

DOVEDALE DIPPER

2023



TRAIL RACE & CHALLENGE WALK

Written Route Instructions

26-mile Route - The Big Dipper

This document contains written instructions for following the Dovedale Dipper **26-mile** route, which goes in an anti-clockwise direction. Any amendments since the previous edition are highlighted in yellow

They should be used in conjunction with a good quality and detailed map of the area showing rights of way, areas of open access land etc. 1:25,000 scale is recommended.

They are a reflection of how things looked like on the ground at the time they were prepared, but please bear in mind that things can change over time.

If you spot any errors or omissions, or have suggestions for improvement please let us know by emailing: info@peakrunning.co.uk

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Dovedale Dipper: Section 1: Hartington to Sparklow (26-mile route only)

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
0	From the START at Hartington Village Hall go uphill and after 20 metres turn left to head down Church Street towards the pump in the village centre.	140
0.1	Turn right to follow lane past duck pond and out of the village.	390
0.5	Continue on the lane as it bears right, crosses a cattle grid and heads out into the countryside.	710
1.2	Just after Bank Top Farm go through gate and turn right onto concrete track that zig-zags uphill.	170
1.4	As the track switches back to the right go straight on through gate to take public footpath into field . Keep the stone wall on your right.	170
1.6	At the corner of the wall bear slightly left to continue on footpath across open fields, keeping roughly to the same height on the hill side.	360
1.9	At wooden a post with public footpath arrow, continue straight on across this and two more fields.	350
2.3	Go over stile and continue on footpath slightly uphill into 'access land'.	300
2.6	Go through gate as path leaves 'access land' and continue on footpath across two fields towards a small clump of trees in the near distance.	280
2.9	Go through gate by trees and conintue on footpath at it bears slightly right and climbs uphill.	130
3.0	At signpost take footpath signposted for Pilsbury and Crowdecote .	220
3.2	Go over stile in wall, through small gate immediately beyond and downhill steeply to the valley bottom .	120
3.3	At path junction in valley bottom turn right to follow footpath signposted for Vincent House and Parsley Hay .	920
4.3	Go through two small gates just before farm buildings and bear left on footpath signposted Parsley Hay towards wooden post on hill ahead.	230
4.5	At brow of hill continue in the direction of footpath arrow and down towards farm buildings - with concrete track visible on hill beyond. Take care for small vertical drop just before stile at bottom of hill.	140
4.6	Cross road and continue on public footpath through farm yard.	80

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
4.7	At far end of farm yard bear right and then left to follow concrete track uphill.	190
4.9	As concrete track bends right go straight on unsurfaced track and at top of field follow sign for Parsley Hay .	290
5.2	Bear slighly left to follow footpath along side of stone wall on your left towards farm.	280
5.5	Cross road and bear right to go over stile on far side and continue on footpath between farm buildings.	80
5.6	At far end of farm yard take footpath uphill with field wall on your right hand side.	180
5.7	Go through gate, up steps and turn left onto the High Peak Trail (former railway line).	2460
8.2	Take left fork and follow path towards former Sparklow station .	90
8.3	Arrive at Checkpoint 1 (Sparklow) .	

Distances are approximate.

TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MAP OF THE AREA

Dovedale Dipper: Section 2: Sparklow to Longnor (26-mile route only)

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
0	From Checkpoint 1 (Sparklow) continue straight on in same direction along the High Peak Trail .	1180
1.2	Bear right just before bridge under trail to take footpath down embankment and turn left to go under the bridge.	30
1.2	On emerging from bridge bear slightly right to follow footpath in general direction of farm building in the distance	160
1.4	At the road, go through small gate and turn right to follow the road.	1280
2.7	Turn right to take bridleway and then immediately turn left to follow footpath parallel to road.	300
3.0	Continue on footpath as it bends 90 degrees to the right.	230
3.2	Turn left through gate to take footpath across fields towards trees in near distance.	120
3.3	Continue on footpath through narrow strip of woodland and then bear left to take public footpath diagonally across the field (with top of Wheeldon Hill visible across valley).	170
3.5	Go through gate and bear right to take footpath diagonally across field (great view of Parkhouse and Chrome Hills ahead)	260
3.7	At next gate continue on footpath which goes diagonally right across three more fields towards a lane.	400
4.1	Turn left along lane, ignoring footpath sign on far side.	140
4.3	Turn very sharp right and follow stony track dropping steeply downhill (signed ' Unsuitable for motor vehicles ')	310
4.6	At bottom of track, turn left to take road downhill.	550
5.1	As gradient starts to level, turn right onto track.	240
5.4	As lane bends right, continue straight on to follow the public bridleway down into and up the other side of the valley ahead.	530
5.9	As the bridleway starts to drop again, continue straight on through second valley and head to right hand side of stone building .	340
6.2	Go past stone building and immediately turn left to take concrete track up hill towards Longnor.	250
6.5	Arrive at Checkpoint 2 (Longnor) .	

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TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MAP OF THE AREA

Dovedale Dipper: Section 3: Longnor to Revidge (26-mile route only)

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
0	From Checkpoint 2 (Longnor) go through gate and bear left to take tarmac lane towards village.	120
0.1	Turn right onto the main road and go downhill towards the village centre.	120
0.2	Turn left to follow footpath signposted Brund down a lane and into farm yard.	110
0.4	Turn left to follow signpost on building wall through farm yard between buildings and out of gate at far side.	50
0.4	Bear right to take footpath which heads slightly downhill towards river (signposted Brund via Riverside).	260
0.7	Bear left to go through squeeze stile and follow footpath across fields parallel to river (Manifold Trail).	970
1.6	Go across farm track and head to the left of a boggy area to gate on far side of field.	130
1.8	From gate bear slightly left to head gradually uphill across field.	330
2.1	Continue on footpath (Manifold Trail) in same direction with fence and tree line to your left.	240
2.3	On reaching a farm follow footpath arrow on tree to go through a squeeze stile, and continue on footpath , heading to the left of a stone building in the near distance.	650
3.0	Turn right to follow grassy track slightly downhill between two stone walls.	150
3.1	Go through small gate and bear slightly right to follow footpath with stone wall on your right.	150
3.3	Cross wooden footbridge and turn left to follow footpath parallel to stream for a short distance.	70
3.4	Bear right to go through gate and follow footpath along left hand side of field.	140
3.5	Go over stile to right of gate and continue with trees/fence on your left.	90
3.6	After next stile continue slightly downhill and head for stone stile in wall about 80m ahead.	130
3.7	Go through stile and turn left to follow road.	250

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
3.96	At t-junction turn right to follow road for a short distance.	80
4.04	Go over stile on left to take public footpath , which goes diagonally right on a shallow angle up field.	110
4.2	At top of first field go over stile that appears to go nowhere , and follow path as it turns left and immediately right to go up the right hand side of the next field.	180
4.3	Go over small footbridge and then stile. Cross road WITH CARE and continue in same direction on footpath on far side. Take care for sharp thorns and hidden rocks underfoot on this section, which is usually quite overgrown.	280
4.6	Near the top of the hill the footpath bears to the right.	80
4.7	Ignore stile straight ahead and turn left to follow footpath between wall and tree and continue over stile next to gate.	60
4.8	As the field widens out turn right to take footpath slightly uphill, with wire fence and decrepid stone wall on your right.	210
5.0	Of the two gates take the right hand one and continue straight on .	80
5.0	Go through gate and continue on path in same direction with relatively new fence on your left.	330
5.4	Go over stile and turn left along the road and continue straight on for 400 metres .	400
5.8	Turn left onto track and head uphill past houses on the right.	460
6.2	Go through gate to right of cattle grid to arrive at Checkpoint 3 (Revidge) .	

Distances are approximate.

TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MAP OF THE AREA

Dovedale Dipper: Section 4(1): Revidge to Wetton (Both 26-mile and 15-mile routes)

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
0	From Revidge (Checkpoint 3) take the right hand fork in the track to continue up hill .	600
0.6	Continue on track over the brow of the hill and down the other side.	250
0.9	Go through gate and continue down hill through trees with wall on your right.	300
1.2	DO NOT go through stile straight ahead. Bear left to continue alongside the wire fence to second gate.	50
1.2	Turn right to go through smaller gate and head towards squeeze stile and another gate just beyond.	100
1.3	Bear left to follow footpath through pedestrian gate next to a ruined building , and continue along right hand side of field. May be boggy just beyond gate.	100
1.4	Go through gate near house and turn right to follow stony track (signposted to Warslow).	340
1.7	60 metres before end of track turn left to take footpath across fields towards school buildings.	310
2.1	At school continue down driveway to main road and turn left along pavement.	430
2.5	At t-junction turn left to follow pavement along Cheadle Road for a short distance.	80
2.6	Cross road with CARE to take footpath on right just before first house along road, and head in the direction of stone barn in the near distance.	250
2.8	About 80 metres before stone barn , go through squeeze stile on left near wall corner and continue on footpath downhill with wall on your right.	80
2.9	At end of wall continue straight on with the hedgerow of small trees on your right.	180
3.1	Follow footpath as it bends right between trees and the immediately left to head diagonally right down hill.	90
3.2	Continue on path in same direction as it passes between remains of a wall and continues diagonally down hill. Take CARE as path steepens and becomes rocky underfoot. May be slippery if wet .	130
3.3	Go down steep steps and turn right to follow road.	120
3.4	At t-junction at end of road turn right and then, after a few metres , turn left up steep track with public footpath sign.	140

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
3.6	Continue in same direction past gothic house with copper steeple and into yard beyond.	60
3.6	Follow path to left of derelict outbuildings , under archway and through gap on left hand side of gate.	20
3.6	Turn left to go over stile, through small gate and straight on path up very steep hill , with fence/trees on your left. The path zig-zags at times to make the gradient less steep.	230
3.9	As the gradient starts to ease, continue past stone building on your left towards (BUT NOT THROUGH) large gate ahead.	60
3.9	Turn right to go uphill on path between wall and small enclosed area (old mine workings). Enjoy the panoramic views as you climb.	170
4.1	Go through gate and take public footpath straight on (NOT the concession path heading up to the right).	240
4.3	Go through gap between fence and wall and continue straight on footpath, ignoring the path going diagonally right.	110
4.4	Continue straight on footpath.	130
4.6	Continue to follow public footpath signs as it bears slightly right towards right hand corner of field.	170
4.7	At the junction of lots of paths continue straight on the path between the wall and remains of building. Signposted Lees Farm & Wetton .	330
5.1	On reaching road, turn left to head steeply downhill on the road.	80
5.2	Continue downhill on the road as it bends sharply to the left .	90
5.2	Next to driveway down to house, turn very sharp right to take footpath into woodland.	90
5.3	Turn left to continue on path through gate and downhill into bottom of valley . <i>You are heading for the path up between two hills on the far side of the valley, diagonally to your right.</i>	220
5.6	Go through small gate at bottom of hill and continue on footpath as it bears left over decrepid sections of boardwalks, and then diagonally right uphill on far side of small clump of trees.	670
6.2	Near corner in the wall on your right, continue straight on uphill on footpath, with wall on your right.	310

Distances are approximate.

TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MAP OF THE AREA

Dovedale Dipper: Section 4(2): Revidge to Wetton (Both 26-mile and 15-mile routes)

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
6.5	Go through gate and continue on footpath which goes diagonally across fields and begins to climb over the shoulder of a hill.	470
7.0	Go through small gate and squeeze stile, and continue on footpath towards Wetton village.	350
7.4	On reaching the road continue straight on downhill past the Royal Oak pub on your right.	220
7.6	Arrive at Checkpoint 4 (Wetton) , situated at a right turn junction signposted Grindon . Note: The 26-mile and 15-mile routes split at this point and go in different directions.	

Distances are approximate.

TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MAP OF THE AREA

Dovedale Dipper: Section 5: Wetton to Castern (26-mile route only)

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
0	From Checkpoint 4 (Wetton) take the footpath signposted Larkstone Lane & Manifold Valley as it heads diagonally right up across a number of fields in the direction of a stone barn on the skyline .	600
0.6	As you pass a large solitary tree on the approach to the stone barn, bear left to go over stile in wall (50m to the left of the barn) and continue downhill across field to road (Larkstone Lane).	340
0.9	Cross road and continue on footpath on far side.	60
1.0	Go through squeeze stile and bear right to follow footpath which runs along the side of the spectacular Manifold valley below on your right.	1150
2.2	Just beyond bench (in memory of Enid Goldby) head through small pedestrian gate on the left and bear diagonally right to continue on footpath.	80
2.2	Go through gate and head diagonally right across large field, following the direction of the footpath sign. Signposted ' Manifold Valley Circular Walk '.	320
2.6	Go over stile and follow footpath as it first bears left and then swings right to join a grassy track.	400
3.0	Go over stile next to gate and continue in same direction with wall on your right.	320
3.3	Continue on grassy track as it bends left towards Castern Hall .	210
3.5	Go through gate and then bear right to join farm track heading towards building at Castern Hall , signposted Ilam .	100
3.6	Arrive at Checkpoint 5 (Castern)	

Distances are approximate.

TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MAP OF THE AREA

Dovedale Dipper: Section 6: Castern to Milldale (26-mile route only)

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
0	From Checkpoint 5 (Castern) continue in same direction along stony track.	50
0.1	As the track becomes paved, turn left to take footpath heading uphill past farm buildings .	30
0.1	Go through small gate at rear of farm buildings, and head diagonally right uphill on footpath across field.	260
0.3	Go through small gate in top right hand corner of field and bear slightly left to go straight uphill towards next gate on far side of field. Note: Do not follow the direction of the footpath arrow at the gate , as this is for another right of way heading more to the right.	290
0.6	After the next gate continue in same direction over the brow of the hill, with the wall on your right.	170
0.8	Continue on footpath around the left hand side of a house to reach road just beyond it.	120
0.9	Turn left to follow road.	370
1.3	Go through small gate on the right and follow footpath diagonally left across field.	230
1.5	Go through gate and turn immediately left to go downhill and, at the next gate , bear right to head diagonally down towards two trees in valley bottom.	220
1.7	Go through gate next to trees and follow footpath as it goes straight ahead and then bears left through shallow dale.	540
2.3	At the path junction at the bottom of the dale take the footpath straight on uphill with wall on your left.	230
2.5	Turn right to follow stony track uphill for a short distance.	80
2.6	At brow of hill leave the track to go straight on public footpath signposted Milldale , and follow path as it descends towards Milldale .	500
3.1	Continue on footpath as it drops steeply downhill . Take care on rocks on this section which may be slippery if wet .	300
3.4	On reaching the road, turn right and head down the road.	170
3.6	Follow the road around to the left and continue with river on your right. Use footpath/pavement on right hand side of road.	880
4.4	Turn right at road junction to go over bridge.	40

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
4.5	On far side of bridge turn left to follow footpath signposted Beresford Dale, Wolfscote Dale & Hartington .	40
4.5	Continue along side of river for a short distance to arrive at Checkpoint 6 (Milldale) .	

Distances are approximate.

TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MAP OF THE AREA

Dovedale Dipper: Section 7: Milldale to Hartington (Both 26-mile and 15-mile routes)

Acc Distance from last CP (km)	Instruction	Distance to next instruction (m)
0	From Checkpoint 6 (Milldale) continue straight on same footpath through Wolfscoate Dale with the river on your left for 4.5km (2.8-miles) .	4500
4.5	At path junction turn right to take stony path uphill, signposted Hartington via Staden .	330
4.8	Continue on track as it bends right and slightly uphill to reach road.	170
5.0	Turn left and follow road.	320
5.3	Turn left onto track which is a footpath and cycle route 549 .	70
5.4	Continue on track as it bends right and follow it all the way to the end .	610
6.0	Turn left and follow road towards Hartington .	750
6.8	At t-junction turn left to go downhill towards village centre .	150
6.9	At cross roads cross main road (with CARE) and go straight on to Finish at village hall.	40
6.9	Arrive at FINISH (Hartington Village Hall)	

Distances are approximate.

TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MAP OF THE AREA