

**THE LANCASHIREMAN OFF-ROAD MARATHON**  
**WRITTEN COURSE DESCRIPTION**

- 1) Go along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal towpath on the 'Straight Mile' until you cross the aqueduct (approx 3km) over the River Brun.
- 2) Turn left, descend and pass under the aqueduct. Follow the riverside along the Brun Valley Greenway for approx. 700m through Bank Hall Park and past allotments.
- 3) Turn left onto Netherwood Road. 100m on by Heasonford House. Look for the oak carved marker and turn right up the lane. After 50m turn right onto the woodland track. Continue east for 1km along the track. When you leave the woodland, cross Netherwood Bridge. The Bronte Way shares the next section of your route.
- 4) After 100m bear right along the wooded riverbank. Continue through the woods past a footbridge and up steps on the north bank of Swinden Water. Through a gate continue for 1km crossing pastureland and Houghton Hag Wood (look for the Forest of Burnley signs). After the woodland, stick to the lower path, continue North East following alongside Swinden Water for approx. 1km with the Hurst Well Plantation on the opposite banking for a while.
- 5) Before Lee Green Reservoir gates go left on a trod up the field to a lane. Turn left and pass Extwistle Hall ruin and Houghton Farm (painted white). 200m beyond, between the farm out buildings, the track goes through a gap stile with a small woodland plantation to the right.
- 6) 200m down beyond the woodland, pass through two stiles, then turn right before the third stile and traverse a rushy field following the fence side to a footbridge across the River Don. Over the bridge, carefully climb up the flagged 'Oggly-Coggly' path turning right at the top.
- 7) Cross the two broad fields to the wooded fringe of Briercliffe recreation ground. Turn left up the stone track, up towards Queen Mill Textile Museum.
- 8) DIVERSION FROM BURNLEY WAY: After metal barrier, turn right along top of park (behind playground), approx 100m turn left up track between allotments. At top turn right to re-join Burnley Way and original route. Cross a field to a second kissing gate behind Rose Cottages and follow the lane to Todmorden Road.
- 9) Turn right down the road. After 100m take the lane left by Lower Cockden Farm keeping to your left hand side. Cross the fields for nearly 1km to Inghams Farm. Go through the yard and turn left into Black House Lane and up 200m to Shores Hey Farm.
- 10) At Shores Hey Farm, turn right through the gate, keep left narrow track behind the modern outbuilding (Cafe). Follow the track for 500m then cross a stone stile. Keeping the wall close to your right, cross one field to a stile by a gateway. Descend South to metal gate to cross a tributary of Thursden Brook and continue South East for approx 160m to treeline.
- 11) Turn sharp right at fence following the hedge down to the footbridge over Thursden Brook. Carefully climb the steps up Ell (Alder) Scar and go up the right hand side of the field passing the Forest of Burnley sign.
- 12) At the field corner, turn left onto the track to Park Wood via a further field, look for the Forest of Burnley sign. Follow the path through the kissing gate and the wood to another kissing gate. Once through descent towards Thursden Brook. Walk along the bank eventually crossing a footbridge before turning right along an indistinct valley footpath to Ridehalgh Lane. Turn right and follow the road to the checkpoint.

**CHECKPOINT 1 - END OF LEG 1**

- 13) Cross over the cattle grid and continue climbing up the road to its summit, descend into Yorkshire approx. 500m down the road.
- 14) Continue (past the 68 marker on the map) and turn right at metal gate onto grass track for 140m then turn right over Footbridge, following left up steps onto signposted Burnley Way and climb up above Widdop Reservoir.
- 15) Bear right at the Gorple track junction (not the new Pennine Bridleway) and follow it uphill back into Lancashire (yay!) for 3km passing Gorple Stones on the map.
- 16) Descend after the gate down the track to Hurstwood Brook bearing left to the head of Hurstwood Reservoir. On your right signposted cross a small footbridge and climb the steep track around the northern end of the plantation.
- 17) Follow the path alongside the plantation down through a kissing gate to the hamlet of Hurstwood.
- 18) Continue through village, bearing left by Hurstwood Guest House onto trail, follow the track up beside Rose Cottage and turn left into Foxstones Lane. Continue for over 1km past Crow Holes and 100m beyond Middle Pasture Farm take the left fork stile of the old track leading to Shedden Clough.
- 19) Continue to follow the track, which now forms part of the Pennine Bridleway. Head up past the small woodland and take the permissive path left up to the United Utilities car park opposite the site of Maiden Cross.

## **CHECKPOINT 2 - END OF LEG 2**

- 20) Go left onto Long Causeway with wind farm on your right. Where the road turns sharp left, continue on Farm Track and cross stile on your right near the gate.
- 21) Continue to the farm on the indistinct path through rushy pasture to another stile by the farm. Turn right and head down the rushy field keeping to the West side of the Clough Valley. You will descend a sharp dip before climbing to a stile with a Forest of Burnley sign behind it.
- 22) Cross through this plantation and follow the two marker posts on the brow of the valley

- side before continuing, then descending over the stiles through Forest of Burnley plantation to a track leading to a kissing gate opposite a cottage beside the stream below a small waterfall. STAY HIGH do not descend to the stream. BEWARE of the steep drop away from the path.
- 23) Turn right onto Coal Clough Lane then after 20m fork left onto a track, go down the track and cross over stream then climb up steep lane through the wood, over cattle grid to Brown Birks. Fork left between the buildings and after 75m again over a stile.
- 24) The path contours round the hillside of Cliviger Gorge (there are several paths around here), descend soon to a track leading to a level crossing. Cross with care and take Station Parade to the main road at Portsmouth.
- 25) Turn right and continue along the main road. Carefully cross the road and ascend a steep track on the left for several hundred metres. Turn right off the track and head West South West up to the summit of Heald Moor (aprx bearing 243° for 650m).
- 26) At the summit bear right to the North West (304°) following an indistinct path along the broad ridge crossing a faint track and follow wall before ascending approx 2km further on to the Trig Point on Thieveley Pike (the highest point on The Burnley Way).
- 27) Cross the stile and descend to your right approx. due North, crossing a track half-way down and skirting the edge of Dean Scout Rocks by keeping the fence just to your right before reaching the Forest of Burnley plantation below a kissing gate at the derelict Thieveley Farm ruin.
- 28) The steep descent heads down through a wide ride in the new woodland to another kissing gate and continues between Buckley and Dodbottom Woods. Descend this steep section with care. At the lane, head left before swinging right under the railway to join the Pennine Bridleway not far beyond.

## **WATER POINT**

- 29) Continue along the Pennine Bridleway signposted left past Scout Farm. Go along the track and left up under the railway bridge, not the farm buildings straight on
- 30) Beyond the Farm the track crosses a marshy pasture to Stone House Fold. Continue straight on leaving the Pennine Bridleway (which swings up left) to 50m beyond the bridge over Easden Clough stream.
- 31) Continue along the lane for 1km to the hairpin bend at the metalled minor road. Turn right downhill and after 350m just beyond the driveway to Dyneley Hall, turn right through a gap in the wall. Cross the footbridge and head up through the field with Dyneley wall close to your right. Traverse the next field heading down to carefully cross the railway (CAUTION) and the A646 beyond. Straight over the road, turn left down a path beside housing over a footbridge to Park Road. Go left for 100m.
- 32) By Cliviger Mill Bridge turn right up the track to Barcroft Hall. Passing to the left of the buildings climb up a large field to a kissing gate near a lone hawthorn. Cross another large field to Cliviger Laithe.
- 33) Bear left through two gates then descent a field to skirt Wet Marl Wood and over the footbridge of River Calder (stream) and turn right along path into Towneley Park.
- 34) Follow the path along the river before bearing left through the Sports Pavilion Car Park then head left up The Avenue, through the gate to the right, to Towneley Hall.
- 35) Pass to the left in front of Towneley Hall, around the back and take the path behind up to the right to Foldy's Cross and Barwise Car Park Picnic Site.
- 36) Turn right and carefully cross Todmorden Road. Head up the sloping track following the marker posts between the houses. Past a gate about 150m from the road, turn right parallel to the railway on lower path, go through the woods and the Wayside Arts development onto The Kilns (housing development).
- 37) Continue to the end of The Kilns (ignoring signpost of Burnley Way), turn left up Rock Lane. At the end of Rock Lane, continue straight onto an indistinct path in the trees. Continue on path through kissing gate, several gates and stiles for approx 300m until you reach Howorth Road.
- 38) Turn right and continue on Howorth Road track for approx. 500m.
- 39) At playing field on the left and first houses on the right, turn immediately right onto Healey Wood Road. Continue over the railway footbridge at end via track and continue straight over canal bridge. Bear right and circle under the same bridge. Continue on canal towpath for 600m to the start, proceed over the footbridge to Finish at Victoria Mill.

### **FINISH - END OF LEG 3**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
YOU'VE COMPLETED THE  
LANCASHIREMAN!**

**RACE CONTROL CONTACT NUMBER  
07725 357 024**

**Here the course leaves the signposted  
Burnley Way.**