

High Weald Challenge Trail Half Marathon				
Leg Number	Leg Start Location	Leg Finish Location	Leg Distance	Total Race Distance at the End of 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 – Fordcombe	5.0 miles / 8.1 km	10.4 miles / 16.8 km
Leg 3	CP2 – Fordcombe	Finish – Groombridge	2.7 miles / 4.3 km	13.1 miles / 21.1 km



ROAD BOOK

Detailed Route Description

Trail Half Marathon

13 Miles – 810 Feet Ascent

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



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 3. Fordcombe to Groombridge continued

- 12.40 miles (19.9km) – 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.
- 12.54 miles (20.1km) – 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.
- 12.73 miles (20.4km) – The path through the woods reaches a B road (B2110). Turn R and continue along the pavement for 300 metres.
- 12.90 miles (20.7km) – 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 the grounds, and 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 cover covered at the FINISH – 21.1km (13.1 miles)

Leg 3. Fordcombe to Groombridge

Distance between checkpoints: 6.0km (3.8 miles)

Ascent: 17m (55ft) Descent: 77m (253ft)

- 10.40 miles (16.8km) - Leave the checkpoint by heading along the narrow side lane, NOT to Speldhurst, for 900 metres.
- 10.97 miles (17.7km) – After a very gentle rise look out for the footpath signpost on the right. Turn R and pass through the kissing gate, now following the Tunbridge Wells Circular High Weald Walk, 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.
- 11.53 miles (18.5km) – Pass over the left hand stile and continue straight ahead.
- 11.85 miles (19.0km) – 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.
- 11.96 miles (19.2km) – Turn L at the footpath signpost, near the warning deer road sign, and continue along the narrow single track.
- 12.16 miles (19.5km) – 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.

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 Fordcombe

Distance between checkpoints: 8.1km (5.0 miles)

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

- 5.40 miles (8.7km) - 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.
- 6.23 miles (10.0km) – 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.
- 6.53 miles (10.5km) – Cross the quiet lane and then go over the stile directly opposite and continue along the left side of the field, crossing two FBs.
- 7.10 miles (11.7km) – 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.
- 7.60 miles (12.2km) – 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.
- 7.91 miles (12.7km) – Leave the fields by turning R, and go under the railway through the brick arch.

Leg 2. Withyham Church to Fordcombe continued

- 8.01 miles (12.9km) – Continuing up from the railway as the trail opens out into a large grass field, veer slightly R towards an old wooden stile.
- 8.06 miles (13.0km) – 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.
- 8.94 miles (14.4km) – 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.
- 9.79 miles (15.8km) – 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.
- 10.24 miles (16.5km) – 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 CP2 – 16.8km (10.4 miles)