

# Hailsham - Firle Flat & Lumpy March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at 09:00 (v26\_2)

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Dear Rider

## **Hailsham - Firle Flat & Lumpy 100**

Thank you for entering the "Hailsham - Firle Flat & Lumpy 100" on Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at 09:00. This is the resumption of Chris Tracey's original "For those who don't do hills" ride from several years ago but renamed since there are hills. Chris will be helping at the Firle control.

### **The Ride**

A ride taking in the levels near Hailsham to Cooden Beach, before climbs to Horam before tuning south to Firle via Golden Cross for a Village Hall control. After Firle we head west to and through Lewes before heading South to Newhaven and then onwards to Seaford. Instead of the previous climb to High & Over, we return to Hailsham via the easier road (only one climb) through Litlington, Wilmington and Arlington.

**Hailsham to Firle (59km):** Leaving Hailsham we travel South on the levels towards Peveney and Cooden Beach for our first (INFO) before we turn North and start the climbs. Passing through the East Sussex village of Whydown, Hooe and Wartling, we soon arrive in Herstmonceux for our second (INFO). Continuing to travel Northerly, on country lanes, we arrive in Horam and our third (INFO). A change in direction see us now going South to Chiddingly and Golden Cross to cross the A22 to pass through Ripe before crossing the A27 and shortly arriving in Firle for our feed at the Village Hall.

**Firle to Hailsham (45km):** From Firle we return back to the A27, and take the cyclepath alongside it to Lewes, and our next (INFO) by the station. We continue heading South, passing though Kingston, Iford, Southease and Piddinghoe before we arrive in Newhaven for the next (INFO). After navigating the area by the docks, we use the cycle path alongside the A259 towards Bishopstone, before continuing along the seafront to Seaford. Avoiding the town centre, we skirt Seaford via Steyne Rd and Sutton Ave, when we soon join the A259 and the descent to the Cuckmere River bridge. **(NOTE there could be queuing traffic at traffic lights to cross the bridge).** In the past the route used High & Over out of Seaford, but increased traffic, poor sight lines, steep and twisty descent, with cars passing too close required an alternative route. Once over the bridge we turn Northerly, towards Liltington, Lullington, the climb of Chapel Hill before arriving in Wilmington for our final (INFO). Crossing the A27 again, we soon arrive in Arlington, before crossing the A22, into Hailsham and out finish control.

### **On The Day Entries**

Please note that these will NOT be accepted. Also please ensure you have a confirmed entry to this ride and DON'T turn up assuming so!!!!!!

Look out, Look out **POTHOLES** about. There are many damaged roads so proceed with caution

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## **The Start Control**

The start will be from the 23hr car park at the Freedom Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 1BA. It is free but please ensure that you park at the bottom of the slope in a 23hr parking space. I'll be on hand at the start with a cuppa and bickies.

Please arrive with plenty of time before the planned start to get yourself and bike ready for the ride. Also PLEASE ensure you have collected your brevet card from myself. I'm usually found with Audax Control Signs on my car and if dry my Audax Teardrop flag.

Five minutes before departure I will hold a safety briefing after which you will be permitted to depart.

There are no loos at the start so organise yourself before arriving.

You can scan the QR code for eBrevet, but this ride is a fixed start time of 09:00 so no early departures.

## **How to get there**

The closest mainline railway station is at Polegate.

There is a Travelodge at the Start / Finish Control that maybe of interest to some.

<https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/32/Hellingly-Eastbourne-hotel>

## **The Finish Control**

The finish is back at Freedom Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 1BA, where the controller will be waiting in the café to validate your ride.

## **Food**

There will be a cuppa and bickies at the start, with sandwiches and cake in the Firle Village Hall control.

## **Controls**

- **INFO** control which requires you to answer the question on your brevet card at Cooden Beach, Near Horam, Lewes, Newhaven and Wilmington
- Firle Village Hall. Get a stamp or scan eBrevet QR code.

## **The Ride Additional Information**

Whenever possible I've used cycle paths to avoid main roads and/or direct you to the locations of (INFOs).

## **Safety**

This event is run under Audax UK regulations, which can be found at Policy and Procedures section of <https://www.audax.uk/about-us/>

**Remember** that there are other road users, including horse riders and other cyclist on the minor country lanes. Please cycle with due care.

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**Remember** that roads do have potholes, they may also need resurfacing and/or have been resurfaced. So, when you are riding the event, look at the roads in the same careful way as if out cycling on a non-Audax event.

This is an event for experienced cyclists. You are responsible for ensuring you are fit and competent to complete the course. The route is moderately hilly, and the distances involved can be challenging if you are not used to them, especially if weather conditions are not favourable. Pace yourself and ensure you eat and drink enough to keep your energy up. Carry emergency rations.

There is no mechanical support or rescue services on the ride. Please ensure your bike is in good working order before setting off and you carry any tools/spares to carry out roadside repairs if necessary.

The route is not waymarked. Route sheet and GPS file(s) are provided but you are responsible for your own navigation. Please familiarise yourself with the route before the ride.

Roads are not closed for the event. You will remain subject to all the usual UK laws regarding cycling on public highways and are responsible for your own conduct at all times.

Remember that conditions can be changeable. Dress appropriately and carry extra waterproof/warm layers for use if necessary.

Sunset is **18:15**, well after the finish time of this ride.

Mudguards are not mandatory but appreciated if wet to protect the chairs in the village hall.

If you feel unwell or tired at any time during the ride, please stop for a rest before deciding whether to carry on. Do not take any unnecessary risks.

If you are driving to the event, you are responsible for ensuring you are in a fit state to drive home afterwards – if you are tired, stop and rest for a while before setting off.

### **Packing / Accident**

#### **There is no rescue service provided**

If you decide to pack, owing to an accident, illness, mechanical failure or any other reason **PLEASE** let me know by ringing or texting the number on your brevet card. This will stop me worrying.

If you have an accident but can continue riding, please inform me at the finish so it can be recorded in the accident log.

All accidents must be reported to the organiser.

**PLEASE NOTE – FOR YOUR RIDE TO BE VALIDATED YOU MUST COLLECT PROOF OF PASSAGE FROM ALL CONTROLS AND COMPLETE THE INFORMATION CONTROL QUESTIONS.**

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## **Physical Brevetcard Validation**

Please complete all info questions and get your SIGNED brevet card stamped and validated by the finish controller.

## **eBrevet Validation**

If you wish to use eBrevet validation, then please use the eBrevet app to record your arrival at the various controls, manned and info's. Also please ensure that you record your start and finish. The code for this event is 26-448.

Please remember to upload your complete eBrevet once you have finished.

**AFTER TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2026, RIDERS WHO HAVE NOT UOLOADED THEIR eBREVET WILL BE MARKED DNF.**

## **Instruction for eBrevet App**

If you want to use the eBrevet app, go to <https://www.audax.uk/about-audax/e-brevet/>, and follow the instructions there.

You have already entered the event, so you just need to download the mobile phone app and set the eBrevet for this ride.

Your smart phone will need to have mobile data turned on or access to WIFI to use the e-brevet web service. The short getting started instructions are:

- Open the eBrevet app and from the '...' menu go to Settings and sign in with your Audax UK username & password
- In Settings enter the Brevet Code (See above), save
- Return to the '...' menu then click 'Download Brevet'.
- You will then be able to 'register' at each control location on the ride instead of completing the physical brevet card, including not needing to note the info control answers!
- At the start and finish is by scanning the QR code, this is done within the e-brevet app which will need access to your smart phone's camera. The QR codes will be displayed at the check-in desk or on the window of my car!
- When completed return to the '...' menu and tap Upload Ride, complete the short survey and tap OK to record your brevet. A confirmation email will be sent to you and the Organiser.

If on the ride the app does not recognise that you are physically at the control location, try closing and re-opening the eBrevet app to resync the GPS tracking.

## **Route Sheet / GPS Track**

**If you are using GPS for navigation, please read the route sheet beforehand for special instructions, hazard warnings and exact location of INFOs.** Also ensure that your device can read the file(s) supplied before the day of the ride!

FYI the process I follow when putting together the route sheet / GPS tracks is as follows:

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1. For an initial ride's development, the route sheet is set to the turns-by-turns navigation required and approx. interval distances set from online mapping software.
2. I use an EXCEL for the route sheet and its functions to calculate the cumulated distances based on intervals
3. I generate the first draft of the GPS using mapping software, based on the initial route sheet.
4. I ride the route (sometimes several times) and at each turn use the lap function of my GPS to obtain more accurate interval distances.
5. The route sheet is updated with the GPS lap distances to provide more accurate interval distances.
6. For long established rides these interval distances are AVERAGES of all values previously obtained to date.
7. The cumulative distances noted in the route sheet are used to set the KM for each control / checkpoint and Info of the ride in the AUK system and should appear on the printed Brevet card.
8. It should be noted that I only measure the distances of the route. If I need to go off route for any reason, I pause my GPS and only resume it once back on the route at the same point. KM logged while cycling around car parks, back tracking since I've missed a turn etc are all ignored.

Hopefully, understanding how I'm measuring the route will help you find Infos better if you are not using the tried and trusted method of a Route Sheet.

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