

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

08:30

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 – 7.5 miles to Euden Beck

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 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 turn L on broad vehicle track across moorland to reach another stony track at an old railway hut GR NZ 050335.
6	Turn L and then R to pick up the flagged section along narrow footpath through the heather to reach prominent stone cairn. Continue through heather with valley and stream on R. Carefully cross North Grain Beck at NZ 047322.
7	After 50 yards cross another stream on the left. Bear L passing trees, through broken stone wall, over stile in wire fence, continuing to a lone tree. Continue with broken wall and trees on L.
8	Now on initially a grassy track which becomes a stony track which eventually bears left. Cross stream and turn at once R uphill – do not continue on good path – to join broad green track and ascend to the right. Continue for a mile to gate on entry to forest.
9	Continue on path through forest for 250 yards to cross forest road very slightly to R. After a further 800 yards of forest path cross a further forest road to head downhill to Euden Beck. Cross with care (no bridge) and continue to junction with forest road turning L and onwards to forest road junction, to CP1.

CP 1 GR NZ 030295 EUDEN BECK

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CP1 to CP2 – 8.4 miles to Middleton-in-Teesdale

10	Head uphill on forest track. Continue for a mile. Where forest road descends to L, go R ahead on fingerposted Bridleway.
11	Ascend on rutted path for 800 yards to forest road junction. At junction straight ahead on forest track. After 250 yards as the forest track bends left, leave the forest track and continue straight ahead on rough bridleway quickly reaching a waymarked wicket gate with pond on R (GR NZ022276).
12	Ahead onto stony track continuing across moor. At path junction turn R and continue. On reaching junction with stoned track turn R and continue passing through 4 gates to reach public road.
13	Cross the road with extreme care , and ahead on minor road (Middleton 4 miles) to another junction with main road (B6282), across this with extreme care , down track (fingerpost Teesdale Way).
14	Through waymarked gate. After 200 yds, continue on higher path to R with another Teesdale Way fingerpost. Continue along riverside path for 1¼ miles through wicket gates and crossing footbridges over incoming streams. At GR NY963251 through wicket gate, ascend steep wooden steps to reach a wooden seat. Turn right and leave the Teesdale Way into meadow.
15	Continue straight ahead for 100 yds and turn sharp L (to the west) at white fingerpost. Continue over two wall stiles and reach a third stile at red metal bar gate. Down street past houses to main road (B6282).
16	Continue on the main road through Middleton-in-Teesdale which bears right after about ¼ mile, then crosses stone bridge in a further ¼ mile Cross the bridge to CP2.

CP 2 GR NY 946256 MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE Sports and Social Club 15.9 miles

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CP 2 to CP3 – 2.1 miles to above Hudeshope Beck

17	Exit CP2 and turn left and at road junction turn left uphill. After 100 yards at footpath fingerpost turn right. Ascend steps and continue on footpath to enter woodland.
18	Ignoring footpath off to the left, continue on woodland track. Ignoring wooden bridge on the right, continue on woodland track. Cross green metal bridge over Hudeshope Beck and join metalled road.
19	Continue with river on L for ½ mile until junction below old kilns. Turn R up here, through metal gate, passing kilns to your left. After a short distance the path levels out and enters woodland. At next path junction bear right and ascend steps. At next path junction continue straight ahead ignoring path to the right. Exit wood over ladder stile.
20	Continue with wall on L, stone stile, past broken wall and second stone stile. Now bear slightly R on path, to wall corner (wall on L) to waymarked gate. Onwards through old mine workings, sheep pens, and wooden gate.
21	Go to the R of tree (bad erosion on river bank), uphill past old barn and through gate. Continue through gate, over stream bed and up to kissing gate in wall. Turn R uphill to public road, across cattle grid and up to bend in the road. Pass through road barrier and continue on track as it winds uphill. At track junction turn R and continue to pass through wooden gate.

CP 3 GR NY 955294 Above Hudeshope Beck, 18 miles

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CP 3 to CP4 – 6 miles to Bollihope

22	Pass through road barrier and continue on track as it winds uphill. At track junction turn R and continue to pass through wooden gate. Continue on track past large shooting lodge; the track eventually becomes grassy and starts to descend.
23	Continue on track as it swings L keeping to high ground; do not drop down into the mine workings in the gully. Keep to the faint path on high ground and continue ahead with the gully to your R. Eventually descend to a stony track with a locked double metal gate with a stile to its right.
24	Cross stile and continue ahead on stony track. Follow the track as it descends into the valley. At valley bottom bear R and cross stile by gate.
25	Continue ahead on track with river on L to ford (the ford crossing has been washed away). Cross river, turn R and continue ahead with river now on R. If the river is high and fast flowing and crossing at the ford is difficult, follow narrow path alongside the river on the L for approx 450 yds (also not easy at times) to cross a good bridge at the old mine workings.
26	On reaching old mine workings turn L and follow rough path up the valley, with small stream on R, ignoring the large new shooters track which is further to the left. Go through gate and continue uphill on grassy path. As it swings R around near the head of the valley it becomes a narrow path through heather; this section will be flagged.
27	Follow this path as it climbs slightly to pass reservoir on R and eventually swings L to descend gully into valley bottom. Continue ahead uphill on track to main road (B6278). Cross B6278 with care.
28	Turn L and proceed for half a mile on road, passing a cinder track on R, to a finger post for a footpath on right at GR NY989326. This next section is largely pathless but will be flagged. Take this path heading northeast towards the right-hand side of a low hill ahead.
29	On reaching this hill, a stone wall appears on the right and the path becomes more distinct, gradually becoming a track which leads onto a road. Turn right.

CP 4 GR NZ 006349 BOLLIHOPE 24 miles

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CP 4 to finish – 6 miles

30	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).
31	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.
32	After a short distance go through signposted gate on the left.
33	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.
34	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.
35	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.

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36	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.)
37	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.
38	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.
39	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.

30 miles FINISHED!