



Half Marathon

13
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.

Please note that the text descriptions have been updated for 2023.

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 255244 - 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)**

TR on road. TL at T junc (Tatlers Lane). TR by house No 15, with green garage doors, into small lane, signposted No Through Road and Public Footpath/Aston. Follow to end at tall metal gate. Go thru KG to L of tall gate then thru further 3 KGs and over footbridge.

Follow fenced path uphill. Thru gap, X lane and AH on encl path to road. X road and TR on path (Footpath 22, New Park Lane). Stay outside wooden fence. TL at corner. At end, TR thru gap and along path. At WP, AH on encl path to sports field. Pass to right of play area and on to path.
(Routes split here)

At corner of play area fence, by bin, cont AH thru trees thru barrier along path to reach road. Cont SLOT, onto enclosed FP, and AH to road. TR to road junc. X and take road opp signed Bragbury End. After approx 100yds, imm after House 1A, TL into FP 24 (signed Sacombe Corner Wood), then thru barrier, down to exit into field. Cont SLOT uphill and down to WP (STOOP). Cont SLOT and at corner (before WP) bear R uphill, cont past gardens to reach road.

TL and cont on road. 30 m after "Waterbridge" on L downhill. At T junc TR **on busy road** and cont on road 1 mile to 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 - 5.3 miles

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

OPEN 9:00 - 11:30

Section B Watton to Finish

TL out of checkpoint up to road junc. X road (with great care) and TL on pavement. At mini roundabout TR up Station Road and cont to cross bridge over railway. Just after bridge TR thru gap by Sub Station, TL and follow hedge line to corner, where BL to emerge on gravel track. TR and cont to pass farm buildings, and where track bears L, TR on grass path to reach road. TL and cont onto track, downhill then up to enter wood. Cont to main path and TL, ignore path on R. AH thru wood then between 2 fields to WP at gravel track where TR to reach road.

TL and cont up to T junc where TR. Cont AH, passing Church

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 - 13.1 miles

WELL DONE