

HPRC 40th Anniversary Relay

The relay route starts and finishes at the HP Watersports Centre and is divided into 8 legs of around 5 miles each. I have made the whole route as close to 40 miles as I could – a mile for each year!

It begins by following the Trent downriver as far as Kneeton (beyond East Bridgford), then cuts across fields on footpaths, etc, to the Grantham canal South of Bottesford and follows the canal path back, as far as Cotgrave Park – where it takes the old railway line to Holme Lane and back to the Watersports Centre.

So the route is mainly off the roads, and avoids all busy roads except for two crossings – the A6097 on leg 2 and the A52 on leg 5.

For each changeover point I have made a note about the parking.

I have used the MapMyRun software to create these route maps, and have set them for anyone to access. MapMyRun is free to use, though it is necessary to register with the website. The maps are listed when the search keyword “HPRC” is used and “Nottingham, UK” is entered as the nearby city. The maps are also available via the club website

Leg 1 – HP Watersports Centre to Shelford – 4.53 miles. Parking in Shelford is best on the back road, near the church, where the changeover point is.

Leg 2 – Shelford to Kneeton – 5.27 miles. **The traffic on the A6097 can be busy, and it may be necessary to wait a while for a gap.** Then, after following the road through East Bridgford, and shortly after the pavement ends, turn left onto a footpath, which appears to take you back in the wrong direction – but you soon turn right again after crossing the field.

Leg 3 – Kneeton to Shelton – 5.42 miles. The footpaths on some of the field crossings may not be well used. At the Shelton changeover point, it is necessary to park partly on the grass verge of the lane, to enable any large vehicles to pass.

Leg 4 – Shelton to Bottesford – 5.47 miles. If field crossings between Alvaston and Bottesford have been cropped over, it may be necessary to go around the sides – as local walkers seem to do. There is good parking near a Primary school alongside Barkestone Road in Bottesford. **Continue running past the school to the A52**

Leg 5 – Bottesford to Harby – 5.72 miles. **Start of leg other side of the A52(south side) 500mt further from the school.** The Grantham canal path is taken after just under 2 miles. There is a parking layby at the Harby changeover point. If full, it will be necessary to park on the roadside towards Harby centre.

Leg 6 – Harby to Hickling – 4.87 miles. This leg is wholly on the Grantham canal path. Parking is on the roadside in Hickling, or in The Old Wharf tearoom carpark – but probably only if you use the tearoom.

Leg 7 – Hickling to Cropwell Bishop – 5.34 miles. This leg is also wholly on the Grantham canal path. There is a free public carpark next to the road crossing near Cropwell Bishop. If full, it will be necessary to find a roadside space in the village.

Leg 8 – Cropwell Bishop to HP Watersports Centre – 6.97 miles. This leg leaves the Grantham canal path within Cotgrave Park, and then takes the old railway track to Holme Lane.

Howard Partridge

