

THE SOUTH WEST'S PREMIER MOTORSPORT VENUE

# Wiscombe Park

## SPEED HILLCLIMB

# Spectators Guide

Club Motorsport Since

**1958**

[www.wiscombepark.co.uk](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk)

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# WELCOME!

Welcome to Wiscombe Park - one of the UK's leading speed hillclimb venues.

This Guide has been collated to enhance your visit - giving you information about the venue and the sport of speed hillclimbing - the oldest motorsport discipline of all.

The first hillclimb event was held at Chanteloup-les-Vignes, near Paris, on 27 November 1898. In the summer of 1899 the first hill climb event took place in England, on Petersham Hill, Richmond-on-Thames. The first permanent venue, Shelsley Walsh, held its inaugural event on the 12th August 1905, and is the oldest motorsport venue in the world still using its original course.

Wiscombe Park hosts 12 events each year arranged over 6 race weekends. The venue and its infrastructure is run by Wiscombe Ltd on a "non profit" basis by volunteers. The company has an Agreement with the landowner to hold the events. The events themselves are organised by individual motor clubs.

The motor clubs currently involved in organising Wiscombe Park meetings are Woolbridge, Burnham-on-Sea, Taunton, Torbay, Plymouth, MG Car Club, 500 Owners Association, Vintage Sports-Car Club and the NHCA (bikes).

We hope that you enjoy your visit, and will decide to come again. We welcome all feedback - please feel free to e-mail us at [wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com](mailto:wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com)



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# ITINERARY

Tickets can be purchased on line from our web site at a discount  
[www.wiscombepark.co.uk/events](http://www.wiscombepark.co.uk/events) or on the gate.

Please note - online ticket sales close at 6pm on the Friday prior to the event weekend.

Programmes are available which will list all the entrants.

## **The timings for a Wiscombe Park meeting:**

- 8.30am Gates open
- 9.00am First cars on the hill for their first practice run
- 11.00am Cars undertaking their second practice run
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 2.00pm Cars undertake first timed event run
- 4.00pm Cars undertake second timed event run

The event finishes around 5.30pm with the presentation of awards in the competitors paddock.

Please note: All these timings are approximate depending on incidents on the hill that may cause a delay.

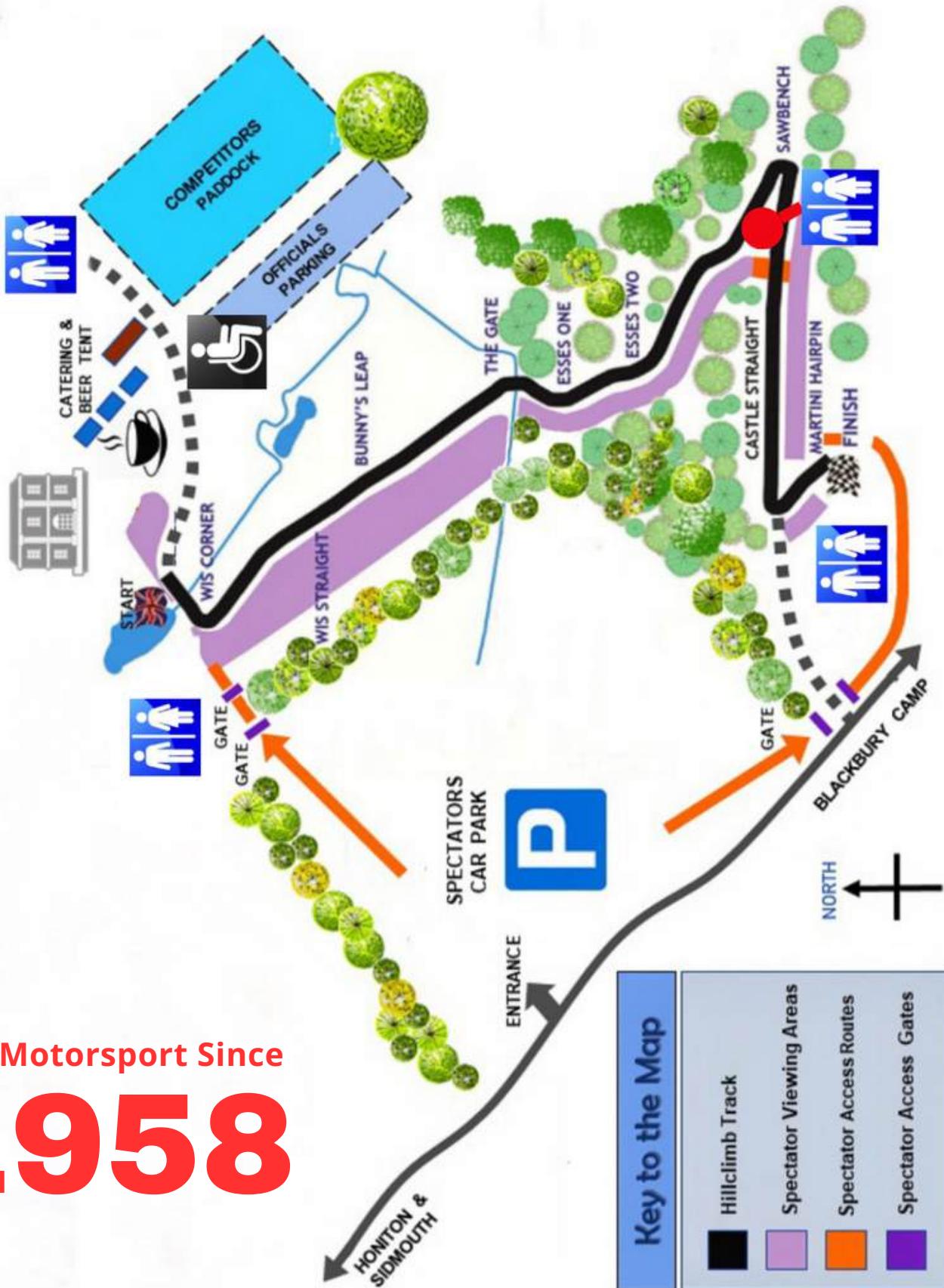
Our course commentators – Geoff Pickett and Dave Pearce - will be describing the action and announcing the times throughout the event.

A selection of food and refreshments are available in the lower paddock.



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# SITE MAP



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# HERITAGE

Wiscombe Park held its first speed hillclimb on the 24th August 1958. It was the result of much planning by Major Richard Chichester, who owned the estate, and his good friend, Major Charles Lambton. The entry was limited to 50 cars, and they competed on the original course which was 850 yards. The fastest time of the day, and therefore the Hill Record, was set at 44.78s by A M Park in his AC.

Over the next few years, 4 or 5 hillclimbs were held every year. The hill was extended in 1961 to 1000 yards - the course was extended from the original finish line just beyond Sawbench, up to the current finish line beyond Martini. Arthur Owen established the new Hill Record at 47.08s in his 2.2L Cooper.

The British Hillclimb Championship visited Wiscombe for the first time in 1962 - we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of holding rounds of this prestigious championship in 2022.

Wiscombe Park has continued to host rounds of both regional and national championships continuously since 1958.

The hill is regarded as one of the most challenging in the UK - a mix of very technical sectors and high speed straights. A driver has to get all the sectors of the hill correct to set a competitive time.

The Hill Record stands at 31.77s set by the current British Champion, Matt Ryder - Gould GR59J 4.0L Judd DB4 - in July 2024



# TIMING

There are a number of ways spectators can follow the times during the day at Wiscombe Park.

There will be a full commentary, including all the times, broadcast from the various speakers on the hill. Our commentator's are Geoff Pickett and Dave Pearce.

In addition, if you are spectating at Sawbench Hairpin or on Castle Straight, there is a screen (attached to a tree) that display's the time set by each car as it completes its run. There are also screens in the competitors paddock, and in the competitors return paddock at the top of the hill.

From your smart phone, please log in to [www.swtimekeepinglive.co.uk/index.html](http://www.swtimekeepinglive.co.uk/index.html) to follow the times as they are recorded with this live timing function.

The times will be posted up on the window of the timing caravan, located in the competitors paddock, at the end of the afternoon's action.

When you are at home after the event – you can access all the times from the South West Timekeeping website [www.swtimekeeping.co.uk](http://www.swtimekeeping.co.uk) - the results should be available by 9pm on the day of the event.



# CLASS, RUNS & NUMBERS

Cars compete together in a Class or batch, based on their chassis, engine size, and whether “standard” or “modified”.

During an event, every competitor will make 4 timed runs – the first, a practice run, and then 3 further runs that will be used to decide the order of the cars within each class, and to also decide who has set the overall Fastest Time of the Day (FTD).

At some events, the fastest 12 cars will complete additional runs in a “Top Ten Run Off”- this is the case for the British Championship.

Some organising motor clubs prefer a format of 2 practice runs, with 2 competitive runs.

You will see some cars running with an “A” beside their race number. This denotes that there are 2 drivers sharing the same car. They each have their allotted 4 runs each – however, the “A” drivers usually run together (regardless of Class) in a separate batch, so that the cars can return to the paddock ready for the other, “non “A”, driver - the “A” will be taped over.



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# 2026 CALENDAR

25th/26th April  
9th May  
10th May  
16th May  
17th May  
25th/26th July  
5th/6th September  
12th September  
13th September

Woolbridge Spring  
500 Owners Association  
Vintage Sports-Car Club  
Torbay MC  
Wildlife Autosport  
British Championship  
Five Clubs  
MG Car Club  
Arnold Gimblett (all bike)



Club Motorsport Since

**1958**

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# FURTHER INFORMATION

Make sure that you follow us on social media for all the latest news and articles - we are very active on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We have a selection of video's on our YouTube channel - you can also watch recordings of our live streams.

[www.facebook.com/WiscombeParkHillclimb](https://www.facebook.com/WiscombeParkHillclimb)

[www.instagram.com/wiscombepark\\_hillclimb/?hl=en-gb](https://www.instagram.com/wiscombepark_hillclimb/?hl=en-gb)

<https://twitter.com/wiscombepark>

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_zDorMeRKTNy9n80W8AvZQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_zDorMeRKTNy9n80W8AvZQ)

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, "Beam Breaker", please drop us an e-mail. There will be 3 issues each year.

## Other points of reference

British Hillclimb Championship

Hillclimb & Sprint Association

National Hill Climb Association

Motorsport UK TV

Motorsport UK

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCtVH2b792yzKt05xfjA5U0w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtVH2b792yzKt05xfjA5U0w)

[www.britishhillclimb.co.uk](https://www.britishhillclimb.co.uk)

[www.hillclimbandsprint.co.uk](https://www.hillclimbandsprint.co.uk)

[www.nhca.co.uk](https://www.nhca.co.uk)

[https://motorsportuk.tv/\\_](https://motorsportuk.tv/)

To subscribe to Beam Breaker, or if you have any questions, please e-mail us at [wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com](mailto:wiscombe.hillclimb@gmail.com)



# How to get here

Wiscombe Park is located 8 miles/16 minutes from Honiton via the A375 and Seaton Rd

SAT NAV users - please use postcode **EX24 6JE**

**Once you are on the A375 Sidmouth Road please follow the AA event road signs rather than your sat nav.**

**What3Words location\* - tablet.fairy.hexes**

\* Download the what3words app from your favourite Android or Apple app store.

All access to Wiscombe Park hillclimb must be through the spectator car park or competitors 'top paddock'. Please do not try to navigate along any other route.

Please take care through the narrow lane leading to Wiscombe Park.

