



ROAD BOOK

50 Kilometres – 752 Metres Ascent

Route follows four long distance paths: High Weald Landscape Trail, Wealdway, Vanguard Way, Tunbridge Wells Circular Walk

Key: R = right, L = left, FB = footbridge



Leg 1. Groombridge to Withyham Church

Distance between checkpoints: 8.7km (5.4 miles)

Ascent: 135m (443ft) Descent: 120m (394ft)

- Head along Corseley Road for 1000 metres, initially climbing a small rise before descending down, to pass a Water Treatment Works.
- 0.63 miles (1.0km) – Turn R, over stile, and follow the High Weald Landscape Trail (HWLT) across field to pass under the railway.
- 0.74 miles (1.2km) – Take L fork, and slightly uphill to stile/gate, then small descent to second stile/gate. Continue along grass clearing to kissing gate to enter woods.
- Continue through the woods, following the High Weald Landscape Trail (HWLT) path markings to reach a road.
- 1.47 miles (2.4km) – Turn R and follow road for 400 metres.
- 1.72 miles (2.8km) – Turn L away from road over stile and descend 100m down to FB. After the FB curve round to the right, close to the stream, towards the wooden gate and a second FB.
- Cross FB and continue through woods to cross a tarmac driveway.
- 2.05 miles (3.3km) – Turn L at HWLT fingerpost, 20 metres after crossing tarmac driveway, descend down to FB. Over stile and uphill diagonally across field to stile opposite. Continue along path through woods.
- Exit woods and continue across grass fields, then alongside the right hand side of cropped fields.
- 2.68 miles (4.3km) – Approximately 20 metres after entering the right side of a cropped field, Turn R through the difficult to spot, small gap in the hedge to pass through a metal kissing gate.
- 2.75 miles (4.4km) – Pass through the empty gateway in brick fence, past private residences and along the tarmac drive for 400 metres.

Leg 1. Groombridge to Withyham Church continued

- 2.98 miles (4.8km) – Upon reaching the end of the drive, at the road, turn L along the road for 90 metres, **CAREFUL**, before turning R to pass through a narrow stile. Cross field, before descending down to a farm track. Follow the farm track to reach two gates.
- 3.21 miles (5.2km) – Pass through the narrow stile to the left of the left gate. Continue along side of field with the fence at your right side to enter woods. Through woods, across field to reach a road, immediately after a stile.
- 3.61 miles (5.8km) – Turn R and follow road for 290 metres to reach the B road (B2188) at the end of Whitehouse Lane. Cross the B road, **CAREFUL**. Continue along trail uphill, cross stile and immediately turn sharp R to pass over the crest of the hill.
- 4.16 miles (6.7km) – Continue past the first stile near the edge of the woods, descend down to the next stile, near the edge of the field, with the fence to your right. Over stile, follow farm track to reach sealed driveway.
- 4.56 miles (7.3km) – At junction of farm track with sealed driveway, turn straight R, (please do not cut the corner and run across the grass bank), and follow driveway for 1000 metres.
- 5.22 miles (8.4km) – Upon reaching the B road (B2110) turn L and follow the road for 90 metres. **BE VERY CAREFUL AS THE ROAD CAN BE QUITE BUSY!** Directly opposite the road sign indicating a left turn, turn L away from road, through the metal kissing gate and climb up the small hill to Withyham Church.
- At the near corner of the church turn R and follow the church path around and then down to tarmac driveway in front of the church, which is **CHECKPOINT 1**.

Distance covered so far at CP1 - 8.7km (5.4 miles)

Leg 2. Withyham Church to Upper Hartfield

Distance between checkpoints: 10.8km (6.7 miles)

Ascent: 256m (840ft) Descent: 192m (630ft)

- 5.40 miles (8.7km) – Leave the checkpoint along the sealed driveway, now following the Wealdway, and continue up a gentle uphill for 1900 metres.
- 6.60 miles (10.6km) - Reaching two white wooden gates, turn L and cross the stile, and continue along the path with the fence to your right.
- 6.76 miles (10.9km) – Coming out onto a sealed driveway, cross the driveway and look out for the Wealdway (WW) marker posts. Go straight ahead, but slightly curving to the right. After 100 metres, at the Y junction take the R fork, indicated by the Wealdway signpost and continue along the sealed driveway.
- 7.32 miles (11.8km) – Shortly after leaving the sealed driveway, running up a gentle incline, reach a Y junction, with an industrial looking green steel gate on your left. Turn L to pass beside the green gate and head gentle uphill along forest track.
- 7.73 miles (12.4km) – Upon reaching the end of the distinctive forest track, pass through the wooden gate directly in front, sign-posted Wealdway, to continue uphill along single track through woods.
- 8.17 miles (13.1km) – Upon reaching a Y junction, a Wealdway marker post is visible, (but no arrow disc). Take the R fork.
- 8.73 miles (14.0km) – Upon reaching a T junction, look straight in front and a small narrow gap is visible through the trees (not signposted). Head through the gap.
- 8.82 miles (14.2km) – Shortly after coming out from the narrow track, into an open space, another Y junction. Take R fork along wide forest track, very gentle climb, to reach the summit of
3 Ashdown Forest.

Leg 2. Withyham Church to Upper Hartfield continued

- 9.40 miles (15.1km) – Having enjoyed approximately 350 metres of flat/gentle descent, the track reaches a significant crossroads of wide forest paths. This is where the Wealdway and Vanguard Way long distance paths cross. (No signpost!) Turn R to leave the Wealdway, now following the Vanguard Way.
- 9.91 miles (15.9km) – Upon reaching a T junction, veer/turn L and continue along the narrower forest track for 90 metres to reach a Y junction. Take the R fork.
- 10.04 miles (16.2km) – After passing a short post in the middle of the path, and with the road nearly visible in front, veer R, to meet the road after 30 metres. Cross the B road (B2026), and continue following the Vanguard Way, up a gently climb.
- At the crest of the small climb, the Vanguard Way turns sharp left (not signposted). Continue straight as this is where the race route detours away from the Vanguard Way to head towards Pooh Bridge. Continue straight ahead along distinctive track, not turning off onto any side tracks, keeping an eye out for Pooh Bridge signposts. Drop down the steep descent, follow the distinctive path around to the right, then cross over a sealed road. Follow bridleway downhill to Pooh Bridge.
- 11.68 miles (18.8km) – Pooh Bridge – Cross the bridge and continue along the track, gentle uphill.
- 11.86 miles (19.0km) – Exiting from the single bush track, reaching a sealed road, turn L and follow the road for 500 metres to reach **CHECKPOINT 2**, to signify the end of leg 2, located to the left of the lane, next to the stile on the left.

Distance covered so far at CP2 – 19.5km (12.1 miles)

Leg 3. Upper Hartfield to Forest Row

Distance between checkpoints: 7.5km (4.7 miles)

Ascent: 101m (331ft) Descent: 154m (505ft)

- 12.10 miles (19.5km) – Leave the checkpoint by crossing over the stile. Follow the path, down across a grass field, great views, over a stile, following the path to the R, before reaching a gravel driveway.
- 12.56 miles (20.2km) – Turn L, along the gravel driveway for 60 metres to reach gate a gate. Turn R, and follow footpath signed, which soon descends down a gentle hill along a four wheel drive track. Veer off R onto a single track, with fence line on the R.
- 13.03 miles (21.0km) – Coming out onto a road, turn R and follow road for 500 metres. At the road T junction, veer slightly left towards the gate with a stile to the side. Go over the stile. Continue across grass fields, through a metal gate. Entering a third field, looking slightly to the right of the field, locate and enter the small narrow gap in the hedge. Cross the stile with footpath disc, over the wooden FB and enter a residential property. Exit out through their gate and continue up, straight ahead, following the signed footpath.
- 13.81 miles (22.2km) – Directly cross the road, and continue up the farm track signed Portobello Farm for 240 metres. The race route has now re-joined the Vanguard Way, which it follows to Forest Row. As the unsealed farm driveway bends to the left, veer off R along an unmarked forest track for 90 metres, to reach a Y junction, take the R fork uphill.
- 14.21 miles (22.9km) – Just before the track bends to the left, veer off R along a tiny narrow track that looks insignificant. 140 metres later continue straight ahead, passing the wooden cricket pavilion to reach a road. Turn L along road for 10 metres, then turn R onto the second forest track, which is at right angles to the road. The forest track goes slightly uphill for 60 metres before bending round to the right and then bending left to reach a second country lane.

5

Leg 3. Upper Hartfield to Forest Row continued

- 14.48 miles (23.3km) – Directly cross the road, continue along forest track for 40 metres. Turn L, contour along the track for 200 metres, before turning R to head down the hill along an unmarked grass forest track.
- 14.93 miles (24.0km) – The forest track comes out at the side of the golf course. Continue along the track at the right hand side of the golf course, not on the fairway.
- 15.40 miles (24.8km) – Immediately after crossing a small wooden bridge or passing through a small ford, cross the sealed driveway and veer L to follow the not so obvious path for 800 metres. Do NOT turn down any side paths. Continue until a sealed driveway.
- 15.88 miles (25.6km) – On a gentle decent, upon reaching a second sealed driveway turn sharp R and continue along the driveway for 130 metres to reach a Y road junction. Take the left fork up Primrose Lane.
- 16.08 miles (25.9km) – At the end of the lane continue straight ahead up a narrow gravel path, and again continue straight ahead 40 metres later, veering slightly R along the narrow path through bushes. The path continues through bushes alongside the right of the golf course for 400 metres.
- 16.34 miles (26.3km) – Exiting the single track path, turn sharp R, down along gravel track for 40 metres to come out onto a village street. Descend down the street on the pavement on the left.
- 16.55 miles (26.6km) – At the end of the left side pavement, turn L down the alleyway (twitten). Continue along the concrete path to reach the B road (B2110). Cross the B road, **CAREFUL**, probably best near the telephone box, then turn L and continue along the pavement to Forest Row village centre to reach **CHECKPOINT 3** directly in front of the closed down Forester Arms pub.

Distance covered so far at CP3 – 27.0km (16.8 miles)

6

Leg 4. Forest Row to Withyham Church

Distance between checkpoints: 8.9km (5.5 miles)

Ascent: 115m (377ft) Descent: 115m (377ft)

- 16.8 miles (27.0km) – Leave the checkpoint heading along Station Road for 350 metres. Pass the left side of the Gache's Health Club. Diagonally cross a car park, pass through the narrow gap in bushes.
- Straight across the sealed driveway and continue following the Vanguard Way along narrow single track, flattish and then uphill to reach a sealed road. Turn R to leave the Vanguard Way and follow the road.
- 18.19 miles (29.3km) – Upon reaching the end of the sealed road, cross the stile directly in front. The race route now follows the High Weald Landscape Trail, (small metal discs), all the way to checkpoint 4, located at Withyham Church. Veer slightly L to diagonally cross grass field.
- 18.44 miles (29.7km) – After passing through a farm gate, continue straight ahead following a faint path downhill across the open fields. Great views! Over a stile, through some trees and then follow the reasonably well way-marked trail.
- 19.49 miles (31.4km) – After crossing a stile to enter a small campsite with portaloos on the L and a small lake on the R. as the gravel driveway bends to the right, continue straight ahead, not signposted, to diagonally cross a cropped field.
- 19.80 miles (31.9km) – Straight across the sealed driveway to pass through gate atop of a stile. Veer L and diagonally cross field. Diagonally cross the next field slightly veering R, following a reasonably obvious path.
- 20.06 miles (32.3km) – At the far side of field, DO NOT pass through the gate, cross the stile located slightly to the L, partially hidden by trees. Cross stile and immediately turn R. Follow path downhill through woods, then along left side of fields.

Leg 4. Forest Row to Withyham Church continued

- 20.35 miles (32.7km) – After crossing a stile, descend diagonally across cropped field, with Hartfield Church visible in the distance in front.
- 20.62 miles (33.2km) – Straight across the Forest Way cycle path (disused railway), over a stile and follow trail across grass fields to reach Hartfield Playing Fields and passing tennis courts on left.
- 20.94 miles (33.7km) – Go through gate, straight across B road (B2110), turn R for 20 metres, then L, up along Church Street, past the Anchor Inn. Directly alongside the church, after 120 metres, turn R up a few brick steps, to cross stile, and follow waymarked trail across fields, down a descent, then along a farm track.
- 21.54 miles (34.7km) – Passing through an empty gateway, veer L and continue along the L side of the open field.
- 21.77 miles (35.0km) – At the far end of the field, pass through a wooden gate, cross a small stone bridge. Then 10 metres after bridge turn sharp L down a very narrow, overgrown bush track. DO NOT continue along farm track.
- 22.11 miles (35.6km) – After squeezing through the narrow path through fern bushes, cross the stile to come out onto a sealed driveway. Turn L along the driveway and re-trace your steps from nearly 17 miles earlier, to reach **CHECKPOINT 4**, (same location as checkpoint 1), in front of Withyham Church.

Distance covered so far at CP4 – 35.9km (22.3 miles)

Leg 5. Withyham Church to Fordcombe

Distance between checkpoints: 8.1km (5.0 miles)

Ascent: 95m (312ft) Descent: 47m (154ft)

- 22.30 miles (35.9km) - Leave the checkpoint by continuing along the tarmac driveway down to the B road (B2110), turn L along road for 40 metres. **BE VERY CAREFUL AS THE ROAD CAN BE QUITE BUSY!** Crossing a road bridge, before turning R away from the road, passing through an open gate / over a stile following the Wealdway (WW), signposted, across the fields.
- Cross over a stile, then cross the Forest Way cycle path (disused railway) before crossing a second stile and then a FB, and continue following the WW across grass fields, before narrowing to a single track.
- 23.13 miles (37.2km) – After climbing a few steps the trail joins a grass track. Turn R along the grass track for 100 metres to reach a large metal gate on the right. Pass through the gate and continue along the tarmac driveway for 200 metres to reach the road.
- 23.43 miles (37.7km) – Cross the quiet lane and then go over the stile directly opposite and continue along the left side of the field, crossing two FBs.
- 24.20 miles (38.9km) – Around 100 metres after crossing the second FB, located on the left is a FB. Do not cross this FB. This FB is a good indicator to take the right fork and veer off R towards a single power pole, crossing a concrete bridge after 200 metres.
- 24.50 miles (39.4km) – After crossing a second concrete bridge, immediately turn L and continue along the WW across cropped fields, curving around to the left, to cross a FB.
- 24.81 miles (39.9km) – Leave the fields by turning R, and go under the railway through the brick arch.

Leg 5. Withyham Church to Fordcombe continued

- 24.91 miles (40.1km) – Continuing up from the railway as the trail opens out into a large grass field, veer slightly R towards an old wooden stile.
- 24.96 miles (40.2km) – Continue up the hill pass the old stile, crossing over two further stiles. Near the top of the hill, pass through a metal gate with smaller walker's gate at the side. Contour round to the R over grass fields, through a kissing gate after which the field narrows, and the after a second kissing gate, continue along a single track.
- 25.84 miles (41.6km) – Upon reaching an A road (A264), turn L along the A road for 100 metres. **BE VERY CAREFUL AS THE ROAD CAN BE QUITE BUSY!** Turn R, up along Broad Lane for 15 metres. Then turn R, up driveway for 25 metres, before turning L to head towards a stile. Over the stile and continue across fields for 1200 metres.
- 26.69 miles (43.0km) – The trail comes out onto Fordcombe village green. Diagonally cross the playing field slightly to the R of the cricket pitch and pass to the R of the white wooden cricket pavilion. Cross the B road (B2188) and continue along Fordcombe Lane, directly opposite, for 600 metres.
- 27.14 miles (43.7km) – Around 50 metres after cresting the hill along the lane, cross the stile located on the right side of the road with a large green Wealdway fingerpost. Continue across a field and look forwards for a metal gate. Pass through the gate, followed by a small descent to a stile to reach **CHECKPOINT 5**, at the side of a quiet country lane.

Distance covered so far at CP5 – 44.0km (27.3 miles)

Leg 6. Fordcombe to Groombridge

Distance between checkpoints: 6.0km (3.8 miles)

Ascent: 69m (226ft) Descent: 127m (417ft)

- 27.30 miles (44.0km) - Leave the checkpoint by continuing along the road, signposted towards Speldhurst for 300 metres.
- 27.53 miles (44.3km) – At the road junction, turn R and cross over the stile to enter small woods. Cross a grass field to enter woods and a gentle descent to a FB, before a short sharp climb up to a track junction.
- 28.16 miles (45.3km) – At the track junction with the marker post, DO NOT turn L to follow the Wealdway direction arrow. Turn slightly R to follow the single track that descends down to cross a stream. The last 3 miles of the route follow the Tunbridge Wells Circular High Weald Walk, which have a square green and blue way marker disc.
- 28.41 miles (45.7km) – Veer R slightly at the marker post to continue following the Tunbridge Wells Circular High Weald Walk. Continue to cross over a stone stile, and across a narrow country lane.
- 28.94 miles (46.6km) – Immediately after crossing a stile, reaching a road, turn R and continue along the road. Ignore the footpath signpost on the left, 80 metres along the road, and continue a further 100 metres to reach the second footpath signpost on the left. Turn L and pass through the kissing gate, and continue diagonally across the field towards the next kissing gate. The route passes through a number of kissing gate before coming out to a small grass field with a metal gate with a stile on either side of the gate.
- 29.53 miles (47.5km) – Pass over the left hand stile and continue straight ahead.

Leg 6. Fordcombe to Groombridge continued

- 29.85 miles (48.0) – Immediately after passing through a metal kissing gate, coming out onto a road, turn L along the road and 20 metres later reach the road junction with an A road (A 264). Cross the A road. **BE VERY CAREFUL AS THE ROAD CAN BE QUITE BUSY!**
 - Do NOT go over the stile straight in front, but turn R and continue along the grass strip that runs alongside the A road for 120 metres.
 - 29.96 miles (48.2km) – Turn L at the footpath signpost, near the warning deer road sign and continue along the narrow single track.
 - 30.16 miles (48.5km) – 20 metres after passing through a wobbly large wooden gate, a marker post is located directly in front with footpath arrows pointing both directions. Turn R and follow the farm track for 50 metres to reach a Y junction. Take the L fork and pass through a metal gate, and continue along the single track.
 - 30.40 miles (48.9km) – Cross over a stile which is your final stile to cross! For the next 200 metres, **BE CAREFUL** as there is a **BARBED WIRE FENCE** on the right of the narrow path.
 - 30.54 miles (49.1km) – Squeeze through the narrow gap to the side of the stile and enter the woods. Around 40 metres into the woods the path bends around to the L to start the descent.
 - 30.73 miles (49.4km) – The path through the woods reaches a B road (B2110). Turn R and continue along the pavement for 300 metres.
 - 30.90 miles (49.7km) – Near the Crown Inn pub, directly opposite the footpath signpost, **CAREFULLY CROSS** the B road and pass through the wooden gate to enter the grounds of Groombridge Place. Pass through, then exit the grounds of Groombridge Place along a narrow grass path between two fences. Cross the playing field to the **FINISH** located to the rear of Groombridge Village Hall
- Distance covered at the FINISH – 50.0km (31.1 miles)

High Weald Challenge 50km Ultra Trail

Leg Number	Leg Start Location	Leg Finish Location	Leg Distance	Total Race Distance at the End of the Leg
Leg 1	Start - Groombridge	CP1 – Withyham Church	5.4 miles / 8.7 km	5.4 miles / 8.7 km
Leg 2	CP1 – Withyham Church	CP2 – Upper Hartfield	6.7 miles / 10.8 km	12.1 miles / 19.5 km
Leg 3	CP2 – Upper Hartfield	CP3 – Forest Row	4.7 miles / 7.5 km	16.8 miles / 27.0 km
Leg 4	CP3 – Forest Row	CP4 – Withyham Church	5.5 miles / 8.9 km	22.3 miles / 35.9 km
Leg 5	CP4 – Withyham Church	CP5 – Fordcombe	5.0 miles / 8.1 km	27.3 miles / 44.0 km
Leg 6	CP5 – Fordcombe	Finish – Groombridge	3.8 miles / 6.0 km	31.1 miles / 50.0 km

