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FULL ROUTES REVEALED FOR INAUGURAL THREE-DAY RIDELONDON CLASSIQUE

- **First two stages in Essex promise exciting, unpredictable racing**
- **Final stage is stunning city centre race in the heart of London**

The RideLondon Classique returns to the UK's world-class sporting calendar next month in a new three-day format, with a trio of exciting stages for the world's best female cyclists.

Part of RideLondon, the world's greatest cycling festival, the Classique has traditionally been a one-day race in the centre of London. Following a new partnership with Essex County Council for 2022, the event, which is part of the UCI Women's World Tour, has now been extended to a three-day stage race, with the first two stages being held in Essex and the final one in London.

Today [Thursday 14 April], the full details of the three stages, held between Friday 27 May and Sunday 29 May, can be revealed.

The courses have been designed to produce an exciting and challenging three days of racing for the world's best riders and to also offer a thrilling spectacle for fans – both on the roadside and watching on television. All three stages have multiple lap sections giving spectators the opportunity to watch the peloton pass by on multiple occasions.

Stage One, Friday 27 May: 137.1km, Start/Finish: Maldon (five climbs, 1,033 vertical metres)

The opening stage starts and finishes in the ancient Essex town of Maldon. It will feature two laps of the Abberton Reservoir on the outskirts of Colchester and pass Tiptree, home to the world-famous Tiptree jam, before finishing with

two circuits around Maldon.

For the full route, [click here](#).

Scott Sunderland, RideLondon Race Director, said: *“We were looking for stages that were different and have their own character. Maldon is near the coast and has a lot of open space, with beautiful roads and the potential for wind. If the weather is dirty, windy and wet, then this stage could make for some really tough racing. It’s one that will be suited to the powerful riders and the strong sprinters. It’s going to be a very dynamic stage.*

Best places to watch Stage One: Promenade Park, Maldon, is a great place to watch the Classique get under way with the riders rolling out from the beautiful park at 11:00 on Friday 27 May. Finding a spot on Maldon’s High Street or Market Hill will also give you the perfect place to watch the stage come to a finale with riders passing by on three occasions.

Stage Two, Saturday 28 May: 141km, Start: Chelmsford, Finish: Epping (eight climbs, 1,368 vertical metres)

An undulating stage that starts in Chelmsford, the county seat of Essex, and heads north towards Finchingfield and Great Dunmow before returning south and culminating in three circuits around Epping Forest, the historic former royal forest that straddles the border of Essex and London. The final circuits will be punctuated by short, sharp climbs to create a thrilling finale.

For the full route, [click here](#).

Scott Sunderland said: *“It’s another very fast stage of narrow roads and rolling hills. This stage will be suited to the climbers, especially the final circuit in and around Epping. This circuit is very tough with short, steep climbs and it’s very fast in between the climbs, so there will be very short recovery times, which could play into the hands of the General Classification riders. It’s going to be quite a different experience to Stage One and a great prelude to the final stage in London.”*

Best places to watch Stage Two: the riders will roll out from Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford, while Finchingfield is a good spot to watch them pass on the route. Huge crowds headed to the beautiful village to welcome the Tour de France in 2014 and this is another chance to watch world-class cycling in a stunning location. To get a road-side view of the finish, head to Epping High Street where riders will pass three times, including the stage finish.

Stage Three, Sunday 29 May: 85.3km, Start/Finish: London

Similar to the previous one-day editions of the RideLondon Classique, the final Stage is a multi-lap circuit race in the centre of London. The route has been tweaked from previous editions of the race, with a start and finish on Victoria Embankment beside the River Thames. The route has also been made longer with two short (7.3km) laps and nine long (10.1km) laps on a circuit that includes some of London’s most famous streets, including Piccadilly, Pall Mall and The Strand.

For the full route, [click here](#).

Scott Sunderland said: *“We wanted to find a course that was a little less constrained by corners and turns than the previous Classique circuit. We wanted to make it more of a proper city circuit course, something along the lines of a World Championships course you would have in a big city. We’ve been able to iron out a few of the corners and make a few longer straights and we’re very excited with how this stage has turned out. It’s not entirely a sprinter’s day, it’s a day with opportunities with one nice long finishing straight along the Embankment.”*

Best places to watch Stage Three: pick a spot anywhere along the central London route on Stage Three and you’re guaranteed to see the peloton whizz by on multiple occasions on the stunning city centre circuit. You could even start the day by participating in the free [RideLondon FreeCycle](#), which will take place on parts of the Classique route, before watching the professionals take to the streets for the RideLondon finale.

To view Scott’s full thoughts on the three stages, [click here](#).

RideLondon was created in 2013 by the Mayor of London as a legacy event from the 2012 London Olympic Games. A professional women’s race has been part of the event from the outset, first as the RideLondon Grand Prix (2013-2015) and then, once it had been adopted into the UCI Women’s World Tour calendar, the RideLondon Classique from 2016 onwards. The event was always a one-day race until 2022.

Among the previous winners are multiple Olympic champion Laura Kenny (GBR), Kirsten Wild (NED), Coryn Labecki (USA) and Lorena Wiebes (NED).

The full list of teams competing in this year’s RideLondon Classique will be announced next week, with rider announcements following in May.

The Classique is just one element of RideLondon 2022, with four mass participation events also taking place on Sunday 29 May. An estimated 25,000 people will take part in three challenge rides, the RideLondon-Essex 100, 60 and 30. Thousands more will participate in RideLondon FreeCycle, a free event that enables people to cycle around eight miles of traffic-free roads in central London.

For more information, visit ridelondon.co.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Images and route maps are available on request.

About RideLondon

- [RideLondon](#), the world’s greatest festival of cycling, was developed by the Mayor of London and his agencies. It was first held in August 2013 and is a legacy event from the London 2012 Olympics.

- In the first seven years of the world's greatest festival of cycling (2013-2019) more than 467,000 participants have taken part including more than 140,000 new or lapsed cyclists who were inspired to start cycling. More than £80 million was raised for more than 1,000 charities.
- RideLondon will partner with Essex County Council in 2022. Surrey County Council previously partnered with the event from 2013 to 2020.
- London Marathon Events gifts its surplus each year to The London Marathon Charitable Trust.
- Since 1981, The London Marathon Charitable Trust has awarded grants totalling in excess of £95 million to more than 1,500 projects in London and across the UK.

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