

Durham Dales Challenge



General information

Kit

- Waterproofs
- Suitable footwear in good condition
- Working torch
- Whistle
- Emergency food
- Fleece top
- Trousers to be carried if shorts are worn
- Survival bag
- Mug or cup

Each group can share the following gear but must walk together at all times

- OS 1:50000 map 92 Barnard Castle and Richmond or OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure map 31 North Pennines. Black & white photocopies of maps will not be accepted.
- Compass
- First aid kit

Parking

Wolsingham Recreation Ground (RG), near the Wolsingham Bowling Club.

Registration

From 7:30.

Wolsingham Masonic Hall (GR NZ073373) in Church Lane.

From RG, turn R on W End. After 80 yards, turn L into Church Lane. This is a narrow street.

Start time

8:30

Start location

Wolsingham Recreation Ground (RG) behind the bowling green. This is behind (south of) the building immediately in front of you as you enter the RG.

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Start to CP1 – 8.5 miles to Bollihope

1	Follow the footpath on the eastern side of the field heading towards the river. Continue to the bridge. Go under the bridge and immediately turn L and then L to ascend to the road.
2	Cross the bridge and bear R uphill. After 200 yds turn R to take the Weardale Way (WW) at GR NZ 074367.
3	Follow the WW about 1000 yards to reach Towdy Potts Farm. Pass through the farmyard. Keeping on the WW, after another ½ mile go through a gate with a telegraph pole on the right. Immediately turn L to follow the WW for ½ mile to the ridge at GR NZ 063349.
4	Turn R and proceed to GR NZ 053348 Sunnyside Edge. This is where the 14 mile route splits from the 30 mile route. A marshal will be here to guide walkers.
5	The marshal will direct you to proceed straight on. After about a mile, pass a stand of trees at GR NZ039343. These are the famous Weardale Elephant trees.
6	Continue onwards along the track for a further 1.25 miles (ignore paths on the L) to reach a second small stand of trees with a fence in front. Bear L here picking up a restricted byway through the heather which narrows but then reaches a broad stony track after 1.5 miles.
7	Turn R onto track, follow track around bend to R and go downhill. At junction go straight on down through old mine workings, crossing the Howden Burn and continue downhill to reach the main road. Turn R to CP1.

CP 1 GR NZ 006349 BOLLIOPE

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Bolliphope to finish – 5.5 miles

8	Follow the large vehicle track along the north side of the burn. Pass a caravan site to your L. As the track turns left into the High Bishopley caravan site continue straight, now on a footpath with the burn to your R. Through a field gate. After 20 metres continue straight ahead at Weardale Way marker post. Through a large metal kissing gate. Continue ahead on the riverside path with the river to your right for about 1km (ignoring bridge to your right after about 250m).
9	Reach and cross the angled bridge over the burn at NZ024357. Continue ahead through field with the burn now to your left. Go through gate or over stile to reach minor road at White Kirkley. Turn right.
10	After a short distance go through signposted gate on the left.
11	Keep R alongside fence past new house to go through left hand gate into field. Bear slight L to follow the Weardale Way markers over several more stiles and gates, ignoring any other footpath signs, eventually climbing a short hill to a kissing gate. Onwards with fence on L.
12	After end of fence, bear right uphill to a stile in corner of field, emerging on to a farm track. Turn L onto farm track – if the gates across this road are closed, use the kissing gates on the left. On reaching a tarmac road, turn L, downhill to Harehope Quarry.
13	Where the tarmac road turns L over bridge, continue ahead on farm road. After 100 yards, take the footpath to your L at the farm buildings. Pass through two gates, fork left downhill and arrive at kissing gate and railway track.
14	Trains running today - cross with care and turn R on the riverbank path alongside Caravan Park to a picnic area on L, then bear R into caravan park on a gravel path to a tarmac road. Turn R to pass between caravan park reception on R and water feature on L before turning L onto tarmac road at GR NZ 049368. (Please respect the quiet enjoyment of the caravanners.)

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15	Continue along the tarmac road, passing a road on the right. Where road turns left over bridge go straight ahead alongside railway on new footpath. Ignore waymark pointing L, keep on the new permissive path.
16	On emerging from this path cross over footbridge, continue ahead through several fields with railway on your R, crossing a footbridge into a final field. Keep R onto more defined path that gradually rises alongside railway to gate.
17	Climb steps to road and turn L to the road bridge. Immediately after crossing the river, turn right and go back under the bridge to follow the path you came out on through Wolsingham Recreation Ground. Cross Front Street with care and return to HQ.

14 miles FINISHED!