

## Audax UK: The Anglo-Scottish Permanents

Simon Ward, 53 Barons Crescent, Copmanthorpe, York, YO23 3TZ

Email: [interzen@sky.com](mailto:interzen@sky.com)

The basis of these routes is the York-Oban-York 1000km permanent via Gourock and Inverary. The basic route is 1038km, and there are extensions of the route available to Fort William (1200km) and Inverness (1400km) – note that the old route via Crianlarich is no longer available.

The quoted distances are for the shortest on-road distance, which often involves some quite busy A-roads, particularly in Scotland. On the way, you get to see some of the most spectacular scenery in Britain in the shape of the Pennines, the Scottish Borders and, ultimately, the southern Highlands.

The suggested routes are as follows – required controls are in bold type:

**York** – Boro'bridge – **Ripon** – Masham – East Witton – **Hawes** – Kirkby Stephen (via B6259) – Appleby – **Penrith** – Plumpton – High Hesket – Carlisle – A7/A6071 via Longtown – Gretna – B721 via Annan – Cummertrees – Mouswald – Collin/A75 – **Dumfries** – Thornhill – Sanquhar – Cumnock – Mauchline – **Kilmarnock** – Stewarton – Dunlop – Howwood – Carruthmuir (B788) – Larkfield – **Gourock/Dunoon (ferry, retain your tickets as proof of passage)** – Ardbeg – Strachur – Cairndow – Clachan – **Inveraray** (via A83) – Cladich – Loch Awe – Taynuilt – Connel – **Oban**. Use same controls when returning south.

In accordance with Randonneurs Mondiaux (LRM) regulations, this route is subject to a lower speed limit of 13.3kph, meaning that the maximum allowed time for completion, based on either route, is around 77hrs. Please bear this in mind when planning your route.

Note also that there are very few facilities between controls, especially in Scotland, so you may find it worthwhile to carry food/drink/etc. with you, just in case you run into difficulties. Accommodation is also scarce in places north of the Border, although there are Youth Hostels at Inveraray and Oban.

In addition, two additional rides are offered in conjunction with the above:

- York-Oban-Fort William and return (1200km) – choice of route as above then extend to Fort William via Connel, Benderloch, Creagan and Ballachulish to **Fort William**.
- York-Oban-Inverness and return (1400km) – a further extension to **Inverness** via the A82.

As with the 1000, you should use the same controls on your return leg.

Entry costs £2.50 plus a completed AUK entry and two C5 envelopes. Ideally, you should enter 3-4 weeks before you plan to ride to allow time for your brevet card to be printed.