



Malvern Midsummer Marathon

28 mile Route Description 2025

New HQ and parking at Colwall Village Hall, Mill Lane, Colwall WR13 6EQ
what3words ///transmits.prettiest.shrimps

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS – PLEASE NOTE

- Maps: OS Explorer 190 or Landranger 149 & 150
- Please observe marshals' directions when parking and park as directed, but NOT on the pull-in in front of the hall
- Once the event car park is full, participants will be directed over the railway bridge to park on the road alongside Colwall Green. Allow 10 minutes to walk back to the HQ
- Under no circumstances attempt to park in the village or along Mill Lane, unless you are happy for your car to be swiped aside by the farm traffic which uses this narrow road
- Route description is for the day of the event only as special permission has been obtained to use some footpaths
- Cattle may be on Malvern Hills in temporary enclosures; close gates; cross roads with care; bring a pen and a mug; no dogs
- Avoid confusion and save time - familiarise yourself with the standard abbreviations before using the route description
- Some of the route through fields is difficult to navigate, as there are few clear paths or distinguishing features on which to base directions, and many stiles and footbridges are obscured by vegetation. The compass bearings have been double-checked for accuracy, so use these to make sure you're heading in the right direction across fields

Standard abbreviations

AHD Ahead	BL(R) Bear left (right)	BW Bridleway	[180] Compass bearing
CP Checkpoint	FB Footbridge	FP(S) Footpath (sign)	Imm. Immediately
KG Kissing gate	LH(S) Left-hand (side)	LM(W)G Large metal (wooden) gate	RH(S) Right-hand (side)
RD Road	SLOT Same line of travel	SM(W)G Small metal (wooden) gate	SO grid reference
ST Stile	Thru through	T-jct. T-junction	TK Track
TL(R) Turn left (right)	WM Waymark	X Cross / across	

SECTION 1 – COLWALL TO CRADLEY 4.1 MILES

1a. Start behind HQ and down FP beside school. At end TL on FP, thru SWG and AHD along field edge. After 100m TR over metal FB and along RH field edge to X ST by LMG into field (if ST broken, use gate). AHD for 75m then TL, aiming just R [0] of isolated wooden pylon to find KG to R of treeline. Thru and AHD thru further KG onto TK to RD. TR for 60m and TL on TK past 'Cherry Lodge'. 30m before TK ends at LMG, TL on narrow enclosed FP between hedges to parking area. AHD (FPS) with houses then play area on L, over ST then further ST into field. AHD on LH field edge, over FB into further field and BL [320] to find obscured FB in top LH corner. **SO 748 433**

1b. Over FB into field. AHD following RH boundary to X ST in corner. AHD over field [350] to meet hedge/fence corner then follow RH field boundary to X FB in corner into field. AHD on RH boundary to X ST in corner. AHD on RH boundary to X FB in corner. BL [315] to find ST in mid-hedge on R of obscure green LMG. X and TR on field edge and over further ST by LMG into RD. **SO 743 444**

1c. TL for 60m, X ST on R and AHD over field, aiming left of isolated tree [10], to X ST into RD. TL on RD for 50m then TL (SP South End). AHD on RD for 650m. After last house on R, AHD through SMG to L of garages. Follow enclosed FP, bearing R around property, thru KG into field. TR and follow boundary. At fence corner AHD over field SLOT [320]. Thru SWG down steps and then thru SMG. X FB and BR up field [340], thru KG and BR on field boundary. At field corner AHD past LMG onto enclosed FP, then TK. At TK end, thru LWG to RD by Mathon Church. **SO 733 458**

1d. TR for 200m then just past 'Badgers' TL down enclosed FP between houses, over FB, X RD and into field. AHD [0] across field and thru SMG next to tree and electricity pole in opposite hedge. AHD SLOT over field and tarmac drive. AHD down RH field edge and thru LMG at bottom. TL on TK, then lane for 400m, passing white houses on L, to reach Scout Hut, Cradley **SO 735 471**.

CP 1: CRADLEY SCOUT HUT OPEN 9.00 TO 11.30 4.1 MILES

SECTION 2 – CRADLEY TO LOWER WYCHE 5.7M

2a. From CP AHD down lane to war memorial and TR to pass church and 15th century parish hall on L. Before LMG TL on enclosed path, thru SMG and over FB. AHD cross meadow with fence on R, thru SMG to RD and TR. After 30m TR at junction and after further 450m TR at junction. AHD 900m to reach green corrugated barns on R and in 50m ignore FPS on R but go AHD thru LMG to BW (FPS). **SO 751 476**.

2b. AHD on TK as it bears R and narrows to ascend hill (beware rusty barbed wire on R). After 500m reach ridge, TR and in 50m FL (FPS) to descend to SWG. Thru and AHD into field with trees on R, thru LMG, AHD down field with hedge on L to LMG. Thru into field and BR [140] to LMG in mid-hedge and thru. Imm. BL to X. ST then footplank and BR [110] uphill on faint FP into trees. BL to X ST and TL on drive thru 3 wheel gateway. Pass through Outdoor Centre to reach RD. X into RD opp. and AHD to TR up steps to RD. **SO 765 470**.

2c. X RD to ascend Lamb Bank and at FPS BL up concrete path to SMG. Thru and TR with houses on R for 100m to X-TK. T sharp L on TK for 350m then, when view over Malvern

emerges AHD, **SO 767 471** TR up steep path to End Hill. AHD on ridge, over hillocks, aiming just R of col. X wide track and ascend faint path on rightmost hill [190] to summit of Table Hill.

Marshalled Clip Point A: TABLE HILL SO 767 464 7.2 miles

(You are now traversing some of the oldest rocks in the UK along the Malvern Fault, extending many kilometres under the Earth's crust and formed by volcanic action some 680 million years ago)

2d. Follow path downhill [200] bearing R to metal post then BL before bench. Continue uphill onto ridge [200] to reach summit of Sugarloaf. BL downhill [135] to reach junction of paths at col by large circular stone WM. **SO 768 457.** BR and ascend to South over open heathland [160], with shallow earthwork *Shire Ditch* on the L. After 450m reach Worcestershire Beacon (highest point in Worcestershire with elevation of 425 m/1,394 ft). **What is the number on the base of the trig point? Box 1 on tally. SO 769 452**

2e. Descend southwards from Beacon (any path) to reach surfaced TK. After 50m leave TK as it bears R and continue AHD up grassy hill to top (Summer Hill). TL downhill to stony path and TR. AHD with ridge on R [180]. **After 250m T sharp L downhill** to path junction above quarry ('Danger' sign). TL and continue steeply downhill as path zigzags (5 sharp turns) to side of quarry and eventually reaches LWG. Thru to X grassy area by quarry entrance then TL downhill on wide FP for 400m and at bench on L TR to reach RD. X RD (care) and TR on pavement. After 50m TL down road (water works on R). At bottom TR by green water tank onto RD and AHD for 550m to RD junction. X RD to drive opposite and AHD to end, then BR to Wyche Institute **SO 771 440**

CP 2: WYCHE INSTITUTE OPEN 10.20 TO 14.50 9.8 MILES

SECTION 3 – WYCHE INSTITUTE TO HOLLYBUSH 5.3 MILES

3a. Leave CP and TL up steps to RD. TL up RD, ascending steeply for 400m to emerge at top onto RD opposite the Wyche Inn. Do not X RD but TL on pavement through the Wyche Cutting. Just before bus shelter TL up steps and follow path up onto the ridge. **SO 769 435**

The route now follows the main Malvern Ridge and takes in ten named summits. KEEP TO MAIN RIDGE, passage controls may be deployed.

3b. Keep on ridge for 3.5km over Perseverance, Jubilee, Pinnacle and Black Hills. After Black Hill **continue on ridge** (do not descend R to previous CP in Black Hill car park) to pass above house on R. At T-jct. before trees, TR onto FP at Wynds Point to pass seats on L. Path descends steeply to RD. X and TL on pavement to pass toilets and café to RD **SO 763 404**

3c. X busy RD by island (extreme care) and thru SWG by information board. AHD up path and after 150m TR past bench to climb steps and surfaced path to the summit of Herefordshire Beacon and to the Iron Age hill fort of British Camp (purportedly the venue of the last stand by ancient Britons under Caratacus opposing the Roman invasion). Continue AHD down path on ridge thru earthworks over Millennium Hill. After 150m TL down zigzag steps and AHD to circular stone waymark. AHD and BR to climb onto ridge and follow Shire

Ditch southwards. After 450m at Hangman's Hill BR with ditch on FP down to T-junction. TL and after 40m BR to continue on ridge for 450m to summit of Swinyard Hill. **SO 762 386**

3d. Start descending gradually from hill [170] for 125m and then TR downhill on path thru wide grassy area between trees to reach TK. TL on TK, thru LWG by cattle-grid and AHD past LMG to TK junction. AHD up TK for 300m, passing 'Midsummer Cottage' and, at end of hedge on L, TL leaving TK onto path (ignore FPS). Ascend FP and BR thru earthworks onto Iron Age hill fort at Midsummer Hill. AHD [200] to reach summit shelter (interesting information board on roof). AHD SLOT to descend path thru scrub and trees onto grassy hillside, down thru SMG and into car park at Hollybush **SO 761 369**

CP 3: HOLLYBUSH OPEN 11.15 TO 14.45 15.1 MILE

SECTION 4 – HOLLYBUSH TO LEDBURY 7.8 MILES

4a. Cross busy road with care and TL on pavement. 80m after 'Worcestershire' sign TR up drive (with small Three Choirs Way FPS on L), AHD past 'Old Post Office' and thru LWG. After 15m TR leaving TK to ascend path with hedge then wood on R. After 400m emerge onto open hillside and reach east summit of Ragged Stone Hill. TR and descend for 100m then ascend AHD to reach ridge. TL to west summit and AHD [180] to descend ridge thru bushes and trees for 500m to meet TK. TR, then imm. TR again to pass 'Lambert's Cottage' on L. Down TK to RD at Whiteleaved Oak **SO 759 359**

4b. TR onto RD, bearing L past stocks (amusing list of misdemeanours warranting punishment on adjacent notice-board). 25m after post box TL onto drive then path (FPS), ascending for 300m to emerge onto hillside. BL on path to ascend steeply to reach trig point at summit of Chase End Hill. TR and descend ridge for 600m to reach T-jct at bottom. TR to RD and small car park on L. TL over ST by tree to enter Bromesberrow Estate (where you might encounter some rare and distinctive White Park cattle). **SO 756 348**

4c. BR downhill thru park [200] to pass to R of small tree-lined pond. BR [240] to follow dry valley curving R. As valley levels out just before fenced woodland TL [220] with fence and woodland on R. Ignore ST in fence but AHD to reach LWG on R (view to Bromesberrow House on L). TR thru gate onto TK and thru further LWG into open parkland. AHD [280] climbing slightly, aiming for isolated fir tree. Over brow & BL [255] along line of 2 mature trees to X ST into woodland. AHD thru SWG to RD, TL along RD for 200m then TR on RD thru Bromesberrow, passing war memorial on R and school on L. **SO 746 341**

4d. 350m past school, where RD turns sharp L, BR onto enclosed FP (ignoring KG AHD) and after 300m thru SWG and TR. AHD on wide grassy TK between wire fences and X ST by LMG into field. BL [290] across field, over 2 STs hidden in hedge and TL on TK for 60m to ford **SO 737 343**

4e. **Part of this section is by permission of the landowner and is only available on the day of the event, please respect this.** X slippery ford (bridge on L if in flood) and after 150m TR thru gap in hedge into field. TR on field edge to corner and TL to follow field boundary for 400m, bearing L and avoiding crops on L to LMG. Thru to **Marshall's Clip Point B: Glynych Brook SO 732 345**. Imm. TL in field, keeping hedge and stream on R. After 250m TR thru gap, keeping hedge on L, and over ST beside LMG. X field (300) and thru SMG to L of tree line into field. Keep to RH boundary of next two fields (leaving right of way)

and thru gap to join TK. TL on TK and AHD thru LMG. Continue with fence on R, thru LMG and imm. TR thru SMG and TL on FP to drive. **SO 725 354**

4f. AHD on drive for 110m, then TR thru SMG into woodland. BL thru wood to X ST and ascend field [10] to X ST in middle of fence between fields. AHD (350) up next field to top RH corner and thru LMG on R to lane, where TL onto TK. AHD on TK for 1km, keeping wood on R, to pass Eastnor Pottery and reach RD. TL on RD (care) passing grass triangle and school on R and church on L **SO 732 372**

4g. Just past church TL on BW and up steps to field. TL with trees on L. Join TK from L to continue SLOT up field, and BR with TK thru tree line into further field. 40m before TK enters wood, BR up field to wood corner (FPS). AHD with wood on L for 100m to further FPS, where BL on narrow FP into wood. AHD on footpath to rejoin TK and thru KG next to LMG into field. AHD on faint track keeping to RHS field to go thru SWG into further field. AHD on RHS field to go thru KG in top RH corner onto holloway in wood. **SO 718 378**

4h. Descend this obvious holloway, ignoring all X TKs and FPS, and going down 3 sets of steps to eventually reach RD. **Cross very busy road with great care** to TL on pavement opposite. In 130m, at small post box, TR on path enclosed by walls into church-yard, where BL around church to reach large metal entrance gates. Thru and AHD onto cobbled Church Lane and in 50m Checkpoint 4 on L. **SO 711 377**

CP 4: LEDBURY, BURGAGE HALL OPEN 12.30 TO 18.00 22.9 miles

SECTION 5 – LEDBURY TO COLWALL HQ 5.2 MILES

5a. Leave CP and TR on Church Lane. At end of cobbled section and before churchyard gates TL into 'The Walled Garden'. AHD up path, thru gap in brick wall, TL thru remains of old KG and TR on RD. In 80 m, where RD bears L, AHD up shallow steps on FP. After 120m, at green bench, TR on TK, then BL and AHD for 500m to cross Cut Throat Lane (beware traffic and cut-throats!) onto RD opposite. After 150m, with 'Bradlow Cottage' on R, TL at FPS thru SWG, up FP and thru LMG to ascend enclosed FP. At top, up steps, thru SWG and BL on ascending path. At top with sign 'Bradlow Knoll' on L, TR onto wooded ridge. Continue on this path on ridge ('Top Walk'), heading generally north-east [40], following FPS directions and ignoring all cross-tracks and side paths, for approx. 1.3km. Descend from ridge on narrow footpath thru SWG into field. BL [340] over field and X ST by LMG into RD. TL on RD for 550m to reach house and drive on R with 'Private No Parking' sign. **SO 720 409**

5b. TR on drive and Imm. thru SWG on L, (now following Geopark Way signs almost to finish) AHD and follow path contouring across field along line of occasional trees, bearing R around walled garden to meet fence on R. Thru SMG and AHD on enclosed FP with forestry on L for 400m. (The house visible on the R. is Hope End, the childhood home of the popular Victorian poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning). Thru LWG into field and BR [30] maintaining height to trig point at top of Oyster Hill. BR [60] across field to SWG in fence, thru and AHD down slope, crossing grassy TK and BL to X ST. AHD on RH field boundary, X ST and AHD on RH field boundary, descending to ST in field corner. X into woodland, down steps, X ST and AHD in field to X further ST. BL up faint path in woodland, eventually descending into orchard. AHD on RH field boundary, BL around house and X ST by LMG to RD.

5c. TR on RD and after 15m BL over RD Jct. (**CARE**), thru LMG (FPS) into orchard and AHD on RH boundary to X double ST in far R field corner. AHD on field boundary to X ST and Imm. TL over FB into large field. AHD across field aiming for church tower [45], X ST into car park and TR by defibrillator into churchyard (please show consideration if church ceremony underway and, if appropriate, detour around church using RD). AHD X churchyard and emerge into RD with 1530s-dated church ale house on L. X RD and AHD down TK to R of house (FPS). AHD thru LMG. AHD to X ST and AHD on RH field boundary. Thru LMG and AHD on LH field boundary. At field end ignore ST on L but AHD thru LMG, AHD over middle of field [110] and thru KG to reach cricket pitch. **DO NOT GO AHD ONTO CRICKET PITCH BUT IMM. TL ON FIELD BOUNDARY, LEAVING RIGHT OF WAY.** Follow LH field boundary around behind the dark wooden pavilion to reach decorative LMG on L. Thru and AHD down TK to RD and X to finish at Colwall Village Hall.

FINISH COLWALL VILLAGE HALL CLOSES 20.00 28.1 MILES

Congratulations! You have now completed this challenging route of some 28 miles distance with 5,450 feet of climbing. Now enjoy your hard-earned refreshments in the HQ.