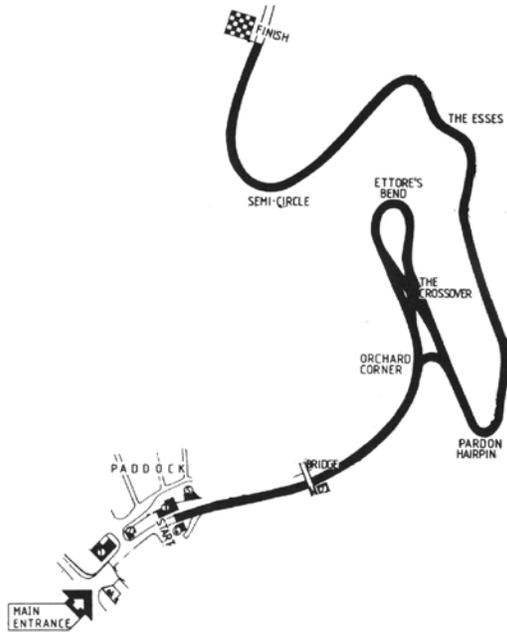
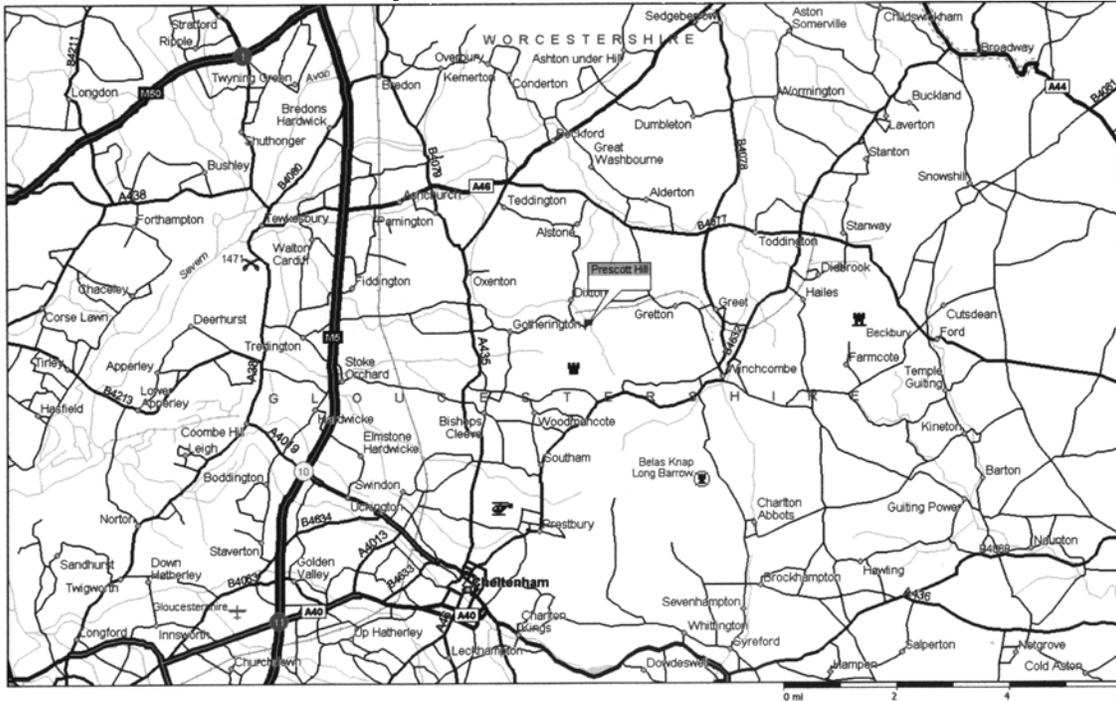


# Prescott Hillclimb – 0.641 Kms

163/985297. 5 miles North-North-East of Cheltenham, approached by A435 from Cheltenham



This hill is the drive to Prescott House. It is owned and run by the Bugatti Owners Club. It is in a wonderful fold in the Cotswolds north of Cheltenham. Nearly all the hill can be seen from the spectator areas adjacent to the paddock: and on a fine weekend it is great outing for all the family.

Prescott is a technically difficult hill, with a fast bottom section, and a relatively slower top part. The first corner and the last is where most of your time is saved. The rest is where you lose it.

At the start, position your car to the left side of the track, and angle it to the right, aiming at the marshal's post just under the bridge. The first bend ("Orchard") is a long left hander which turns through about 90degrees. It is essential that this is taken virtually flat out; (the quick single seaters are entering this bend at around 110mph). For +8 drivers, start in 2<sup>nd</sup> : this will give you only one change on the entrance to Orchard. Make your change under the bridge and keep on the power until you see the end of the Armco barrier on your right. Start feathering the throttle here, and aim to clip the inside of the bend at a point about 3 to 4 metres before the right hand kerb of the short (VSCC) circuit. Now flat out again for the run up to "Ettores". You must drive hard into this bend, rather than cruise up to it. Keep well to the left and make your entry as wide and late as possible, and keep it wide. The clipping point is at the end of the concrete on the inside of the corner: here you floor the throttle and get some opposite lock on for the left hand kink on the exit. Do not try to accelerate through Ettores; if you do the car will understeer into the sand.

The track now goes slightly downhill (take 3<sup>rd</sup> gear early) and then steeply uphill into "Pardon". This is a very tight uphill left hand hairpin. Get on the brakes just as you pass the earth bank on the right; and keep to the right. Make your entry wide and aim for a point about two thirds round the corner. Any earlier than this and you will end up spinning the inside wheel and losing time. You will also get the exit wrong for the flat out blast through the left hand kink. You need to get back into 3<sup>rd</sup> gear, but try and do this well before the kink. It is another reason for getting the exit from Pardon clean.

The entry to the "Esses" is blind. Don't lift until you are through the first right hand bend and can see the left hand bend. At this point there are two ways of doing it. One is to grab 2<sup>nd</sup> at the entry to the left hand bend and then give the car a quick bootful of power before lifting for the left hand exit. The other is to stay in 3<sup>rd</sup> all the way through, grabbing 2<sup>nd</sup> just before the left hand exit. In either case you should ride up the rumble strips on the left and on the right as you go through, as you are trying to make a straight line of the whole sequence.

The exit from the "Esses" is where you can lose time. Keep the car in the middle of the road, (not tight into the barrier on the left) and drive the car through bend. If you go through on a trailing throttle, you will understeer into the bank. Once you are straight(ish), floor it up the straight and take 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is only one bend left, "Semicircle", and on the approach, all you can see is sky, and it seems to go on forever. There is more grip up here than you think and the entry is quite fast. Try and brake as little as possible and stay in 3<sup>rd</sup> and turn in allowing the car to slide slightly so as to tighten the angle of turn. This will rub off some speed, but will not upset the balance of the car that heavy breaking and a downchange will. Aim for a point just before the marshals post as your clipping point. Now just floor it over the line.

In a +8, if you are below 50 seconds, you should feel pleased. The outright Morgan record is just over 45 seconds. Good luck and enjoy yourself.