



Cotswold Way Ultra Challenge

24/25 June 2023

Event Guide

PLEASE READ

The 2023 Cotswold Way Ultra Challenge is approaching, and with over 1,500 people taking part – it should be a great event! This 'Event Guide' will help with your final planning, and please read this alongside other material set out in the in the 'App' or in the Participant Area of the Ultra Challenge website.

CHALLENGE APP

The new 'Event App' is now available – and gives you access to all the key info & updates. Firstly – if you have not yet downloaded it – go to the **Apple / Google Store**, search for '**Action Challenge**' and download that base App. Follow the instructions, then, on the front screen (or go to '**Load New**' in the burger menu if you already have the base App installed) – enter **Reference Code CSWLDWY23** – which downloads the Cotswold Way Challenge info.

This App gets all the updates before the Challenge - so make sure you have it on your phone!

In the APP you will find:

- Copy of this Event Guide
- Briefing video (available approx. 6 weeks prior to event)
- Start Time list (available 4 weeks prior to the event)
- How to 'manage your place' (cancellations/deferrals/etc)
- Optional Extra booking (accommodation/parking/transfers)
- Route Maps
- Link to the event timing & tracking system
- Start / finish & Rest Stop venues info + supporter access
- Travel advice
- Kit Lists
- Social Media links + Much More.....

You can also view the App on a Computer (desktop / laptop):

- Go to: www.web.vamoos.com/login
- Enter User ID as: **ACT**
- Enter **CSWLDWY23** Passcode (same as mobile App above)

You can also access the App from the Participant Area on our website.

KEY PRE-EVENT INFO....

Start times

For anyone registered **before 22 May 2023**, you should receive your allocated start time sent via **EMAIL** on **Wednesday 23 May**. We will allocate start times as close as possible to the slot selected when registering – and at most (in a few instances only) there may be a half hour difference from that original choice.

If you signed-up as a Team - members will be allocated the same start as the Team Captain. If you've **NOT** received your start time Email by **6.00pm Wednesday 24 May** check your 'junk' inbox first - and then check that your name is on the Start Time List (which is in the App). If it is, your Start Time is detailed there, and there's no reason to worry or contact us – as that time will be confirmed on your **E-Ticket**.

If your name is **not** on the Start Time List – **OR** in legitimate **exceptional circumstances** you'd like to request a '**Start Time Amendment**' - **OR** there seems to be a problem with some of your Team's start times - then please complete the **online form** (available on the app & the website from 24 May) by **8pm Sunday 18 June** at the latest.



Anyone that has registered on **22 May or after**, your start time will be confirmed on our event 'E-Ticket' (which will be sent to **ALL** participants on **14 June**).

'Start Windows' for the various Challenge options are below, with half hour allocated slots within these windows. **NO** requests can be made for a start time outside of the appropriate 'window'.

Saturday 24 June

- **Full Challenge & Full 2 Day** (from Cirencester basecamp) between 7.00 – 9.30am
- **1st Half Challenge** (from Cirencester basecamp) between 7.00 – 9.30am
- **1st Quarter Challenge** (from Cirencester basecamp) between 8.30 – 9.30am
- **2nd Quarter Challenge** (from Painswick) between 9.30 – 10.00am

Sunday 25 June

- **2 Day Full Challenge** (from Wotton-Under-Edge) rolling start 6.00 – 6.30am
- **2nd Half Challenge** (from Wotton-Under-Edge) between 6.00 – 6.30am

E-Tickets & Bib Number

Your E-Ticket will be **EMAILED** on **Wed 14 June 2023** – and you must bring it for registration on to the event. Ideally store it on a mobile device to save paper!

If you've **NOT** received an E-Ticket by **Monday 19 June** (check junk mail first) – there will be a 'Starting List' published within the App & Participant Area of the Ultra Challenge website - where you can check your bib number, start time and request an E-Ticket re-send. We ask that you **do not** email or phone to request an E-Ticket.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Must be booked in advance - bookings will close on **Tuesday 13 June** – but book now, as some services have a maximum capacity!

Optional Extras:

- **'University' accommodation at Cirencester** ~ 0/100km (Fri & Sat evening) please note that only those on the **Full Continuous Challenge** will be able to stay at the university accommodation on both Friday & Saturday nights. If you are on the **Full 2 Day Challenge** – you cannot book this accommodation for Saturday – you must book the Camping at Wotton!
 - (Friday/Saturday) **£55 / £96 per night** single/twin Room
- **Additional Meals –**
 - Friday Night Dinner (available to book for anyone staying at Cirencester (basecamp) on Friday night) **£12.50**
 - Saturday Morning Breakfast (included for those staying in accommodation on Friday Night) **£10**
- **Camping - (Wotton Saturday night at ~53 km half way)**
 - (Saturday): Inclusive: **£65/£85** – single/twin,
 - (Saturday): Pitch only Camping: **£30/£20** – single/extra campers,
 - (Saturday): Campervan: **£30/£20** – single/extra campers
- **Parking – Cirencester start, Painswick (24km) & Wotton-Under-Edge (53km) £6**
- **Pre-Challenge Transfers:**
 - From Kemble Station to the Cirencester start venue **£12.50**

- From a 'Finish' (where you can park) to the 'Start' **from £15**
- **Post-Challenge Transfers:**
 - From a 'Finish' back to Train Station (i.e. Kemble Station/Stroud Station) **from £12.50**
 - From a 'Finish' back to a Start Line (i.e. to Cirencester) **from £15**
- **Geo Tracker Hire** so family & friends can track your progress in real time! **£25**

Optional Extras are detailed in full via our Website - with online booking:

[CLICK HERE to book your Optional Extras >>](#)

Please Note - Tickets for **accommodation, camping, transfers & parking** will be e-mailed the week prior to the event.

Baggage Services (no need to book online – 'pay on the day')

If you want to have your bag transported from the start line to your finish line. This optional service is paid by **card / cash on-the-day** (at the baggage drop tent).

Transfers to your finish (20kg / 80L max size) – prices are per bag

- Full Challenge **£5** (store at the start), Half Challengers **£10** & Quarter Challengers **£7**
- Runners (officially registered) **FREE** transfer (max size 10kg / 30L – this will be checked!).

Transfers to Half-Way & then on to finish (Full Challenge only–extra clothes etc.)

- £17 per bag (max size 20kg / 80L)
- **Campers** - £17 per 'sack' / person - for those who've purchased our 'Camping Package' (we'll provide a 'sack' - i.e. for a bag & other likely camping equipment).
- Runners - **free** for 10kg/30L max size (bigger / extra bags must be paid for as above).

Walkers & Joggers - bring a day bag (small rucksack) of 30-35L max - which you will be expected to carry with you – to hold your essential 'on event' kit.

Runners: Carry a small backpack if you wish – or as above; registered runners (and you must be an 'actual runner – in running kit) will receive a **FREE** transfer for a small bag.

Note - For Full Challenge runners – you **MUST PICK** your bag up at the half way point baggage zone even if you don't need it – and then (once you've finished with it) **DROP** it in the '**Baggage Drop Zone**' as signed. Failure to do so will mean the arrival of your bag at the Cirencester finish is likely to be much later than your own arrival!!

MERCHANDISE

There's still time to purchase your 2023 Cotswold Way tech T-shirt for just £25! Also, check out our range of Ultra Challenge merchandise including leggings, hoodies and hats. We can't guarantee availability on the day, so order yours **NOW** to avoid disappointment!

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR ONLINE SHOP >>](#)

If you have booked Accommodation at Cirencester RAU halls of residence

If you are arriving on Friday evening at Cirencester (strictly **NOT** before 4pm or after 9pm) there will be a signing in point, where you will be able to collect your key fob and we will take a £10 deposit – **CASH ONLY**, which will be given on return of the key fob.



Remember – **Friday evening dinner & Saturday morning breakfast** (if not staying in Friday night accommodation) **MUST** be booked in advance – and **parking** if you're leaving your car at the Cirencester 'basecamp' (see 'Optional Extras') the location for parking will be confirmed closer to the event date.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are on the Full 2 Day Challenge – you will need to book camping at Wotton on Saturday night (do not book the accommodation at RAU Cirencester on the Saturday night)!

If you have booked Camping at Wotton-Under-Edge

Camping at Wotton-Under-Edge will be open from midday on Saturday 24 June. Head to the 'Info Point' once you arrive at Wotton for instructions.

REGISTRATION & THE START –

Royal Agricultural University, Stroud Road, Cirencester GL7 6JS

Note – Please see the App for full details of venue locations & maps, and **parking** at all the key start venues must be **booked in advance** (i.e. weekend, single day, supports).

PARKING LOCATIONS WILL BE CONFIRMED CLOSER TO THE EVENT DATE however it is at the RAU University, Cirencester (exact access/ location is TBC). Lookout for signage on the day to point you in the right direction!

Early Registration at Cirencester (main start) - Friday 23 June

At basecamp for those staying locally (and at the on-site University Halls) - we will open 'Early Registration' for Cirencester starters only from 4.00pm until 8.00pm on Friday

Registration & The Start – Saturday 24 June

Full Continuous, Full 2 Day 1st Half & 1st Quarter Challenge

At Royal Agricultural University, Stroud Road, Cirencester GL7 6JS opens 6.00am – 9.30am

2nd Quarter Challenge

At Painswick RFC & Sports Club, Stroud Rd, Painswick, GL6 6RS opens at 8.00am - 9.00am

Registration & The Start – Sunday 25 June

2nd Half Challenge & 2nd Day of '2 Day Full Challenge'

At Wotton Sports Centre, Centre, New Road Entrance (field), Wotton-under-Edge GL12 8JW opens 5.00am – 6.00am

At Registration

- Try and arrive 1 hour prior to your start time
- You **MUST** present your **E-TICKET**
- Collect your **EVENT PACK** (Event & timing pass, lanyard, bib, route card)
- You'll also get a souvenir **Cotswold Way Ultra Challenge neck buff**
- Detail critical **medical details** on the reverse of bib (*i.e. serious conditions / allergies*)
- E-Tickets are **NOT** transferable – we may ask for ID
- **PHOTO ID MUST BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE ON A MULTI-DEAL**
- You must come with at least **2 litres of water** (bottles / camel back).

You'll be called into the 'Start Pen' about 15 mins **before** your official start time for a safety briefing & warm up – and then you'll then set off a 'wave' of about 250 or so challengers





THE ROUTE

Will be marked with pink arrows, ribbons, flags & signs. Equally important - you'll have access to a **Google route map via the Challenge APP** (and a QR code on the Route Card). A mobile phone is therefore **essential** – and ideally with a back-up battery pack – which are readily available these days!). With the right phone settings - your 'blue dot' location shows up relative to the route – so you'll always be able to figure where you are!

Google Map

This will be finalised & enhanced with useful information prior to the Challenge.

GPX file

You will be able to download the final GPX file of the route to upload into GPS type devices (Garmins etc.). This will be available from Monday 19 June via the website.

[CLICK TO VIEW ROUTE >>](#)

NOTE: The Route is **subject to change** in the lead up to the event – and potentially close to the start date - so please always follow **the signage on the day**. We've plotted the route various devices to get the 'best' plot, and please be aware that some GPS devices tend to overstate distance on relatively slow, long, walking / hiking type activities – and it's best to turn off the device when you are stationary for prolonged periods (i.e. – at rest stops).

Hazards on Route

Hazards exist in many guises – on footpaths, pavements, and on roads! Look out for: Traffic (cross roads in the correct places); slippery surfaces on footpaths (it may be wet); styles (can be tricky); steep slopes; other pedestrians / dogs – and clearly darkness / night time brings additional challenges – so you **must bring a head torch!** Be careful – and always err on the cautious side and look, listen & think ahead, as for most, this event is NOT a race!

Timing & Tracking

You'll be issued with a timing pass & lanyard to be worn around your neck during the event. This will be scanned at the start / finish and at rest stops. You must go through all check points for your tracking profile to be updated. Friends & family will be able to view your progress through rest stops – and this link will be available via the **App** and the **website** on Thursday 22 June.

'WhatsApp' & 'What 3 Words'

The route is relatively remote in places & post codes often 'don't work' – so having access to (and knowing how to use) – 'WhatsApp' location functionality and 'What 3 Words' (which is a well-known location type app) are both very useful in case you need to give your specific location to a supporter (i.e. to meet or pick you up) - or to our Control Room. Please check these out if you are not familiar with them – and download these clever apps!

Food & Drink at Cirencester basecamp & Rest Stops

All dietary requirements are catered for (please ask if it's not apparent!)

- **Start** (*Cirencester basecamp*) - Hot drinks, biscuits, bananas (plus - breakfast vendor)
- **~24 km Stop** (*Painswick*) - Full / 1st Half / 1st Quarter Challengers, picnic lunch
- **~53 km - 'Half Way' + 1st Half Finish** (*Wotton-Under-Edge*) – selection of hot meals
- **~78 km Stop** – (*Beaufort*) – Full Continuous Challengers, selection of hot/cold meals
- **~78 km Stop** – (*Beaufort*) – 2nd Half/ 2 Day Full Challengers, picnic lunch



- **100 km Finish** (*Cirencester*) – BBQ for finishers (or breakfast – depending on time)
- **Other Rest stops:** Edgeworth (12.5 km) / Coaley Peak (38km) / Hawkesbury (63km) & Rodmarton (90km) : Good mix of snacks (inc. bakery / fruit / cut fruit / protein bards/ chocolate / sweets / savoury) - and hot drinks / water/ squash / energy drink.

If you have a favourite snack which ‘hits the spot’, perhaps keeps you going when you might not feel like eating other food – then it’s not a bad idea to bring some of it with you! Please clear & dispose of all **your rubbish** in the sacks / bins provided at all the venues.

Medical Facilities

Our team of medics will be at the basecamp & at all the Rest Stops – with mobile resources deployed for any serious incidents. You should bring your own small first aid kit – and always deal with blisters as soon as you feel a ‘hot spot’ (don’t wait till you get to a rest stop!). There’s a **massage service** at the Wotton-Under-Edge 53 km ‘half way’ & point & at the main basecamp finish in Cirencester (10 min slots – booked on arrival at that stop).

FINISH LINE & DEPARTING

All finishers will get a well-earned medal, glass of fizz and a meal.

1st Quarter Challenge finish line – Painswick Rugby Club, Stoud Road, Painswick, GL6 6UH.

Picnic lunch. There are bookable shuttles (book in advance via our Bookable Extras page) to take finishers back to the Cirencester start parking, and Stroud train station. Supporters collecting you can purchase a parking pass in advance. Supporters will not be allowed in the main marquee area (there will be a separate seating area).

[Google Map Location for Painswick >>](#)

1st Half Challenge & 2nd Quarter finish line – at Wotton Sports Centre, Centre, New Road Entrance (field), Wotton-under-Edge GL12 8JW.

Selection of hot food available + massage and medical teams just in case. There will be optional bookable transfers to the Cirencester basecamp or Stroud train station. Supporters collecting you can purchase a parking pass in advance - but will not be allowed in the main marquee area.

[Google Map Location for Wotton-Under-Edge>>](#)

Full & 2nd Half Challenge finish line – Royal Agricultural University, Stroud Road, Cirencester GL7 6JS. Selection of hot food available (Hot meal or breakfast if early) + massage and medical teams. There are shuttles to the Kemble train station which **MUST** be booked in advance via our online booking form. Supporters will be able to park at Cirencester (to pick you up) they can purchase a parking ticket in advance for £6 – but will not be allowed in the main marquee area (there will be a separate area).

[Google Map Location for Cirencester >>>](#)

Note - Runners / Fast Joggers:

Runners on the Full ~100km Challenge will finish somewhere between 6:00 –11:30pm on Saturday. For those arriving at the finish line when the trains are not be running, there will be a quiet area available for participants to rest until the first train on Sunday

morning. Alternatively fast joggers/runners can book accommodation at the start/finish line at Cirencester for Saturday night. Please bear in mind that as the runners arrive relatively spread out at the finish line, the finish line can be quiet at times (so do ask your supporters to join you!)

DROP OUT PROCEDURES, CUT OFF TIMES & RULES

During the event there will be a **Control Room** in operation. Please ensure that you save the important phone numbers prior to the Challenge.

Emergency No. (If you're injured but non-life threatening): **0203 915 6682**

Control Room No. (For non-emergencies i.e. you are lost): **0207 609 6695**

Drop Out SMS / WhatsApp (To say you're retiring etc.): **07931 466138**

Life Threatening Incidents CALL 999 first, **then** the emergency no. above

Exiting / Retiring from the Challenge

If you need to exit / retire from the Challenge, please inform Event Staff or by Text SMS to the number provided on the Route Card – procedure details below. The ideal place to retire is at any Rest Stop – so unless it is an absolute emergency please do your best to carry on to one of these stops.

There will be shuttle buses picking up those who have retired from the event from the 24km Painswick rest stop onwards, to take you to the next major Rest Stop – where (if required) you can book on to one of the Shuttle Transfer Buses to get back to Cirencester (if needed). However, these buses will be doing round trips stopping at all rest stops on the route, so this may involve a wait during busy times.

If dropping out at a Rest Stop / Mid Point

Go to the **'Information Point'** and hand in your Event Pass. Staff will provide details of shuttle services or other ways to exit. The shuttle service is only available from the 30km point onwards - before that point, retirees will need to make their own travel arrangements, unless in an emergency when we will have vehicles and medics available.

If exiting the event on the course

If you need to exit / retire from the challenge, please inform event staff OR text the 'Drop Out' number provided on the Event Pass with your **NAME, BIB NO. APPROX KM** and **TIME**, along with the words 'DROPPING OUT'. Please include details for team mates also exiting the event if applicable.

Other pick up points

If you are physically unable to make it to the next rest stop – we will have a number of strategically designated 'pick up points' (that our vehicles can access) –the Control Room can direct you. Pick-ups from these points will just move you to the next rest stop – and at that point **your challenge will finish** (they cannot be used to 'get a lift').

Cut off times

The Event will have cut off departure times from based on the 34 hour upper end time (Full Challengers), 18 hrs for the 1st Half (~53km), 16 hours for the 2nd Half (~47km), 8 hours for the 1st Quarter (24km) & 9 hours for the 2nd Quarter. If anyone fails to meet these cut off

times, the Organiser reserves the right to withdraw participants from the Event. We will, however, do everything we can to ensure that anyone who wants to continue can do so as we are fully aware of what 'finishing' means to many.

Event Rules

There aren't too many rules – but the ones we have are important. Please make sure you familiarise yourself with these rules and our Ultra Code before the Challenge:

- Do not attend the event if you feel ill – or have an infectious disease
- Your Bib & Event Pass must be worn at all times
- You must have a mobile phone with you & the app installed (+ WhatsApp / 3 Words)
- You must carry a back-up power pack for your phone
- Participants must ensure they are hydrated, fed & rested before commencing any stage of the event and report any concerns to an Event Medic or Event Staff
- If, in the opinion of an Event Medic, a participant is considered unfit to complete the next stage, or further stages, that participant will be excluded as necessary
- All Full, 1st Half & 2nd Quarter Challengers **MUST** carry a head torch and wear it during the hours of darkness.
- **NO DOGS** (or pets of any kind) anywhere on the Challenge or route – we do not have permissions from landowners, venues and/or farmers to have any kind of animal on the route so pets of any kind are not allowed.
- The Event Organiser reserves the right to operate a 34 hour cut off time for all participants attempting the Full Challenge – with other Rest Stops closing times in accordance with this time frame (as set out above).
- No individual should leave a rest stop alone during the hours of darkness – you must be with a TREK MASTER-guided group or be part of a team
- The Organiser reserves the right to officially remove a participant from the Challenge if, in their reasonable opinion, the participant's actions or behaviour is likely to significantly impact the wellbeing of other participants, staff, suppliers, or members of the public - or will bring the reputation of the event and / or the event organiser into disrepute.
- If any participants are encouraging, or hosting 'non-registered challengers' to take part in the challenge alongside them in some way, and are seen to be passing food /drink to them – all involved will be disqualified, all our services will be immediately withdrawn, offenders will be removed from our venues, and no refunds of any kind will be made.
- Ultra-Challenge Participants who have entered the challenge on a **MULTI DEAL MUST PROVIDE PHOTO ID** at registration or risk losing their place on the challenge.

The Ultra Code

It is important to remember that the route goes through public paths and can run close to private property. In respect of this, please be sure to always follow the Ultra Code:

- **No littering at all** – bring a bag to use for your litter – and dispose of at rest stops
- **Always shut gates behind you**
- Be considerate of local residents, making sure to keep noise levels down
- Use the toilets provided (and use them properly!) – and not on the route!
- Respect private property (keep out)
- Beware of roads – and always cross in the correct places
- Be considerate of other walkers on the route who may not be taking part
- Be aware of cattle / sheep

SUPPORTER ACCESS TO REST STOPS

There will be supporter zones at: Cirencester, RAU basecamp (main start/finish), Painswick (24 km), and Coaley Peak (38km) Wotton-Under-Edge (53 km 'half way').



Supporters will not have access to the main marquees, and must be self-sufficient with their own food and drink. At other Rest Stops there's **no supporter access** (unless for a drop out /retiree pick up).

What can you expect next from us...

- 1. Pre-Event Video Briefing!** Our Pre-Event Briefing gives you a quick rundown on what you can expect on the day, the route, hints & tips!
- 2. E-Tickets** These will be sent to you on Wed 14 June – keep an eye out for them in your inbox!
- 3. Timing Website & Good Luck** On 22 June Cotswold Way timing & tracking website will go live and a final 'Good Luck' email from us as will.
- 4. Official Results & Certificates Released** Your final times will be released via the timing website on the 26 June – you'll also be able to download your official Cotswold Way Ultra Challenge certificate!

We wish you the best of luck for your challenge if you have any questions, please visit our online Help Centre on our website:

[CLICK HERE for the Help Centre >>](#)

Kind Regards,

The Ultra Challenge Team,
Action Challenge,
London

