

## **LONG ROUTE START**

1. **Manning.** The Long Route Start will be manned as follows:  
  
Sweeper/Start Marshal 1 (senior official)  
Sweeper/Start Marshal 2  
Reception Marshal
2. **Locations.** The Start will have two key locations:
  - a. Drop Off Point at Aubrey's Farm (Gr 755 338).
  - b. Start Point at Bromsberrow Estate entrance (Gr 753 340).
3. **Timings.**  
  
06:10 Briefing for all personnel at Assembly Point  
07:30 Personnel in position at Long Route Start Point.  
07:45 All preparations complete.  
08:00 Coaches arrive with walkers. Start procedures begin.  
11:30 (approx.) Start closes. Sweepers start on Long Route.
4. **Actions.**
  - a. On arrival at the start point, all personnel will set up the start point as appropriate to be ready by 07:45.
  - b. The Reception Marshal will meet the walkers off the coaches at the Drop off Point at Aubrey's Farm. They will point out the toilet facilities and invite anyone to make use of them. He will remind walkers to be in possession of their guides. He will then conduct the walkers to the Start Point taking particular care while leading them across the road. He will return for the arrival of each subsequent coach. When the last coach arrives, once he has carried out his duties he will return to Priory Park on that vehicle.
  - c. At the Start Point Start Marshal/Sweeper 1 will greet the walkers and explain the procedure for starting. They will also repeat the brief given by the Coach Guides.
    - (1) Are all participants registered and in possession of a Walker's Pack, particularly the guide?
    - (2) Walkers are to be reminded of the advisability of suitable footwear, clothing, sun cream etc. (dependant on the weather).
    - (3) If walkers have an Ordnance Survey Map they are to be advised to make constant reference and note the numbers on the route signage as they pass.
    - (4) Emergency procedures. Depending on the seriousness of the problem they should ring the controllers (G Waddell – 07766 954302), the First Aid Coordinator (07743 270163) or 999. (Local emergency services have been briefed on this event)
    - (5) Walkers are to stick to the routes specified.
    - (6) They must complete the Challenge by going to the Finish Point. If they do not complete the Challenge for whatever reason, they should still report to the Finish if only by phone to report that they are okay.

- (7) 'Sweepers' will be following up on the routes to ensure that no one is lost, one way or the other.
- (8) Remind walkers with dogs to keep them under control and follow the 'Country Code'.
- (9) Remind walkers to try and make 'best progress' and not to tarry unnecessarily.

d. Start Marshal/Sweeper 2 will ensure all those who have arrived by coach are at the Start Point. When this is confirmed and the briefing is complete, Start Marshal 1 should begin sending the walkers on their way. This should be started as soon as possible without waiting the next coach run if that is taking place. This should be a staggered start spread over no more than an hour. The time gap will depend upon the numbers present and Start Marshal/Sweeper 1's judgement. Teams will be sent off together and individuals in groups of at least 4.

e. The Start Marshals will be provided with a check list of numbers. As each walker starts, they will tick off their number. This list will be used to compare information with the Short Start Marshal during Sweeper duties. (See Appendix 9.)

f. The procedure should be repeated with the later arrivals being sent off after the initial groups. If necessary, Start Marshal/Sweeper 2 will give the safety brief.

g. 15 minutes after the last walker has departed, the Start Point should be closed and the Sweepers should start out along the route. All rubbish is to be collected up in the bags and disposed of correctly.

5. Communications. At least one Start Marshal/Sweeper should have a mobile phone and have communicated its number to the Controllers.

6. Equipment.

a. Rubbish bags will be provided for the Start Point.

b. A start banner and fixings will be dropped off at the Start by the Southern Route Markers the day before the Challenge.