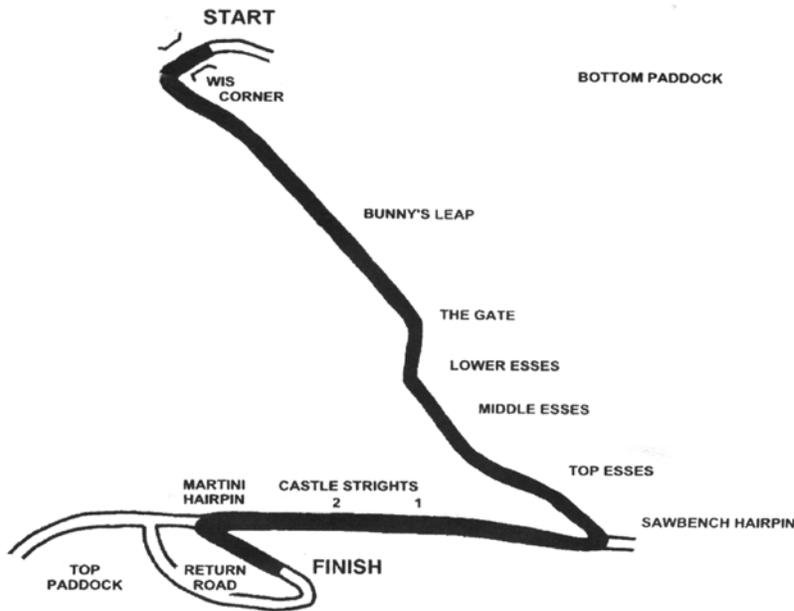
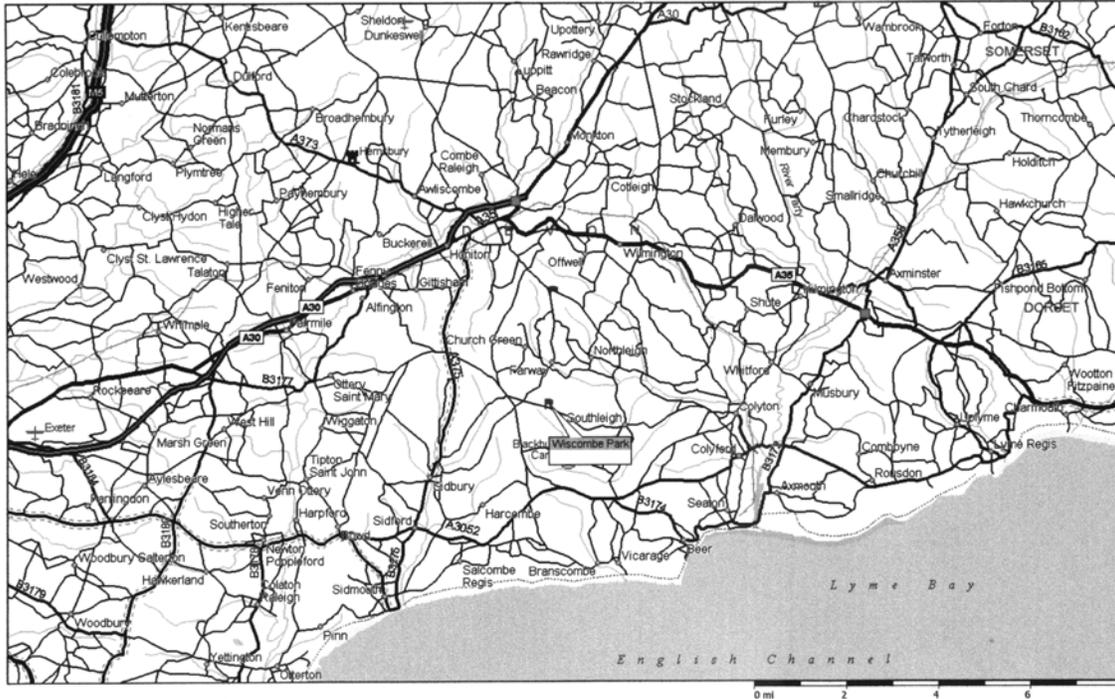


Wiscombe Park – Hillclimb – 0.568 miles

192/182941. 6 miles South of Honiton, 12 miles West of Lyme Regis.

Approached from Honiton by A375 then unclassified road.



This is the drive to Wiscombe Park (the house) which sits at the bottom of a valley south of Honiton near Southleigh in south Devon. It is a picturesque setting and in fine weather can be glorious. Unfortunately, Wiscombe has a reputation for being wet, with about double the rainfall of places just ten miles away. The hillclimb starts near the house and goes up the valley side across a meadow and then into dense rhododendron woods to the finish close to the entrance gate to the estate.

The start is effectively downhill and can be taken in 2nd if you have enough power (+8) to get through the first left hand corner without changing into 1st. There is a very short section across a stone bridge into the first corner ("Wis" corner). This is more than 90 degrees, and it is important to exit this corner cleanly and in the middle of the road, because it brings you onto the fast section across the meadow.

About halfway along this section is "Bunny's Leap". This is a kink to the right and is taken more or less flat out. However you must set the car up so that you land square in the middle of the track. This means skimming the boards on the left hand side and angling the car slightly to the right before the leap. Any sign that you are going onto the grass on the right hand side and you are in trouble. Keep the power on up to the "Gate". This corner is less severe than it looks. Brake late, and get back into 2nd and turn into the gate as close to the right hand side as you can. You are now into the rhododendron woods, and the track bends to the left soon after the gate. This is followed by a slight right hand bend and then a left hander. All are fairly gentle and the track undulates slightly. You should aim to be as tidy as possible through this section, as you cannot make much time up here, but you can lose it. The important bend in this sequence is the last left hander as this sets you up for "Sawbench". You must exit this last bend so that you can get onto the left side of the track as quickly as possible. It is better to take this last bend in the sequence slightly slower and treat it as the first part of "Sawbench". This corner is an uphill right hand hairpin. It leads onto a fast straight and therefore your exit is important. Turn into the bend as late as possible and clip the inside kerb just past the apex. This will keep you straight to get the power on as early as possible. This corner (and Wis corner) are the two keys to a quick time. You must not hesitate at Sawbench at all. Try and carry all the speed from the left/right/left sequence through the rhododendrons up to and through Sawbench.

You are now on "Castle straight". This is a flat out blast up to "Martini". The grip on the straight is patchy, and the more powerful cars will find they are getting wheel spin for about 15 metres or so after the exit.

The corner at "Martini" is a very tight uphill left hand hairpin. Leave your braking late, as the track is still quite steep here and lifting off will lose you quite a lot of speed. If you are going too fast, abandon your run as you will not get round and you will certainly damage your car: there is an escape road which takes you into the holding paddock. Turn into the corner to make an early apex. The track almost immediately bends to the right, so you can boot the rear of the car round, getting opposite lock on early to position yourself for the squirt over the line.

The outright record is 42.28 seconds. If you are doing (in a +8) 43's or low 44's, feel pleased. Good luck and enjoy yourself.

MS 2004