



Medium Route

**18.70
Miles**

FAIRLANDS VALLEY CHALLENGE – July 2023

Should you be forced to retire from the event, please do so at a 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: **07753 58151**.

You may wish to install OS Maps on your phone to use the GPX files.
You may wish to install What3Words on your phone to help you to the next checkpoint should you get lost.

Key:	AH – ahead	FP - footpath	CP – checkpoint
	L- left	bway – bridleway	GR – grid reference
	R – right	cont – continue	WP- waymarker post
	BL – bear left	junc – junction	X – cross
	BR – bear right	yds – yards	SLOT – same line of travel
	TL – turn left	imm – immediately	thru - through
	TR –turn right	KG – kissing gate	opp – opposite
	W3W- What3Words	encl - enclosed	

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

Start: Marriotts School - GR 25244 - W3W . ///rings.cotton.park

Section A - Marriotts School to Watton

At school gates TR down Telford Ave to end, ignoring side turnings. X over Faraday R and enter woods to L of bin, and take right hand path thru wood. At end TL on concrete path, then AH to X grass in front of Phoenix Nursery. AH down road to pass concrete bollards and trees to cycle track by main road. TL down cycle track passing bus stop to road.(Chells Way) X with great care. AH opp uphill to reach small road. X road and AH up grassy track to just before road (Blackwell Close). TR and take enclosed path and follow to footbridge.

X footbridge and cont AH on FP to black posts at road. **(Routes split here)**

TL downhill to junc where TR. Follow road past The Crown pub. Approx 150yds past pub and just after farm gate (Lord's Farm),(DO NOT GO

THROUGH FARMYARD) to footpath signs. TL thru gate taking permissive path between barn on left and field, thru gate and TR uphill. 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 uphill to road. X road to path opp (TAKE CARE HERE). Follow path uphill thru wood to WP. Go through gap on left up into field and follow path round to R, with hedge/trees on R, field on L to reach KG. Thru KG and pass to L of containers.

Bear R on 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 public byway (Cotton Lane) & cont to track junc by double electricity pole.

TR along stony track & follow as it wends its way uphill, cont on to road (sign Byway 34). Bear R along road as it goes downhill & then uphill to road junc. TL & cont for approx $\frac{3}{4}$ mile downhill towards Watton. (Suggest crossing to RH side of road to face any oncoming traffic), X bridge over bypass.

40m after bridge, X road and follow Byway sign (Mill Lane) down narrow path & cont AH ignoring side turnings to exit from wood. Straight AH downhill & BL at corner of fence. Follow track, fence on L, ignoring side turnings to emerge on tarmac path. TR to checkpoint 80 yds at Scout Hut on L.

CHECKPOINT 1 - WATTON SCOUT HQ - 6.0 miles

GR 300194 - W3W: ///inch.zips.wins

OPEN 9:00 - 11:30

Section B - Watton to Tewin

TL out of checkpoint up to road junc. X road (with great care) and TL on pavement to mini roundabout. X Station Road and take path opp uphill, railing on L. TL at top of green with garden and green trellis fence on left and cont past barrier, past small car park, and cont AH thru second barrier and on to road. TL on road passing Nigel Poulton Community Hall on R and at dog bin TR on enclosed FP (FP18) towards church. At church do not go into churchyard but follow path to R with hedge on L, to reach road. TR and AH to X bridge over railway line. Then TL on road and cont to reach gates into farm.

TL and follow track round L side of farm buildings. At path junc by WP (blue arrows) fork L and AH thru trees to junc by sign 'Watkins Hall Farm' (Bway 035). TR and thru gate (Perrywood Farm) cont (1m) up track (Perrywood Lane) to barrier. BR along track thru wood ignoring any side

turns. Stay on main track to reach 4 track junc (white red-topped pole on L)

(Marathon and 50k routes rejoin 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 (hidden) WP BL, for approx 100 yds to where track continues out 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 BR to checkpoint.

CHECKPOINT 2 - TEWIN - 10.6 miles

GR 272147 - W3W: ///barn.filer.dated

OPENING TIMES: 10:30 TO 15:30

Section C - 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 and WP. 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 X track and AH thru KG & cont along backs of houses to go thru another KG. Cross grass area to R of cream house to reach road.

TL on road to junc. X to road opp (White Horse Lane). AH past pub (White Horse!) 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 TR at FP sign on R (Datchworth Green). AH thru trees to emerge at green. TL and L again at Cricket nets (signposted "Robbery Bottom Lane"). AH 120yds to WP where TR to X sports field to gap in fence, then X field to reach road junc. TR and X road to TL into Village Hall car park. TL at end of car park to checkpoint at Datchworth Scout Hut.

Check Point 3 - DATCHWORTH - 13.6 miles

GR 265184 - W3W: ///cycles.bond.giant

OPENING TIMES 11:00 to 16:30

Section D - Datchworth to Finish

Return to road, TL from car park and imm TL on enclosed path. thru kissing gate, SLOT towards church, fence on right, playing field on left. thru gap in hedge. Cont up RH side of field and at corner TL up field

towards Church. At tarmac path TR and follow edge of churchyard to road. TL.

Cont 0.5 miles on road, ignoring side turnings, to house on RH bend where cont AH onto track (bway 24, to Stevenage). SLOT down and up track to just before road, where TR on grass verge. Before crematorium X road to bway opp and cont to barrier at railway bridge. TL up narrow path to top, then TR and follow metal fence on R to corner at path junc. TR down path, under railway bridge and at corner of fence TL.

On grass verge, 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**) and TL on FP, crossing Ashburnam Walk and Roebuck Gate. Cont SLOT on cycle track to football ground. X Monkswood Lane and cont on cycle track. 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 main path passing cross paths to bench with bin. Bear slightly R over grass, aiming for gate in far corner passing to L of round copse of trees. Thru gate and AH under underpass. X cycle track & cont, bearing R, up narrow path into trees. Cont to lake. TR along path, lake to left. At "Water Rescue" pillar, turn ½R up path into small car park.

Exit top of car park, and TL. Stay on main path, passing barriers to "Fairlands Valley Park" sign, where keep R on path. Stay on path, passing brick building (Stevenage Cycling Hub), smaller lake and wooden bridge with 3 "No Cycling" bollards on left. Cont on main path, to pass bin and bench on right. As path swings L, cont AH up and across grass slope to go thru gap in hedges in corner by bin to path. Do not go up steps opp. TR up path and at road TR to go thru school gates to finish.

Finish - GR 255244 - 19.1 miles

WELL DONE