

Leaden Boot Challenge

2022 ROUTE INSTRUCTIONS

All Map References are preceded by the letters SK and have been abbreviated to read (GR and 6 numbers)

Section 1 Alstonefield via CP1 to Ilam CP2

From the village hall car park turn R then L and pass through the village keeping to the R to enter Church Street. Pass the Church and descend Millway Lane to the hamlet of Milldale (GR139547). **(CAUTION TRAFFIC)** L then R to emerge at the River Dove (**Toilets**). Cross the old packhorse bridge (Viator's Bridge), then immediately turn L to ascend the steep, well worn, packhorse trails up Baley Hill. Keeping the wall on your right cross the first stile and go straight ahead on FP to pass 2 further gaps/stiles to reach another gap with a finger post. Continue straight on FP to pass through another gap to reach cross tracks with finger post and **CP1** (control card clipping only GR 149541).

YOU MUST CLIP AT THIS CHECKPOINT

Turn right down farm track for 100 ms and bear ½ left to cross stile in wall. Continue diagonally downhill to next wall and cross stile. Head for bottom corner with rickety wooden gate. Pass through and follow FP down the stony and rutted Nabs Dale (take care) to reach River Dove. Turn left down Dove Dale to pass two large caves (Dove Holes) and after approx. 500ms turn R over a footbridge across the River Dove at Ilam Rock.

Turn R and follow the river upstream for 200ms then turn L at a signpost for Ilam by the "Steep Ascent". Climb up the zigzag path and at the top keep straight on, ignoring the path to the R (GR139531).

Keep to the L of the wire fence at the top of the dale, through a wooded area. At the end of the wood, go through a small gate into a sloping field and head slightly downhill towards an indistinct finger post to pick up a rocky path contouring the hillside. Continue until you reach a fingerpost that directs you R uphill, soon bending R to cross two successive gate stiles and turn L onto the driveway of Air Cottage (GR142523). Cross a cattle grid, follow the track, but turn L BEFORE a gate ahead of you. Continue straight ahead, close to a wall on your R, until you reach the "NT Bunster Hill" sign. Turn R through the gate and go downhill keeping the wall to your R, (ignore stile-gate on R and step-stile on R), eventually

joining a farm track and passing a large pond on your R. At a T-junction of tracks go directly downhill to a stile at the road (**CAUTION TRAFFIC**) into Ilam. Turn R and then R again at the Ilam memorial cross. After 100ms, where the road curves R, go straight on towards Ilam Hall, but almost immediately turn L on the track to the church (GR133507). The track curves R to a metal stile. Pass to the R of the church, and go up to the Hall, turning L in front of the Hall to **CP2** (GR132506). **Toilets** are available at the visitor centre.

Section 2 Ilam (CP2) to Calton (Slade House – CP3)

From **CP2** go down steps that lead to the River Manifold, and turn R (river on your L) and follow Paradise Walk for ½ mile by the river. Eventually, pass through a gate and almost immediately turn L over a footbridge. Follow CB310° to a stile, then CB340°, which takes you over several fields to emerge at Rushley (GR124515).

Turn L on the road and, where it turns sharp R, **go straight on** between farm buildings. Just after a bend to the L take the footpath on R through 2 small gates. Keep the wire fence to your L. After 150ms go over a stile to enter Musden Wood. Follow the path in the valley bottom for over 1½-miles keeping to the R of the fence and later, a broken wall. When you first see the houses of Calton ahead go over one field in that direction and through a gate stile where you turn R on a soft farm track, keeping L of the wall and then turn R with the wall. Keep to the L of the wall up the long incline to the top of the field, then join a farm track and go through a wooden gate. Continue towards a holiday complex (Slade House). Go through a squeeze stile to **CP3** (GR107510).

Section 3 Slade House (CP3) to Grindon (CP4)

From the checkpoint, go over a small cattle grid and **immediately turn R** to pass behind renovated building (holiday lets) then bear R along a wall, then L through 2 squeeze stiles. Continue ahead with fine views of Thorpe Cloud to your R, keeping close to the broken wall on your R, to reach a wall with 3 gates. Take the stile next to the centre one and enter an enclosed track (GR110513).

After 100ms branch off to the L (initially CB11°) to the L of a hollow in the ground. Head towards a solitary tree and take the stile 50ms downhill to the left of the tree and then continue to the R of a small copse. The hamlet of Throwley and ruins of Old Throwley Hall come into view. Head directly towards the buildings and turn L onto the road and over a cattle grid. Follow the road through farm buildings and round to the L. On the bend, look for a footpath sign on the R and go through a gate stile into a small copse and exit at another gate (GR110526).

Head towards a stonewall corner (CB330°) to join a rough farmer's track to a wooden gate. Go through the gate and head towards a cliff face in the distance (Beeston Tor – CB352°). Go through a double gate by a footpath sign and follow a clear vehicle track soon passing to the L of an old stone barn. Continue downhill on this track for about 1200ms, through a metal gate and passing Beeston Tor Farm on the R, to join another track and cross a bridge. Carry straight on for 650ms, parallel with the Manifold Cycle Trail on your L, to a road bridge. Turn sharp L over a stile, soon to pass an information sign. Walk straight up hill to a metal gate on the horizon. Cross a stile and continue with a wire fence on your L to pass to the R of Weag's Barn and out onto the road. Turn L to a sharp R bend in the road (GR098539).

Follow the road uphill and after 100ms turn L onto a footpath keeping a wall to your L. Go through a gate-stile and, at the bottom of the hill, go through a gate and turn R, keeping the wall/fence on your R. Proceed through a field gate to a small wooden gate ahead. Now, head for Grindon Church spire, just visible ahead. Go through 6 fields in the same direction, passing to the L of some farm buildings. Emerge onto a track and turn L. Go straight ahead (possibly around loose metal barriers at a farm) onto a narrower, often muddy path. Turn R at a T-junction of paths, then L at the road (**CAUTION TRAFFIC**) for approximately 80ms to **CP4**, Grindon Village Hall (GR087543). Toilets available.

Section 4 Grindon (CP4) to Ecton (CP5)

Continue past the village hall (**CAUTION TRAFFIC**) and turn R at the junction ahead. After around 150ms take the R turn then keep L (road sign 'dead end'). The road bends R to pass church on the R and continue along a farm road with its surface progressively worsening.

As you approach farm buildings veer L at fork (GR089551) towards Ossoms Hill Farm.

Soon after a large barn on the L, veer R and go through three squeeze stiles in the direction of Wetton Mill. Follow a narrow hillside path, passing direction posts and crossing stiles and gates. Finally the path begins to descend. Descend L to a metal footbridge and turn R on to a road (not the ford) and go straight over cross roads and onto a bridge over the River Manifold. (**Toilets** at Wetton Mill Café but you might have to buy something!).

Follow the road bearing L and go straight ahead through the centre of Dale Farm (GR095563). Go through two gates to follow the valley path slightly uphill. At the base of a prominent hillock (Sugarloaf) go L up a steeper incline. Cross a wooden stile and turn sharp R to go through a squeeze stile. Zigzag L and R to follow a wire fence on your R, soon becoming a broken wall. At the end of this wall, continue to follow a wall now on your L. Continue uphill passing through a gate. Continue through

another gate and turn L along an access road to Broad Ecton Farm (GR101575).

Just before farm buildings, turn sharp R (CB60°) onto a marked footpath, through a squeeze stile, keeping a wall to your right and continue uphill to a crossroad of paths. Turn L over a wooden step stile and head directly to the Trig Point on the summit of Ecton Hill (GR100580). Bear R at the Trig Point and go downhill due North. Pass through two stiles and to the R of the barn and then through a gate stile on the L. Turn R and continue downhill with a wall on your R. Keep going downhill to a gate stile by a folly into the hamlet of Ecton. Turn immediately R to **CP5**, (GR097583).

Section 5 Ecton (CP5) to Sheen Hill (CP6)

Follow the access road downhill to a staggered junction then, zigzag to the R across the junction, turning R along the Manifold Trail cycle path. After approx. 1200ms and 100ms before the second bridge turn L over a wooden stile towards farm buildings. (**Toilets** 200ms further along the Manifold Trail). Go to the stile by a metal gate and out on to the road. Turn L **BUT WATCH OUT FOR TRAFFIC!** After 100ms, take the wooden step stile R just by an information sign. Go diagonally L towards marker posts (CB314°). Then go over a step stile towards farm buildings. **DOGS MAY BE LOOSE IN THE FARM YARD.** Just before the driveway, turn R through a squeeze stile crossing over a small concrete bridge and a second squeeze stile. Keeping to the R of a caravan, go directly through the centre of the farm buildings. Turn R onto a road. After the farm on your L, turn L through a gate stile. Keep the farm fence on your L and cross another gate stile. Continue in the same direction following a faint path slightly downhill towards trees to descend a muddy bank and go through a stile in the corner.

Turn R and after approx. 85ms cross a metal footbridge. Go straight ahead (CB 45°), **BUT STAY AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE RIVER BANK BECAUSE THE OVERHANG MAY COLLAPSE UNDER YOU!** keeping a fence and hedge on your R to a stone stile in the field corner, then keeping first a fence and then a wall close to your L, go uphill in the same direction to cross a farm track. Go through the small gate attached to the middle of three metal gates and join an enclosed track that brings you out on the road (**CAUTION TRAFFIC**) at Townend (GR107606). Turn R, then L at a cross roads (Pown Street) and walk through Sheen village, passing the pub and church.

At the top of Pown Street, by Manor Farm (GR113616), turn L on a narrow road signposted Brund and Ridge End (**CAUTION TRAFFIC**). Approx. 120 ms. Along the road turn R over a stone stile and follow a faint footpath diagonally down across the field in the direction of Sheen Hill on the horizon. Cross 2 stiles, either side of 2 ditches. From there continue uphill (CB 345° then 320°) through two stiles then, go L up the steep hill

towards two vertical wooden posts close together in a wall. Squeeze through the wall between the posts and follow the FP to your L (**Note** - the route goes around Sheen Hill clockwise) keeping a wall on your L.

When another stonewall faces you continue through the wide gap in the wall to pass to the R of a house. Continue down to the driveway and over a cattle grid to turn R onto the road (GR106624). After approx. 700ms you reach a T-junction. Cross the road diagonally to your R to a stile and **Checkpoint 6** (GR112629).

Section 6 Sheen Hill (CP6) via unmanned CP7 to Hartington (CP8)

Continue down the bridleway to Pilsbury passing through a metal gate. At the bottom of the hill go L across a wooden footbridge over the River Dove. From the bridge, follow the track uphill to the houses at Pilsbury (GR117634). Turn L to climb the narrow road around a R-hand hairpin bend. Continue on the road, uphill. 50ms past a sharp L-hand bend cross a wooden step stile on the R sign-posted Hartington and Parsley Hay. Follow the path ahead (CB 94°) through two fields to **Checkpoint 7** (un-manned clipping point – GR125634).

YOU MUST CLICK AT THIS CHECKPOINT

Do **NOT** cross the wall but turn R uphill on the footpath to Hartington. Cross the stone stile at the top of the incline and continue ahead bearing slightly R to a pole at the end of a wall. Carry onto some rocky outcrops adjacent to a fingerpost and descend to a stile by a gate. The path crosses the next two fields slightly R, passing through one stile to another. For the next section, follow a grassy and sometimes faint path with several stiles and posts that contour below Carder Low, on your L (GR129626). Eventually there is a rise in the ground to a wall which you follow R to a farm gate (GR130616) above Bank Top Farm.

Go through a metal gate to the farm track and bear L up to another gate. If it is closed you will need to pass by on the R to a gate stile in the wall on the L. Now continue with the wall on your R to a stone step stile also on the R. Cross this and go uphill across the next field to wooden stile just to the L of three trees. **CAUTION DELAPIDATED GATE/STILE**. Cross this and bear slightly L towards a marker pole. Cross the wall by a stone step stile and onto another stile at the road (**CAUTION TRAFFIC**) into Hartington.

Turn R and keep going downhill, eventually passing the church and onto cross roads in Hartington. Turn R and follow the road bending L to pass Devonshire Arms on left to reach Hartington Farm Shop & Café and

Public Toilets. Take FP up steps between these two buildings to Checkpoint **8** (GR128602).

Section 7 Hartington (CP8) to Alstonefield (Finish)

Continue on a clear path towards Beresford Dale. Go across an enclosed track and follow the way-marked path, which becomes fainter, to enter Morson Wood. Continue along the path and cross the River Dove at a footbridge then, after approx. 400ms turn R at the next bridge (do **NOT** cross the bridge) onto Beresford Lane. After 80ms turn L onto a track and cycle path. At next gate bear R in the direction of Narrowdale Hill (GR128583).

Go through several metal gates to where the track swings R towards the old Narrowdale settlement. At this point go straight on up the valley of Narrowdale. Where a field track swings to the R carry on slightly L through a metal gate and then a wooden one. Keep wall to your R till wall runs out then straight on to continue with another wall to your L. Continue uphill to another wall and track. Turn R onto an enclosed track (GR128568). After about 200ms turn L at a path crossing towards Alstonefield. Go through a gate at the corner of a copse, turn L, keeping to the wall on your L, go through a gap in the wall, to pass L of a ruined shelter made from concrete blocks. Go straight over a wall stile and then ahead through several gate stiles to a farm track by a dark grey metal shed. Bear R onto the track and soon after this becomes a road, (**CAUTION TRAFFIC**) turn L. Fork R at the village pump to the village hall and the completion of your challenge!

Please Note

Check Points will close at times shown below: -

- CP 2 12.00
- CP 3 13.30
- CP 4 15.15
- CP 5 16.30
- CP 6 18.30
- CP 8 20.00

Should entrants arrive at a CP after the closing time they will be asked to retire and transport will be arranged to return them to the start.

No Support can be given after the closing time of the CP and entrants who arrive after those times and decide to continue do so at their own risk.