



THE FORD PARTS CHEVIOT STAGES RALLY



Sunday 24th October 2021

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

Run in memory of Keith Knox



RALLY GUIDE

The Ford Parts Cheviot Stages Rally

Rally Guide

After an enforced absence in 2020 due to the Covid Pandemic, we welcome you to the 2021 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, a guide only, and carries no regulatory power.

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Date of the event

The rally will take place over the weekend of Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th October. Saturday is devoted to the recce and scrutineering and the competition takes place on the Sunday.

Championships

The event is a qualifying round of the following 2021 championships;

Protyre-Motorsport UK Asphalt Rally Championship

HRCR Mini Sport Cup

AS Performance North of England Tarmacadam Rally Championship

The Lions Cup

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 plus scrutineering. In line with current practice, documentation will be held virtually before the event. On Sunday The Airstrips host the service area and rally start and finish. Rally HQ is located at The Airstrips throughout the weekend.

The postcode of The Airstrips is NE19 1HR and it is located at OS Map ref 80 / 873992. Its what3words reference is 'scribbled.without.boat'.

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 comprises 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 Airstrips service area. The stages are linked by road sections on public and private roads totalling approximately 60 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 2021 route are available for purchase from Patterson Agencies or On The Pacenote.

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 pickups. 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 to undertake on the recce day.

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 between each loop of stages. On the planned route for the 2021 event, a loop will cover between 1 and 3 stages and the maximum distance between service breaks is approximately 14 stage miles and 24 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 and internet 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 to be used 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 60 road miles.

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

Shell Jedburgh (A68) TD8 6EB
Shell Fairmoor, Morpeth (A1/A192) NE61 3JN
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 obtain more fuel and you are recommended to fill your cans on or before 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

The Coach House, Otterburn Village

Otterburn Castle Country House Hotel, Otterburn Village

Byrness Holiday Park - Camping, caravans, motorhomes

The Bay Horse, West Woodburn

Riverdale Hall, Bellingham

The Boe 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, Airbnb etc.) or Northumbria Tourist Information Centres, tel 01670 622152 or website www.visitnorthumberland.com.

Spectators

The event is not promoted as a spectator event, however a few 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. Vehicle access to other parts of the venue is restricted whilst the event is running.

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.

Any person wanting to support the event as a marshal or radio operator can contact the organisers by e-mailing marshal@cheviotstages.org.uk.

Entries

The event uses the www.rallies.info online entry system. Supplementary Regulations will be published in late August and entries will open on the 31st August.

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

Due to the strong demand for entries for events in 2021, 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