

The Circular Challenge Route The Four Sections - An Overview

Panorama Racecourse to Barlands 6.3 Miles

This starts at the Racecourse at an elevation of about 60m. After a mile or so of gently undulating gravel tracks and grassy footpaths you reach Prestbury with another mile or so of metalled roads and footpaths through the village. Turning left along Bouncers Lane the footpath rises to about 100m near to Noverton where you turn right, walking across fields and rising up to 125m at Hewlett's reservoir. The route then descends across fields to about 100m at Ham. Turning left after Ham at Charlton Kings you commence the long stretch across fields towards Colgate Farm, which is at the highest point of the section, 225m. There is then a quite steep descent through fields to the A40 and Barlands, at about 100m

Escarpment Barlands to Brizen 6.6 Miles

Leaving Barlands, take the steep track along Capel Lane, which becomes a grassy footpath up the escarpment, though spinney's, with steps in places and join the Cotswold Way to the highest point of 290m at Whistley Hill. There is then a gentle descent along grassy paths to Seven Springs at 215m.

After crossing the A435 the route follows established gravel and grassy paths across Charlton Common, rising gently to about 230m, followed by a gradual and picturesque descent along established footpaths to Daisybank Road (150m). There is a steep walk along the footpath up Leckhampton Hill, climbing to about 195m, where the route turns right across fields and quite sharply down off the escarpment. This can be slippery in wet weather. After passing by Leckhampton church (about 90m elevation) and more gently undulating fields you reach Brizen Field, at elevation of about 60m.

Meadows Brizen to Pavilion Restaurant (formerly Pheasant Inn) 6.2 Miles

This is essentially very flat through Shurdington, across some fields with small undulations, past Badgeworth church, dropping through small stream valleys, and mainly following grassy paths to Gloucestershire Airport, at about 25m. The route, via roadways and fields ends at Pavilion Restaurant (formerly Pheasant Inn) (33m). If the weather has been wet, some of these paths can be very muddy.

Villages Pavilion Restaurant (formerly Pheasant Inn) to the Racecourse 7.1 Miles

Leaving the Pavilion Restaurant, after some metalled surfaces there is a gentle, gradual uphill stretch across fields through Hayden Green to Hayden Hill at about 47m. The route remains very flat through Uckington, Elmstone Hardwicke and Swindon Village. Most of the footpaths are through field and along field boundaries, with several streams. The going can be muddy when wet. The elevation is generally about 40m throughout.

The final mile or so of the route, from Hyde Lane via Hunting Butts to the Racecourse is uphill, rising to about 60m where the railway line is crossed and then downhill with gentle undulations to the finishing point shortly thereafter.

The Half Marathon is from the Racecourse to Brizen and the Full Marathon is all four sections

Note: Distances are approximate due to the nature of the course and the route may vary slightly from that published. For example it may be necessary to go round rather than across planted fields.