1. LBC Route v4/23

 **Leaden Boot Challenge**

**2023 ROUTE INSTRUCTIONS**

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

**Section 1 Alstonefield via CP (Check Point) 1 to Ilam CP2**

From the village hall car park turn R (Right) then L (Left) 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 (Foot Path) 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 GR149541).

**YOU MUST CLIP AT THIS CHECKPOINT**

Turn right down farm track for 80m 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. 500m turn R over a footbridge across the River Dove at Ilam Rock.

Turn R and follow the river upstream for 200m then turn sharp L on FP. Climb up the steep 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 reach gate/stile 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) i**nto Ilam. Turn R and then R again at the Ilam memorial cross. After 100m, 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.

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**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 700m by the river. Eventually, pass through a gate and almost immediately turn L over a footbridge. Follow CB (Compass Bearing) 310˚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 150m go over a stile to enter Musden Wood. Follow the path in the valley bottom for over 2km 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 the 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 100m branch off to the L just before a hollow in the ground on the left. Head towards a solitary tree, cross first field to a stile and go to the next stile 50m downhill to the left of the tree and then follow FP 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 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 1200m, through a metal gate and passing Beeston Tor Farm on the R, to join another track and cross a bridge. Carry straight on for 650m, parallel with the Manifold 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

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Barn and out onto the road. Turn L to a sharp R bend in the road (GR098539). Follow the road uphill and after 100m 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 onto a narrower, often muddy path. Turn R at a T-junction of paths, then L at the road **(CAUTION TRAFFIC)** forapproximately 80m 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 150m go R at the fork then go 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. 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 two gates and then turn sharp 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 through a gate/stile and head directly to the Trig Point (GR100580) on the summit of Ecton Hill. Bear half right and go downhill to go through gate/stile. Continue down to pass through another gate/stile. Go ahead keeping stone building (Ecton Mine winding house) on your L and take first gate on L and immediately turn R. Keeping wall/hedge on your R continue down to pass Ecton Mine Powder House to reach gate/stile by Ecton Folly. Go through and turn R onto drive to **CP5** (GR097583).

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**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. After approx. 1200m, and 100m before bridge, turn L at a wooden gate/stile towards farm buildings. (**Toilets** 200m further along the Manifold Trail). Head straight across field to the stile by a metal gate to cross the Cawlow Barns drive onto the road. Turn L **BUT WATCH OUT FOR TRAFFIC!** After 100m, 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. 85m 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 onto a narrow road signposted Brund and Ridge End **(CAUTION TRAFFIC).** After approx.120m 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 keeping a wall on your L. (**Note** - the route goes around Sheen Hill clockwise) When another stonewall faces you continue through the wide gap in the wall to pass to the R of a house. Continue down to thedriveway and over a cattle grid to turn R onto the road (GR106624). (**CAUTION TRAFFIC**) After approx. 700m you reach a T-junction. Cross the road diagonally to your R to a stile and **Checkpoint 6** (GR112629).

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**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 uphill on the road. 50m 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 down 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 a new wooden gate\stile just to the L of three trees. Go through and bear slightly L towards a marker pole. Cross the wall by a stone step stile and onto another stile to the left of the farmyard/barns. Turn R on Hide Lane (CAUTION TRAFFIC) and keep going downhill round a left-hand bend. Just before a white house on the left take first track/FP on the right. At bottom turn L onto Dig Street to pass Hartington Surgery on your right. Pass garage on right and pond on your left. Keep straight to pass Charles Cotton Hotel on your right. Cross road (CAUTION TRAFFIC) and turn right to reach Hartington Farm Shop & Café and Public Toilets on your L. 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. 400m turn R at the next bridge (do **NOT**

cross the bridge) onto Beresford Lane. After 80m turn L onto a track and

cycle path. At next gate bear R in the direction of Narrowdale Hill

(GR128583).

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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 200m 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 16.45
* CP 6 18.30
* CP 8 20.00

Should participants 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.