

MARLOW DONKEY 2026 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 9kph please inform the Help desk at registration and please start at 09:30. **All entrants to finish by 19:00 pm (16:00 for 26k route)**

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. If the first train or bus is late we will make allowances for you.



Registration. : YOU MUST REGISTER AT THE HALL BEFORE STARTING AND ON FINISHING. Ensure we have the correct course and details recorded. If you change routes, please inform the marshals at Hambleden. The hall will open at 07:30 for 50km walkers ONLY who will have a mass start at 08:00. Others may start anytime between 08:15 and 09:30.

50km walkers: note intermediate deadline of 12:40 at 16.5km/10.3mls

Any last minute information or changes to the route will be notified at registration. Certificates will only be available electronically and on the SI site a few days after the event, though there is a free badge.

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 to allow you to get between the checkpoints.

Food : We will provide drinks and snacks at the checkpoints and basic food (including a veg curry) and drinks at the finish. Shops/café should be open at Hambleden (8mls) and Stonor Park to provide emergency supplies. 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.

MARLOW DONKEY-2026 50km Route Description

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

Abbreviations: **ahd**=ahead: **B**=bear: **BW**=bridleway: **CB**=compass bearing:

cont=continue: **CW**=Chiltern Way: **encl**=encl: **F**=fork: **fld**=field: **FP**=FP: **FPS**=FP sign: **GT**=gate: **GR**=O.S. grid ref: **immed**=immediately: **junc**=junction: **KG**=kissing gate: **L**=left: **LHS/RHS**=L/R hand side: **opp**=opposite: **R**=right: **RD**=RD: **sli**=slight: **SP**=Signpost(ed): **ST**=stile: **TK**=track: **thru**=through: **T**=turn: **WM**=waymark(ed) (often white or yellow arrows): **X**=cross/across **All GRs are SU xxxxxx**

Note: in view of the number of these, only some STs and GTs are mentioned.

50km walkers: note intermediate deadline of 12:40 at 16.5km/10.3mls

STAGE 1 TO HAMBLEDEN – ALL ROUTES 14.0 km, 8.7 miles, 620 ft ascent

- 1.** Leave hall, TL and ahd with car park on L. Swing L with RD and BL through gates into *Liston Court*. T first R to go thru shopping arcade. On reaching High Street, TL. X *Institute Rd* then X zebra crossing and TL on opposite side of High St. At mini-roundabout, cross *Pound Lane* and enter *Higginson Park*. Ahd on main path crossing park to river. BR on main towpath and ahd upstream along river for 2 km. At *Kyrece's Legacy Buoy*, before weir, TR away from river on lane. After 500m, keep L at FPS and BL with lane. BR thru GT onto 'Public Footpath' round *Lowgrounds Farm*, soon rejoining lane. After 200 m, as lane turns and next to *Gt Marlow PC* board, TL on FP. GR 834 851
- 2.** Ahd on encl FP and thru grassy area onto RHS of fld. BR on encl FP to X lane. Ahd uphill on large FP signs to emerge at *Harleyfield Golf Club*. Follow FP signs and white walking lane markers thru buildings and onto encl FP beside golf course. Thru KG then trees for 200 m. At end of fence, TR up TK to X lane and ahd (north) on encl FP to go thru KG to RD. GR 820 849
- 3.** Cross busy RD WITH GREAT CARE. B½R to take FP opposite thru gap in fence then TR away from houses to pass to R of small electricity station and back thru gap into woods. Cont along green fence past *school* entrance and go thru *Marlow U3A* gate. Ahd around LHS of car park following green railings and exit still along railings. Ahd on WMs to R of fence and railings. After 300 m, at first *Nature Reserve* sign, BR on yellow WMs.
- 4.** At end of fence on L cont ahd for 120 m in direction of WM post, pass the WM (with field appearing ahd to R) to reach another white 'Nature Reserve' sign (facing away from you) with multiple FP arrows. GR 822 857
- 5.** T sharp L on most obvious path heading west. After 200 m, TL at T junct, back onto yellow WMs. After 700 m, just before gap in fence and house (*No 135*), BR within woods and fence. Keep L thereafter to emerge at end of Lane at *Tower House*. GR 816 853
- 6.** Ahd down lane past polytunnels. 25 m after last of these and garage, TR thru small gap in hedge onto faint downhill FP (NB if you reach large house on L with 3 garages you have gone too far). Soon pick up WMs on trees and follow downhill along fence, to reach T junct. TL, still along RHS of fence, pass tree house and ahd 370 m to junc with lane. TR and ahd to ascend to *The Pheasantry*. Ahd past the cow's head onto encl FP, eventually onto gravel lane. Ahd for 330m, onto metalled

lane, then TL at FPS opp *The Old Laundry*. Thru KG onto TK for 40 m to TR on FP. Pass *Iron Age Fort* and down on FP thru trees to *Bockmer Lane*. TL to main RD.
GR 805 845

7. B sli L to X RD WITH CARE over island and down lane opp. After 80 m, immed past first house on R and opp large wooden gates on L, TR thru unmarked gap in hedge. After 150 m thru KG into fld and along RH fld edge. Thru KG and X TK thru red GTs. At next KG, TR on permitted path/TK. As TK bears L, ahd on FP on the RHS of fld to RD. TL on pavement for 80m then X RD to FPS for *Circular Walk* and go thru KG
GR 800 847
8. Ascend on encl path for 200 m, enter trees, then BR on upper path. Follow narrow path uphill, eventually widening at top. BL then keep R on widest path to enter fld on grassy TK. 50 m into fld, BL X V shaped ST and ahd on RHS of fld. Thru GT onto encl FP, soon swinging R. After 350 m, reach 4 way junct, where T sharp L on TK (in front of large metal gate). Follow TK for 200 m, then TR before '*Private Land*' sign to descend along LHS of fence bordering quarry. Thru KG onto encl FP then X ST into fld. TR to fld corner to go thru a hidden KG to reach RD. GR 791 856
9. TR on RD for 10 m then TL on FP entering *Hambleden Estate*. Ahd on RHS of fld thru KG then encl FP. Ahd thru KG and TL downhill. Thru KG onto encl FP. At the end, thru GT and BL down TK. TR at TK junction at bottom of hill. Ahd 500m on TK to T junc with lane next to *Kenricks*. TL, soon pass the *Stag and Huntsman* then *Garage*, then TL on gravel to reach:

CP1 : HAMBLEDEN VILLAGE HALL

GR 784 865

NOTE SHOP ON R FOR BUYING WATER, COFFEE ETC.

OPEN : 09:30 CLOSES 13.30

NOTE THERE IS LIMITED FOOD AT THE NEXT CHECKPOINT ON 50k ROUTE SO STOCK UP HERE

For **26 km route** go to paragraph 18. For **40 km and 50 km** routes continue:

10. Leave check point and TL on RD. After 100 m X bridge over stream (possibly dry) and TL thru KG. X field CB 150 for 470 m to KG and TR on TK to RD. TR on RD for 100 m and TL on TK. Pass houses then TR in front of '*Private*' sign, taking uppermost path, to follow inside wood edge for 600 m. Cont on encl TK for 250 m to RD. TR past houses and BL up grassy TK (BR on the slope) to enter wood. Cont on arrows thru wood on TK which after 900m bears L and then R to emerge from wood on encl path to reach RD at *Roundhouse*.
GR 758874

16.5km/10.3mls A MARSHAL WILL BE POSITIONED HERE TO DEAL WITH VOLUNTARY OR COMPULSORY (after 12:40) DOWNGRADES FROM 50km to 40km ROUTES

11. TL on RD for 600 m. Ahd at triangular green on L. In 200 m, opp RD on R, TL on path becoming more encl, then ahd X field, soon with fence on R to RD. TR for 100m, then TR down second driveway (*Benhams Lodge*, NOT *Benhams*) and down thru wood to reach encl FP. Thru GT and follow encl path round edge of wood to reach driveway and follow to RD. TL for 300 m past several entrances, then TL on TK at FPS. After 300m, thru large metal GT, shortly TR thru GT and follow encl FP to RD.
GR 752857

- 12.** 50k ROUTE X RD to GT and follow FP with fence on L. X TK and ahd with fence on R to emerge on TK (*Oxfordshire Way*). TR for 200m and X RD to cont on encl path which soon descends steeply to RD. TL and X main RD to pavement. TR and immed before *Rainbow* PH TL on FP then BR X field to reach encl FP which climbs to RD. TL on RD. Where RD turns R, with common ahead, B1/2R over grass (CB 245⁰) towards church, TR before reaching RD to follow churchyard wall to reach:

CP 2: BIX VILLAGE HALL, 50K ROUTE ONLY

GR 728853

OPEN : 11:00 CLOSSES 13:30

Stage 3 to Hambleden

13.4km, 8.3 mile, 900 ft ascent

- 13.** 50k ROUTE Leave hall thru car park to RD. TR and, where RD turns R, TL on TK and cont X field for 250 m, then TR on crossing path to reach and enter wood. BL on waymarked path after 250m BR and ahd on TK which descends and swings L. Ahd to descend path along edge of wood. Thru GT and descend with fence on R to GT. TR on TK. Thru GT and X farmyard to RD. GR 728867
- 14.** 50k ROUTE TL for 400 m, ignoring TK on L and passing ruined chapel. TR on encl TK (*Oxfordshire Way*) which ascends steadily for 1300m (joined part way by TK from R). On reaching RD TR and immed TL between houses. At field corner BR X field diagonally under power lines (CB 060) to enter wood. Follow path though wood and ahd, descending across two fields to encl path to TL on RD. GR 737887
- 15. The 40 km and the 50 km route are now reunited.**
Follow RD for 320 m. (CARE: busy road; use RH verge where possible). TR through tall KG and follow path alternately climbing and contouring through deer park, with views of *Stonor House* on L. (*Note sign to 'Feeling Peckish' café if you need water*). Exit park through tall KG. Path soon joins TK; cont uphill to RD. GR752897
- 16.** X RD and follow TK to KG into field. After 35 m TR XST and immed TL along LH field edge. After copse TL XST and immed TR along RH field edge. At end of field thru KG and descend to X TK. Ahead on path ascending to X ST and then X field to ST at RD junc. Ahd on RD for 400 m, then BL on farm TK (*Upper Woodend Farm*). At end of concrete TK BR on encl path, which later descends through woodland to tarmac TK. GR768877
- 17.** X to follow chalky gravel TK uphill. At top BR at WM and pass bench to TK junction where TR. Join tarmac TK and at XTK junc TL to exit wood and X field to wood corner. Downhill 40 m on TK then TR to follow path descending inside wood edge. At junct at bottom, T sharp R up to follow contouring TK, ignoring TK bearing R uphill after 160 m. After a further 1130 m TL at junc and in 60 m TL at junc to descend to reach tarmac path to RD. X to side RD opposite and follow into *Hambleden* village. TR to reach:

CP 3: HAMBLEDEN VILLAGE HALL

GR 784865

OPEN 11:00 : CLOSSES: 16:30

- 18.** Thru lych gate into churchyard and ahd to L of church. Emerge onto and ahd on lane for 100 m. TR onto FP (CW). Ahd on valley bottom for 800m thru various flds and GTs and "Wellington bush" then between gardens. X lane keeping to CW and ahd thru KG and then on encl FP. Eventually thru KG, TR (CW) and ahd on lane to reach *Little Colstrobe*. GR 783 882
- 19.** TR with lane out of village, leaving CW and passing *Longspring House*. Ahd uphill for 170 m then BL as lane splits in front of *March*. 40 m later at merging TK, TR up FP, passing sign for *Pheasants Hill Common*. Climb steeply uphill into woods. Ahd at 4 way junction take 3rd L, keeping uphill then BL. Leave continuous woods and ahd thru strip of bushes dividing two flds. Emerge and ahd on TK on LHS of fld. On reaching lane TR to reach *Rockwell End Hill*. GR 795 882
- 20.** TR (SP : *Pheasants Hill*) and ahd at next RD junct, still on signs for *Pheasants Hill*. After 240 m, on reaching edge of trees, TL on narrow entrance after the FP sign Ahd as path becomes TK. Keep ahd on this TK, ignoring multiple TK and path junctions for 500 m, X lane on TK with fence on RHS to pass pheasant coop, FL to merge with wider TK from L. BR on this, soon leaving woods and ahd to reach lane at bend (**note water tap on L**). Ahd on lane between avenue of trees, passing *Deliveries* sign. Ahd to T junc. GR 792 869
- 21.** TL at T junc on Lane, between hedge and fruit trees. Ahd 670 m thru bollards, X Lane ahd, go round metal GT and mirror, and ahd on unmarked TK. After 330 m, immed before LH bend in TK, TR onto WM'd small path into wood thru posts. Ahd into wood, over a path junc after 100 m and a multiple junc after another 100 m. Keep ahd 200 m downhill on WMs and parallel to posts on L to reach T junc. TR at bottom (do not TL to reach TK) thru woods to descend to grassy TK, eventually joining the CW. Ahd along TK in valley for 1 km to reach RD at *Homefield Wood*. GR 815 867
- 22.** TR on RD for 30m, then TL on encl FP (CW). Ahd for 550 m, following path as it bends R. On reaching woods, keep ahd uphill to reach and X lane at *Woodland Trust* sign. Ahd on FP in woods opposite (CW), entering *Marlow Common*. Keep heading east on WMs and downhill at multiple path intersections for 750 m (stay with CW). Eventually, descend into the middle of a shallow dip, then as path flattens out, enter encl FP with fld becoming visible to R. After 220 m along this encl FP, reach fork and keep ahd on encl FP (leaving CW which bears R into fld), soon climbing steeply. After 375 m, pass onto TK thru trees and emerge on RD at *Bovingdon Heights*. GR 836 865
- 23.** X and TR on RD. As RD bifurcates, ahd L of *Spinfield Lane* sign, ignoring *Hill Top Drive*. TL on *Forty Green Drive*. At end, TR on FP and follow thru GTs to emerge at *Spinfield School*. Ahd to X RD at *No Cycling* and FPS and ahd on tarmac FP between houses and line of trees. Follow 320 m, ignoring path with FPS to L, to go onto narrower path between two houses and bushes to emerge on RD. TL to reach RD junct. Keep ahd on *Quoitings Drive* for 70 m. At *FP/No Cycling* sign, TR onto encl tarmac FP. Follow this as it meanders to emerge on RD. GR 846 867

24. X RD and B sli R to go thru parking area thru gates into *Riley Park*. TR and follow perimeter of park to leave at RH corner next to playground, TR and follow *Crown Rd*, passing *Sunlight Cottages*, down to centre of Marlow. TL to pass *The Butchers Tap*. Ahd 75 m then TR to X zebra crossing. TR for 20 m then go thru tunnel below *Anglers Court* sign, passing *Suum Restaurant*. Emerge close to Liston Rd car park and TL for 150 m to return to:

LISTON HALL, MARLOW GR 851 867 CLOSSES 19:00 WELL DONE!

TOTALS 50k route 50 km, 31.3 miles, 2595 ft ascent