

Blackdown Beast 2024 – Route Instructions

Keep an eye out for white drawing pins. These mark the direction but are not on every turn!

Key:

L – Left R- Right FP - Footpath

Leg 1 – Dunkeswell to Smeatharpe (7 miles)

1. Leave the Sky Dive Centre by running towards the main road and turn right and cross road when safe to do so – TAKE CARE
2. Turn left as the main road bends towards the right opposite the Methodist Church.
3. Run down this road and start to climb up the other side.
On the day ignore instruction number 4 but continue along the road and take the first drive on your right after the footpath. This will rejoin the route at the point in the instructions 5 (bear right on the track). You will already be on this track. DO NOT USE THIS ROUTE AT ANY OTHER TIME AS IT IS PRIVATE.
4. Take the footpath part of the way up the hill to your right.
5. Follow the footpath which takes you along a wooded area and then to a gate. Follow this path along the edge of the field and you reach a track. Bear right on the track following alongside the farm to a gate in front of you.
6. Keep following the footpath along the edge of 2 fields to a small gate.
7. Turn left and follow the path with the buildings on your right to a metal gate at Bowerhayes Farm and then bear R off track across yard to gate.
8. Through gate and bear R across middle of field to stile. Then directly ahead across field to 2nd stile. Down v. Muddy track to gate. On down track but KEEP R.
9. Descend to bridge.
10. Follow path up through wood, at top bear R then over stile to plantation.
11. Straight ahead up hill to farm track. Then R on track 300m to 2 gates.
12. Take L gate then 300m on track to next gate. Keep R of hedge then drop down L of pond. Go left of stile to footbridge (red gate).
13. Keep high L up next field towards Gorwell Farm, then through L gateway in top corner not across farm yard in the R lower corner. **The farmer has asked us to use this gate even though the official footpath actually runs through the farmyard.**
14. **Go around farm buildings and then straight across field to the gate ahead of you. Bear right adjacent to the building to the track.**
15. Follow track L then ½ mile to road.
16. Left on road ½ mile then R at house then ahead onto farm road towards Newcott Barton Farm.
17. Track through yard then L at FP marker on track to gate 50m down track and bear L along bottom of field.
18. Along track to gate then carry on to road. Turn L down road 600m to FP on R (Burcombe Farm).
19. After 100m go through gate on L (FP sign) across field to gate. Along field (not into next one) then LEFT down to footbridge. Over FB and go R along hedge line then head up the hill to gate.
20. Up 100m to stone hut (hidden) and LEFT (not up) on rising track. Follow along top of field to road.
21. R on road 50m then L at junction. Follow road through farm then ½ mile down steep hill and over stream at bottom then another 100m to track on R.
22. Through gate and up field to gate on R. Along track to 2 gates. Follow FP across boggy open area, to gate. Follow track straight along up past Springdale House to main road (TAKE CARE).
23. Turn L – 100m to village hall, where refreshments await!

LEG 2 – Smeatharpe to Upottery (3 miles)

1. Outside hall turn R back the way you came and follow road and turn first L up lane (just before red dog bin). Follow ½ mile to T Junction.
2. Turn R and then 100m to FP and stile on L.
3. Follow FP across 2 fields to lane, go L then L at track and 100m up to gate.
4. Follow FP across field (**track**) towards next field – **do not follow track all the way into the next field but just before the entrance, come off the track on right corner to stile** then around top of field to another stile.
5. Straight across middle of field to stile by wood. Through gate and drop down steps through wood to lane.
6. Left on lane and 35m to footpath down steps on right. Take care as hand rail broken. Follow path over stile and keep to the right of the field. In bottom corner go through small metal gate and turn left up road to

crossroads. Turn right down road to lane which goes steeply down for 400m. Turn R at lane junction and follow muddy lane along through farmyard and on to Upottery.

7. Past village hall and round to Sidmouth Arms Pub.

LEG3 – Upottery to Luppitt (3 miles)

1. Take road past church towards Rawridge $\frac{3}{4}$ mile.
2. Through Rawridge to almost last house in village then turn R onto footpath over field. Can ignore FP sign and go down easier lane a few yards further on
3. Down to river bridge and across.
4. Diagonally L across field to stile in far corner.
5. **THERE IS PRESENTLY WORK BEING DONE AND THE FOOTPATH HAS BEEN REROUTED. GO AROUND THE TAPE AND BACK PASSED THE PLAY AREA** into lane, turn right and go past Otter Falls Leisure Complex. Continue straight up lane to lane intersection.
6. At intersection follow track L then R and on up 400m to house.
7. There is a FP stile on R just by entrance gate. FP runs alongside drive.
8. Up footpath and along to footbridge. Up through wood (boggy) to stile then follow path diagonally climbing R up hill to gate.
9. Up diagonally R across field to another gate. Through gate then L and then immediately R.
10. 300m on track to stile and lookout point above Luppitt.
11. Straight across road and down steep track 100m to road. Straight across this road 200m to another road.
12. L on road and follow road $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to T Junction in Luppitt. Turn R and climb hill to Luppitt Inn.

LEG 4 – Luppitt to Dunkeswell (3 miles)

1. Just down hill from Luppitt Inn take the FP up the lane on R and follow to gate.
2. Follow hedge line to small bridge over a dyke then on to a small gate.
3. Through the gate then diagonally R up to second gate.
4. Go STRAIGHT AHEAD (Arrow points diagonally – ignore) to lower gap in hedge (large tree in middle of gap and FP post on the R). Through gap and then continue ahead following hedge (on R) to the road.
5. Turn RIGHT and follow lane.
6. ROUTE CHANGE - Follow lane all the way to the junction - DO NOT TURN LEFT at the thatched cottage as in previous years.
7. Turn left at T junction.
8. Follow road all the way to the main road – do not turn off before.
9. Cross main road towards Lake View Manor and run down the hill and up the other side.
10. The road levels off and continue on this road. You will go past a track on your right on a corner marked with several house names –IGNORE THIS and go on to the next right turn.
11. Turn right down a hill and follow this road past some lakes on your left.
12. Continue following this road as it bends around to the right ignoring 2 left turns.
13. Take the next left up towards the main road and opposite the Methodist Church will be in front of you.
14. Retrace your steps at the start of the run to take you back up the main road and left towards the Sky Dive Centre.