

ROUTE RECCE

SHERE 42

Race director Mick Cain guides you along a marathon through a hilly slice of Surrey

‘The area is an ideal setting for an offroad trail run,’ says Cain. ‘We staged our first race in 2012 with 110 runners and received some really positive feedback. The first event was a 40km race, but we stuck a 2km loop on it over the Greensand Ridge and make it into a full marathon. Since then, we’ve added a 10K event and, more recently, a half marathon. It’s a challenging course with at least eight climbs, adding up to more than 1,100m of ascent. But some of the views are stunning, such as the one from Leith Hill; on a clear day they say you can see across 14 counties.’

This year’s race is on July 7. Visit trekhiureuk.com

20KM

You climb Holmbury Hill, the site of an Iron Age hill fort, before scaling Pitch Hill straight afterwards. Both are over 250m high, so buckle up!



29KM

Once you pass Farley Heath, where the remains of a Roman temple lie (there have been notable archaeological finds), there is a stretch through Blackheath Forest.



Relax posttrace with music, a barbecue, refreshments and a bouncy castle...just what your tired hamstrings and quads will be screaming for.



START

Shere’s charm has been a draw for filmmakers over the years. It was the backdrop for romantic comedy *The Holiday* (2006), starring Jude Law and Cameron Diaz.

3KM

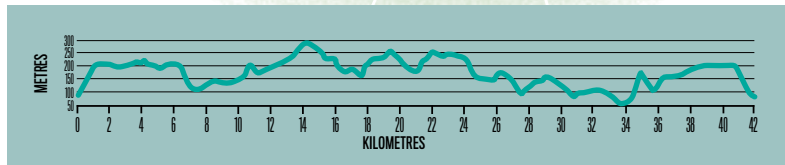
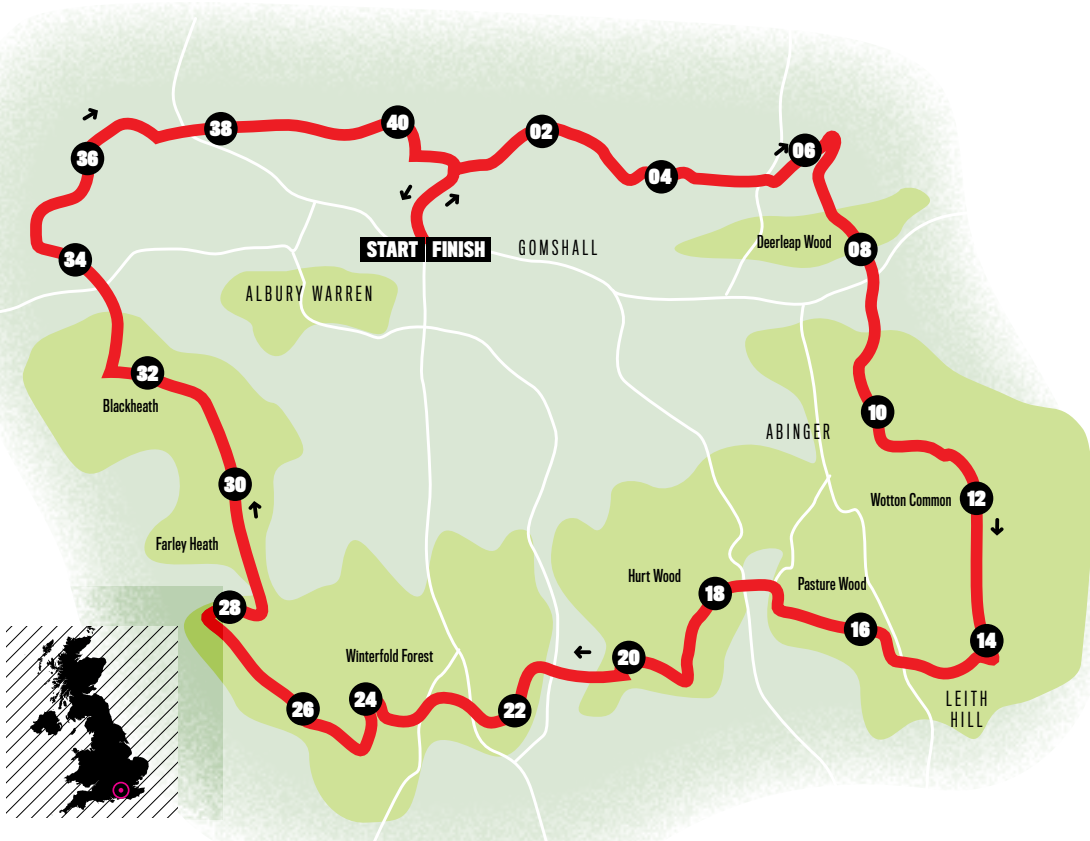
You’ll see derelict pillboxes (concrete bunkers) left over from the Second World War. These formed a line of defence in case an enemy invasion reached the Surrey Hills.

11KM

You reach Friday Street, a tiny hamlet with a large pond; the place was name-checked on Paul Weller’s 1997 album *Heavy Soul*.

14KM

Leith Hill. The top of Leith Hill Tower is the highest point in south-east England (313m).



30KM

Here you pass the site of the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills, where ammunition and explosive materials were manufactured from the 1620s until 1920 (at one time it was the only authorised gunpowder producer in Britain).



34KM

You pass Newlands Corner, from where Agatha Christie vanished in 1926. She turned up safely days later.

FINISH

You’ll enjoy this: for the final kilometre you return down the steep hill that you conquered at the race start. Once you cross the finish line, relax on the grass with your well-earned medal and T-shirt.