

2015

Bridgewater Monument Start (GR 970132)

- 1.1 From the foot of the Bridgewater Monument, cross grass to teardrop roundabout on main entrance drive and follow drive with Ashridge College in far distance. In 400m, *turn right* at green footpath sign on right. Concrete track quickly changes to broad rutted track and follow in same direction for 1000m, ignoring all cross-tracks and passing field on left. Reach a driveway with house on left and ahead to road (GR 974118).
- 1.2 **CROSS ROAD WITH EXTREME CARE** and continue ahead for 500m. Pass waymark post with white arrow and in 10m *turn left* at waymark post. In 100m, at waymark post *turn right*. Ignore tracks from right and left and continue ahead to emerge onto open common. *Bear right* keeping woods on right. In 200m re-enter woods at waymark post showing Ashridge Estate Boundary Trail (AEBT) and in 60m, where track bears right, continue ahead for 50m. At waymark post, *bear left* then in 15m, at waymark post and cross-track, continue ahead (direction of AEBT) with “No Horses” sign at entrance to grassy path.
- 1.3 Ignore track from right and in 50m, at fork with small oak at centre, *bear right* and continue on grassy path. In 100m, emerge into clearing and *turn sharp right* thro woods with waymark posts on path. Reach small car park at top of Norcott Hill and *turn left* onto lane (GR 969105).
- 1.4 Descend on lane for 500m then *turn right* at first junction, blue “TP” sign in hedge. In 150m follow lane as it turns left. In 200m, immed before bridge over railway, *turn right* onto Public Bridleway and follow onto enclosed path, keeping railway on left. Path turns right away from railway and in 90m, *turn left* between hedge and fence. In 80m, *turn left* thro hedge and cross field to cross footbridge over railway. Cross second field and emerge onto lane. *Turn right* and follow lane over canal bridge to reach main road at BMW dealers.

Cow Roast (GR 960103)

- 1.5 **CROSS BUSY ROAD WITH EXTREME CARE** towards Cow Roast pub and *turn right* on pavement opposite. In 20m *turn left* onto track (footpath sign “Tinkers Lodge ½”). Follow track for 800m to reach road. *Turn left* and pass under road bridge. Immediately *turn right* between metal barriers onto concrete track (footpath sign “Hemp Lane ½”).
- 1.6 In 120m, just after path becomes enclosed, *turn left* thro kissing gate and cross field on path. Thro second kissing gate and ahead with bank and fence on right. Thro small metal gate, still with fence on right to reach edge of woods and thro kissing gate. In 30m at junction, *turn left* and ascend on track. At large metal gate, continue ahead (footpath sign “Chiltern Way”). On reaching open ground, *bear left* on made-up track and descend to meet road. *Turn left* and in 60m, *bear right* off road onto path (footpath sign “Chesham Rd ¼”) eventually to reach kissing gate.

Near Wigginton village 7.0km (GR 940095)

- 1.7 Emerge onto road. **CROSS WITH EXTREME CARE** and *turn right*. In 15m *turn left* thro kissing gate (footpath sign “Chiltern Way”) and cross field on path. Thro next kissing gate and *bear left* across field on path. Thro the next kissing gate to cross the corner of a field and then thro kissing gate and *bear left* again on path towards woods. In corner of field, thro kissing gate to cross track and reach waymark sign.
- 1.8 Continue ahead to yellow-topped way mark post and follow series of similar posts and white arrows on trees (the path here is often obscured by rutted tracks from vehicles) to reach road. **CROSS WITH EXTREME CARE** and ahead on track (footpath sign “Hawridge Common ¾”). Remain on track, passing Tring Grange Farm on right and then continue for 500m to reach road.

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Near Hawridge Common (GR 944071)

- 1.9 *Turn right* on road and in 140m, *turn right* onto path (waymark post “H.C.C.P.S. Horseride”). Remain on track for 1200m, always keeping slope on left and hedge boundary on right. Ignore all turns to left and right. At 4 wooden posts, emerge onto road and **CROSS WITH CARE** to gravel driveway with cream-fronted house on right.

Near Cholesbury (GR 933075)

- 1.10 Ahead on driveway and in 20m, *bear left* onto path. In 150m, reach road and *turn left*. In 25m, *turn right* onto footpath. In 150m, at rectangular sign “Cholesbury Camp”, *turn right* and follow path on bank for 300m keeping ditch of iron-age fort on left and ignoring stile on right. At cross-track, *turn right* (waymark post in base of holly tree). In 100m, thro small metal gate and ahead with fence and field on left. At kissing gate, ahead to second and third kissing gates to enter woodland.
- 1.11 *Turn left* and follow path for 800m keeping wood boundary and fields on left. Path becomes enclosed with holly bushes and reach T-junction. *Turn left* and in 100m, *turn right* to cross stile. Follow path as it winds thro woods. Beware of the dinosaurs! Cross stile across path and in 30m at fork with waymark post, *bear right*. At next waymark post (“The Chiltern Way”), ahead towards small metal gate and along enclosed path to reach road
- 1.12 *Turn left* on road and in 230m, *turn left* onto Public Bridleway. In 300m at footpath sign, *turn right* and follow path across two fields to stile to emerge onto road *Turn left* on road and, as it bends to right, continue ahead towards 3 metal barriers. **You are now at the highest point in Hertfordshire!**

Near Hastoe (GR 914093)

- 1.13 At 3 metal barriers, continue ahead following direction of Public Byway sign. Descend on track for 400m ignoring all turns to left and right. The track narrows and towards the bottom there is a field on right. Ignore right turn and continue ahead as track levels then gently rises to pass white house on right. Continue on gravel drive to lane and cross with care. Continue ahead for 400m and, after crossing path, track runs alongside dual carriageway road and rises to lane. *Turn right* to cross bridge over dual carriageway. Descend to road.

Aylesbury Road, Tring 16.5km (GR 910111)

- 1.14 **CROSS ROAD WITH EXTREME CARE** then ahead on path keeping hedge on right to reach gate and road (Icknield Way, Tring). *Turn right* on road edge and in 20m, at lay-by, **CROSS ROAD WITH EXTREME CARE** towards driveway. On left of drive entrance, cross stile onto path through trees then *turn right* onto grass with chicken shed on left. At corner of shed, *bear left* towards fence and thro kissing gate. Cross small field and cross stile. Ahead on path through small shrubs to second stile. Cross stile and *turn left* keeping hedge on left (do not cross field diagonally). At field corner, *turn right* keeping fence on left. Cross stile and pass between buildings onto concrete path which becomes tarmac and descends to lane. *Turn right* and follow lane to canal bridge.
- 1.15 Cross bridge and *immed turn left* to cross stile and descend steps to towpath. *Turn right* and in 100m *turn right* up steps (Signpost “St Mary’s 15th Century Church”). Through kissing gate into churchyard and ahead with church on left to second kissing gate and track. Keep fence on left to reach large metal gate and through kissing gate. *Turn right* and in 50m *turn left* through wooden kissing gate to cross field, aiming at right-hand end of tree line.

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- 1.16 At kissing gate, join lane and *turn left*. In 40m, *turn right* through kissing gate and continue ahead across field and through kissing gate towards distant tree line. At kissing gate follow direction of middle of 3 footpath signs. Towards end of field, *bear left* and thro wooden kissing gate to cross footbridge. In 5m, *bear left* following direction of black arrow on yellow background “Tring Reservoir Trail”. Just before path turns right at corner of reservoir, *turn left* into field then immed *turn right* to cross field and cross stile to road.

Near Wilstone Reservoir (GR 898133)

- 1.17 **CROSS ROAD WITH EXTREME CARE** to footpath sign and ahead with hedge on right. At field corner, follow path thro hedge, passing waymark sign on right. Ahead with hedge on right and at next field corner, again take curved path thro hedge. At field end, ahead and up 7 steps beside power pole to canal towpath
- 1.18 *Turn left* along towpath. Pass two locks and under bridge (Number 7). *Immed turn left* up steps thro small wooden gate, *turn left* to road and *turn left* over bridge. In 50m, *turn right* at footpath sign “The Aylesbury Ring” and thro small metal gate. Follow track thro 2 small wooden gates to reach kissing gate and cross footbridge. Continue ahead keeping large hedge on left (path may be indistinct) and follow round curve to left to reach large wooden gate. Do not use gate but to its left, cross sleeper bridge (may be obscured by tree growth). *Turn half-right* to cross to opposite corner of field.

Astrove, near Long Marston 23.0km (GR 893149)

- 1.19 Pass thro kissing gate, *immed turn left* and thro gap to **CROSS ROAD WITH CARE** (footpath sign “The Aylesbury Ring”). Thro gap and *turn half-left* across field reaching enclosed path. At end of path, cross brick footbridge and thro kissing gate. Ahead to opposite corner of field and thro 2 kissing gates by solitary tree. *Turn half-left* aiming at power pole to reach small wooden gate (ignoring kissing gate in far left corner of field). Thro small wooden gate and cross footbridge. Continue ahead thro large gap in hedge and ahead (CB 350°) over small rise, aiming for right-hand corner of distant copse.
- 1.20 Thro small metal gate and then kissing gate into copse of young trees. In 50m at waymark post, follow The Aylesbury Ring to left, keeping trees on left. Pass thro small metal gate and keep ahead. At field end and waymark sign, *turn left* thro hedge, *in 20m fork right* and in 10m *turn right* thro hedge. In further 10m, *turn right* over ditch, leaving The Aylesbury Ring (do not pass thro farm buildings). *Turn half-left* to cross small field then thro 2 small metal gates crossing 2 tracks. Ahead to cross another small field to reach small metal gate to left of large wooden gate.

[The next two paragraphs describe many gates and field crossings! Don't worry if you lose your place – the general direction is the same for about 2.5km heading towards Wingrave which you will see on the horizon]

- 1.21 Ahead across field with pylon on right and pass thro small metal gate in hedge. Ahead aiming between two telegraph poles to cross concrete bridge and thro small metal gate. *Bear slightly left* (ignoring double metal gates ahead) to cross field. Reach small metal gate in hedge and cross sleeper bridge. Ahead crossing field and, at hedge, thro 2 small metal gates. Ahead across field and thro small metal gate in fence line. Ahead and thro 2 more small metal gates in hedge. Ahead to reach moveable squeeze gate and cross footbridge. Ahead to small metal gate near white bungalow. Cross track and thro large metal gate, bungalow on right, and in 20m thro second large metal gate.

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1.22 Ahead with barbed-wire fence on right (if in place, pass thro electric fence using blue plastic handle). Ahead thro large metal gate in hedge with waymark sign on right post and ahead for 150m keeping barbed-wire fence on right. Thro another large metal gate with waymark sign on left post then *half-right* to opposite corner of field. Thro kissing gate to road.

Near Wingrave village (GR 873183)

1.23 **CROSS ROAD WITH CARE** and *turn left* remaining on right-hand side of road (no footpath) for 800m. After Wingrave sign, road narrows. **TAKE EXTREME CARE AT BEND IN ROAD.** *Turn right* into Mill Lane (road name may be obscured). In 150m, after stable building, *turn right* and cross stile. Ahead with barbed wire fence on right and at fence corner ahead to cross sleeper bridge to reach waymark post. *Fork right* on path and descend with hedge on right thro gap to field corner.

1.24 Cross stile and ahead with hedge on right. At hedge corner, continue ahead (CB 120°) crossing field beneath power lines. In field corner, at waymark post, cross footbridge and *bear left* to cross large field, footpath sign indicates direction. At field boundary and footpath sign, cross sleeper bridge and ahead to cross field. In 200m at fence corner, ahead with hedge on right.

1.25 In 50m, *turn right* to cross stile into garden of house (friendly but barking dogs may be in garden). Keeping to left-hand side, cross garden and emerge onto driveway. *Turn left* and *immed cross stile on left*. *Turn right* and cross field (CB 150°).

1.26 Aim for solitary tree in field corner and cross footbridge. *Turn half-right* and cross field to waymark post in hedge. Descend steps to cross route of Beeching-abandoned railway line and ascend steps. On emerging, *half-right* and cross track, CB 180°, to waymark post in hedge. Thro hedge and *half-left*, aiming at corner of copse. Cross footbridge and ahead to gap in hedge, solitary tree on left. Cross second footbridge and ahead, CB 150°. At hedge corner, thro kissing gate on right then *turn left* to cross field. Thro small metal gate in hedge half-way along field boundary. Ahead immed joining track from left. Keeping hedge on left, in 30m *turn left* thro kissing gate to cricket field. *Immed turn right* and shortly reach second kissing gate. Thro and *turn left* to reach road (GR 900158). *Turn right* on road and proceed to cross roads junction in Long Marston by Queens Head pub.

Long Marston village 32.5km (GR 898156)

1.27 **AT CROSS ROAD JUNCTION, AHEAD WITH EXTREME CARE** into Astrope Lane. After 200m at footpath sign “Wilstone 1m”, *turn left* between hedges and ahead thro two kissing gates and arrive at small metal gate. Cross sleeper bridge and cross field. Thro second small metal gate and sleeper bridge and ahead to kissing gate leading into wooded area. Follow path, crossing footbridge, to emerge on lane [Note: Millhoppers Reserve in this section]

1.28 Cross lane and pass thro gap on left of large metal gate. Continue ahead on track with hedge on left. In 150m, thro kissing gate and follow path. At end of enclosure, before large wooden gate, *turn left* and in 30m thro kissing gate onto enclosed path, which reaches lane. Cross lane and thro kissing gate (footpath sign “College Farm 1/4m”). Follow path between hedge and barbed wire fence and at end *turn right* thro kissing gate into farmyard. *Turn left* in yard between buildings to reach road.

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- 1.29 *Turn right* on road and in 20m, *turn left* onto track (footpath sign “Lukes Lane 470yds”). Follow enclosed path, wooden building on right at first. In 400m, ignore kissing gate on right then cross footbridge. *IMMEDIATELY, before reaching road, turn right* and thro small wooden gate into lawned garden. Ahead keeping near stream on right. By small weir, thro small wooden gate and ahead, shortly with paddock on left. At end, *turn right* and thro kissing gate.
- 1.30 *Turn left* along field edge, trees on left, passing thro gap in hedge to reach track. *Turn left* on track and follow concrete surface to field then *bear left* with trees on left to reach large metal gate and road. *Turn right* and remain on right-hand side of road. When road bends left, keep ahead to reach footpath sign with large metal gates on right. Thro kissing gate and, beyond next kissing gate, *bear right* to cross field, thro further kissing gate and diagonally to cross stile and reach road. *Turn right* on road and shortly cross canal bridge passing Red Lion pub on left.

Marsworth village (GR 920147)

- 1.31 At road junction, by church, *turn right* and after white half-timbered house on left, *turn left* up driveway and ahead to path between fences with wooden house (Stable House) on right. *Turn right* with fence and thro small metal gate to cross field. Cross stile and *bear left* to reach further stile and canal. Climb steps to cross pedestrian bridge over canal. *Turn left* and **CROSS ROAD WITH EXTREME CARE** to join towpath, Bluebell Café ahead.

Startops and Marsworth reservoirs (GR 920142)

- 1.32 Remain on towpath for about 2km keeping canal on left passing several locks. In this section: cross bridge over Wendover Arm and continue on towpath to Grand Junction pub at Bulbourne: pass under road bridge and continue until towpath rises to meet Marshcroft Lane.

Marshcroft Lane canal bridge 40km (GR 938128)

- 1.33 *Turn left* and cross bridge to follow lane, shortly passing between houses and farm buildings. Lane becomes a track and crosses bridge over railway. Pass through large metal gate (please walk through stables yard) and ahead to reach road.
- 1.34 **WITH EXTREME CARE CROSS BUSY ROAD** (GR 945134) and *turn left* along path beside road with hedge on right. In 250m, *turn right* through kissing gate and in 15m, *bear right* to pass through metal barriers and follow enclosed path uphill. Ignore all gates on right, pass through small metal gate and continue uphill with fence on right to reach cross-track (Ridgeway signs).
- 1.35 *Turn left* and in 25m, *turn sharp right* onto sheep trod and climb back towards fence line and crest of hill. At fence corner, *turn right* on path keeping fence and woods on right. Path descends and cross stile. Keep fence and hedge on right to follow field border and reach stile in field corner.
- 1.36 Cross stile and *turn right* on road (GR961142). **Take care on narrow road.** In 200m, *turn left* onto lane (“No Through Road” sign) for 800m. Lane ascends and then levels out. Just before large wooden gate across lane, *turn right* onto footpath and cross field to gap in hedge. Cross second field to reach track. *Turn left* and in 20m, *fork right* to follow track as it turns uphill. As track levels out, *fork left* (waymark post “No Horses”) and continue uphill. Pass through middle of severed tree trunk to reach main track. *Turn right* and in 200m reach Bridgewater Monument.

- 1.37 CONGRATULATIONS! – you have completed the Tring Boundary Trail, 45.4km, 28.2 miles.