

Participant Guide

Half Mammothon

Start 9am- Finish 3pm Saturday 18th April 2026

A Mammoth Experience in the Shropshire Hills run by Grow Cook Learn at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, School Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9RS.

Event organiser: Grant Wilson 01588 676060
info@shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk

To find out more, please visit
www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk/shropshire-way-80k
or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/shropshireway80kfestival

Run as a fund-raising event by the local charity Grow Cook Learn, which manages the Centre, this is a mass participation challenge run/walk taking in some of the finest parts of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. The route is 21KM (13 miles) in length and is to be completed in under 6 hours. The route follows footpath and bridleway with only a few short stretches of quiet lanes.

Along the way, as you pass through our check points, you will be able to sample some of the wonderful local produce that this area has to offer. The charity is committed to connecting people to the food, history and landscape of the Shropshire Hills so this event is the perfect way of achieving this whilst raising much needed funds to continue its work.



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Introduction & Schedule

Welcome to the Half-Mammoth, part of the Shropshire Way 80K Festival. Please read the information in this guide carefully, as it is designed to help you to have a safe and enjoyable time with us. If there is any further information you require, please contact us by email info@shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk or phone 01588 676060

05.30 Centre opens

06.00 Café opens (Hot drinks and breakfast baps available)

07.30 Registration opens

08.30 Registration closes

08.45 Event brief

09.00 Event starts

There is no bag-drop service along the way, but you may leave kit in our dedicated classroom at the Centre for the duration of the event.

Section 2 – Local accommodation

If you need accommodation the night before, or are planning to stay longer in the area, there is some limited accommodation available in Craven Arms itself and a more extensive choice in Ludlow, seven miles to the South and Church Stretton, seven miles to the North. The nearest large town is Shrewsbury, 20 miles to the North.

You can search for accommodation online, but here are a few personal recommendations.

You can camp on our meadows for just £10.00 per tent for the whole weekend. It's only basic camping with a cold water tap and portaloos (no showers) but it's convenient, just a couple of minutes' walk from the start line, and great value too! To reserve a spot, call us on 01588676060.

The Stokesay Inn is ideally situated, only 100 metres from us and provides good value accommodation and bar meals - www.stokesayarms.com

The Castle Hotel, Bishop's Castle is 20 minutes away by car, but it is included here as they have been very supportive of this event and are providing a refreshment stop for the event. It's also a lovely hotel, restaurant and pub with one of the finest beer gardens in the country. If you are planning on staying a little longer in the area, then why not give them a try - www.thecastlehotelbishopscastle.co.uk

Acton Scott Escapes www.actonscott.com/escapes just 10 minutes' drive away offers B&B, glamping and a whole farmhouse for larger groups. SW80K Festival participants can secure a 10% discount on all bookings using the code Discovery10

Mary Austin at Middle Woodbatch farm (right on the SW80K route) has a lovely B&B and Campsite. www.middlewoodbatchfarm.co.uk



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Section 3 – Travel and Parking

Please think about public transport or car share. Be green!

By train. Craven Arms is on the main railway line between Cardiff and Manchester. The Discovery Centre is located less than 5 minutes' walk from the station. You can plan your journey at <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

By bus. There are regular busses from Shrewsbury and Ludlow (Route 435) which stops directly outside the Centre. You can plan your journey at <https://bustimes.org/services/435-ludlow-church-stretton-shrewsbury>

By car.

Car parking arrangements are weather dependent and may be very restricted if the weather is wet, so if you can make alternative arrangements to traveling by car, it would be very helpful. If you are travelling by car, please note that we need to keep our very limited Centre car park free for our day visitors so this will be available for drop-off only.

The precise location of your designated parking area will be sent to you with the final joining instructions in the week leading up to the event.

Our car parking team will be on hand to direct you to our dedicated parking area. Please follow their instructions.

Please allow 5 minutes to walk from your car to the Centre.

Section 4 – Registration

Registration will take place at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre between 07.30 and 08.30. At registration, you will be required to show that you have all the mandatory kit needed for the event (see section 5).

Once you have passed kit check, you will be issued with a tally. This will entitle you to food and drink along with first aid services at our checkpoints. Look after it as you will need to get it clipped at each of the checkpoints and at the finish to prove you have completed the course.

After you have registered, tea, coffee and breakfast baps will be available to buy and there is seating in the Centre and outside. The event starts at 09.00 prompt and all entrants will need to be at the start at 08.45 for the event briefing.

Section 5 – Kit List

This list has been designed for your own safety and comfort. As part of our risk assessment, we are obliged to ensure that every entrant is carrying all this mandatory kit, so please make sure you have everything listed below. Without it, we will not be able to allow you to take part. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS, SO PLEASE DON'T RISK IT. IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF THIS, PLEASE CONTACT US.

Outdoor Depot, our local outdoor specialist, stock all of this kit and everything else you may need at their shop in Church Stretton and online at www.theoutdoordepot.co.uk

Mandatory Kit list

- Either a paper map or a GPS device showing the whole route. Photocopies are not acceptable, original maps only. This is in addition to your phone, even if it has a mapping app, i.e. your phone cannot be your sole means of navigating. If you are taking part as a group, you may share a map or GPS, but if you do, you must stay together throughout.
- Water containers for at least 0.5 litres of fluid.
- A fully charged mobile phone
- Clothing suitable for the prevailing conditions.
- Suitable trail shoes or walking boots with good grip. Road shoes will not be allowed.
- A mug if you require a hot drink. We do not support the use of single use cups so they will not be available at the checkpoint.

You are of course welcome to bring any additional items that you feel you may need to make life more comfortable, such as personal medication, spare socks, additional food, a spare t-shirt or any other items which you normally carry. Remember, you are not allowed to have supporters bring kit or supplies to you on the route, so please ensure you have everything with you.

Section 6 - Event Rules

1. To take part, you must be registered on the event. At registration, you will need to satisfy our officials that you have all the mandatory kit and that you are sufficiently well prepared for the event; you will then be issued with a tally which will entitle you to food and first aid support at our check points.
2. Navigation and getting lost. The route follows well-used, waymarked paths and navigation is generally straightforward, but it is your responsibility to navigate between checkpoints. **The course is not marked.** We provide all entrants with GPX files and a written route description, but it is essential that you have the ability and confidence to navigate yourself around the course. You are of course welcome to “recce” the route in advance to help with navigation. If you do become lost, please call the event organiser. The number is on your tally, and we will do our best to get you back on track.
3. Shortcutting. Don’t do it. The route has been designed to offer the shortest safe route between checkpoints. Deviating from the route will either put you in danger from traffic or will annoy landowners or local residents. Please follow the designated route throughout.
4. Dogs. This is sheep country and April is lambing time, so following discussions with landowners, we must insist that dogs are not permitted at this event. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.
5. Retirement. You can only retire at one of our official checkpoints. If you retire, you will need to hand in your tally, and we will organise for you to be taken back to the Centre, but please expect a wait of up to an hour from the more distant checkpoints. If, in extreme circumstances, any competitor retires from the event at any other point on the route, they will not be eligible for any support from the event committee and will need to organise their own transport. They must inform the event organiser immediately as our sweep team may be wasting valuable time looking for them. They will be deemed to be no longer eligible to take part in the event. All our checkpoints have a qualified first-aider and we will try to help you as much as we can, but in the event of a medical emergency, you should dial 999.
6. Closing Times. Checkpoint closing times have been calculated to accommodate all competitors who are on schedule to finish the event within the allotted time, with some contingency built in. After this time, the checkpoint will close. **If you arrive at a checkpoint after its closing time or if you are deemed unfit to continue by our checkpoint staff, you will be retired from the event and transported back to the Centre. There can be no exceptions to this rule as it is there for your own safety**
7. Supporters. We encourage you to have friends and family come to cheer you on, but we need to make sure supporters’ vehicles don’t cause a nuisance on the narrow lanes. The only recommended supporter areas for this event are the start/finish area at the Discovery Centre and the Midland Gliding Club. Supporters are not allowed to meet participants at other points on the course.
8. Mandatory Kit. You must carry ALL the mandatory kit AT ALL TIMES. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
9. To complete the event, you will need to visit all the checkpoints in turn, clipping your tally at each one. At the finish, your tally will be checked by a member of our team after which you will be awarded your finishers’ medal, and certificate.
10. In the extremely unlikely event of us having to cancel the event, you will be offered a deferred entry until the next event or a refund in full.
11. Follow the countryside code:

Please respect the people who live and work along the route. The support of farmers and landowners is essential to the event’s future success.

- leave no litter
- Keep quiet when near residential property.
- Remember to close all gates after you. We do not want complaints from farmers about escaped livestock.
- Do not pick wildflowers and do not disturb wildlife.
- Please stick to official footpaths, bridleways and roads. Do not take shortcuts across farmland or trample crops
- Please do not approach livestock, even if they look distressed. Give them a wide berth and do not put yourself between parent and offspring.

Anyone who is in breach of these rules will be awarded a “did not finish” regardless of their time.



01584 811686



Contact Us

Whether you need to sort out your tax affairs, minimise your tax liabilities, set up a new business, have your regular management accounts more clearly explained, or generally require all-round financial advice that will save - and make - you money, call us on 01584 811686 or email info@dhjhtw.co.uk to arrange an appointment and discover how we can help.

81 Teme Street
Tenbury Wells
Worcestershire
WR15 8AE



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Section 7 - Checkpoints

Our checkpoints are either self-clips, water stations or full-service checkpoints. The self-clips are un-manned, the water stations may be manned but only offer cold drinks. The full-service checkpoints offer hot or cold food, jelly babies, crisps, squash, water, tea, coffee, shelter and first aid. There may even be a few words of encouragement from our friendly checkpoint teams! Please note that the only toilet facilities are at the Discovery Centre at the start, mid-point and finish.

If you have any food allergies, or if you are vegan, veggie or gluten-free, suitable equivalent food will be ready for you. All our food is made by us in-house so you can be guaranteed the same quality and quantity of food as everyone else.

Checkpoint Name	Location and grid reference	Distance from start	Open and closing time	Checkpoint type
Start (SPECTATORS WELCOME)	Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre SO 435 824	0 km	09.00	Start
Norton lane	On Fingerpost at SO 459 815	3.32 km	09.10-10.00	Self-clip
The Pheasantry	Outside House at SO 448 818	5.15KM	09.20-10.30	Watering station- cold drinks, sweet and savoury snacks
Track bend	On Tree at SO 443 806	6.67km	09.25-10.45	Self-clip
Midpoint (SPECTATORS WELCOME)	Shropshire hills Discovery Centre SO 435 824	10.06km	09.45- 11.45	Full Service (local cheeses and sausages, fruit)
Flounders' Folly	Base of Tower at SO 460 850.	14.22km	10.10-13.00	Self- clip
Moor wood	Gazebo at SO 456 853	15.39km	10.15-13.45	Water Station plus sweet and savoury snacks
Finish (SPECTATORS WELCOME)	Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre SO 435 824	21.27km	10.45-15.00	Full service (Shropshire Fidget Pie)

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Section 8 – Maps and Route Guides

The best map is the OS Explorer sheet 217 which covers the whole route in 1:25000 scale.

To see the route, please go to <https://explore.osmaps.com/route/22435557/half-mammothon-2026?lat=52.44495&lon=-2.83268&zoom=12.8218&style=Leisure&type=2d>

Section 9 – Refunds and Cancellations

Here are your options if you need to cancel your entry.

Up to 6 weeks ahead of the event (This year 09.00 on Saturday, 7th March)

- You can withdraw your entry and get a refund. This refund is subject to a £5.00 fee to cover charges levied by SI Entries which we cannot recover.
- You can change courses. If you are upgrading, you simply pay the fee difference. If you are downgrading, we can give you a refund of the difference, minus a £5.00 fee to cover charges levied by SI Entries.
- You can defer your entry until next year. This is subject to a £5.00 handling charge.

Between 6 weeks and 2 weeks ahead of the event (This year 09.00 on Saturday, 4th April)

- You can withdraw your entry and get a 50% refund on your booking fee
- You can make alterations to routes. If you are upgrading, you simply pay the fee difference. If you are downgrading, we can give you a refund of the difference, minus a £5.00 fee to cover charges levied by SI Entries
- There are no deferrals

Less than two weeks before the event (After 09.00 on Saturday, 4th April)

All funds are fully committed, entries are closed and we can no longer offer any alterations to bookings, refunds, deferrals or transfers for any reason.

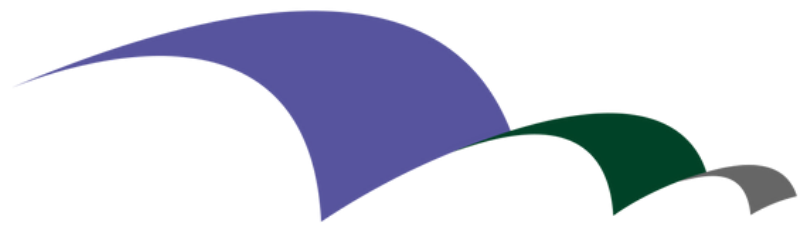
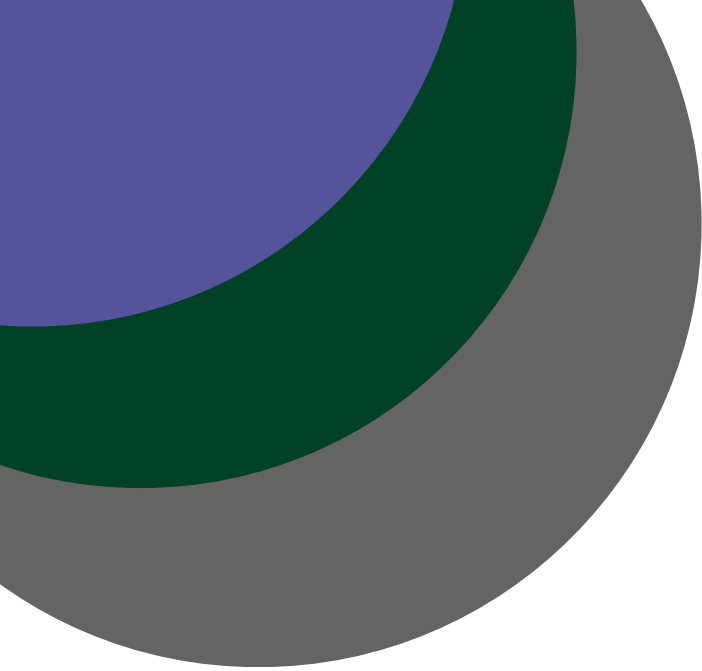
All requests for booking alterations must be made via email to info@shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk

Requests made by other channels or after the deadlines will not be recognised.

Section 10 – Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors, whose support helps us meet the considerable costs of laying on the event.

Please take a look at the products and services they offer.



Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre

With special thanks to our sponsors.

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