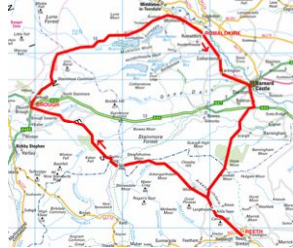




The Vintage Minor Register Northern Weekend Sunday 29th July 2012

ROUTE 2 – THE YORKSHIRE DALES, REETH & TEESDALE (60 miles)



Route Summary

A round trip of 60 miles, starting at Romaldkirk, (with directions for anyone joining at Barnard Castle).

The route heads towards Barnard Castle and then South, crossing the busy A66 dual carriageway (with caution). The next section is the hardest part of the route. Cutting through the forest is a long steep climb (feared by cyclists) called the Stang with a couple of testing hairpin bends at the top. This leads into the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The road then drops down into Arkengarthdale arriving in the village of Reeth, the location for a stop and refreshments. (20 miles)

Returning up Arkengarthdale the route arrives at The Tan Hill Inn, generally recognised as being the highest pub in England at 1,732 feet (528 m) above sea level. After passing through Brough the road takes the high Pennine fells, passing Selset and Grassholme reservoirs, arriving back at the starting point at Romaldkirk. (60 miles)

More detailed route information will be available later.

The START of the tour and initial assembly point is the **ROSE AND CROWN HOTEL** in the village of **ROMALDKIRK**, 7 miles NW of the town of **BARNARD CASTLE** in County Durham.



Photo: www.rose-and-crown.co.uk

Please park considerately on the road near the hotel.

(The route passes through Barnard Castle, so if anyone wishes they can join the trip from there).

From **ROMALDKIRK** the route takes the **B6277** South East through **COTHERSTONE** and **LARTINGTON** to the outskirts of **BARNARD CASTLE**. Without crossing the river it continues straight on the **B6277** to meet the **A66**. A right turn onto the dual carriageway (signposted Brough and Reeth) requires extreme caution, using the central reservation, (fast moving traffic). After 300 metres a left turn onto a minor road (signposted **SCARGILL** and **REETH**) leads to the **STANG**.

The road is a steady climb through wooded country increasing in steepness to a couple of tight bends near the summit. The descent into Arkengarthdale passes the village of **LANGTHWAITE** before arriving in **REETH** for refreshments.

(20 miles)



(There is parking on the village green and toilets opposite the Buck Hotel).



Photo: www.yorkshire-dales.com

REETH is at the meeting point of the two most northerly of the Yorkshire Dales: Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. In Saxon times, it was only a settlement on the forest edge, but by the time of the Norman Conquest it had grown sufficiently to be noted in the Domesday Book.

Later it became a centre for hand knitting and the local lead industry. It was always a market for the farming community. Its 18th-century houses are clustered around the triangular village green. There are three pubs - the Black Bull, the Buck and the King's Arms and a hotel, the Burgoyne, all overlooking the green.

After the stop in **REETH** the route returns back along the road for 3 miles to **LANGTHWAITE**, passing the village church and continuing straight on towards Tan Hill. The steep fells of Fremington Edge on the right show the scars of centuries of mining for lead and other minerals. The isolated **TAN HILL INN** is 11 miles from Reeth.

The TAN HILL INN is the highest inn in the British Isles at 1,732 feet (528 m) above sea level. The building dates to the 17th century and was used as a hostelry by workers digging coal pits. During the 1980s the pub appeared in a TV advert for 'Everest Windows' starring Ted Mould. Everest returned in 2008 to film a new advert with Craig Doyle and installed new windows and solar panels.

Revellers celebrating New Year's Eve at the pub on 31 December 2009 were unable to leave the pub for three days as they were snowed in.



Photo: Dave Dunford

The Pennine Way crosses the road at Tan Hill and this road is also part of the 140 mile Coast to Coast Cycle Route, (so watch out for weary cyclists and walkers !)



The wild open country is typical of this part of the North of England. The moors are principally used to raise the sheep that wander on the unfenced roads oblivious to traffic, and for Grouse shooting. Selected areas are regularly burned to encourage the young heather to grow, providing food for the birds.

The road passes through **BROUGH** and over the **A66** heading North East on the **B6276** over the high Pennine Fells. On the right are Selset and Grassholme Reservoirs on the River Lune. They supply water to Teesdale and are popular for sailing and bird watching. The **B6277** then completes the circuit to **ROMALDKIRK**.

(60 miles)



Photo: Andy Beck. www.theteesdalegallery.co.uk