

MARLBOROUGH DOWNS CHALLENGE – LONG ROUTE (33 MILES)
March 2009

BG	Bridle gate	BW	Bridleway	FG	Field gate	RD	Road	TK	Track	XTK	Cross tracks
BL	Bear left	CB	Compass bearing	GR	Grid reference	RHS	Right hand side	TL	Turn left	WDK	Wansdyke
BR	Bear right	CP	Checkpoint	LHS	Left hand side	SO	Straight on	TR	Turn right		(large ditch/bank)

Rough guide	Mile	Detailed Route Description for LONG 33 mile route
Follow arrows (Start is private, avoid before event)	0.3 1.0	<i>TR over small bridge. Follow TK 100yds cross bridge over river. TL on FP. Through BG and SO to trees. TR through kissing gate & BR up gully. At top TR. Keep to top of hill with hedge on left for 900yds (over gully & through wood). SO over two stiles. BL diagonally across field to far corner. BR over stile along path on LHS of field beside hedge. 50yds past left hand bend TR on path for 300yds to RD (GR171676). TL on RD for 100yds. TR on TK. Follow TK for 300yds into field.</i>
Follow arrows to West Woods	1.2 2.2	<i>BL diagonally across field (passing LHS of thicket) downhill to hedge, aiming for ivy covered trees. Down bank, over stile, through hedge and TL along top of steep field for 250yds. Cross stile, SO for 50yds. BR diagonally down hill to TK/RD junction, entrance to West Woods, CP1 (GR165667) (open 9.00am - 11.15am)</i>
Go South-West. Join and follow WDK (Wansdyke)	2.2 3.1 3.5	<i>Cross RD and up TK for 250yds. At signpost on right, TL through wooden barrier and up FP. After 150yds FP levels out. At wooden post TR (ignore FP arrow) on indistinct path for 100yds. At TK junction SO on FP; WDK joins route after 150yds. At XTKs, SO beside WDK for 600yds. At next TK, TL then TR to follow along other side of WDK. After 500yds at edge of wood, go through wooden barrier (ignore footpath sign on right) and TR on TK, WDK still on right. Follow TK alongside WDK down into valley.</i>
S-W in valley	3.5	<i>TL on BW leaving WDK. Follow BW in valley bottom for 1300yds to group of trees and XTK.</i>
BR into wood to top of hill	4.2 4.8	<i>At XTK ignore BG on right. BR beside fence (CB 202). After 100yds BL on FP (leave fence) up through woods to BG. Through BG & BR uphill on TK 300yds to FG and then signpost.</i>
West along top of escarpment	4.8 6.3 6.6	<i>TL along top of hill following fence on left. Cross metal stile with FP sign and follow fence on right with escarpment on left. SO at next stile in same direction (CB 269) to meet fence coming in from right. Follow grass TK downhill, cross metal stile beside FG. Follow grass TK on right of Knap Hill. Through FG onto TK. TR. CP2 (GR115638) (open 9.30am - 12.15pm)</i>
N-W up hill to WDK	6.6 7.2	<i>Cross RD through gate. SO beside fence (CB 332) for 500yds. BL (CB 295) on TK uphill beside fence, over two stiles to reach WDK. Cross WDK. TL follow WDK on your left for 700yds.</i>
West on WDK	7.8 9.2	<i>TL on TK; cross WDK & follow TK for 40yds. TR on TK beside WDK (possibly a gate). Follow WDK for 1 mile through two BGs. BR through FG, BL down TK (GR081652) CP3 (open 10.00am –1.00pm) Routes divide here: after 11.15am you will be diverted to short course</i>
West along WDK	9.2 10.6	<i>SO through BG along WDK for 1300yds passing through 3 BGs and over 1 stile. Go over 2nd stile (by barns on left), BR then TL on TK passing scrub & barns on your left. BL to rejoin WDK. Keep on WDK, through 3BGs & after 4th BG, TL on TK (GR056657). (If water tower is ahead you are on wrong TK!)</i>
S-W on TK to RD. S-W over field. West to white cottage.	10.6 11.5 12.1	<i>After 350yds pass black barn. Follow TK for 1200yds. Go past farm barn (Easton Farm) to RD. TR for 15yds. BL over stile (signed Bishops Cannings). Go diagonally across field CB 222 passing electricity pole to reach corner. BR over stile. SO on LHS of field; over stile & FB. SO over next FB. TR and in 40yds TL round RHS of field for 350yds to white thatched cottage.</i>
TL South to canal.	12.1 12.5	<i>Before reaching cottage TL (sharp) on grass TK CB 166 across field for 400yds (<u>not</u> towards church). At end of field, over FB. BL across field between two oak trees to canal bridge.</i>
TR on tow-path to CP4	12.5 15.6	<i>Cross swing bridge over canal (Bridge No.133). TR along towpath for 3 miles, going under 5 bridges. At 6th bridge (No.139) TR over bridge. CP4 (GR006618) (open 10.40am - 12.45pm)</i>
N-E on path	15.6 16.2	<i>After 20yds go through iron gates and SO on wide path for 1000yds. Cross road. SO through metal barrier on path with line of trees across open fields for 500yds.</i>
Go North Cross road and uphill. and uphill.	16.5 17.1	<i>Under electric wires, BL (leave TK) follow electricity posts towards hill. Follow path to road. TL along RD for 50yds round left hand bend. 15yds past bend, at yellow bin opposite FP sign, TR over stile. Cross LHS of field to corner beyond dip. BR over stile and up hill past pylon to RD. Cross RD, BR up steep grass bank (ignore vehicle track) on indistinct path to top of hill.</i>
East through wood.	17.2 17.5	<i>TR on path along top of hill for 100yds. SO through wood (Leipzig Plantation) for 300yds to reach small car park at top of tarmac road (GR015642). Marker post "R1" (on left).</i>
N-E on TK North on TK	17.5 18.7	<i>TL on wide track (towards radio masts). After 1200yds, just after marker post "R2", track bears left towards house. After 800yds reach XTK. TR at marker post "R3" after 100yds SO to RD.</i>

At XTK TR	19.1	Cross road carefully. CP5 (GR028660) (Open 11.00am - 1.45pm)
North up and over hill to WDK	19.4	TR before metal FG on TK. After 500yds TL through metal BG. Follow fence on LHS of field for 200yds. Through BG, BR uphill CB20 to BG in shallow re-entrant. Through BG, BL 25yds through BG and BR on CB12 (bisect angle between right mast & fence on right – indistinct path).
	19.8	Over brow of hill, aiming for LHS of clump of small trees to reach BG. Through BG, TL along WDK for 40yds.
N-W over top and down. Northwards down, down to farm.	19.8	TR beside fence (towards monument in distance). Aim for trough across field. BL under electric wires. BR on fence line to top of hill. Follow fence downhill and through gate. Down gully 70yds to TK. SO over stile. Follow hedgerow downhill for 550yds. At edge of wood TR, 40yds to FG.
	20.5	TL & keep left for 40yds to next stile. BR across field, then keep to LHS through electric fence
	20.9	gate. TL through FG. SO down LHS of paddock, through gate onto RD.
Keep north, down and up to CP6	20.9	TR to pass farm. At 'South Farm' wall BL down TK. Cross bridge over stream. After 20yds leave TK to BR up path to reach T-junction with wide TK. TR for 60yds. SO (leaving TK) along
	21.7	LHS of field CB16. Through BG and SO to barn CP6 (GR032694) (Open 11.20am - 2.30pm)
Due E up, to monument & White Horse. East to TK, N down TK. TR due East	21.7	TR on FP going east uphill. Over stile at top of TK onto Cherhill Down. SO, follow TK uphill keep to left of copse on top of hill (aim for Cherhill Monument). Go through wooden gate. TR passing iron post with knob. TL through wooden gate. Go uphill to Cherhill Monument. Follow
	23.1	rampart left to view White Horse. Just above back end of horse BR away from trees (CB 102, aiming for Silbury Hill) to fence corner. Follow fence (east) downhill to TK. TL down TK
	23.6	through two FGs passing barn on right. SO downhill (RHS main track). After 200yds TR sharp up TK (after 50yds pass round barrow on your right).
Follow TK East to the A4 road	24.6	Follow TK 0.9mile between wire fences CB 106. Through gate onto open ground and after 200yds (gap in earth bank) BR for 10yds. TL along grass TK following grass bank on left for 300yds. BL through trees, into gully. Follow FP in gully through trees for 400yds to car park.
	25.1	SO to A4 road (GR076692). Cross RD carefully (fast traffic).
A4 for 700yds BL to two big stones. TL on TK to CP7	25.1	BR down pavement CB 110 for 700yds. At “drive entrance” TL & immediately BR along grass
	25.5	TK (signed Windmill Hill & Avebury). Ignore stony TK to right, SO on grass TK, trees on left & hedge on right. After 450yds at TK junction (two sarsen stones ahead in field) TL on TK. (20
	26.1	mile route joins here.) Follow TK NE & then due N for 750yds to barns. CP7. (GR089698) (Open 11.45am – 3.45pm)
Due East to Avebury	26.2	TR on RD for 300yds. SO at junction on "No through road" (signed Avebury) for 400yds. At end of RD, SO on tarmac path. After 100yds SO over river bridge. (Good view of Silbury Hill).
	27.1	SO on FP into churchyard, BR to lich-gate. TL on RD. Pass public toilets. At grass triangle cross main road with care on first corner. BL along narrow grass verge.
Straight on, ENE	27.1	SO on RD signed 'No tourist parking' (CB 070) across Avebury circle. After 5/8 mile pass farm
	28.7	buildings on right. SO on TK for one mile to Ridgeway (GR125708).
Straight on, ENE	28.7	SO through BG ("Welcome to Fyfield Down") on grass bridleway (CB 084) across open ground for 550yds to FG. SO through 3 gates, crossing racehorse gallops. SO down gravel TK into
	30.1	valley. BL on same gravel TK uphill through 2 gates to CP8 (GR143714) (Open 12.10pm - 4.45pm)
Follow signs to Finish (Part private, take another route before day of event)	30.2	TR on TK just after CP8, SE (signed Fyfield Car Park). After 1200yds BR on same TK with
	31.5	triangular grass verge on left. Continue on TK, BL to car park (GR159699). BL through car
	32.1	park to RD. TR along RD for 500yds. <i>SO through gateway on private TK. After 300yds SO over</i>
	32.6	RD onto grass TK. BL following TK to hedge with signpost. TR down grass path for 600yds. At
	33.4	signpost TL (signed Barton Farm) and follow grass path on LHS of field downhill and then uphill. At far end of field TR then TL down into valley. TR on TK, SO 220yds to Finish (GR182689) (FINISH CLOSES 5.30pm)

If you want to look at route beforehand, please note there are two places where private tracks are used with special permission for the event. These two sections on private land must not be used at other times.

1. *Start is private and not to be used before the event.* Suggest start at West end of George Lane, beside Citroen Garage; alternatively start at Preshute, just east of Marlborough, and go south up hill to join route.
2. *Part of last two miles (at 31.5 miles) is private land, NO right of way; and not to be used at other times.* Follow road further south and use map to follow rights of way.