

CLOUD 7 CIRCUIT
O/S MAP 118 and. 119

A 33 mile High Level, Any time Challenge Route in North Staffs and Cheshire with some 5,400ft. of ascent, which should only be attempted by experienced walkers with necessary equipment and proven stamina.

Parking on Staffs Way car park GR.935625 by Knott Inn
Start/Finish. Royal Oak at Rushton Spencer GR. 939624.

From Royal Oak, left out of car park. After 100yds turn Right to follow narrow lane. When lane bends to Right over stile by gate on left. Continue with wood on right to cross field diagonally to gap stile by white house "Edgecroft" on lane GR946624. Turn left for 200yds and stile on right. Cross field to wall corner and with wall on left. Reach lane at Axestones Spring. Left on lane for 30yds and right at signpost over wall stile. Next stile bottom left of field. Now head for telegraph pole in middle of field and gate beyond. At top of rise turn right on Overhouses Drive to road GR 956617. Turn left to pass Broadmoss Farm. After ½ m left and go over 2 sets of crossroads and continue up 'No Exit Road' for ½ml passing 'Isle Farm' on left and after a few 100yds gate and stile on right Path now South to 'The Gun PH' GR 970615.

Now North East through bracken to 'New Zealand Farm' 972617. Over stile and left to reach concrete track and right to 'Oldhay Top Farm'. When track turns left to farm, stile ahead South East and now over wall stile. Keep to South East and head for marker and bushes to bridge and stile with John Merrills name. Continue to cross Farm track and stile. Turn left on concrete track to road GR 988617. Turn left and then right at Roche Grange sign and continue for 500yds. Stile on right before Cottage on bend. Over stile and ignore stile ahead and bear left to cross stream. Path now East North East across field to stile and with fence on left ascend slope to Pheasants Clough Farm gate. Don't enter farmyard, but turn right South East to Windygates Farm track and then to lane GR 006617. Turn right to Checkpoint 1 at Roaches House Drive GR 006615. 5¼ miles.

Path up Hen Cloud and then North West to descend Hen Cloud and climb over The Roaches to Roach End. Cross lane and thro wall stile and Immediately Turn right over stile and continue descent, wall on right down stone steps. Continue ahead thro Back Forest. When path forks halfway downhill Turn left on marked path which eventually heads down to Black Brook. Ignore 1st Gradbach Mill sign and go over bridge and brook at 2nd Gradbach post. Now left over wall stile to shortly reach Checkpoint 2 at Gradbach Mill Y.H.A. GR 994660. 8¼ miles.

Cross footbridge over River Dane and head North West walk uphill on

concession path to Burntcliff Top, cross road and continue up track for 1 mile to A54 At Tagsclough Hill. Cross road to barn and now North West to corner of wood. Over stile and down muddy track. Now North diagonal across field to stile, path, and bridge to emerge on road at Crag Inn GR 983686. Turn right and then left up track marked private GR 983687 and climb Shutlingsloe Hill. Descend to North with stile shortly on left. Path North West towards Macclesfield Forest. On entering forest turn North immediately right on to wide track to reach crossroads at GR 978715.

Turn right down road. At next junction take track North North East through gate to Broughsplace. In farmyard take small gate on left to cross bridge. Right now to 100yds before 'Torgate Farm' at GR 987724. Turn Right on concession path East leading to Shining Tor/Cat and Fiddle. Follow markers to cross stream and gradually climbing round to North to emerge on A537 at Checkpoint 3. GR998724. 14 miles.

Cross road and take track to right of Restaurant to Stake Farm Stile on right before Farm After short distance stile on left now heading North West to Shining Tor Trig point. Don't climb over stile to Trig.- (Trig. Point No. Required on anytime challenge at Shining Tor) but Continue North with wall on left for 100yds and over stile for Lamaload Reservoir. Path swings round to North and then West at 'Eaves Farm'. Now path and stream to lane at Lamaload Reservoir. Turn left on lane. Shortly after passing barn on right concession path on right across reservoir feeder to track. Turn right and at Ballgreave Farm GR 973746 turn left West South West to climb slope and continue over several stiles to reach A537 at 957738. Cross road and at Setter Dog pub take lane West South West with gradual ascent to Information point and toilets below Teggs Nose. Checkpoint 4 GR 950732 19 miles.

Continue to Plinth at top of Teggs Nose, and then start descent from path below summit at GR 947724. Steep Descent to reservoir, then turn right to Main St. Langley. Continue through village in West direction to row of houses on left and fingerpost at 936714. South now and up slope to gate and lane at Ridgehill. Turn left 300yds cross lane and turn right on track to Ridgehill Farm forward into farmyard and turn right between barn and farmhouse to stile and path South West to further lane at GR 937700. Turn Left. and then right after 300yds at Foxbank Farm Head West up slope for approx ½ml. Over ladder stile and turn left South still uphill to Post Office tower Croker Hill. Now stile on left by house and path East and then South East to exit on A54. Turn Left. 50yds and join Gritstone Trail at GR 942674. Follow track for 1½mile to Checkpoint 5 at GR 937655 26 miles.

Path divides here for Shorter Route of 28 miles. Directions at foot of page.

For walkers doing full Route 33 miles.

Over stile and South for ¼mile to overhead power cables. Path "U" bends to right downhill to cross stream and then rising to concession path on right around Stilemeadow Farm. Track now to lane. Turn right to Dam wall at Bosley Reservoir. Turn left halfway along Dam wall, stile in hedge at foot of Dam. Head West South West to gate and turn right to exit at stile before Chaff Hall at A523T. (Beware Traffic). Cross road and turn right for 300yds and turn left at Church. Path now continues South West to emerge after ½mile under disused railway. Cross River Dane and uphill on lane for ¼mile to Checkpoint 6 at foot of The Cloud. GR 903640 30 miles.

Ascend The Cloud and then descend to the South. At lane turn left for 150yds and over stile on RIGHT (Now follow Staffs Way 2½ miles to finish). From stile head East for ½mile to lane and turn right. When lane bends left follow lane to 920637. Stile on right to cross fields and enter wood. Exit wood and with River Dane on left continue to steps up to disused railway track where Staffs Way and Gritstone Trail meet. Turn right on disused track ¾ mile to Knott Inn and continue on Staffs Way for 150 yds to pass under bridge. Turn left up to track and path to Finish at Royal Oak at Rushton Spence GR 939624 33 miles.

For Walkers doing the Shorter 28 mile Route.

From GR 937655. on Bosley-Wincle Minn, continue on track through Hawkslee Farm. Before bungalow turn left at signpost Barleighford. In field head South East following Gritstone Trail to enter wood and cross Shell Brook. Now up path with fence on left. Path turns right, South at GR 949648 to pass old cottage. 300yds before Barleighford Farm take diverted path on right with lots of Gritstone Trail markers. Path emerges on track over River Dane GR 944637. Turn left. and then right on track ¼ mile leading to lane back to Royal Oak at Rushton Spencer and Finish GR 939624.

This CLOUD 7 CIRCUIT (OPEN EVENT) is being organised by STAFFORDSHIRE LDWA.

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