**Elsecar Skelter Route Description 2018**

WM –Waymarked - RRR – Rotherham Ring Route - BBW – Barnsley Boundary Walk

**Start** - Market Hotel - Elsecar - GR 384 997

Leave Market Hotel and Turn Right down Wath Road to take first turn right down Distillery Side.

Over railway crossing and straight ahead up path. Where path forks keep left on main path. Path swings to right and levels off, at path junction (clearing) look for stile on left into field. Cross stile and go ahead up field to stile on skyline. Over stile and ahead on same line towards 3 trees & next stile where ahead on path following concrete posts (passing the Needles Eye folly on the right – Look out for plague pot to the left of kissing gate) to meet road. (SK397 988)

Cross road and continue down Street Lane (almost opposite). After last row of cottages take waymarked path on left and go diagonally right across field to wood. Cross stile into wood to Turn Left. Ignore path on left after 20yds and Bear Ahead through wood to pass to right of Hoober Stand.

Just past Hoober Stand at T junction of paths Turn Right and go ahead downhill on path to meet track. Turn Left down track to road.

At road Turn Left through Hoober village to find path on right at wooden kissing gate at drive entrance (Huthwaite International) towards corner of wood (*WM RRR*). Go through third kissing gate and follow path across field to emerge on road by cottages. (SK420 977)

Turn Right on road and follow road & footpath over brow of hill to village of Nether Haugh. At road junction cross with care and continue down main road after approx 50yds Turn Right (just past post-box) on track to pass cottages. Bear Right on tarmac track and take path to left of number 19. Go forward on path (with trees and the Mausoleum (hidden) on the right) to corner of field and Turn Left down hawthorne hedge to Field Corner (WM). Now with hedge on left, at end of hedge follow path right across field (260deg) to meet hedge, where Turn Left to descend to cross stream at footbridge. Continue Forward across next field (260deg) to find track & stile top right hand corner (head for dead tree). Exit field and Turn Right on lane and follow it uphill to cross cattle grid into Wentworth Woodhouse Park. (SK406 965)

When track bears left and Wentworth Woodhouse comes in view take footpath on right towards wooden fence and tarmac drive to right of house. At drive Continue Forward uphill past impressive stable block to go through park entrance gates and onto public road. Turn Left down road past Home Farm to next road junction (Hague Lane) where Turn Left and quickly Right through gates (permissive) to tarmac track towards Wentworth Church. Go past right of church to T junction where Turn Left on lane to

**Checkpoint 1. - Coach Road ,Wentworth GR (SK 383 982).**

From checkpoint continue forward on lane passing over brow of hill to where lane forks at Spittalhouses (Oak Tree Cottage). Take left hand track (TPT) passing to left of buildings to follow track Bearing Right and through wooden gate towards road. Just before road take track Left downhill parallel with road. At bottom of hill Turn Right, cross road and take tree lined path opposite uphill. On reaching gate ignore path to left through bridlegate & woods and Turn Right through metal gate by telegraph pole to go ahead up field between fences to meet edge of wood. Turn Left up edge of wood to cross a stile where track turns right and go ahead in same direction (306 deg) across field to find stile and road. Turn Left on busy road to cross motorway. Cross with care and take first road on right (Warren Lane). (SK360 974)

Continue forward to end of Warren Lane and just before T junction take tarmac track to right to meet and cross busy road. Bear Right across road entrance into industrial estate and take signed footpath to the left (ignore yellow topped stile). Go forward on tarmac track with industrial units on left to meet metal barrier, cross road and continue ahead on obvious path with Stocksbridge Bypass on right. Continue forward on undulating path with main road on right, ignore paths to left and at wooden direction post (Tankersley) continue in same direction as path rises, levels and then falls to meet wide gravel track coming obliquely from the left just as path starts to rise again and before power cables (WM). Turn left to descend through woods on track to meet open grassy area. Turn right along wire fence to

**Checkpoint 2 (Westwood Country Park) GR (SK 341 986).**

**For 15 mile route go to \*\***

From CP

Take path between wooden posts through woodland and at top of hill Bear Right downhill and at foot of hill where path bends to left Turn Right to meet road by bridge over stream. Cross road and go ahead on path through wood to find stile and emerge on very busy main road. Turn Left towards driveway. At driveway look for footpath sign hidden in hedge on the other side of the road. **Cross busy and wide main road with extreme caution as traffic travels at high speed** and pass through gap opposite side.

Through hedge, down steps Turn Right (ignore path into wood), walk along field headland with stream and woodland to right. When hedge bears to left path Bears Right down to muddy pond. Follow main path Bearing Left then Right of pond and take field path diagonally Left (*WM BBW*-284deg) to end of hedge line. Follow path on left of hedge to cross stone stile to left of gate and meet road. (SK328 987)

Turn Left and at junction Left again to follow Bromley Carr Road into Howbrook village. At crossroads in centre of village take road straight ahead (passing to left of cross and seat) to find what seems to be private drive (12 Berry Lane) on right after after approx 20 yds. Go forward up drive to car park.

(*This next 2 paragraphs may be tricky, as the farmer has over sown the path – the route first heads along right field edge then follows power lines then heads across the field to wood corner)*

Go forward over stile and up stone steps to the right of the barn to bear Right up field with hedge and stream on right. At power line pole (gap on right) Bear Left towards power pole (*WM BBR*) head same direction towards second pole. At 2nd pole Turn Right to reach large tree at corner of wood (*WM BBR*). (SK317 982)

Path goes down left side of wood and where wood bears to left continue forward on narrow path and follow it steeply downhill to stream. Path bears to right and before it crosses 2nd stream Bear Left take path uphill on left side of wood to meet road. (SK315 980)

Cross road to take Stile opposite Continue forward to stile and gate Turn Left with fence on left to Turn Right at field corner and continue with hedge on left to next corner. Cross stile and Turn Right with hedge now on right to meet wall. At wall Turn Left, go through gap in wall and continue forward to road arriving at.

**Checkpoint 3 - Cundy Cross GR (SK 311 976).**

**27 mile route diverges here (for 27 mile route see supplement)**

From CP

Turn Right to road junction and cross ladder stile opposite into field. Bear half right across field to reach wall by wood. Turn Right with wall on left and cross stile in corner and ahead, at corner of wood cross stile cross track and go immediately left over third stile.

Turn Right and go downhill with wall and then fence on right to find stile into lane. Cross stile opposite and go forward through marshy ground with wall on right to cross second stile and then bear slightly left to follow path to fence by Stocksbridge Bypass. (SK303 988)

At fence Turn Left cross stream and follow fence to cross stile by metal gate and Turn Right under road. Immediately after bridge Turn Right to cross stile and follow wall on right to stile in wall where cross stream and go steeply uphill to pass power line pole (towards Wortley RUFC sign) and find stile in wall and road.

Cross Road, Follow footpath sign, Right then Left to a gate. Left past sports pitch then Right uphill with path to pass through houses to road in Wortley Village Turn Left towards church, follow road to right at lych gate and at next corner cross with care.

**27-mile route re-joins here.**

Go forward through car park area and take drive on left to Wortley Hall. At drive junction go forward through stone pillars and follow drive round to right to

**Checkpoint 4 - Wortley Hall GR (SK 312 996).**

From CP

Continue past the east front of Wortley Hall. At end of car park take gravel path on left and follow this through grounds to impressive metal gates. Cross cattle grid to right of gates and thru gate Continue Forward on grassy path with fence on right. Continue Forward as it bears to left to meet gravel track coming from right. Turn Left on wide gravel track and follow track past house on right to gatehouse and road. (Westwood Ln)

Turn Right on road and pass under Road Bridge. Immediately past bridge Turn Left thru barrier on track and then right on wide gravel track in approx 100 yds to enter wood. Continue forward on main track through wood **(Beware of off road motor cycles)** to pass under power lines (SK333 988) at large open area. Continue forward to pass yellow WM arrow on tree, continue forward bearing left with main track and reach stile at busy A61 road. (SK335 987)

Cross road to footpath sign opposite with extreme care **(Fast Traffic from both directions)**

*(This paragraph should be flagged with tape)* Descend steps and follow established footpath forward through wood. Ignore path to left and pass large hummock to right, at major fork Turn Left passing 2nd hummock on right continue forward until T junction (gorge in front).Turn Right (gorge now to left) follow path ignoring path to right to arrive at cross tracks. Turn left to cross Plank Bridge and ascend to road. (SK338 983)

Cross road and take path opposite ascend L path uphill to fence post at 2nd Fence Post. Turn Left on gravel path Continue Forward to Bear Right uphill emerge from trees to keep left. At top of hill Turn Left with fence and follow path downhill to junction with track. **Checkpoint 5 \*\* (& 2) GR (SK 341 986).**

**\*\*** From CP Take wide track opposite CP up through wood, Bear Left uphill (Yellow Arrow (UP!)) to meet overbridge on Stocksbridge Bypass. Cross bridge and then left and quickly right to take narrow path uphill to reach stile by metal barrier. (If you come to a metal gate you have missed the sharp right turn).

Turn Right over stile and follow left track at fork. Track bears left to follow overhead power lines with golf course on right. (SK343 990)

Path Bears Left to go between golf tees (6th) to find wooden stile cross and continue towards pylon, path becomes enclosed by wall and hedge before meeting road opposite Tankersley Church. Turn Right to follow track under Motorway Bridge, past cottage on right. At track junction before farm. Turn Left (farm house on right – TPT WM) - the ruined building to the right is Tankersley Old Hall from where the kestrel was taken in the film "Kes".

As the main track bears to the right take the stile/footpath on the left to

**Self-Clip - Tankersley Old Hall - GR (SK 356 989).**

Though trees to meet cross track. Turn Right and quickly Left to take path through wood to enter field and continue forward between wire fence and wall to meet road. (SK360 995)

Turn Right on road for approx 100yds and just past entrance to Parkside Cottage cross road to take footpath opposite. Ahead on path with hedge on left to meet track in dip (2nd field). Turn Right on sunken track and after approx 50yds cross concealed stile on left and follow footpath across fields to enter Skiers Spring wood by stone stile in wall. Turn left to follow path around edge of wood ignoring obvious path to left and continue forward around edge of wood to T junction. Turn Left on path and leave wood through metal barrier.

Continue forward to descend steps, cross bridge and ascend steps on other side. At top of steps Turn Right and follow path downhill over Railway Bridge to road. (SK371 995) Cross road Turn Left and take drive on right to Alderthwaite Farm. Just before farm take footpath on left to go around left side of barn. Footpath bears right to cross a stile. Ascend steps and Turn Left with path to go down hedge line, at fork Ignore right fork and continue along field hedge to arrive at track. Turn Right on track to arrive at large signage in. Turn Left signed Elsecar Park (SK378 995)

Follow track along left side of reservoir and into Elsecar Park. At cafe take path ½ right downhill to left of bandstand and exit park to road. Turn Left on road to car park and finish.

**CONGRATULATIONS on COMPLETING THE 2017 ELSECAR SKELTER**

**Supplement for 27 mile Route**

From Cundy Cross Checkpoint Turn Left down road and right across stile to immediately Turn Right over next stile then Immediately Turn Left downhill with horse fence on left. Negotiate Hook and Gate/Gap to meet track. At track Turn Left to go through stone merchant’s yard and across front of house. Follow drive as turns left (in front of barn) and cross stile on right in 50 yards and go ahead across fields passing over stiles (first at side of metal gate) in walls. After passing over second stile pass to left or right hand side of single tree in field and continue forward to find stile in field wall. (SK318 969)

Cross stile and Turn Right to cross another stile and follow muddy footpath with wall on right. Cross stile beside metal gate and bear diagonally left (160) across field to cross stile by metal gates at corner of trees (gate on right). Go forward and bear right uphill (170deg) to find wall corner beside bushes on skyline. At wall corner continue forward with wall on right to meet gate & stile at road. Turn Left along road past boarding kennels and under power line to Turn Right on track at bungalow. (Hollow Farm **SK320959)**

 Go straight ahead on track through barns and follow track as it bears to left and then right to houses (caution kids playing signs)

Take track Left almost opposite Hollow Farm driveway and go forward with wooden fence and then wall on left. Follow track as it bears to right and then left and continue forward with wall on left and conifer plantation on right. **At end of conifer plantation take path to right through bushes and cross ladder stile over wall onto moorland. (SK316954)**

Go ahead on path with pond on right to cross stone slab “bridge” where bear to right and follow path towards power pylon on skyline. To where path meets track in approx. 300mtrs. **(SK315956)**

At T junction Turn Left to follow track towards gap in trees on skyline. Continue forward on track as it bears to right, passes to right of mast and follows power lines to metal gate by houses. Pass to right of houses and follow track uphill. In approximately 80yds. Past small wooden gate on right and 50yds before large rock on right take path on left.

 **Self-clip - Dragons Den –GR (SK 305 958).**

Go forward on path along edge of Wharncliffe Crags with views of the Eden and Don Valleys to the left. Continue forward on well walked path (ignoring all paths to left and right) as it descends gently through woodland now with higher ground to right, path levels and eventually rises again to top of Wharncliffe Crags to pass through wooden gate.

Where path forks by **wooden bench** take **Left Hand** path and continue to follow path along top of crags, sometimes rocky, along edge of Wharncliffe Crags. Path bends to right away from edge and descends gently downhill to pass under power lines by pylon and meet wooden gate. (Nature Reserve Sign)

Go through gate and go forward through woodland to small dam. Bear Right across concrete embankment of dam (ignoring steps to left) to T junction where Turn Left downhill to pass through stone gateposts. Ignore track to left and go ahead on wide track eventually rising and descending to pass under Stocksbridge Bypass. Continue forward on wide track (ignoring path to left) to pass riding centre on left and bear to right and meet road. Turn Right, ignore Upper Don Trail on left, and take second path on left to pass through metal kissing gate. Go forward uphill on narrow paved path through 2nd Kissing Gate towards Wortley Church. Just before reaching Church pass through metal kissing gate and Turn Left past garden to meet road. Turn Right and at corner cross with care and go forward past car parking area towards Wortley Hall.

**You are now back on the main route description!**