



Medium Route
(Blue)

18.70
Miles

FAIRLANDS VALLEY CHALLENGE – July 2021

Please show your Route Card to the officials at each check point.

Should you be forced to retire from the event, please do so at the next 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**.

Key: AH - ahead	TL - turn left	fpath - footpath	CP - checkpoint
L - left	TR - turn right	bway - bridleway	GR - grid reference
R - right	cont - continue	WP - waymarker post	X - cross
BL - bear left	junc - junction	opp - opposite	SLOT - same line of
BR - bear right	yds - yards	thru - through	travel
Imm - immediately	KG - Kissing Gate		

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

Start: GR 255 247

Section A - Marriotts School to Watton

At school gates TR down Telford Ave to end, ignoring side turnings. X over Faraday Rd and take RH main path thru wood, to L of bin. At gap TL on concrete path to X grass to L of Phoenix Nursery. Down road to end, pass concrete bollards and trees to main road. TL down cycle track passing bus shelter to Chells Way. **X with great care**. AH keeping L on cycle track up hill to reach small road. X road and AH up grassy track to new development where TR and take enclosed path and follow to footbridge. **(1 Mile)**

Over footbridge & cont AH to road thru black posts. **(Routes split here)**. TL down hill to junc where TR. Follow road past The Crown pub. Approx 150yds past pub and just after farm gate (*Lord's Farm*), to footpath signs. TL through gate taking permissive path between barn on left and field, through gate and turn right up hill. 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 up hill to road.

X road to path opp (TAKE CARE HERE). Follow path uphill thru wood, At gap in trees on left, 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 to X track by building on L (approx 25 yds).

Bear R up 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 & small building on L.

TR along stony track & follow as it wends it way uphill, bearing left at the top, then pass thru hedge gap & cont to road (sign Byway 34). Cont SLOT along road as it goes downhill & then uphill to road junc. TL & cont for approx ¾ mile downhill toward Watton. (Suggest crossing to RH side of road to face any oncoming traffic), X bridge over bypass. X to LH side of road & TL at FP sign (Mill Lane) down narrow path & cont AH ignoring side turnings to exit from wood. Straight AH down hill & 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.

Check Point 1, GR 300 194 - 5.35 miles (opening times 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 left and at dog bin TR on enclosed fpath (PF18) 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 through 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**).

Continue SLOT thru barrier and AH on main track which later descends to road at T junc. (sign Tewin Hill/Queen Hoo) (**GR282 170 - approx 8.45 miles**)

X to road opp (Tewin Hill) and cont AH (approx ¼ mile). At junc BL to corner by Queen Hoo Hall. Where road turns R, TL along track – byway to Tewin (house on left) and follow as it crosses between fields to enter wood. Cont AH on main track ignoring tracks/paths to L or R. At WP on L follow to L along track to next WP where BL up track for 80 yds to reach track junc at WP TR down enclosed path which descends to road. TR and follow road uphill to reach **village green and bear R to checkpoint**.

Check Point 2, GR 273 146 - 9.93 miles (opening times 9:30 - 12:30)

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 30 yds to pass to L of pond to TL at junc. Downhill for approx 70yds to WP and gap in hedge on R. 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 thru KG & cont along backs of houses to go thru another KG. Cross grass to R of cream house to reach road.

TL on road to X roads. X to road opp (White Horse Lane). AH past PH 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 FP sign on R (Datchworth Green). AH thru trees to emerge at green. Imm TL and L again in front of cricket nets down R-hand byway AH 120yds to WP where TR to X field to gap in fence, then X field to reach road junc. TR and X road to TL into Village Hall car park.

Check Point 3, GR 265 184 - 12.93 miles (opening times 11.00 – 16.30)

Section D - Datchworth to Finish

Return to road, TL from car park and imm TL on enclosed path. Through kissing gate, SLOT towards church, fence on right, playing field on left. Through gap in hedge. Cont up RH side of field and at corner TL across field towards Church. At tarmac path TR and follow edge of churchyard to road. TL and cont 0.5 miles on road, ignoring side turnings, to house on RH bend where cont AH onto track (bway 24). 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 to reach Roebuck Gate. X road and continue 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 until reaching cross paths with green post (on left). Bear slightly R over grass, aiming for gate in far corner passing to L of round copse of trees. Thru gate and cont under underpass. X cycle track & cont, bearing R, up narrow path into trees. Continue 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 Cycle Hub), smaller lake and wooden bridge with 3 "no cycling" bollards on left. Continue on main path, to pass bin and bench on right. As path swings left, continue straight up 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 255 247 18.70 miles

WELL DONE!