



General Outline

These are the details for the WAY52 Challenge 2027, a 52Km journey from Melksham to WAY's base in Swindon via the Kennet and Avon Canal, the White Horse Trail and the chalky tops of the Ridgeway.

When and where?

With a start time of 0915 at [Melksham Railway Station](#) for walkers, and 1130 for runners, we will check your details and maybe following a team picture, the day will begin! It will finish in Swindon no later than 10pm ... or when participants can go no further – whichever happens first.

There is a train that departs Swindon at 08:44 which arrives in Melksham at 09:08. For **runners** there is a 11:05 train which will allow you a slightly later start of 11:30.

When you arrive at Melksham Railway Station on the Saturday morning

- Register your name with Will. Check that your details (including your mobile phone number) are correct.
- You will then be given a two-figure id number. Every time you see a marshal or contact us - give them/us your id number please.

No Shows

If at the last minute you can't make the day, please be so courteous as to text me on 07791860163 and let me know the names of anyone with you who is not able to take part.

The Route

The route is linear and will start at [Melksham Railway Station](#) and leads you through 52Km of country walking weaving its way out of Melksham, along the Kennet and Avon canal, past Devizes, up to the heights of the White Horse Trail and finally along the Ridgeway, heading north to Swindon. It follows public footpaths, bridleways, and byways, and a few minor roads too. It is beautifully scenic, but no especially steep hills!

- [A GPX file for the complete route can be downloaded here](#)
- [See the route on GoogleMyMaps here](#)
- [Written route description can be downloaded here](#)

Checking in with marshals

There will be marshals stationed along the route (plus a mobile vehicle at various points). Where sections of text are highlighted in **yellow** on the [route-card](#), you can expect there to be a marshal.

Please look out for them - and then give them your event number.

If any of you are bringing family or friends that are happy to help marshal along the route please let me know. Any such help will be well received!

Toilet facilities

Please note there are limited public toilet facilities available anywhere along the way. Infer from this what you will need to do! (Please bring bags to remove any paper you may use). This is what you will find available along the way:

[Sainsbury's, Melksham](#)

[Devizes SN10 1DP](#) 13Km

[Car Park at Overton Hill](#), 30Km TBC

[Coate Water, Swindon](#), 49.1Km

Some Rules ...

- Participants must follow the route as described in the route card.
- All participants need to make it to the lunch station at 30Km by 1730 in order to continue beyond this point.
- Please be exceptionally polite to everyone supporting this event: they're a volunteer giving up their time to make this day happen.

Food

Along the way we will have support stops offering water and snacks, and later at the 30Km location we will offer you bacon butties and a hot brew. (Vegetarian options will also be available).

But do bring plenty of good food for the day – savoury as well as sweet. Have a good breakfast Saturday morning and eat lots of (brown) pasta the Friday night before.

Along the route, water will be available and some hot drinks may be available too.

What happens if I want to drop out on the way?

From the route card you will see where the marshals are located. We would ask that you try your best to get to the next marshal location before dropping out. You will be able to wait with the marshal and as soon as we have a driver spare you will be picked up and driven to the nearest station or all the way onward to Swindon, depending on where you are along the route.

If you're at a road, and you really can't carry on, fire us a message by text and as soon as we can, we will dispatch a driver to come and collect you.

From the route card, you will have a good idea of where the next road or marshal will be. Please don't attempt to walk along a path/bridleway (that has no access to roads) if you doubt you have it in you to get to the next road section.

If ever you decide to drop out and get yourself home independently/go to the pub, please let us know immediately so that we don't have search teams out looking for you.

Wherever you drop out we will do our best to get you back to Swindon as quickly as we can. With an eye to minimising driving time for our support team it is likely that you may have to wait some time before we have enough to make it viable for the trip back. Your patience will be greatly appreciated.

Equipment

Main rules of thumb:

Look at the weather forecast for the next 24 hours and come prepared

Steer clear of all things cotton – no jeans

Whatever you use, make sure it's comfortable

a. Essential

Small daysack lined with a plastic bag

Waterproof coat

Sun hat / warm hat as appropriate

Comfortable footwear – (running trainers with an aggressive lug in the sole unit would work a treat)

[Personal 1st aid kit](#)

1.5 litres of fluid

Packed lunch plus plenty of snacking food

Torch for the hours of darkness

Fully-charged phone

b. Good to have

Headtorch with fresh batteries

Walking poles

Spare socks

[Survival bag](#)

Hat & gloves

Further Reading:

Top Tips For Footcare

Walking boots: a new approach

A [personal first-aid kit](#) should include as a minimum any personal medication and blister plasters.

Carry a casualty monitoring card

Download and print off at least [two of these casualty cards](#). On these, you will see they guide you through what to do in the event of an emergency. On one of them you could write in your details, including your next of kin, and any allergies you have and any medications you're on. Additionally there is space to write down any pre-existing medical conditions you have, such as diabetes or epilepsy.

Pre-existing Medical Conditions

I strongly believe that pre-existing medical conditions should never be a reason not to lead a normal life. But, to help make this event safer for you, please follow this guidance.

The best people to know about any medical conditions you have, are the people walking with you. We would urge you to explain what you might have (eg epilepsy, diabetes, asthma, angina etc) and to tell them how they might best be able to help you should something arise.

Explain what the condition is, what it might look like if you suffer with symptoms, and what they should do to help you. For example, if you have asthma this might simply be explaining where you keep your pump.

Mobile phones

We appreciate that many people like to escape technology from time to time but on this event we rely on you to carry a fully charged mobile phone. It greatly helps us to manage the risk and in the event of an emergency this could literally be your lifeline. If you have a smart phone these are excellent features to add.

[What3Words](#) – gives you three unique words for any given location, and also it gives you an OS grid reference.

[999 – Register your phone to 999](#). In the event of an accident and you have too little signal to make a phone call, with your phone registered to this service, you can text the emergency services instead.

Anyone can administer first aid – [here are some guidelines](#) for even the complete novice.

Accident and Emergency

In the event that you or someone near to you needs medical attention:

1. [Administer 1st Aid](#) (if you are confident to do so*)
2. If need be call/text 999. (If you are **not** on a road you need to call for a local search and rescue team by calling 999 and ***asking for the police*** to coordinate this. You will need an exact location: What3Words and/or a grid reference preceded with the two map letters SU. The What3Words app will do this for you).
3. Whatever happens, once it is safe to do so, please text or call us to inform us of what has happened.

Questions

I think I have covered everything. If there remain any questions please use the WhatsApp group to ask, (so that everyone gets the benefit of the question and answer) or if you prefer, email me directly at will@will4adventure.com.