



WAY 52 Challenge 2027

These directions are provided to help get you to the next location. Where you see hyperlinked text, this links through to the location on Google Maps. The distances given will give you an idea of how far and how long to the next checkpoint. **Marshal locations are highlighted in yellow.**

- Runners may go as fast as 10K/hr
- Fast walkers will manage to do 5km/hr
- A slow walking pace is 3Km/hr

[The whole of the route can be viewed here](#) (using Open Source mapping).

[A GPX file for the complete route can be downloaded here](#) &

[See the route on GoogleMyMaps here](#)

Description of location	Dist. from start (KM)	Description of route to next check point
Melksham Railway Station		Head down the lane from the station towards a roundabout and underpass. Enter the underpass headed for the town centre. Along the road, (on its left side), past the Lidl and over the bridge over the river. Shortly you will pass Sainsburys over to your right – there are public toilets here (on the far left when you enter). Nb The public conveniences signposted to, by the park, didn't appear open when I came here in September. Continue down the High St and then opposite the Bear, take the left turn along Union St. At the end of Union St head over (slightly left) and down Ruskin Ave so that the school is on your right. As the road bends round to the right take the path left through the park, as if headed for Oak Community Sch etc. Through the green space, over the footbridge and past the playground on your left. The stream stays down to your right now (in all those marshy looking bushes maybe), and come to a road, with some railings. Crossover here and head for that housing estate ahead. Stay on the same footpath through the housing estate, always headed roughly in the same direction. Through some garages, past more houses, looking for where this path takes you. Shortly it brings you out to the riverside. Keep going, to the footbridge with white railings. Once over, immediately turn left so that the river is now on your left. (Do not cross a second bridge here). Along the path and out into open green space with houses up to your right, and then under some telegraph cables. To a tarmacked path, and a footbridge on your left. Over the bridge and forwards through the housing estate ahead. Keeping in the same direction pick up another walkway heading past sports fields on your right. At the top take a right turn, keeping the sports fields on your right, and follow this to the end and to the road.

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Description of location	Dist. from start (KM)	Description of route to next check point
Eastern Way	3	Cross the road and you'll see to your right a private road. To the left of this is a public bridleway. Follow this. Past the gym and past Snarlton Farm and eventually through a gate and into an open field and into the countryside! Ok – this next bit is a bit tricky ... You'll be walking along the bridleway with hedgerows on both sides of you, like you're walking up a long narrow rectangular field. Walk to the far end of this rectangular field and through at the top to another, even narrower rectangular field. Walk to the very end of this field, and about 6m right of the metal gate is a dilapidated wooden stile. Through/over this and you should now be in a big open field. In the far corner you will see a silver-trunked-tree (with no leaves). Head directly for this, past the farm over to your right, and you will be on the public right of way. Soon you will see the gate at the end of the field. Through the gate and turn right, into another narrow strip of land. Head to the end of this and continue along at the end with the scrub of bush on your right and tall hedge/bushes on your left. At first it doesn't look like a path, but it is. And this weird little path brings you shortly over a footbridge and to a wooden gate. Through this and continue in the same direction, trees on your right and bushes to your left. Ignore all paths left and right of you. Under the telegraph cables, and on for the far field boundary, where the stile is to the left of the gate you can now see. Through the metal gate, and down towards Totterdown Farm. As you pass by the cattle shed (moo!), look left for a footpath and footbridge that takes you into the adjacent field. Over the bridge and follow this field on its right side, through a gap, and then to the gate on the fence-line beyond.
Totterdown Farm	5.5	Over the road, and into the field. Look across to the highest tree. Just to the left of the base of this tree is the stile. This leads you through a quirky tunnelled avenue through the bushes, and into the next field. Follow the tall hedgerow on your left until you come to an obvious trail, near the end of the field. Onto this, turn left, and then immediately right, with the hedgerow on your right now. Shortly into the next field, with the hedgerow on your left, and you will begin to see the canal now, just down the hill.
Kennet and Avon Canal	6.5	Well done. Turn left and follow the canal headed for Devizes. You can now switch off for a good 10Km. 2 miles after joining the canal, you will come to the Caen Hill Locks. The canal then passes through a conspicuous looking tunnel/arch, with a separate tunnel/archway for pedestrians, to it's right. Half a mile later you'll come to the next road at the 'Town Bridge'. Here you will see a metal staircase that leads you up to the road. Up this, cross the canal, and back down again, so that it is now on your right. Another 500m later the path crosses the canal once again and leads you to the path so that the canal is now on your left. Keep going and a few miles later you will see the Bridge Inn at Horton Bridge, just opposite. Half a mile later, you arrive at the swing bridge over the canal. This is where you leave the canal.
swing bridge over the canal	17.5	Over the bridge and look for the wide metal gate to your front & right. Through this heading in the direction of Bourton. In front of you is a thin line of young trees. Walk on the right of these to the far fence. By the metal gates, to the left is a pedestrian gate. Through this and over the footbridge. Again head through the next field

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		just to the right of the plantation of your trees, headed for a white cottage with a thatched roof, which you'll see at the end of this field. Just before the cottage, turn right, before exiting the field. The bushes/trees will be up to your left, and an electric cattle fence to your right. 300m later exit the field <u>over a footbridge</u>. Once over the bridge, head on to the field just beyond. On your right is a wooden fence and bushes. The path follows these, and there is an electric cable to. You're meant to walk between the cable and the bushes, but if you do, you'll get stung by the nettles or shocked by the wire cable. I stepped over the wire, and followed it to the far right corner and through the metal gate. Through the next field now, headed for the far left corner. Once through the metal gate, look over to your left, and you will see a red-bricked house with solar panels on the roof. Follow the path that leads you to that house, under the telegraph cables. As you get closer to the house you will see another gate, just to the right of where the house is. Through the gate and onto the <u>road</u>.
<u>road</u> corner in Bishops Cannings	19	Turn right to the road corner, and then immediately left uphill, past the huge dark looking barns on your left. You'll be walking uphill now for about half a mile, and then it plateaus out a bit. You'll see some weird concrete structure on your left (no idea what it is?), just keep going to the very end. When you get to a broad byway, head right with the barbed wire fence on your right. Keep on this trail now, past the <u>farm buildings and barn</u> on your right, keep going and up a short steepish hill. At the top do a right turn and then a left turn up a wide chalky track. (Do not head down to Manor Farm). 200m or so later you'll see a <u>marshal on your right</u> showing you the way onto the next trail.
<u>Bridleway junction</u>	23.2	Through the wide metal gate on your right, and follow the White Horse Trail. 30m later, through another set of gates, just follow the trail. Let the trail lead you up and round to your LEFT. Gain the glorious high ground with commanding views down & over to your left. Keep going, over the high ground and down a bit past a metal cattle-feed-station on your right. Through a gate, and now there is a fence on your right. You need to be up on the high ground, on a chalky path. Shortly, look over to your left and look out for a <u>gate</u> that will lead you left and down off this hill. You'll need to cross over the furrow to your left to access this gate.
<u>Gate leading you on to Wiltshire County Council Bridleway</u>	25.1	Through the gate and downhill with a bunline of scrub on your right and a dilapidated fence on your left. Keep on the very obvious trail all the way down to a trail that bars my way. Follow the yellow signs with the black arrows. Turn right up a small hill, and then left at the metal gates. It looks like you're faced with a fork in the tracks – take the left fork (I did). All the way down, to another track, follow the green signs with black arrows now, right. Then immediately left passed the dilapidated barn on your left. Downhill, more yellow signs and black arrows. Follow these right, now. You shortly hit a road. Take a left turn, over a <u>bridge with white rails</u>, and then take an immediate right back onto the bridleway, keeping the field boundary on your right. At the end of the field, take a left turn up the byway, heading to a main road and to a <u>car park at Overton Hill</u>.

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The Ridgeway and Sanctuary Car Park, SN8 1QG	29.8	You're now on the Ridgeway! For the next 10Km or so, just follow the big obvious trail in front of you. If it's not a big obvious trail, or if you have had to cross any stiles or fences, you've gone wrong. About 7Km from getting onto the Ridgeway, you will cross a road. Keep going, but at the next road (2.5Km later), you will depart company with the Ridgeway where you meet a road beneath the site of Barbury Castle (it's long gone now).
meet road beneath Barbury Castle	39.3	At this road, the Ridgeway is signposted right and up over that hill. Fortunately for you, you are taking the left fork, directly over the road, and walking along the trail that contours beneath that same hill. Along here to the next road. Turn left onto the road and then immediately right, continuing along the track/byway. This is now the Old Ridgeway. Keep going for another few kilometres when the track becomes a road and you'll see some white cottages to your left.
Buff Cottages	43	Follow this road to its end, savouring the delight in the change in surface beneath your feet. At the end of the road, take a left turn, downhill, heading now for Chiselden. Walk on the left side where there is space to jump out the way of any traffic. Also – probably best to remove any earbuds so you can hear the cars coming! You'll shortly come to a crossroads – with Ladysmith Rd to the right. Take the left turn here, down past the bus stops. Keep going until you reach the mini-roundabout by the Patriot's Arms pub . At the roundabout head straightover, aiming for the thatched cottage you'll see. Head down this hill and at the very bottom, depart the road along a tarmacked trail, headed right. You'll soon pass a red dog-poo bin, and then you take the left fork along the Sustrans route. (Do not head down to the Washpool). Down in the woods you'll shortly come to a fork in the track: take the right fork, along route 45, headed to the Curly Wurly Bridge over the M4 .
Curly Wurly Bridge over the M4	47.2	Over the motorway bridge and continue along the same tarmacked trail. To the lake, stay on route 45, over the lake. Follow any path round the lake (Coate Water) so the lake is on your left. At the far corner you'll see a building with green doors: head for that. (That diving platform was built in 1935 and closed in 1958 due to risk of polio from swimming in the water). At the buildings follow signs for toilets (just on your left again). Keep in that same direction now, past the bushes on your right, past the small car park and onwards, along the trail and to the road. As you approach the main road ahead you'll see a life belt to your right by the wooden fence and a post signposting the way – follow (for now) the direction for the hospital, so you veer right towards the traffic lights and safe crossing. At the pedestrian crossing, cross the main road to the triangular island, and then again to the tarmacked cycle way & path. Continue along and take a right turn by the black bin, headed for East Swindon. Cross Queens Dr at the pedestrian crossing and head right again, past the sign for Dorcan, taking the exit left down Shaftesbury Avenue .
Shaftesbury Avenue	49.6	Stay on this road now for 1 mile. Just before the bushes and trees on your right cease, take the left turn down Midhurst Ave . At the end of the road do a right turn and then take a left turn with the green railings on your left. At the far end of the school, take a left turn down Cowley Walk, by the green railings. This brings you out onto Lyndhurst Crescent, with the grey school fencing up to your left. Follow this round to your left and into these grounds where your journey comes to its end at the Base ! Well done!

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