

York-Cambridge-York 600

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Background

A refreshing(!) alternative to 600km rides which consist almost entirely of hills – this one contains practically none. This doesn't necessarily make it an easy ride – 375 miles of anything is going to be tough going.

The route is, by and large, rural and over fairly gentle terrain. Other than the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds, the only other lumps of note are railways bridges and the like. However, to complete this ride you need to go across the Fens and if the weather conditions are poor this can be a lot tougher than it sounds – exposed roads and strong crosswinds can be a troublesome combination.

Route

As with all point-to-point permanent, the exact choice of route is up to the rider – it is your responsibility to select a route which is acceptable to you and passes through all the controls. For this ride, the outward and return controls are the same, and are listed below with their distances from the two end points – distances are based on the shortest practical distance, which may involve A-roads.

Control	Distance (out)	Distance (back)
York	0	602
Howden	33	569
Beverley	65	537
Lincoln	143	459
Boston	194	408
Wisbech	238	364
Cambridge	301	301

You can start the ride at either end or at any point along the route which is convenient for you. In this case, you must get a stamp at your starting point as well as the other listed controls. If you don't specify an appropriate starting point on your entry form, I will assume that you intend to start the ride in York.

The best bet for a York control is the railway station as it is well signposted, fairly central and has decent facilities – failing that, anywhere within the A64 ring-road is acceptable. For Cambridge, most riders on the old calendar event used the Tesco at Milton by the A10/A14 interchange which avoided the need to joust with traffic in the centre of Cambridge. The final choice, however, is up to you.

Entry Details

The standard entry fee for permanent is £2.50 (as of November 2009), with a completed AUK entry form and two self-addressed C5 (half-A4 size) envelopes. Please send your entries in good time – ideally no later than two weeks before you plan to ride. The exact turnaround time for a brevet card will depend on whether I have any stock.