

# Marlborough Downs Challenge 2026

## Pre-Race Information

### Dear Runner,

Thank you for entering the Marlborough Downs Challenge. We can't wait to see you at the start line.

Please make sure you read the following information carefully ahead of race day to ensure you are fully prepared.

### Race Details

#### 33 Mile Ultramarathon

Distance: 32.69 miles | Elevation: approx. 3000 ft

Start: 09:00 | Briefing: 08:45

#### 20 Mile Race

Distance: 18.94 miles | Elevation: approx. 1500 ft

Start: 10:30 | Briefing: 10:15

### Parking

Parking is at Marlborough College (SN8 1PA) from 07:30.

Please follow all signs and marshal instructions when you get there.

To note, there is no parking at the Leisure Centre.

### Registration

All competitors must register at Marlborough Leisure Centre where you will pick up your race number and your tracker. Registration times are as follows;

**33 mile: 07:30 – 08:30**

**20 mile: 09:00 – 10:00**

### Tracking - **New for 2026**

This year all runners will be given a tracker at registration provided by Open tracking. Here are the links below to enable family and friends to follow you whilst out on the course. Please feel free to share!

20 mile race: <https://live.opentracking.co.uk/20mdc2026/>

33 mile race: <https://live.opentracking.co.uk/mdc2026/>

Please don't forget to complete your emergency contact details on the back of your race number and ensure your race number is visible at all times during the race.

## **Start Location**

Both races start close to the car park on the Marlborough College Parade Ground.

You must also attend the pre race briefing which takes place 15 mins before each race starts so please allow time to walk from the Leisure Centre to the start (5 mins).

There are NO toilets at the start and we ask that runners respect the College grounds at all times.

## **Facilities**

At Marlborough Leisure Centre there is access to toilets, changing facilities, showers, and a drop bag area (unsupervised). Food and drink at the cafe in the Leisure Centre is available all day, for runners and supporters, and there are plenty of shops and restaurants/cafes on the Hight Street which is a 5 min walk away.

At the finish there will be refreshments for runners available until 17:00.

## **Race Finish**

The race finishes just outside the Leisure Centre (SN8 1PB)

**Race cut-off: 17:00pm**

## **Navigation and Signage**

This is in the main a self navigating race. We do however have signage at key points such as road crossings on the route along with marshals at critical points to help runners.

Details of the gpx files for both races are available on our website <https://www.marlboroughrunningclub.org.uk/races/marlborough-downs-challenge-routes>

Please ensure you have downloaded the route for your race onto your mobile phone and/or watch and that these are fully charged on the day. We would advise that you also carry a printed copy of the map as back up. Do not rely on other runners for direction.

## **Countryside code**

Runners are asked to follow the countryside code at all times, taking particular care to close all gates and avoid disturbing livestock being particularly mindful of cattle with young calves.

Runners must be considerate and respectful to other public rights of way users including walkers, horse riders and cyclists. If a runner comes up behind a horse rider they should call out to alert the rider/horse of their presence and follow instructions from the rider to wait if necessary. Runners are asked to pay particular attention through Avebury and Devizes where the paths are likely to be busy with other members of the public.

Please report any accidental damage at the next checkpoint as any damage on rights of way must be reported within 24 hours of the event finishing time.

## **Cuts Offs and Dropping out**

If you need to drop out, please head to the nearest Checkpoint. The marshals will organise for you to be picked up and brought back to the Leisure Centre. Please take off your number and your tracker and give it to the marshals. Don't take your tracker home with you!

We will track runners progress throughout the race and reserve the right to withdraw any runner where they are unlikely to meet the finish cut off time of 17:00 or where we have safety concerns. **If are running the 33 mile race please note we have a 11am cut off at CP3. We will arrange for you to be picked up and driven back to Marlborough Leisure Centre.**

**NB: In previous years we have offered an option to drop down from 33 miles to 20 miles at CP3. Please note we are unable to offer this option in 2026 for logistical reasons.**

## Marshal points and Aid Stations

There are marshal points and aid stations across the course to provide encouragement, and supplementary water/coke and snacks to top up your supplies. If you have any specific special dietary requirements we advise that you bring everything you need for the race.

	<b>Supplies</b>	<b>Races</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Distance between checkpoints</b>	<b>Close</b>
Marshall point 1	No water/snacks	Both races	2.0 miles	N/a	11:15am
CP2	Water/sweets	Both races	6.4 miles	4.2	12:15pm
<b>CP3</b>	Water/Coke/ range of savoury and sweet snacks	Both races	8.9 miles	2.5	13:00
CP4	Water/sweets	33 mile race	15.2 miles	6.3	13:15
<b>CP5</b>	Water/Coke/ range of savoury and sweet snacks	33 mile race	18.6 miles	3.5	14:00
CP6	Water/sweets	33 mile race	21.4 miles	2.6	14:45
<b>CP7</b>	Water/Coke/ range of savoury and sweet snacks	Both races	12.1/25.6 miles	3.3/4.3	15:45
CP8	Water/sweets	Both races	15.7/29.2 miles	3.6/3.6	16:45
<b>FINISH</b>			19.2/32.4 miles	N/a	17:00

NB: We are a cupless race. All runners are asked to carry a reusable cup.

## **Mandatory Kit List - NEW for 2026**

Runners will need to carry **minimum** kit of:

- Water bottle or bladder
- Reusable Cup (optional, but will be needed if you want a checkpoint drink served other than in your water container (e.g. coke or squash).
- Fully charged mobile phone with volume set to maximum.
- Sufficient food for your race (e.g. gels, energy bars).
- Survival bag or emergency foil blanket
- **A map of the course downloaded on to a mobile phone or watch using the links above.**
- Sunblock or additional warm clothes as dictated by weather conditions (at your own discretion).

**Kit:** Road shoes are not advised as parts of the route can be muddy. Once out on the Downs it is an exposed course in bad and good weather so please plan appropriately for the forecasted conditions.

## **Medical Cover**

A registered medical provider will be on duty throughout the event. This will be a mobile team who will provide a risk assessed and dynamic response to all reported on course incidents.

**Injuries:** First Aid and Medical staff will be in attendance on the day. Runners are advised that if they come across someone who is injured or ill please stay with them, keep them warm, note the name and number of the injured person and ask the next runner to seek help at the nearest checkpoint.

In the event of an **injury or illness**, and runners are advised of they have phone signal, to do the following:

- First call the official race medical team as our qualified paramedics may be able to reach you faster than the NHS. The lead Medic mobile number is: **07748383492. Please save this number on to your phone along with the number of the Race Director (see below)**
- **In a medical emergency please call 999**

- You can also call/text **Race Director: Fiona Slevin-Brown– 07832 228956** who will help you get the help you need.

## **Prizes**

All runners will receive one of the much sought after White Horse Pottery Mugs.



There will also be prizes for  
1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Male and Female  
Age Categories Male, and Female  
V40, V50, V60, V70

We hope you have a fantastic race. Enjoy the Wiltshire countryside,  
stay safe, and look out for each other.

**Race Organising Team**  
**Marlborough Downs Challenge**