



# THE FORD PARTS CHEVIOT STAGES RALLY

In memory of Keith Knox



Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

Organised by Whickham & District Motor Club and  
Hadrian Motor Sports Club



# RALLY GUIDE

# **The Ford Parts Cheviot Stages Rally**

**(In memory of Keith Knox)**

## **Rally Guide**

Welcome to the 2019 Ford Parts Cheviot Stages Rally. This guide is intended to provide general information regarding the event, particularly to benefit those competitors who have not competed on the Otterburn Ranges before.

Please note that the guide is being prepared some months before the event and some of the information provided may change in that time. It must be taken for what it is, only a guide, and carries no regulatory power.

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## **Date of the event**

The rally will take place over the weekend of Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019. Saturday is devoted to the recce, scrutineering and documentation and the competition takes place on the Sunday.

To avoid a clash as the Mull Rally returns to the calendar, the event is running 3 weeks earlier than usual and should benefit from a later sunset time and better weather.

## **Championships**

The event is a qualifying round of the following 2019 championships;

MSA Protyre Asphalt Rally Championship

HRCR Mini Sport Cup

AS Performance North of England Tarmacadam Rally Championship

HRCR MOTOSCOPE Northern Historic Asphalt Championship

BECC Border Challenge

## **Location**

The event takes place on the Otterburn Military Ranges in Northumberland, one of the largest live firing ranges in the United Kingdom. They are located on the north side of the main A68 England-Scotland trunk road. The rally is based at an area known locally as The Airstrips. On the Saturday this provides the recce assembly and start point. Scrutineering is held on the ranges at the former Redesdale Camp, adjacent to the A68 whilst documentation is held in the Rochester Village Hall, approximately 5 miles from The Airstrips. On Sunday The Airstrips host the service area and rally start and finish. Rally HQ is located in the village hall on Saturday and is relocated to The Airstrips on the Sunday. The awards presentation is held in the village hall on Sunday evening.

The postcode of The Airstrips is NE19 1HR and it is located at OS Map ref 80 / 873992.

The Airstrips are located the following driving distances from the centre of these major towns and cities;

Glasgow 120 miles

Edinburgh 75 miles

Newcastle 40 miles

Leeds 145 miles

Manchester 170 miles

Birmingham 245 miles  
London 320 miles  
Bristol 330 miles  
Stranraer 160 miles  
Holyhead 275 miles  
Fishguard 350 miles

## **Format**

The event will comprise a number of special stages, covering a total of approximately 60 stage miles on the asphalt range roads. These take the form of a number of loops of stages based around the The Airstrips service area. The stages are linked by road sections on public and private roads totalling approximately 70 further miles. The full route is contained on OS 1:50,000 sheet No 80.

The stages are held on generally very good quality asphalt on roads that range in width from single track to double track. Some roads have been subject to recent resurfacing. Straw bale chicanes and some artificially tightened corners are used to control average speeds and bales are also used to prevent corner cutting.

The link sections use some stretches of smooth gravel road and narrow single track road. The time schedule makes allowance for covering these roads.

There are several videos uploaded onto Youtube that can be viewed to give an idea of the stages used. Search on 'Cheviot Stages Rally' or 'Tyneside Stages Rally'.

## **Reconnaissance**

The use of route notes is permitted on the event and a reconnaissance session is held on the Saturday to allow competitors to check notes. Notes from any previous Otterburn event can be used and amended, or notes specific to the 2019 route are available for purchase from Patterson Agencies.

The recce takes the form of an escorted convoy, run at a maximum speed of 30mph, with around 20 cars in each convoy. The start time of the recce is around 10.00am and depending on the number of entries received there are usually 3 or 4 convoys, each convoy starting at 30 minute intervals. The recce is restricted to road cars, small vans, SUVs and pick ups. Rally cars and large service vans are not permitted to be used on the recce.

The recce route is configured so that each road used on the event is covered at least once in each direction of use. This allows competitors to check their notes and whilst competitors are free to make their own notes if they wish, the limited scope of the recce generally makes this impractical.

Competitors are prohibited from recceing outside of the official recce period on the Saturday or from following their own recce route - doing so may result in a refused start.

There are a number of extremely PR sensitive locations on the ranges and we can only use the venue with the blessing of both the MOD and the tenant farmers. Please do not be tempted to come up to the ranges in the weeks before the event 'for a look around', as this may jeopardise future motorsport use of the ranges. You may also be used by the army as a target!

## **Service Area**

The event uses The Airstrips as a single, centralised service area. This is a large T shaped expanse of tarmac where individual competitor service spaces can be set up. The service area is visited after each loop of stages. On the planned route for the 2019 event, a loop will cover between 1 and 4 stages and the maximum distance between service breaks is approximately 17 stage miles and 28 road miles.

The use of chase or management cars is prohibited.

The service area is provided with toilet and catering facilities.

One or more tyre suppliers usually attend the event. These will be confirmed in the Final Instructions.

Mobile phone coverage in the service area is limited.

There is no specific trailer park arranged and trailers are generally parked on the grass behind a competitor's service bay. It is permissible to leave rally cars, service vans and trailers in the service area on Saturday night at the competitor's own risk.

The use of caravans, motor homes or tents for sleeping in the service area on Saturday night is strictly prohibited by the MOD as a condition of being able to use the venue.

## **Fuel**

The service area has a dedicated refuel area which is available for use by competitors.

It is not known at the time of preparing this guide if there will be a fuel supplier on the event. Competitors should therefore make their own arrangements to bring sufficient fuel for their rally car to cover a route of approximately 60 stage miles and 70 road miles.

The nearest petrol stations to the venue selling Super Unleaded fuel are;

Shell Jedburgh (A68) TD8 6EB  
Shell Newcastle Airport (A696) NE13 8BZ  
BP Bridge End, Hexham (A69) NE46 4DL  
BP Alnwick (A1) NE66 2GD

Note that all these petrol stations are some 25 to 30 miles from the venue. It is not practical to leave the service area on the Sunday to get more fuel and you are recommended to fill your cans on your journey to the ranges on the Saturday.

## **Accommodation**

Due to the remote location of the venue, accommodation choices are varied and there are no large hotels close to the venue that can accommodate the event and offer an accommodation deal.

There are hotels in Otterburn village, but these specialise in wedding's (often more than one per venue per day!) so availability of accommodation for non-wedding guests is limited.

The following are suggestions of accommodation that can be considered by competitors. These are provided for information only and for their relative locality to the venue - the organisers do not make any recommendation or take any responsibility as to the quality or suitability of any of the establishments mentioned.

Le Petit Chateau, Otterburn Village (6 miles from The Airstrips)

Otterburn Castle Country House Hotel, Otterburn Village

Byrness Holiday Park - Camping, caravans, motorhomes (9 miles from The Airstrips)

Riverdale Hall, Bellingham

The Boa Rigg, Bellingham – Rooms, camping and motorhomes

Britannia Newcastle Airport Hotel

Double Tree by Hilton Newcastle Airport

Travelodge – Nearest locations are Newcastle Airport, Gosforth, Seaton Burn or Alnwick

Holiday Inn – Nearest locations are Gosforth Park or Seaton Burn

There are also a number of B&B establishments and pubs with accommodation in the surrounding area. The towns of Bellingham, Rothbury and Jedburgh all lie within a half hour drive of the rally base.

Details of all the above can be found using an Internet search.

Other accommodation opportunities can be found through the usual Internet search providers (Tripadvisor, Booking.com, Trivago etc.) or Northumbria Tourist Information Centre. Northumbria Tourist Board Visitor Help Line, tel: 0191 3753010, Web Site [www.ntb.org.uk](http://www.ntb.org.uk)

## **Spectators**

The event is not promoted as a spectator event, however a number of spectators are attracted to the rally, although the remote nature of the venue means that this number is generally quite small.

A dedicated location where spectators can view the stages is generally arranged by the organisers.

Spectators are not permitted vehicle access to the service area, where access is restricted to competitors and service personnel only, carrying the appropriate vehicle passes.

## **Entries**

The event uses the [www.rallies.info](http://www.rallies.info) online entry system. Supplementary Regs will be published in late July and entries will open on the 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Competitors are encouraged to submit their entries as early as possible to assist the organiser's planning.

Due to the strong support in the championships visiting the event in 2019, certain conditions will be applied to the submission and acceptance of entries. A number of entries will be reserved for registered championship contenders for a period of 7 days after entries open.

## **Website**

The rally website address is [www.cheviotstages.org.uk](http://www.cheviotstages.org.uk)