

1 Mammoth route description

Section1. Discovery Centre to Little Stretton Village Hall 18.47km.

Total distance 18.47KM

1. Start at the Mammoth Tusks. Go ahead for 30 metres only and turn left, following the path leading past the community garden to a gate leading into a lane. As the lane splits in 100m, keep ahead and continue for 200m to a metal footbridge.
2. Cross the bridge then keep ahead, to go between the two telegraph poles. After these, look ahead for a metal gate in the far hedge.
3. Go through the gate and follow around the field edge to reach a stile into a road. Cross the road **TAKE CARE HERE** and go through the kissing gate on the opposite side. Continue ahead following the path through two fields, climbing all the way through the wooded area to the ridge line.
4. At the marker on the ridge line, turn left and continue for 100m to a second marker. Here bear half right, following the path (indistinct at first) down to a gate and stile in the field corner.
5. Go over the stile and turn right along the lane. Ignore the turning on the left and then at the fork, bear left, direction Lower Dinchope. When you get to the grassy triangle, bear right and immediately cross the lane and go up the drive into Meadowbank Farm (Hills and Dales Hike marker)
6. Go through the gate and bear slight right across the field to the far hedge. Here turn right and climb with the hedge on your left to enter the woods. Here turn left and follow the path along the woodland edge for 250 metres. Ignore the first path on your right but look for the second in a further 30 metres (blue Flounders Folly marker). Stay on this path for 1km in total, following the blue markers, as it climbs and zigzags all the way to the ridgeline path. Note, the path drops slightly before the final steps up to the ridge.
7. At the ridge path, turn left **CAREFUL OF THE MISSING PLANK ON THE WOODEN BOARDWALK** and continue for 300m to reach the **checkpoint at Flounders' Folly (SO 460 849)**
8. Exit the tower heading NW via a gate. Do not take footpath on the left heading steeply downhill, instead continue ahead on the well-marked path leading gently downhill. Go round the hairpin and continue down to reach a gravel area and a track. Continue on the track to get to a barrier. Go round this to get to the **Checkpoint at Moorwood (SO 456 853)**
9. At the lane, continue ahead, bear left at the grassy triangle (no through road), then in 200m, as the lane bears right, bear left into a track heading through the gate. Follow this track for 300m to a T junction at Wenlock Edge.
10. Here, turn right and take the path which continues along the top of Wenlock Edge.
11. Follow this path for 2.6km, which will feel like a lot further, ignoring any paths leading off to the left and right and stay on this path all the way to the signpost and **self-clip at SO 472 873. THE**

CP IS PARTLY OBSCURED BY A FALLEN TREE, SO TAKE GREAT CARE NOT TO GO STRAIGHT PAST IT. Go around the fallen tree and look left for the self-clip.

12. At the self-clip, take the path on the left signposted Acton Scott and Church Stretton. Continue downhill to exit the wood, then turn left with the hedge and wood on your left. At the end of the hedge, turn half left to field bottom and (partly hidden) footbridge. Cross the bridge then head diagonally right across the field, passing the corner of the building, to a small gate leading to a road.
13. Cross the road then go through a gate into a field. Here follow the path through the elephant grass for 400m to reach a small gate into a track.
14. Turn right and continue for 300m to reach the track end. Here go between the two oak trees and continue ahead through the middle of the field, aiming for the fallen pine at the far end.
15. At the end of the field, look for the path through the trees, taking you over 2 stiles then follow the SW arrow, half left across the field, aiming for a large oak tree. Here you generally continue in a similar direction, perhaps bearing slightly to the right.
16. At the end of the field, you will see a gate in the hedge ahead of you. Go through the gate and follow the marker arrow, heading half right, down to a gate at the edge of a wood. Through gate and turn half left heading up the field with the fence on your left towards another small wood.
17. At the field corner, enter the wood via a gate and follow the path through the wood for 200m to exit the wood and follow the path across a small field to a gate and stile leading into Acton Scott farm car park. Head half right across the car park to a gate into the lane.
18. Turn left along the lane for 600m to reach a crossroads. Here turn right (signposted Ragdon 1.5M) Continue on this lane for 1200m until the road bends sharp right.
19. Go around this right-hand bend and continue for another 1200m, to reach the driveway to Dryhill Farm (just after the second lane joins from the right).
20. Go up this driveway until it bends left in 100m. Here continue ahead up the grassy path up to a kissing gate and clip at the **self-clip Dryhill Meadow (SO 460 923)**. Go through the gate and continue up the field to a second kissing gate. Here turn left and go up the wide grassy path leading up to Ragleth Hill.
21. When you get to the big rock across the path, keep the rock to your left and then in 10m, turn left and follow the wide, grassy path along the ridgeline.
22. Follow this path for 1km to reach the **self-clip at Ragleth summit (SO 451 917)**
23. Continue ahead, descending steeply to a stile. Go over the stile and follow the faint grassy path which bears diagonally right and descends to a gate. Go through this gate, then another gate when the path becomes a track. Follow the track down and keep right as it becomes a lane. Continue to join the A49.
24. On reaching the A49, **CROSS WITH GREAT CARE**, turn right and continue for 125m, then turn into Crown Lane, over the railway bridge and up to the staggered crossroads of Little Stretton by The Green Dragon
25. Go across the staggered crossroads and continue ahead on the narrow lane signposted "To the village hall". Continue for 250 metres to the **checkpoint at little Stretton Village Hall (GR 442 917)**.

Section 2. Little Stretton Village Hall- Midland Glider Club 8.27 KM

Total distance, 26.74 KM

1. On leaving the CP, turn right along the road and then after passing Brook Farm, the road bends sharply right. Here fork left and follow the road past Brook House and take the footbridge over the stream. **Please note, the SW80K and Mammoth routes split here, so don't follow the herd!**
2. Immediately after the footbridge, go over the stile on your right heading up through the campsite to a stile at the end.
3. Continue ahead through the next field to another stile, continue ahead to cross the stream via a footbridge in 100m. Continue ahead now with the stream on your left and simply follow this path for 4km. There are no path splits or junctions, just a couple of stream crossings, but just continue to follow the stream.
4. Eventually, the path levels and comes out at a road. Here turn left and then in 20m, as the road bends left, fork right on a track marked with a pink arrow.
5. Follow this track for 300m to a crossroads at the ridgeline and turn left to follow the main path to the summit. **This is a self-clip Pole Bank summit SO 415 944**
6. After the self-clip, continue heading south on the track for 400m to reach the road. Here bear right and continue along the road for just over 2km to reach a left turn into the Midland Gliding Club.
7. Turn into the gliding club over the cattle grid, then fork right and continue along the permissive route (signposted, rather bizarrely "Starboard Way") which takes you around the right-hand side of the gliding club. **PLEASE USE THIS WAYMARKED ROUTE RATHER THAN THE MAIN SHROPSHIRE WAY ROUTE SHOWN ON THE MAP.** When you reach the back of the gliding club buildings, you will see the CP in the garden. Go through the gate to reach the **checkpoint at Midland Gliding Club SO 401 916**

Section 3 Midland Gliding Club- Bottom of Wart Hill 10.31 KM

Total distance 37.05 KM

1. Leave the CP and continue south on the path past the glider club
2. When you get to a path crossroads in 700m, join the main track for 10m, then take the right fork. The SW Way marker has fallen down here, but you need to be on a bearing of 217 degrees, along the path marked with orange-topped posts.
3. Continue along this path, through a gate into Handless Long Mynd (National Trust sign). At the next gate, at the corner of a pinewood, ignore the two footpaths on the left, instead go through the gate and continue ahead bearing 220 degrees.

4. Continue along this path with the fence on your left to another gate. Go through the gate and continue in the same direction, now with the fence to your right. Generally, the paths are quite indistinct on this section, but if you keep straight, you will come off the hill at the right spot.
5. Go through the next gate in 500m, where the path becomes a track. After 30m, take the more obvious right-hand fork. Continue along this path, ignoring the right-hand turn and continuing in the same direction, heading down hill, through another gate and over a cattle grid to reach a road.
6. At the road, turn sharp left, over the cattle grid and continue for 300m until the lane bends left.

ON EVENT DAY ONLY WE HAVE SPECIAL PERMISSION TO TURN RIGHT HERE (instruction 6a.) ON THE DRIVEWAY THROUGH THE HOUSES. ON NO ACCOUNT MUST YOU USE THIS SHORTCUT WHEN RECCYING THE COURSE. On reccy days, please follow instruction 6b.

6a. Event Day Only Here turn right into the driveway and continue for 150m to join the main road. Here turn right and then **CROSS WITH GREAT CARE** in 100metres and turn left into the lane to cross the river Onny.

6b. Reccy days only. Continue on the lane for 150 metres to join the main road. Turn right (almost a double back) and **CROSS WITH GREAT CARE**. In 300 metres, turn left into the lane and cross the river Onny.

7. Ignore the turning on the right for Choulton. After 200m, turn left into a lane. Stay on the lane for 900m then take the track on the left, signposted Shropshire Way. After 50m, take the track on the right, then after a further 20m, take the left fork, so that you are following the middle of the three tracks, signposted Shropshire Way.
8. Follow this path to the hairpin. Here bear left and take the path that climbs, not the sharper left heading downhill. Ascend for 300 metres, then as the track levels, you reach a cross track. Go straight across the cross track and take the narrow path on your right, through the trees leading to a small gate in 20m. **TAKE CARE NOT TO MISS THIS.**
9. Go through the gate and head down the field with the hedge on your left. Stay on this path going through several small fields for 800m in total, keeping the hedge on your left. When the path becomes a track, bear left for 20m to a gate in the left-hand field corner.
10. Go through the gate to join lane. Turn left and continue on the lane for 100m to a T-junction. Here go straight across passing Little Meadow on the right and take the path on the right, downhill . Follow this path for 100m, to reach a gate leading into a track.
11. Go left on the track, which may be muddy, for 200m to reach a gate. Go through the gate, then in 30m, as the track bends left, go up the steep steps on your right. At the top of the steps, continue to climb to the ridgeline, then descend through another field to reach a gate and stile into the mouth of a track. **DO NOT TURN LEFT DOWN THIS TRACK,** instead bear right for 10m across the mouth of this track to reach a lane.
12. Go left on the lane (there is no Shropshire Way signpost here). Stay on the lane for 1300m, ignoring roads to the left and right to reach a small pull-in on the left. This is the CP. Do not clip here as you need to clip at the summit CP, instead go through the CP, through a gate on the left and follow the path for 30m to the junction. Here turn left. Continue on the path which climbs steeply, is joined by a track from the right then forks after 100m. At the fork go right and continue to climb steeply for 100m to the trig point at the summit. **This is the self-clip Wart Hill Summit (SO 400 847)** You may think it rather perverse to drag you up this hill and back down again, but I needed to gain a

few hundred metres to get up to the full marathon distance, and also, I think it's such a lovely spot, that I just had to share it with you.

Return to the CP for refreshments. **Wart Hill Base Checkpoint (SO 401 846)**

Section 4 Wart Hill Base to Discovery Centre (Finish) 5.6KM

Total Distance 42.65 KM

1. Leave the refreshment area turning left along the lane. Carry on for 100m, then turn right into a track, go through the gate and continue ahead on the path leading up onto Hopesay Hill. Stay on this path for 1km in total, going through a gate after 400m, and keeping the hedge on your left. After 1km, you get to the self-clip at **Hopesay Hill Path Junction SO 401 835** Turn left, following the signpost which says Craven Arms 2½ miles.
2. Continue ahead, keeping the fence and woodland to your right, passing through 1 gate and stile. At the second farm gate, go through the new metal gate just before it and follow the direction of the orange Shropshire Way marker down through the field.
3. At the bottom left field corner, look for a stile next to a house. Go over the stile and again follow the orange arrow diagonally across the field, aiming for the middle one of the three oak trees. When you get to the marker post by the middle tree, follow the arrow to the gate in the hedge by the large ash tree.
4. Go through the gate, cross a little footbridge, through a metal gate go across a small field for 70m, to reach another metal gate leading into a carriage drive. **Here you must leave the Shropshire Way for a short while at the request of the landowner.** Turn right down the carriage drive for 300m to a crossroads. Here turn left along the lane for a further 300m to a stile on the right signposted Shropshire way. **CAREFUL NOT TO MISS THIS**
5. Go over the stile to re-join the Shropshire Way. Go down the field heading further left than the arrow indicates to the bottom left field corner. Here go through the gate, turn right and continue through three further fields keeping the hedge on your right, to arrive at a kissing gate.
6. Go through kissing gate, follow the path between the houses for 60m to a path split. At the path split, turn right and continue for 100m to a road. Cross the road and turn right. After 150m, as the road bends left, cross to the SW fingerpost and head down a little road for 100m to a T-junction which is a dead end for traffic. **Cross the road ahead with care** and turn right, then, after 20m, take the turning on the left signposted Rowton and Shelderton. Continue for 200m, under the railway bridge to a stile immediately after this on your left. Do not take the footpath on the left just before the railway bridge, as there are owls down there!
7. Go over the stile and follow the orange SW marker through four fields, keeping the railway embankment to your left.
8. After four fields, as the path leaves the railway line, bear slight right heading towards a group of Ash trees. After the Ash trees, the path bends left towards a lane with a gate and stile. Go over the stile into the lane. Continue on the lane to reach a housing estate. Here continue ahead for 200m, as the road bends right, turn left on the footpath to the main road. Here turn left to the pedestrian

crossing. Cross here, turn right and turn into school lane and the Discovery Centre, where you will see the finish line at the front entrance, **and the Finish at SO 435 824**