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# LIZZIE DEIGNAN TO MAKE UK RACING RETURN AT 2023 FORD RIDELONDON CLASSIQUE

Lizzie Deignan will make a much-anticipated return to UK road racing at this year's Ford RideLondon Classique between Friday 26 May and Sunday 28 May.

Deignan, a former World Road Race Champion and four-time British Road Race Champion, is returning to competitive action after the birth of her second child last year and will make her first appearance at the Ford RideLondon Classique, Britain's only UCI Women's World Tour race.

The Trek-Segafredo rider is the highlight name among the provisional start list for this year's Ford RideLondon Classique, which is announced today (11 May).

Deignan is part of a strong British contingent in the field, which also includes Pfeiffer Georgi, former National Road Race Champion and winner of this year's Classic Brugge-De Panne, Anna Henderson, former National Road Race Time-Trial Champion and winner of the 2022 RideLondon Classique's Ford Queen of the Mountain's jersey, and Alice Towers, the current National Road Race Champion.

Other stellar names to be competing include Elisa Balsamo, former World Champion and second-place finisher at RideLondon 2022, Chiara Consonni, Giro d'Italia Donne stage winner and former champion of Dwars door Vlaanderen, and Charlotte Kool, a stage winner at the Vuelta Feminina last week.

Deignan, the London 2012 Olympic silver medallist and two-times Commonwealth Games medallist, last raced on home soil at the Women's Tour in October 2021, before becoming a mother for the second time. She made her return to racing last month when she rode La Flèche Wallonne and Liège-Bastogne-Liège, before completing the Vuelta Feminina.

**Deignan said:** *"It is a pleasure to be racing the Ford RideLondon Classique this year after so long off the bike. I have some miles in my legs after an earlier than anticipated comeback and am feeling strong for this race. The beautiful countryside of Essex and the iconic London stage finishing on The Mall promise to be packed with cycling enthusiasts and I hope to be able to open the door to this fantastic sport to the next generation of cyclists."*

**Scott Sunderland, Ford RideLondon Classique Race Director, said:** *"We are over the moon that Lizzie will make her much-anticipated return to the roads of the UK at the 2023 Ford RideLondon Classique. Lizzie is synonymous with the most successful period in British cycling history and has inspired a generation of women and girls to get on the bike and take up cycling."*

*“This year’s Classique is a wide-open field and predicting the winner is no mean feat. Lizzie joins a host of talented riders from Great Britain and around the world in showcasing the quality of the women’s peloton to the people of London and Essex, and the thousands of spectators who travel to watch. It promises to be a very exciting event.”*

Six of the 10 leading teams in the UCI Women’s World Tour Rankings have been confirmed for this year’s race, which is the only UCI World Tour race to be held in the UK in 2023.

Trek-Segafredo, FDJ-Suez, Team DSM, Canyon//SRAM Racing, UAE Team ADQ and Team Jumbo-Visma are all confirmed to race in this year’s Ford RideLondon Classique, which takes place between Friday 26 May and Sunday 28 May.

In total, 19 teams of six riders will take part in this year’s race including nine UCI Women’s WorldTour teams and 10 UCI Women’s Continental teams.

Among the UCI Women’s Continental teams are three British teams: AWOL O’Shea, DAS-Handsling Bikes and Lifeplus Wahoo.

The Ford RideLondon Classique starts with two stages in Essex on Friday 26 May and Saturday 27 May. Stage One (150km) is from Saffron Walden to Colchester while Stage Two (140km) starts and finishes in Maldon. The final stage (91km) is the iconic finale in central London, starting and finishing on The Mall.

For more information on the Ford RideLondon Classique routes [click here](#).

The full list of teams competing in the 2023 Ford RideLondon Classique is [available here](#).

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For more information about the Ford RideLondon Classique, [click here](#).

## ENDS

### NOTES TO EDITORS

Images from RideLondon-Essex 2022 are available to [download here](#) (password: RL2022, credit: RideLondon-Essex)

#### 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. It is delivered by London Marathon Events (LME).
- The 2023 Ford RideLondon Classique is part of the UCI Women’s World Tour.
- The Classique was granted UCI Women’s WorldTour status in 2016. It was a one-day race between 2016 and 2019, becoming a three-day stage race in 2022 after returning following the Covid-19 pandemic which forced the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 events.
- For a full history of the Classique including the full list of past winners, [click here](#).
- The 2023 Ford RideLondon also includes the mass-participation events: Ford RideLondon FreeCycle, Ford, RideLondon-Essex 100, Ford RideLondon-Essex 60 and Ford RideLondon-Essex 30.
- In January 2023, [Ford was announced as the title partner of RideLondon from 2023 to 2025](#)
- London Marathon Events gifts its surplus each year to the London Marathon Foundation (the operating name of The London Marathon Charitable Trust, a registered charity (283813) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (01550741), registered office: 190 Great Dover Street, London, SE1 4YB).

- Since 1981, the London Marathon Foundation has awarded £100 million to more than 1,600 projects that inspire activity in London, Essex and across the UK.

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