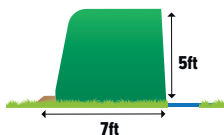# THE GRAND NATIONAL COURSE

CANAL TURN 8 24

A sizeable fence (5ft high, 7ft wide) that is immediately followed by a 90-degree left-hand turn - jump it at an angle and you can save both distance and the horse's energy
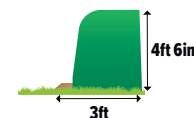
VALENTINE'S BROOK 9 25

Another fence that deserves enormous respect, as tall and wide as the Canal Turn, plus it has a brook on the landing side

OPEN DITCH 11 27

Has been reduced in height by two inches (5.08cm) to 4ft 10in (147cm) from 5ft (152cm) on the take-off side; the landing side has undergone levelling off to reduce the drop

THE CHAIR 15

The course's biggest fence but made even more daunting by its narrowness and the crowd noise that greets the Grand National field

5ft 2in   5ft
5ft
9ft 9in

WATER JUMP 16

The smallest fence on the track is followed by an expanse of water and replaced a massive stone wall in 1841
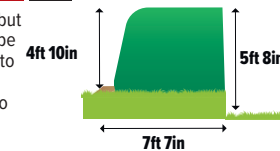
2ft 6in

FOINAVON 7 23

One of the racecourse's smallest fences is known as Foinavon after the 1967 winner, who emerged from an almighty pile-up to win at 100-1
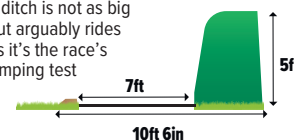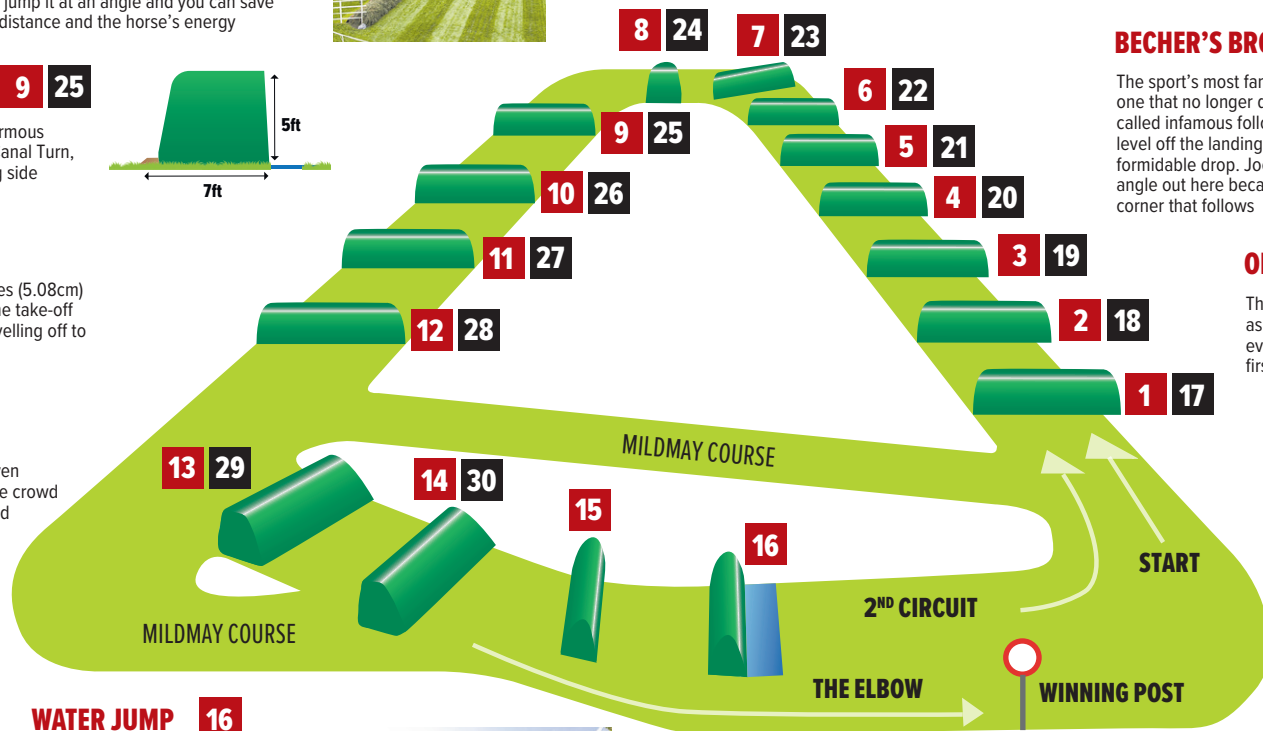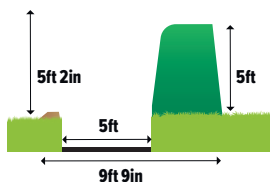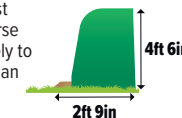
4ft 6in
3ft

BECHER'S BROOK 6 22

The sport's most famous fence but one that no longer deserves to be called infamous following work to level off the landing side's once formidable drop. Jockeys look to angle out here because of the corner that follows

4ft 10in   5ft 8in
7ft 7in

OPEN DITCH 3 19

The first open ditch is not as big as the Chair but arguably rides even bigger as it's the race's first serious jumping test

7ft   5ft
10ft 6in

FIRST FENCE 1 17

One of the smallest fences on the course and much less likely to cause problems than in the old days

4ft 6in
2ft 9in

START

The Grand National will be initiated by a standing start, rather than the horses walking into the tape. The first fence has been moved 60 yards closer to the starting point of the Grand National. This is in an attempt to reduce the speed at which horses approach the first of the 30 fences

8 24   7 23
6 22
9 25   5 21
10 26   4 20
11 27   3 19
12 28   2 18
1 17

5ft
7ft

MILDMAY COURSE

13 29   14 30
15
16

2ND CIRCUIT
START
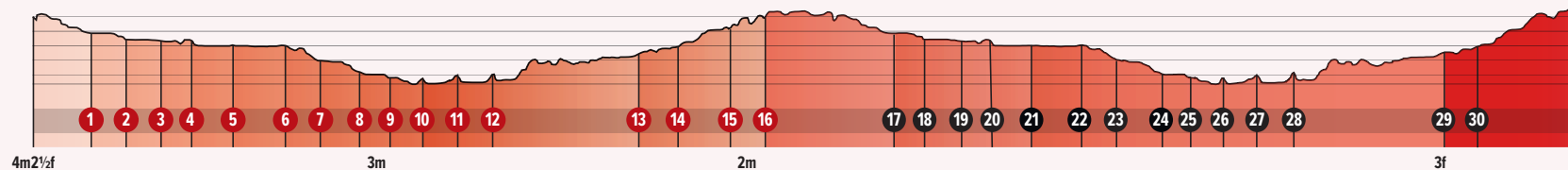MILDMAY COURSE
THE ELBOW   WINNING POST

THE ELBOW

The run from the final fence to the winning post is unusually long and broken up by the right-then-left chicane that comes after more than four miles of galloping

COURSE ELEVATION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

4m2½f   3m   2m   3f

Distance
4m2½f

Obstacles
30 fences