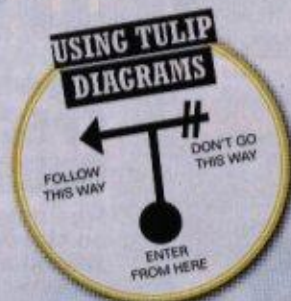


## LEGEND

ROAD TRACK FORD BRIDGE RAILWAY RIVER BUILDINGS CAUTION OBSERVE WARNINGS

## ROADBOOK



## STICK TO THE ROUTE!

When using green lanes, you must **ALWAYS** stick to the right of way. **NEVER** drive off on to the verges or surrounding land. It's illegal, it's damaging and lanes are constantly being closed because of it. Playdays are for playing – lanes are for laning!

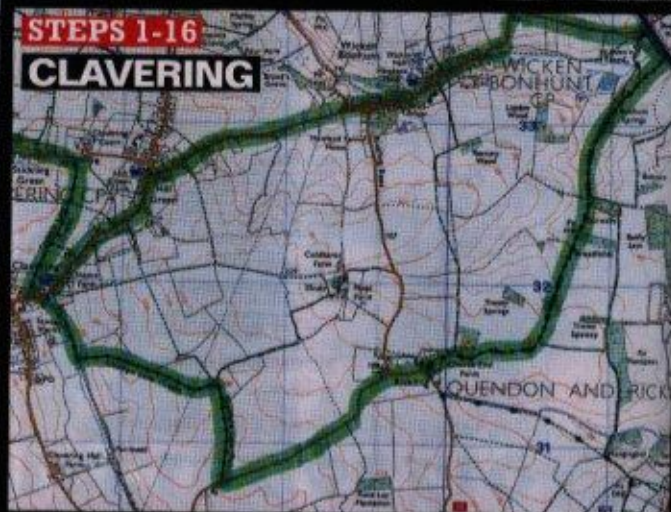
## ESSEX AND HERTFORDSHIRE

However much green laning you've done, the amount of quiet, rural byways that weave their way in and out of the Home Counties' surprisingly prevalent farmland always comes as a shock. People from around here tend to venture further afield in search of off-tarmac adventures – but there's still plenty of fun to be had, even this close to London.

This route is particularly notable for the number of fords it goes through. One, the truly extraordinary river road at Furneux Pelham, is famous and infamous in equal measure; Britain's longest ford, it confronts you with half a mile of water, making it a genuine treat for drivers and passengers alike. But beware; while a dry summer might reduce it to little more than a couple of puddles, prolonged rain can see you wading through bonnet-deep flooding or worse. You have been warned!

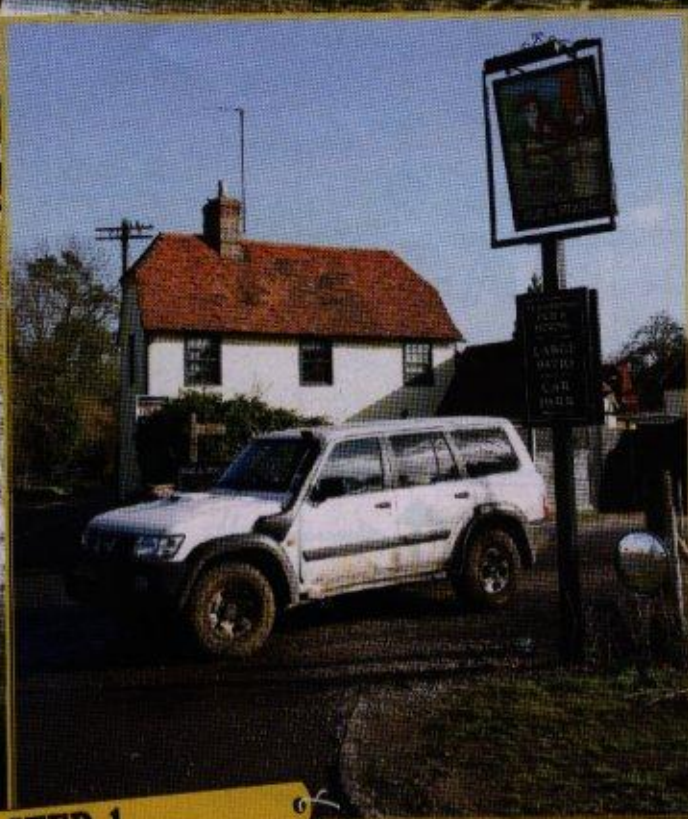
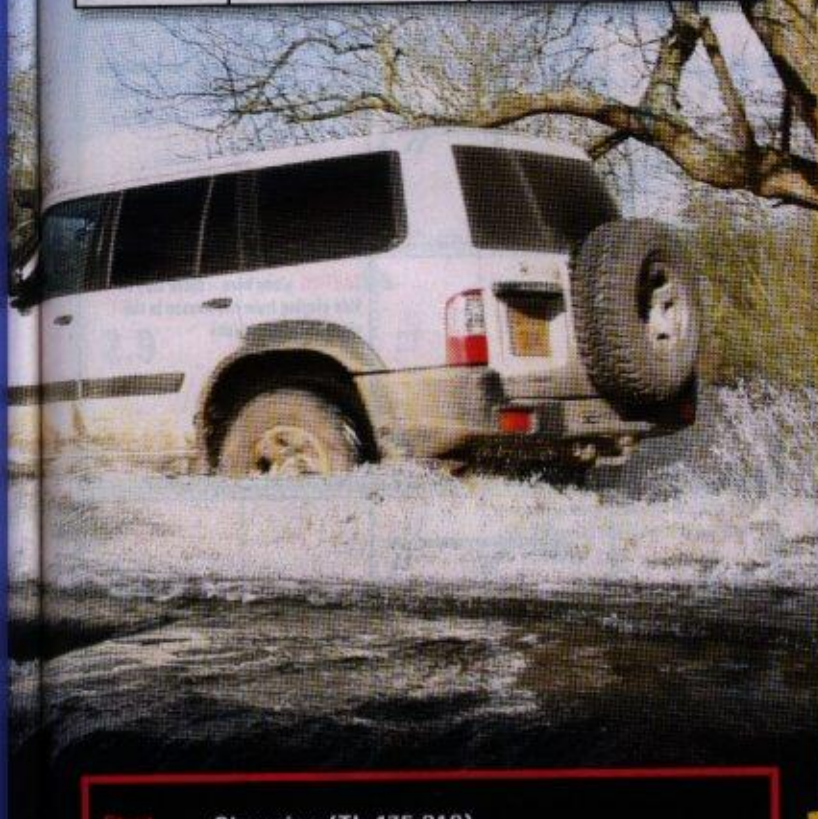
Deeper still, though not as long, Standon Ford is another serious challenge after a lot of rain. And at Much Hadham, the road (not a track, a proper road) becomes the river bed in wet weather. In between these, tiny back lanes dive in and out of the River Rib no less than three times, making this a true treat for watersport fans.

There's far more besides as you follow a short loop centred on the village of Clavering before picking your way south then west on a variety of mainly well defined but sometimes quite tight lanes. Even if the weather means you have to give the biggest fords a miss, you'll have a great day out – and you'll discover parts of the Home Counties you never knew existed.



<b>1</b> 0.0		<b>TL 475 319</b> Start outside the Fox and Hounds in Clavering. Zero your trip at the exit of the car park and turn right to start the route
<b>2</b> 2.7		<b>TL 511 336</b> The track is just before the flyover. As soon as you've turned, it's a tight squeeze between a tree on the right and the fence on the left
<b>3</b> 3.1		

<b>4</b> 3.4		Follow the track ahead between the trees
<b>5</b> 4.1		
<b>6</b> 4.5		



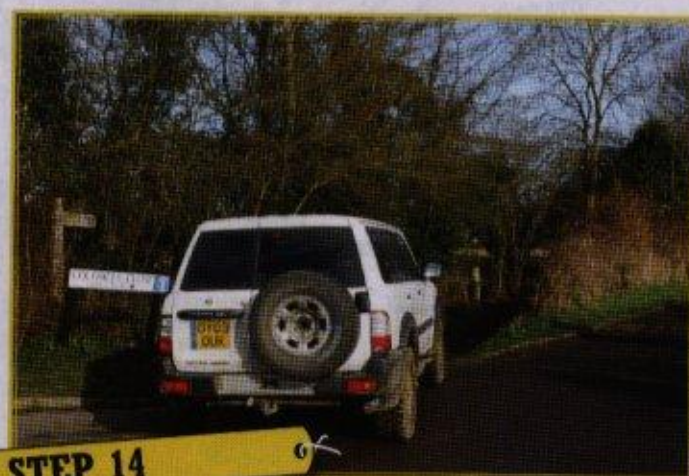
<b>Start</b>	Clavering (TL 475 319)
<b>Finish</b>	Ardeley (TL 309 271)
<b>Distance</b>	55.45 miles
<b>Time</b>	5 hours
<b>Terrain</b>	Gently rolling farmland
<b>Hazards</b>	Deep water; potentially VERY deep, and fast-flowing
	Occasional moderate ruts
	Occasional tight passages between trees
<b>OS Maps</b>	Landranger 166 (Luton and Hertford)
	Landranger 167 (Chelmsford)
	Explorer 194 (Hertford and Bishop's Stortford)
	Explorer 195 (Braintree and Saffron Walden)

## STEP 1

### Been there, done that?

This roadbook is a revised version of one that first appeared in the May 2008 issue of TOR. We've brought it up to date, in particular with some new information on areas in which to exercise caution, but if you did the route back then it'll feel more than a little familiar at times. Not that that should put you off giving it another bash – aside from anything else, some of those fords are very addictive!

<b>7</b> 4.6		
<b>8</b> 5.4 		<b>TL 486 307</b> The track runs between two lines of trees – that's how you'll spot it as you approach, as they stretch out across an open field. Caution as you proceed along the first section of the track – it's very narrow, with a sharp ditch to your right, and can be very tricky indeed in the wet
<b>9</b> 5.7 		<b>CAUTION</b> – there's a hole on the right where someone has fallen off the track and into the ditch. It also gets somewhat rutted after this
<b>10</b> 5.9		
<b>11</b> 6.5		Follow the main track, which gets muddy and rutted on the corner
<b>12</b> 6.7		



<b>13</b> 6.8		Looks familiar? <b>ZERO TRIP</b>
<b>14</b> 0.1		<b>TL 474 319</b> Turn into Colehills Close, but instead of taking the road follow the track next to it on the left
<b>15</b> 0.15 		<b>CAUTION</b> along here – there may be kids playing from the houses in the close next to the track
<b>16</b> 0.6		
<b>17</b> 1.5		
<b>18</b> 2.1		<b>Ford End 1 1/4</b>

### Following the route

Our roadbooks use a mixture of tulip diagrams, maps, grid references and instructions to help you navigate. We deliberately make it as easy as possible to follow the route; you might well find that we've given you more information than you need, but we'd sooner do that than not provide enough and risk getting you lost.

We normally only include 'active' junctions – that is, those at which you have to make a turning or don't have right of way. If we think there's any doubt, we'll include it rather than leaving it out, but as a general rule you can safely assume that you're meant to stay on the main road or take the most straight-ahead option unless we tell you otherwise.

If you're unfamiliar with six-figure grid references, you'll find a guide to using them on the legend of any OS Landranger, Pathfinder or Explorer map. We include portions of these maps for certain sections of each roadbook, but strongly advise buying the real thing for any route you intend to follow.

<b>19</b> 2.4		Turn opposite Grange Farm
<b>20</b> 2.45		
<b>21</b> 2.5		
<b>22</b> 2.8		TL 466 311
<b>23</b> 2.9		
<b>24</b> 3.1		It starts getting quite rutted after this - vehicles with low ground clearance will struggle
<b>25</b> 3.4		
<b>26</b> 3.45		

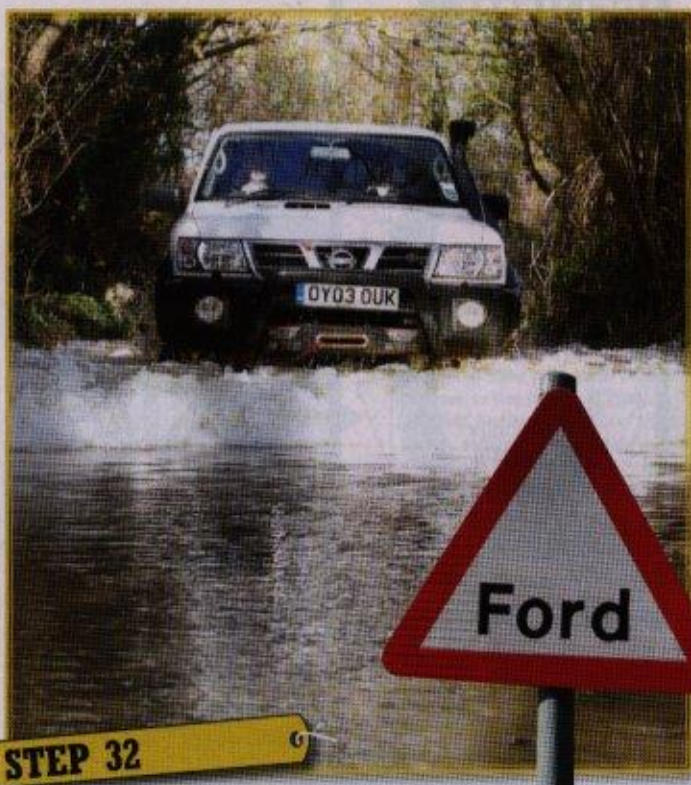
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## STEP 28

<b>27</b> 3.7		
<b>28</b> 4.7		Brent Pelham Meesden
<b>29</b> 5.8		TL 441 299





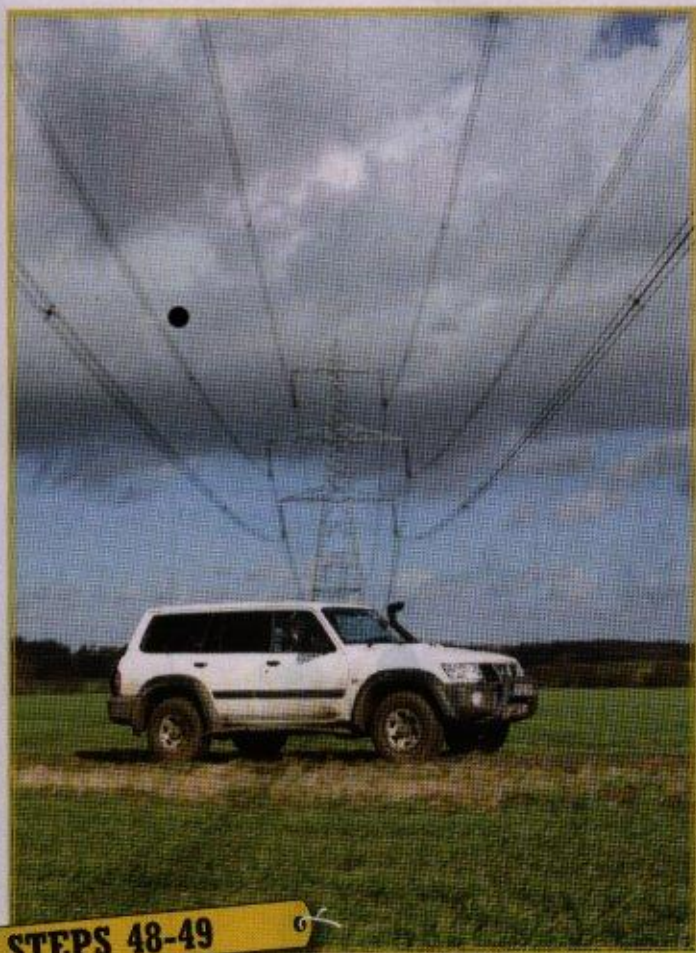
**STEP 32**

<b>30</b> 6.2		TL 436 293
<b>31</b> 6.25		Ignore what your trip says – this is very soon indeed after step 30
<b>32</b> 6.3 		Here it comes... get ready for half a mile of driving along a river. The water level ranges from a few inches in a dry summer to several feet after serious wet weather, and once you're in there's no turning back. Fun? And how!
<b>33</b> 7.0		
<b>34</b> 7.2		



**STEP 36**

<b>35</b> 7.5		Albury Little Hadham
<b>36</b> 7.9		
<b>37</b> 8.4		
<b>38</b> 9.0		TL 439 268
<b>39</b> 9.3		ZERO TRIP
<b>40</b> 2.0		Straight ahead at the traffic lights



## STEPS 48-49

41 2.8		
42 3.1		TL 439 214
43 3.2		You can go either way round the tree, but do engage low box early on if you have it. The lane also gets quite tight and humpy
44 3.6		

## About our roadbooks

The *Off Road Yearbook* is a sister publication to *Total Off Road*, which proudly remains the only monthly magazine in Britain ever to have published 4x4 roadbooks. These routes take you through the British countryside on a mixture of rights of way and public highways, both surfaced and unsurfaced.

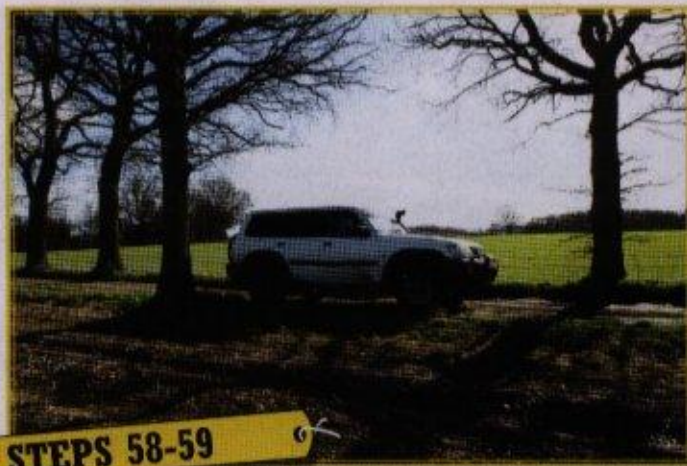
Our roadbooks are closely related to those in *Total Off Road*. They're designed to be safe to drive in a suitably prepared solo vehicle, and are largely suitable for standard 4x4s on tyres which are no more aggressive than a general-purpose mud-terrain. We do recommend travelling in tandem wherever possible, however, not just because it's safer but because it's also more fun. The risk of getting stuck can be far greater than it appears – and whatever you're driving, having help at hand can make the difference between a breakdown being inconvenient and potentially life-threatening.

We always try to warn you of any potentially difficult sections you'll encounter, but the nature of any unsurfaced right of way can change quickly and dramatically. Wet weather can make a huge difference to the conditions underfoot, and what's wide open in winter can be tightly enclosed and paintwork-rippingly scratchy in summer.


Finally, the roadbooks in *The Off Road Yearbook* were set out using the Nissan Patrol you see in the pictures. Our reasoning is that if a vehicle this large can get through, anything can! The Patrol is unmodified, except for its snorkel, winch and heavy-duty bumpers, and is fitted with the kind of tyres mentioned above. We don't include any lanes which it's not capable of tackling, and if we ever need to use its standard-fit rear diff-lock to get through, we'll warn you of this in the text.

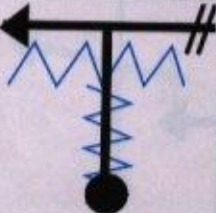
45 3.8		
46 4.1		
47 4.2		TL 451 211
48 4.4		

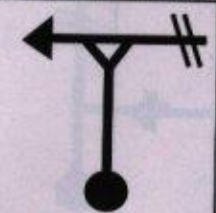
49 5.3		ZERO TRIP
50 0.95		Green Tye
51 1.6		Allens Green Sawbridgeworth Spellbrook
52 2.4		
53 3.0		The road has an 'unsuitable for motor vehicles' sign, for some surreal reason
54 4.0		
55 4.6		High Wych 1½
56 2.9		GANGIES HILL

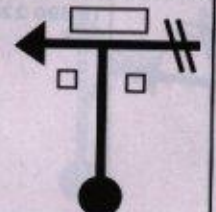


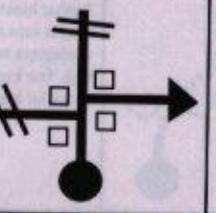
57 6.4		TL 441 151
58 7.1		
59 7.8		
60 8.2		
61 8.6		Turn right into Bourne Lane Green Tye Perry Green
62 10.6		

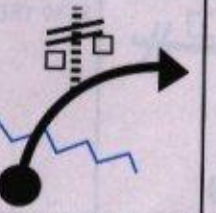
<b>63</b> 11.1		A stream runs down the side of the road – or, after a lot of rain, right across its entire surface
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<b>64</b> 11.3		
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<b>65</b> 11.7		
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<b>66</b> 11.75		ZERO TRIP
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<b>67</b> 0.5		KETTLE GREEN ROAD
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<b>68</b> 3.2		
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**STEP 68**

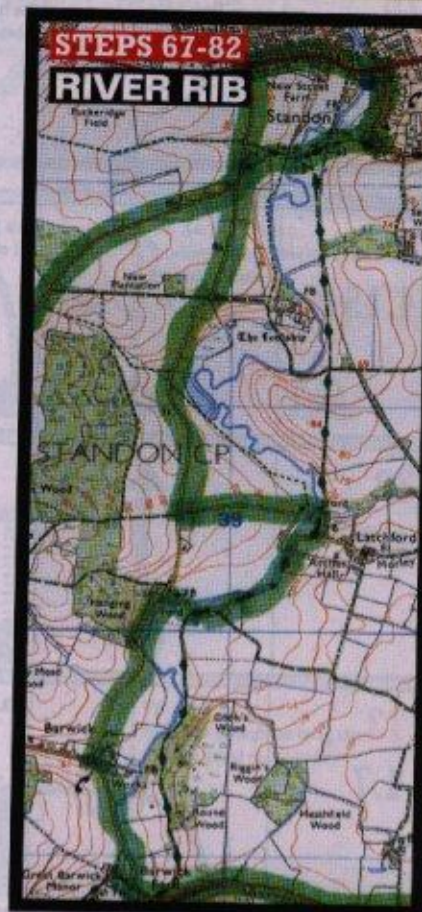
## Driving on rights of way

- ▲ Keep your speed right down
- ▲ Pull over to let walkers, bikers and horse riders pass
- ▲ Don't travel in large convoys. More than about six vehicles, and you should split into smaller groups to avoid hassling other users
- ▲ Leave gates as you found them
- ▲ Don't drop litter
- ▲ Fords are not there for washing your vehicle
- ▲ Fix that oil leak before you go
- ▲ Mud is not a playground
- ▲ Scrupulously obey all closure and voluntary restraint notices
- ▲ Don't cause a noise nuisance, particularly after dark
- ▲ Ensure you have a right to be there. We research the routes on our roadbooks very carefully, but the status of any route can change without notice
- ▲ Be prepared to turn back if the route is blocked, even illegally
- ▲ If you find an illegal obstruction, notify the local authority
- ▲ If someone challenges you, be polite and stay calm. If you're driving sensibly on a public highway or byway, they don't have a leg to stand on
- ▲ If someone gives you abuse (it does happen, though much less frequently than some laners' tales might make you think), don't give it back
- ▲ Stick absolutely scrupulously to the right of way
- ▲ Ramblers are not evil

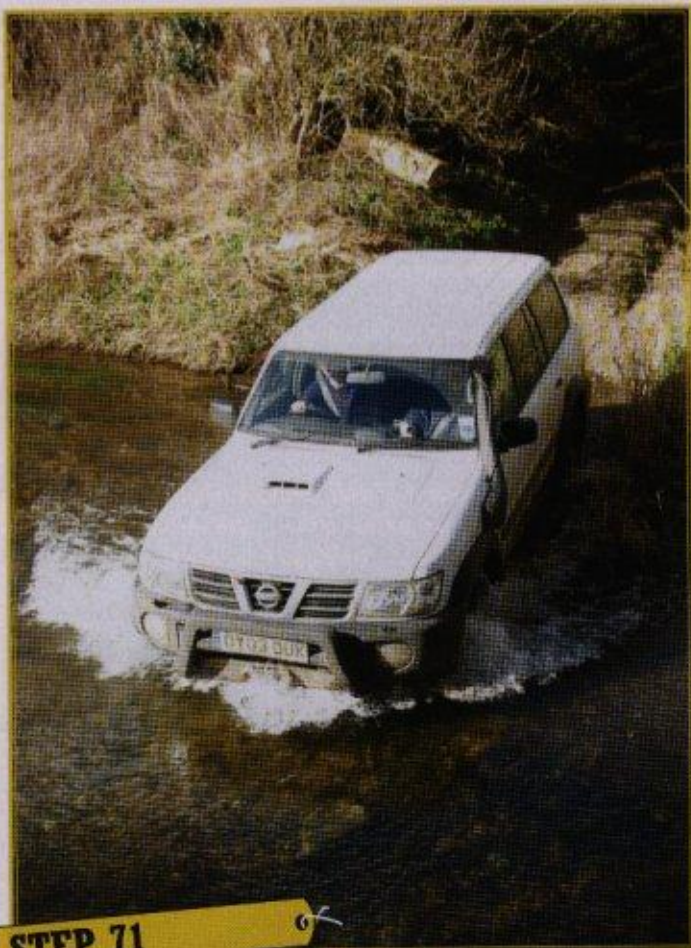
**69**  
3.6



Standon  
Puckeridge



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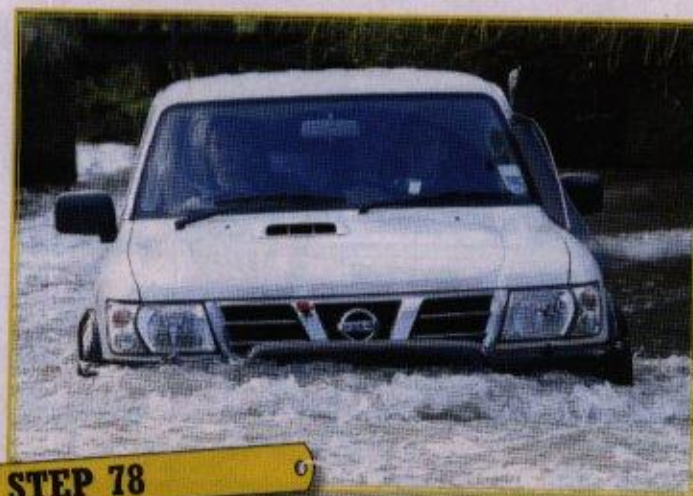


STEP 71

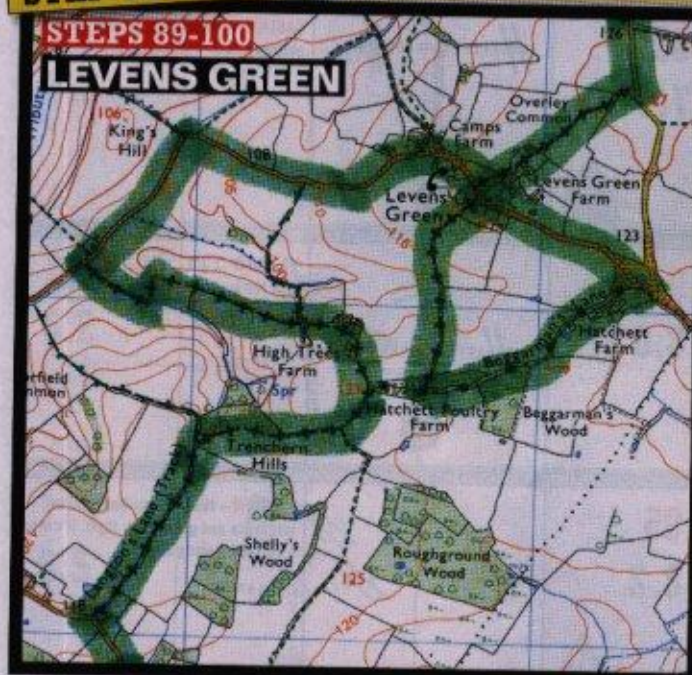
<p><b>70</b> 4.1</p>		<p>TL 387 201 The turning appears very suddenly – keep it slow as you approach</p>
<p><b>71</b> 4.15</p> <p>CAUTION</p>		<p>This ford is deceptively deep, and has a bit of a step up as you exit</p>
<p><b>72</b> 4.3</p>		
<p><b>73</b> 4.7</p>		<p>TL 393 204</p>

<p><b>74</b> 4.75</p>		
<p><b>75</b> 4.8</p>		
<p><b>76</b> 5.1</p>		
<p><b>77</b> 6.1</p>		<p>TL 390 220</p>
<p><b>78</b> 6.3</p> <p>CAUTION</p>		<p>Another beast of a ford – it's bonnet-deep in normal conditions and well into windscreen territory when the river's high. Your best route is to stay left, but watch for overhanging branches</p>
<p><b>79</b> 6.5</p>		<p>ZERO TRIP</p>
<p><b>80</b> 0.2</p>		<p>TL 347 210 Turn immediately after the white house, for Levens Green</p> <p>Hertford, Royston A120 (A10)</p>
<p><b>81</b> 0.6</p>		<p>Barwick</p>

82 0.9		DOWSETTS LANE
83 2.1		High Cross Colliers End
84 3.2		Standon Green End
85 4.2		TL 353 219 Dead slow through the farm, then continue ahead on the track
86 4.4		Care past the farm buildings on the left, then continue ahead on the track that's less well maintained (but still good)
87 4.5		<b>EXTREME CARE</b> — It's very tight between the trees
88 4.7		
89 5.4		Dane End The Mundens

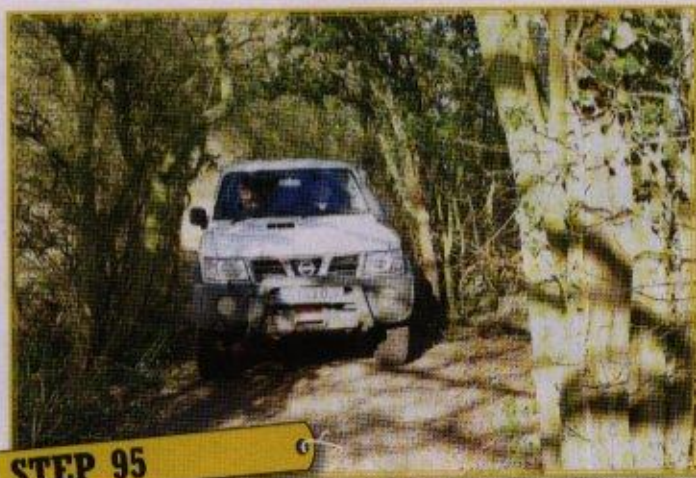


## STEP 78



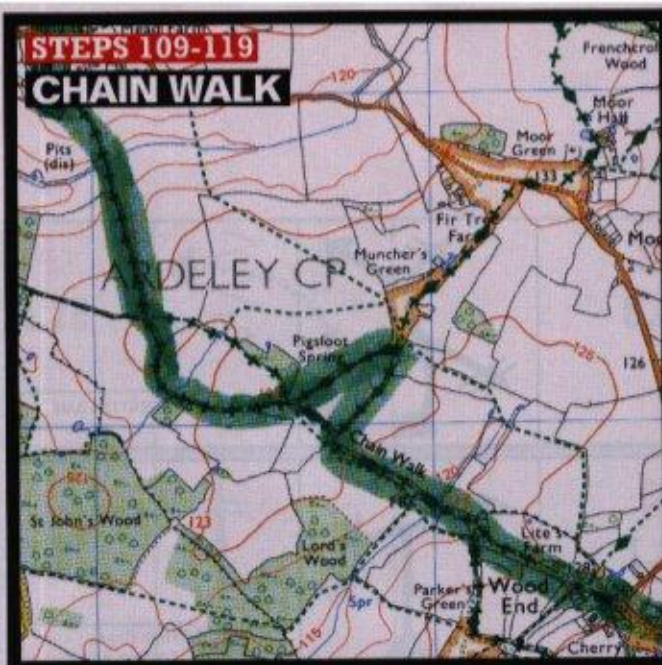
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90 5.7		TL 347 210 Turn immediately after the white house, for Levens Green
91 6.4		
92 6.6		TL 353 219 Dead slow through the farm, then continue ahead on the track



**STEP 95**

<b>93</b> 7.1 		<b>CAUTION</b> – visibility is terrible as you emerge
<b>94</b> 8.0		<b>TL 358 223</b> Take the byway towards Beggermans Green
<b>95</b> 8.2 		<b>CAUTION</b> – the track suddenly dives into trees and gets pretty tight. It's also a bit rutted along here
<b>96</b> 8.4		
<b>97</b> 8.9		<b>ZERO TRIP</b>
<b>98</b> 0.4		<b>TL 358 223</b>



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<b>99</b> 0.45		Follow the track ahead between Royston Farm on the left and Willow Pond House on the right
<b>100</b> 0.7		
<b>101</b> 1.6		<b>West Mill 2 1/2</b>
<b>102</b> 1.8		<b>Wood End Ardly</b>
<b>103</b> 2.6		<b>TL 345 244</b> Follow the byway for Haultwick Road
<b>104</b> 2.9 		<b>CAUTION</b> – there's a side slope into a ditch on your right, and after that things start getting rutted



**STEPS 112-113**

<b>105</b> 3.1  CAUTION		<b>CAUTION</b> – another side slope. It's not as severe, but this time there are no ruts to stop you sliding into the ditch, and it's on the outside of a corner...
<b>106</b> 3.15  CAUTION		<b>CAUTION</b> – emerge on to a gravel driveway in front of a big posh house. Keep your speed to a crawl and your engine revs right down
<b>107</b> 3.3		
<b>108</b> 3.8		
<b>109</b> 4.7		<b>TL 325 254</b> Take the road with the no through road sign
<b>110</b> 4.9		
<b>111</b> 5.0		

<b>112</b> 5.4		
<b>113</b> 5.6		
<b>114</b> 5.8		
<b>115</b> 6.2		
<b>116</b> 6.5		
<b>117</b> 6.7		Emerge through a gravel car park towards the road ahead
<b>118</b> 6.85		
<b>119</b> 6.9		Pull up outside the Rabbit's Foot pub for the end of the route