

Full Route Description

- Route information 16mils / 3000' climb
- The following is intended as additional information- not a substitute for correct footpath navigation using OS maps (Outdoor Leisure 1:25,000 Sheet No 1) The route is clearly marked on the map.
- The course finishes at 3pm. For reasons of safety, this limit will be strictly enforced.
- To qualify as a finisher you must "dib" at each control point and at the finish.
- THE GOLDEN RULE: REPORT TO THE FINISH EVEN IF YOU RETIRE

From the Start (SK173817), head SW to the bottom of Smalldale SK171815. Turn R onto a green lane and follow the footpath/bridleway thru' cement works.

At road corner turn L passing the cottages, up the rocky Pindale track. Carry on to the top of the track SK155819, then follow level track N to road corner SK155821.

On the road again, turn L up the hill & follow road 200m. Fork R onto Dirtlow Rake - use the track here to climb and continue to CP 1 SK135813 - stile/gate at the track/bridleway crossing.

Turn NE onto a bridleway, across field & down to shallow valley bottom. Look at the finger post and DO NOT go up the other side! KEEP IN THE VALLEY BOTTOM and descend gently, then more steeply, down Cave Dale itself - CARE!! SLIPPERY WHEN WET! SK151826 – road/dale end junction.

Follow road N, with the church to LEFT, straight on at the main street and then straight on at R/h bend. Follow small road 'Millbridge' then Hollowford Lane forking L past the Hollowford Centre (to your Right). Fork left again shortly. After 1km, at sharp bend, go thru' gate/stile up narrow f/p. Climb diagonally R up to Backtor Nook & steep up stone steps to Back Tor summit. Follow ridge path to CP 2 SK153854 at the summit of Lose Hill.

Continue down steep steps to stile from where a descent slightly leftwards down the broad grassy ridge will take you via a more defined path down to the access road for Losehill Farm (same as the Edale Skyline race route). Follow on down to a junction with the Edale Road, and follow this (CARE, this is a busy road!) passing under the railway bridge before turning L down to bridge CP 3 SK171839.

Head NE along lane then shortly R past the cemetery, under railway line and past Farfield Fm. L (uphill) at lane junction and continue thru' Aston. (You may take the short cut footpath at SK182839 but ensure gates are closed behind you). 75m after Aston Hall (on left), take the f/p at SK186839 and run diagonally up onto the flank of Win Hill. In the open land follow the obvious Hollow Way contour ascending around the nose.

****IMPORTANT**** At fingerpost SK192846 continue N along main track just 20m to water trough/stream crossing. Turn E off the track, drop 15m down shallow stream to turn L onto a smaller path, following an old wall towards and then into the woods. Cross Parkin Clough SK193851. DO NOT DESCEND STEEPLY but continue on contour track, gently descending to CP 4 SK195858 - gate at path junction on right.

Descend SE to reservoir, turn S. DO NOT CROSS DAM WALL. Drop 500m down the road, then fork R onto the old railway line (Touchstone/ Thornhill Trail) SK197852 Note: the old railway line is towards the bottom of the road. ****DO NOT TAKE THE OBVIOUS FORK R CLOSE TO THE TOP OF THE DAM WALL, which leads back into Parkin Clough. Continue along the old railway line, crossing a road, then on to the track junction at the Quaker house. L then shortly R onto f/p along field margin to gate, then R under railway line. Through edge of Garden Centre car park to road. CP 5 and 6 for untimed road crossing SK203826. TAKE GREAT CARE AS BUSY ROAD. It is untimed. Stay safe. Cross over road to Shatton.

Follow the road through Shatton to turn left up Shatton Lane BEFORE you reach the ford on Townfield Lane. Stay on Shatton Lane climbing steeply up and across the hill first left then right to pass the mast on your right. Keep on the track which contours below Shatton Moor and Wolfspit to the final CP7 at SK190802, gate/stile. Continue following the same track round to the next large metal gate just before the lane starts to descend. 20m after the gate take the footpath on the left, across two flat fields to the final

descent of the route. Take a moment to admire the view then drop down into the village via footpath and bridleway, leaving just a sprint down the Main Street to the finish at the Sports Club.

WELL DONE!! FINISH CLOSES AT 1500hrs. THANKS FOR COMING AND HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE ROUTE!!