **a mug**, suitable clothing/footwear, a basic first aid kit, a compass, a fully charged and switched on mobile phone and sufficient food and drink for the 8ml sections between checkpoints.

Food : We will provide drinks and snacks at the start, at the Frieth checkpoint after 8 miles (and after 17 miles on the 25 route) and basic food (including a veg curry) and drinks at the finish. There is no food, drink or shops between these checkpoints so please carry adequate for 8 mile sections. The food provided cannot be guaranteed free from contamination with allergens. This is not because of carelessness on the organiser's part but because of the practicality of taking over a kitchen within a short time scale.

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MARLOW DONKEY-2024 Route Description

Italics = Place names or path number can be seen from route.

Abbreviations: **ahd**=ahead: **B**=bear: **BW**=bridleway: **cont**=continue: **CB** = Compass bearing **CW**=Chiltern Way: **encl**=enclosed: **FP**=FP: **GT**=gate: **GR**=O.S. grid ref: **KG**=Kissing Gate: **L**=left: **LHS/RHS**=L/R hand side: **opp**=opposite: **PH**=pub: **R**=right: **RD**=RD: **sli**=slight: **SP**=sign post: **ST**=stile: **TK**=track: **thru**=through: **T**=turn: **WM**=waymark(ed) (often white or yellow arrows): **X**=cross/across **All GRs are SU xxxxxx**

Section 1: 13.3 km, 8.3 miles, 920 ft ascent

1. Leave hall and ahd for 150m with car park on L. At end, TR on FP thru *Anglers's Court* arch under building. TR for 20m, TL to X zebra crossing, then TL for 75m. TR into *Dukes Place* and ahd to RD junc by *Riley Park* Entrance. X with care (B sli R) to go thru gateway into park. TL to follow perimeter of park to gateway opposite. Exit thru small parking area, X RD and B sli R to encl tarmac FP. GR 846 866

2. Follow FP as it meanders to emerge on RD. Ahd uphill on tarmac path X 2nd RD ahd to RD, *Ryans Mount*. TL to far end thru metal barrier. TR on tarmac path past green on RHS between houses and line of trees. X RD and ahd across grass thru GT onto encl FP on L of *Spinfield School*. At end of FP TL on RD. At RD junc ahd X 2 RDs to far pavement. TR then, at *Bovingdon Heights* on R, TL to follow FP SP on TK through trees to encl FP ahd. GR 836 865

3. Ahd for 300m, ignoring FPs to L. After stony descent, join FP from L and ahd 200m to 4 way junc at end of encl section. Ahd into woodland. After 200m ignore WM to L; after further 60m BL at WM and ahd for 500m, ignoring Xing paths (and joining CW, white arrows). X RD at *Woodland Trust* sign and ahd (CW), soon descending steeply to edge of wood. Cont ahd on encl FP which later bends L to reach RD. TR for 30m to TL into entrance to *Homefield Wood*. GR 814 866

4. Follow TK along valley bottom for 700m (ignoring first WM post at 400m). At second WM post leave CW to TL uphill through fence gap, bearing R and then L to reach RD at small gravel parking area. TR on RD for 300m to TL at FP sign (CW). Thru GT and X fld to K/G, then second fld to K/G and houses at RD corner. Ahd on RD to sharp bend, then ahd over ST on to FP with water trough and hedge on L after 40m. GR 796 866

5. X fld and TR at XTK for 350m to T-junc. TL and in 30m TR. When tarmac TK turns L cont ahd thru GT. Follow TK 10m into wood then TL at WM and descend through wood (ignoring FP on L after 100m). At bottom of wood TR on encl FP between flds to reach RD. TL, ignore Bottom Hill on R and where RD bears L (Lower Mead) TR following housing access RD, swing L at bend, then

after 40m TR on X-ing encl FP (CW). GR 783 875

6. Ahd on FP for 600m to reach K/G on to RD. TR and ahd on RD; when RD turns R at *Little Colstrove* ahd on TK which becomes fld edge FP and, later, encl FP. X RD and ahd X thru plantation and two flds. Near end of second fld BL to X TK on to encl FP, then X two more flds to RD and village. TR on RD, passing *Crooked Chimney Cottage* on R then, when RD turns L, BR on encl BW. GR 778 899

7. Follow BW uphill. At junc after 750m BR, still on BW (CARE: rutted in places and may be slippery if wet). At top of hill, just before BW leaves wood, BL on narrow FP (WM on post on L). Follow FP through wood (ignoring path to L after about 500m). At edge of wood ahd X fld to RD. X RD and TL thru K/G on to encl FP. Ignore K/G on R and ahd thru further GTs on to encl FP between flds and then passing houses to RD. TR for 150m to reach, on R.

CP 1 : FRIETH VILLAGE HALL, GR 796 902

OPEN 09:25, CLOSES 13:00

Section 2: 14.5 km, 9.0 miles, 1370 ft ascent.

16 milers proceed to Para 15; 25 milers must downgrade to 16 mile route if arriving after 12.30

8. Leave hall and TR on RD. In 100m, after church on R, at FP on R, TL on wide TK (before *Flint Cottage*: ignore misleading “no right of way” sign). Thru 2 KGs onto encl FP to RD. TL, RD swings R. Just after *Spurgrove Cottage* on R by red postbox, BR on TK. At 90° bend, ahd/½R to narrow encl FP with house drive on R. T1/2L into wood thru holly bushes to reach crossing FP (WM post). TL for 300m to next WM post. TR on FP descending to eventually join wider TK from L to reach gravel area. Thru GT to RD. GR 788 912

9. TL beside RD, on TK along verge. Ahd over RD junc, climb bank opposite. TR following path as it swings L into encl FP parallel to RD. At path junc TL thru GT. At WM post TL with hedge on L. X ST ahd and thru GTs (may be open) on to encl TK. Where TK swings L ahd on TK, later joining BW from R. When BW swings L ahd thru KG. At end of fld, thru KG on to encl FP (CARE: uneven surface and holes). Ignore FP on R and emerge on RD. GR 777 912

10. TL, then TR opposite *Chequers* PH. At end of churchyard wall follow path on RH verge and thru GT to encl FP. At 4 way junc BL to GT and X RD (DANGER: DESCENDING BIKES) to follow encl FP. Enter fld and descend gradually to far L corner. Thru KG, TL thru GT and follow TK to village green. (Note you are now in Dibley or, to give its proper name, Turville). TR on RD for 150m, passing church on L. TR at FP sign with hedge on L. GR 766 912

11. Narrow FP with houses on R goes up steep steps to enter fld. X fld and

thru 3 GTs to enter wood. FP climbs through wood and then thru KG to open area with box bushes then BL to contour hillside with fence on L. At end of fence BR, then at WM, BL to cont in same general direction. Ignore FP bearing R and continue to reach RD. Ahd up RD then, as RD swings R, TL (*Church & Turville Manor* sign) for 80m to large gate where TR up steps into churchyard. GR 756 923

QUESTION (ANSWER TO BE REPORTED AT CHECKPOINT) : WHICH SAINT IS THE CHURCH NAMED AFTER?

12. Quiet if service in progress. At path bend TL across churchyard to reach FP at WM and T junct, TL to descend to GT. TL along top of fld keeping close to fence on L, then descending thru GT to GT into wood. FP swings R, crosses concrete TK and merges with BW from L. At next junc BL to reach RD at junc with private drive. X RD and ST and follow fence on R to stile into *Idlecombe* wood. Climb steep, uneven steps to FP junc. TL on contouring path for 1km. At T-junc, TR uphill on TK, ignoring two paths to L, to reach GT at RD end. GR 754 908

13. TL thru GT on to encl BW. Cont with fence on R after next GT, then with wood on L to reach bench on L. BR X fld downhill to go thru GT. TR (CW) for 80m, then BL X fld to GT and RD. X RD, thru GT and follow path thru wood, passing gas depot on R. Thru GT and directly across fld (ignoring FP bearing R) to enter wood at GT. At top of steep climb TL on FP and follow thru wood, later descending to corner where path turns R with field and fence on L and later turns L to descend to TK leading to RD. GR 775 903

14. TR on RD for 150m then TL on TK (*Skirmett Village Hall* on L). Thru GT and ahd on encl FP (ignoring FP bearing R). Thru GT and X fld thru KG, where TL past GT on TK, which ascends to enter *Adams Wood* by bench on R. Follow main BW as it ascends steeply and swings R. Continue to junc with bench on L, where TR for 100m to go thru GT into fld. Thru fld with fence on R to GT and TK. TR on TK to RD corner. Ahd on RD to T-junc, where TL for 300m to reach, on R.

CP 2 : FRIETH VILLAGE HALL, 27.8 km, 17.3 miles GR 796 902

OPEN 10:40, CLOSES: 15:30

Section 3: 12.2 km, 7.6 miles, 390 feet ascent

15. Leave hall and TR on RD. In 100m, after church on R, TR thru K/G on to encl FP. At end, thru 2 K/Gs and TL on fld edge. At fence corner ahd X fld to wood corner to 2nd K/G. X TK diagonally L and ahd on narrow FP (initially with TK on L) to reach GT and RD. X RD diagonally L and follow TK. BL off TK at WM post (*at Moor Pen*) and follow clear path thru grassland to reach narrow section thru bushes and into wood (probably muddy). TL to X plank bridge and

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follow main path thru wood, ignoring side turnings, to TK at house entrance.
GR 803 907

16. X TK and ahd. FP climbs gradually, then swings R. Ignore first path bearing R and at second fork (no WM) BR and then R again to reach end of TK and houses. Follow TK to RD and T sharp R on access drive. At fork in drive in front of large gate BL then, at hedge on L, thru narrow gap to fld corner. X first fld to narrow hedge gap, then second fld to corner of wood. Ahd with wood on L and soon hedge on R. Cont ahd on TK thru wood, then passing open area on L. At end of open area (WM post on R) BL on narrow path to stile (**CARE:** top step is broken). Ahd to join TK from L. Where TK bears R downhill TL past electricity pole on narrow path to RD. GR 816 909

17. Just **before** RD/GT, opposite GT on R, TL on permissive path alongside RD for 250m to plank bridge over ditch. X RD (**GREAT CARE:** busy RD with visibility to L limited by dip), thru gap and X fld to WM post at edge of wood. Ahd into wood for 50m then TR (faint WM arrow on tree). Follow FP, keeping close to wood edge on R and ignoring side turnings, for 300m. At the 2nd WM post with a blue post visible to the L, TL to pass the blue post and a red water hydrant. Cont in same general direction for 300m (CB: 100) to gap in high blue fence and airfield perimeter RD. GR 823 913

18. Ahd on RD, passing windsock on L, then BL thru gap in further high blue fence. BL into trees to reach motorway fence TR on encl path to RD end. BR on RD to RD junc, where TR on pavement, later separated from RD by trees. X airfield access RD. At next side road (*Claymoor Park*) TL X main RD (**CARE**), TR past *Elizabeth House*, then TL on RD to *Waste Disposal Site*. BL onto narrow path parallelling RD, emerging into flds after 250m then ahd between flds, swinging R downhill to lowest point in valley bottom in trees. GR 843 904

19. TR on marked BW (SP in trees on L) thru trees, join TK, BR at next junct, and follow on valley bottom to RD corner. TL (*Ragmans Lane*) and after steep climb TR (*Andrews Way*). Ignore *Ragmans Close* on L and TL into *Highview Close*. At end TL thru gap in hedge (*Woodland Trust*). Ascend on climbing FP ignoring contouring FP to R and all other side turnings. After 550m enter open space, TL thru GT and BR on encl BW, pass *The Barn* and *The Stables*. After wooden fence, TR on encl FP (CW). GR 849 887

20. After 200m at junc, BR on narrow encl FP (CW), X RD, ahd to pass RD end on L and reach RD. TL on opposite pavement for 30m then, after number 43, TR on encl FP (CW) soon descending steeply, with central hand rail, to RD. TL on opposite pavement for 100m then, after number 105, TR on encl FP (CW). X access RD and ahd up LHS of playing fields. At T-junc TL (leaving CW) on encl FP and follow to RD (ignoring FP on R). GR 845 880

21. X RD ahd on encl TK, thru GT on to encl FP, then further GT to descend fld with fence on R. Thru GT to encl FP which turns R, then L, passing recreation ground on R, to RD. X RD and cont on encl FP to RD end at school entrance. TR on opposite pavement for 60m, just before RD junc, TL on encl FP to RD.

X RD and ahd on R side of RD circle. Where RD swings L TR on path; TL immed before GT to playing fields; encl tarmac path bears L to RD end. Follow RD to T-junc. TL and then TR to pass *Rookery Court* on R . BR into *Heron's Place* and ahd on tarmac FP to RD. X RD at pedestrian traffic lights and TR on pavement. X *Claremont Gardens* and TL into *Liston Road* to reach, on L, the finish.

LISTON HALL, MARLOW GR 851 867.

OPEN 10:30, CLOSES 16:30 (16 ml route), CLOSES 18.00 (25ml route)

40 km, 24.9 miles OR 25.6 km, 15.9 miles WELL DONE !