

BAGMAN



COTSWOLD CROSS SPORTIVE

PRE-EVENT RIDER PACK



2024

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2024 ROUTES

75km
www.plotaroute.com/route/2430986

55km
www.plotaroute.com/route/2431705

40km
www.plotaroute.com/route/2482736

Introduction

WELCOME TO THE COTSWOLD CROSS SPORTIVE 2024 AND THANK YOU FOR ENTERING.

In this, our seventh year, the Cotswold Cross Sportive offers 3 route options of approximately 40km (13km off-road) 55km (26km off-road) and 75km (31km off-road). In contrast to competitive enduro events the 17 numbered off-road sections are not individually timed. They are, however, graded in accordance to difficulty and times will be logged for completion of the rider's chosen course as a whole.

We have endeavoured to provide 3 challenging courses with optimum support for a minimal cost to make the Cotswold Cross as inclusive as possible.

There's lots of information in this pre-event pack; please read it carefully so you know exactly what to expect on the day and how best to enjoy it. Reading this pre-event pack beforehand will greatly enhance your experience on the day.

If there's anything you don't fully understand or you would like us to expand on then please contact us here

– www.facebook.com/groups/cotswoldcross/

– info@bagman.website

– 01242 221770

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!



Essential Information



GETTING THERE

We are delighted to be at RAF Chedworth Airfield this year. HQ location can be found on the Airfield strip, GL54 4NT, or using **what3words ///reprints.underline.watches**

what3words is used widely by us as it quickly describes a very specific location. We recommend you download the free app to your phone before the event.

Registration opens at 7.30am and closes at 9.00am



PARKING & EVENT HQ

In contrast to last year we now have plenty of hard standing parking on the old runway of the decommissioned World War II airfield at RAF Chedworth. HQ is the on the same site.

We will tap you up for £2 in favour of The National Star College for parking: this is by no means compulsory but all donations are very welcome.

Entrance to parking can be found by heading towards Woodland Farm, GL54 4NT and [what3words///reprints.underline.watches](http://what3words.com/reprints.underline.watches)



ACCOMMODATION

Cheltenham and its surrounds have many good places to stay so if you're looking for accommodation the night before or after the event have a look here for recommendations: www.cotswolds.com/accommodation

WHAT TO BRING

We all like to ride our bikes with as little encumbrance as possible but there are some essential items that we feel you shouldn't be without when on your bike.

These items include:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| - ID in case of an incident | - Mobile phone | - Working pump and spare inner tubes |
| - Food | - Basic tool kit | - Rear light |
| - Money | - Spare and appropriate clothing | - A bell |

It is also important that you have inspected your bike thoroughly in the days prior to the event and are satisfied that it is both safe and efficient to ride.

GPS ROUTING

Although we make every endeavour to provide clear routing signage to help you navigate the course and keep you safe this is not fool-proof as signs are occasionally displaced or tampered with. We highly recommend the use of a GPS navigation system (eg. Garmin) on to which you can download our gpx. files and ride with additional confidence.

Please run a final download of the route on the evening of Saturday 23rd March to ensure you have the very final route in case we have had to make any last minute amendments.

75km

www.plotaroute.com/route/2430986

55km

www.plotaroute.com/route/2431705

40km

www.plotaroute.com/route/2482736

PHOTOGRAPHER

A photographer will be out on the course photographing riders. To help identify you, riders will be given a laminated bike number (to be fixed to handlebars) as part of their signing on pack on the morning of the event. Photography is provided by Charles Whitton Photography. Please visit his site after the event to view yourself in action:

<https://bit.ly/CotswoldCrossSportive2024-CharlesWhittonphotography>

DO'S & DON'TS

This ride is non-competitive, therefore **NOT** a race. Please ensure you act accordingly when participating. We respectfully ask that you:

DO

- Enjoy the ride
- Challenge yourself
- Follow the Highway Code and be safe
- Be considerate to other right of way users
- **Slow down through villages***
- Wear a helmet

DON'T

- Drop litter
- Behave in a manner that may offend others
- Impede traffic flow
- Ride in large groups in the middle of the road or right of way
- Ride on the wrong side of the road
- **Ride fast through villages***
- Go home without checking back in at the finish

Some parts of your route are used by horses and it is important that you make yourself known to the rider, particularly if approaching from behind and slow right down.

***We have an overwhelmingly positive response from our landowners and residents alike. In recent years however, we are receiving increasing numbers of complaints regarding the speed of riders on some descents and particularly through villages. Continued complaints will ultimately result in us losing our event. Please, please slow down wherever you may see members of the public. Thank you.**

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DAY

The Cotswold Cross Sportive is a fully supported event in the tradition of the best European cyclosporives and Gran Fondos. This means that the route will be clearly and comprehensively marked, with direction arrows at each turning and junction. We will make sure that you are in no doubt as to where you should be heading, so if there is a long time between turnings, we'll put up some straight-on signs to give you some reassurance that you haven't missed a turn. However, in the unlikely event that you take a wrong turn at any point or that signs have been dislodged, we will give each rider a route map, which will also include emergency contact information. There is however no substitute for a GPS device for navigating the route and we strongly advise you to beg or borrow one if you are not already an owner.

There will be well-stocked feed stations out on the route which will have a variety of food and refreshments. We endeavour to provide some coeliac and vegan options but would suggest you bring some sustenance of your own if you have special dietary requirements. **Some food options described as allergen free are prepared in large kitchens where allergens might be present. If your allergy is therefore severe, please consult a feed station attendant.**

We will be operating broom wagons to pick up or assist anyone that runs into real difficulties during their ride. Should you feel unable to continue at any point on your route please call the appropriate number supplied with your route map. We will ask you for your location and assist as quickly as possible. what3words (www.what3words.com) is a great way to describe your exact location. Please be aware that we are unable to drive vehicles off the highway so, if you need assistance and are not on the highway, please make your way to the start or finish of the off-road section you are on if you are at all able.

There will be mechanical support at the start, at feed stations and on course to help you out on the day. However, please note that you should not leave it until the morning of the event to sort out any problems with your bike – as this may result in a delay to you starting, or you missing the event completely!!

There will also be medical support on the route if you need it – just call HQ using the number on your route map. If the nature of your medical issue is serious, you should call **999 BEFORE** our number.

The event will also be chip timed. If you decide to change course on the way round, please advise the chip timer at the finish. **Please do not go home without crossing the finish line.** A phone call to HQ is fine if you need to miss the end: **07975 559746**.



PRE-RIDE

REGISTRATION

You will find attached to this email a start time sheet. Please make a note of your start time and then aim to arrive at HQ no more than 20 minutes before your start time. Don't worry if you're slightly late – you will go in the next wave.

If you wish to ride with others please all register in accordance with the **latest start time of your party** as any group members will be prevented from registering early. Please proceed to the start pen 5 minutes before your start time.

RIDER BRIEFING

A rider briefing will be delivered to each wave of cyclists just before starting – please pay attention to this as it includes important information on rider safety and route navigation.

TIMING

We will be using chip timing again this year so your finish time will be automatically logged – your time will be made available to you online shortly after you finish. Please inform the timer at the finish line if you rode a different course than you were registered for.

Please go to www.splitsecondtiming.co.uk and click on results. Your time should be available almost immediately after finishing.

Remember: THIS IS NOT A RACE!

PRE-EVENT CHECKS

Please ensure that your bike is in good repair and safe for riding before the event. There are feed stations en route but please also ensure you are carrying enough water, food and any energy gels required to see you through your ride.

HELMETS ARE MANDATORY ON ALL BRITISH CYCLING AFFILIATED EVENTS AND RIDERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO START THE COTSWOLD CROSS SPORTIVE WITHOUT ONE.

We would also strongly recommend eyewear and long sleeves and legs to prevent injury from brambles and loose mud and grit. We've ridden this route many times... trust us!

There may be sections where it is necessary to dismount and push your bike for a short distance, so you will need shoes with recessed cleats. We have kept these sections to a minimum but we can only work with what the countryside presents us.

Please also refer to the "What to Bring" check list above.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

If you require assistance during your ride, please call:

07975 559746 or 07770 588477

Please log these numbers into your mobile phone before you start.

In case of emergency call 999.

Ready to go!

During the ride

COTSWOLD CROSS SPORTIVE OFF-ROAD SECTION GRADING

Grading is described as level of technical difficulty ranging from 1 (easiest) to 5 (hardest). The grading only takes in to account the level of technical skill required to complete the section on the bike and not gradient or length of the section. Thus, a long Grade 3 section may be more physically demanding than a short Grade 5 section whereas a section graded as 5 may have a very technical downhill element but be less physically demanding.

Each section is graded according to the most difficult element within it. If a section is graded as 4, for example, this does not mean that the WHOLE section will be that technical but only the most difficult part of it.

Technical difficulty Grading 1 would equate to no more than a well maintained farm track or broken road. Level 5 may require you to dismount for a short stretch either due to lack of traction or a very uneven surface. None of the sections should be considered dangerous although section 17 and 18 are graded as 5 because they include a short stretch of extremely uneven and rocky track on a steep descent and we have added an "Advisory Dismount" sign here.

Difficulty levels increase after periods of inclement weather.

PLEASE SEE TABLE OVERLEAF

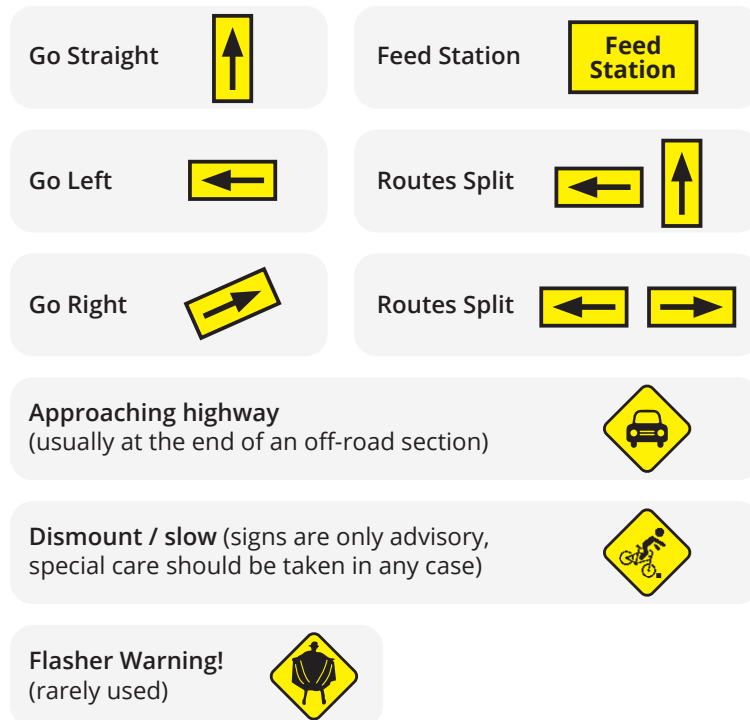
COTSWOLD CROSS SPORTIVE OFF-ROAD SECTION GRADING CONTINUED...

ZONE	LOCATION	DISTANCE	WHO RIDES IT	GRADING	DESCRIPTION
1	Colesbourne	2.6km	75	3	Varied paved, grass, single track and forestry road
2	Shawswell	1.8km	55, 40	2	Grass then farm track
3	Woodmancote	2.6km	55, 40	3	Varied farm track and asphalt – beware horses near end
4	Elkstone	2.8km	75	2	Farm track
5	Syde	1.6km	75	2	Wide track – occasional rutting
6	Duntisbourne	1.5km	75	1	Wide track
7	Quarry	1.7km	75, 55, 40	2	Single track to asphalt
8	Macmillan	1.4km	75, 55, 40	2	Farm track with slight rutting – beware horses
9	Througham	4.2km	75, 55	5	Varied with steep stony descent – possible dismount
10	Jacks Green	1km	75, 55	2	Gently descending wide green Lane
11	Workmans Wood	2.4km	55	3	Forestry road gently ascending getting steeper towards end
12	Coopers Hill	4.1km	75	4	Long forestry road with some steep descents and steep climb towards end
13	Black Laines	0.9km	55	2	Farm track – can be muddy – beware horses
14	Brimpsfield	3.2km	75, 55	5	Varied with steep descent and ascent near start – possible dismount
15	Tom Tits Bottom	1.8km	75, 55, 40	2	Steep climb at start on asphalt followed by gradual climb on farm track
16	Needlehole	2km	75, 55, 40	3	Farm track then farm road
17	Withington Woods	2.8km	75, 55, 40	4	Varied farm and forestry road

Total off-road
31km
26km
13km

SIGNAGE

Example of signs you will see on your route are as follows:



ROUTE MAPS

Detailed maps and profiles of your route can be found at www.plotaroute.com – you can scroll in for as much route detail as you like. This is a fantastic application which allows you to easily download routes in a number of different formats including JPEG, GIF, PNG and GPX as well as directly to most Garmin models. It also enables you to upload and plot your own routes and share with friends.

75km
www.plotaroute.com/route/2430986

55km
www.plotaroute.com/route/2431705

40km
www.plotaroute.com/route/2482736

FEED STATIONS

There will be one feed station on the 40km route and an additional station for those on the 55km and 75km routes. They will be clearly marked and are directly on your route so please continue in the same direction you were travelling in when you leave. You will find their locations on your route map.

Feed station 1, Daglingworth Village Hall (all routes) closes at 12.00pm – **///unscrew.astounded.cheetahs**

Feed station 2, Brimpsfield Village Hall (55km/75km routes) closes at 3.15pm – **///simmer.reserved.collects**

HQ, RAF Chedworth Airfield closes at 6.00pm – **///reprints.underline.watches**

Our friends from the Pied Piper Appeal (who funds the Children's Ward at Gloucester Royal Hospital) will be offering hot drinks for a nominal charge at our feed stations, so please dig deep for their fantastic cause.

If our marshals notice you arriving late at the feed stations or any other check points they will direct you to the fastest route back to HQ.

After the ride

FINISH LINE / HQ

If you are unable or do not wish to finish your course please inform HQ either in person or by calling **07975 559746**. It is extremely important that everyone is accounted for at the end of the day.

FAILURE TO INFORM HQ OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS COULD RESULT IN A PROLONGED SEARCH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES BEING CALLED OUT.

Your safety is of paramount importance to us.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Insect life is prevalent around the course so eye-ware is a must. The transition from bright sunshine to shade on some sections, however, can make spotting rocks and holes very difficult whilst your eyes adjust so do think about clear lenses. The sun is often bright and low in the Spring and a rear light will alert blinded motorists to your presence.

For the most part the trails are fine but on occasion brambles and nettles can be found lurking – consider long socks or leggings, gloves and forearm coverings.

If it's a warm day you're going to need liquid and plenty of it. There will be water at the feed stations but think about bringing a couple of electrolyte tabs with you to drop in your bottle; boom – no more cramp. And don't wait to dehydrate before drinking – if you're thirsty it's too late!

And finally... a bell. Yes a bell! It's not only cyclists that use these trails; there are plenty of walkers and horse riders too. Instead of using traditional methods of warning people from behind of your presence (trying to fire up conversations and hollering greetings from afar) why not try a single ping from 50 metres behind from an age old device readily available from shops and on-line for about £3. You'll be amazed at the effectiveness of a bell and also the positive reaction from walkers and riders – they always seem surprisingly grateful!

AND FINALLY

We hope you have a fantastic day on your bike enjoying what the Cotswolds have to offer.

Much of our course crosses private land with the express consent of our amazing landowners and stakeholders. They offer us access free of charge and at no personal gain, invariably with a wave and smile. So please respect them by leaving the course as you found it, litter free and with **gates closed**. Please also do not ride sections of the course on other days unless you are certain that you are on a bridle way or other public right of way specified for cycles – much of the route is footpath or private land which does not imply consent to access.

Please remember that we have delivered this event to you at the lowest possible price whilst endeavouring to ensure your safety and enjoyment so please give the marshals and staff the respect due to them.

Most importantly though – thanks to you for supporting us and challenging yourself.

Happy cycling!

PARTNERS

skcratch LABS



Registered charity number 220239

With special thanks to the landowners and residents of the Parishes of Bisley with Lypiatt, Brimpsfield, Coberley, Cowley and Birdlip, Edgeworth, North Cerney, Painswick, Daglingworth and Winstone.



01242 221770
info@bagman.website