



THE KELDINE AUTOS CHEVIOT STAGES RALLY

In memory of Keith Knox



Sunday 22nd October 2017

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



Photo courtesy of Flat Shift Media

RALLY GUIDE

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Rally Guide

Welcome to the 2017 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, and carries no regulatory power.

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Date of the event

The rally will take place over the weekend of Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd October 2017. Saturday is devoted to the recce, scrutineering and documentation and the competition takes place on the Sunday.

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 usually based at an area known locally as The Airstrips, however notification has recently been received from the MOD that the airstrips are required for troop training on the weekend of the event and an alternative base and service area on the ranges has been offered at Redesdale Camp. On the Saturday this provides the recce assembly and start point and scrutineering location whilst documentation is held in the Otterburn Village Hall, approx 6 miles from Redesdale Camp. On Sunday Redesdale Camp hosts the service area and rally start and finish. Rally HQ is located in the village hall on Saturday and is relocated to Redesdale Camp on the Sunday. The awards presentation is held in the village hall on Sunday evening.

The postcode of Redesdale Camp is NE19 1NX and it is located at OS Map ref 80 / 822989.

The camp is located the following driving distances from the centre of these major towns and cities;

Glasgow 115 miles
Edinburgh 70 miles
Leeds 150 miles
Manchester 175 miles
Birmingham 250 miles
London 325 miles
Bristol 335 miles
Stranraer 165 miles
Holyhead 280 miles
Fishguard 355 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 Redesdale Camp service area. The stages are linked by road sections on public and private roads totalling approximately 100 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. Straw bale chicanes 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 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 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 11.00am 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 use of the ranges.

Service Area

The event uses Redesdale Camp as a single, centralised service area. There is a large loop road round the camp with a number of offshoots and open areas where individual competitor service spaces can be set up. The service area is on a smooth gravel surface and is visited after each loop of stages. On the 2016 event a loop covered between 1 and 3 stages and the maximum distance between service breaks was approximately 13 stage miles and 25 road miles. A similar route is planned for 2017.

The use of chase or management cars is prohibited.

The service area is provided with toilet and catering facilities.

A trailer park will be arranged in the vicinity of the service area. 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 must be used by all competitors.

In 2016 the event was supported by the presence of Vital Equipment, through their connection with the National Asphalt Rally Championship. With that championship taking a sabbatical in 2017, 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 100 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.

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 Redesdale Camp)

Otterburn Tower Hotel, Otterburn Village

Byrness Holiday Park - Camping, caravans, motorhomes (2 miles from Redesdale Camp)
Britannia Newcastle Airport Hotel

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

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.)

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 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 rallies.info online entry system. Regs should be published and entries opened in late August.

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

Website

The rally website address is www.cheviotstages.org.uk