

# NORTHERN YORKSHIRE DALES RIDING CIRCULARS

## Applicabilities / Suitabilities / Useful Statistics

| Circular Rides Ref. | Distance (miles) approx. | % Off Road (approx) | Applicability |                 |         | Suitability / degree of difficulty for horse riders |  |   |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------|---|--|---|
|                     |                          |                     | Horse Riding  | Mountain Biking | Walking | Option suitable for most abilities                  | Options comprise steep gradients & difficult terrain | Demanding sections for experienced riders |
| R1+2                | 6* - 21*                 | 75                  | ✓             | ✓               | ✓       | ✓   | ✓  |   |
| R3                  | 8 - 11                   | 80                  | ✓             | ✓               | ✓       |   | ✓**  |   |
| R4                  | 10                       | 80                  | ✓             | ✓               | ✓       |   |  | ✓**                                       |
| R5                  | 9                        | 50                  | ✓             | ✓               |         | ✓   |  |   |
| R6                  | 5 - 9                    | 70                  | ✓             | ✓               | ✓       | ✓   | ✓  |   |

Please note that by the very nature of the geology of the Northern Yorkshire Dales most of the circular networks will have some degrees of difficulty. It is advisable not to ride alone.

\* Includes Richmond Link

\*\* Not advisable in adverse weather conditions especially over winter months

The BHS recommends before undertaking any of the above routes, horse & rider should be adequately insured against public liability. The BHS can provide public & personal cover for members. For more information or to join call 02476 840506.

## CODE OF RIDING

- **Care of the land** - please do not stray off the line of the route.
- **Courtesy to others** - pay heed to walkers, cyclists and car park users.
- Acknowledge courtesy shown by drivers; observe the Highway Code.
- **Consider the landowner/farmer** - leave gates as you find them, ride slowly past livestock, and observe local and seasonal notices, especially during shooting (Aug - Feb), lambing and bird nesting times.

### Following a route

- Descriptions in bespoke guide maps are correct at time of issue, but landmarks or rights of ways may change, and way marking limited esp. in the YDNP.
- Take the relevant OS Explorer 1:25000 (302,304,0L30) and compass.

### Parking

- Riders are responsible for finding safe and appropriate parking.
- Start points shown on map do not guarantee suitable parking.

### Preparation

- Wear BS standard hard hat, comfortable riding boots and lower leg protection.
- BHS advises riders wear high visibility clothing while riding on roads.
- Carry mobile (limited coverage), money/card, tie up string, head collar and lead rope.
- It is advisable to pack sufficient food and drink and take appropriate clothing.
- Include waterproofs. Transparent A4 map case worn around neck is useful.
- Please be mindful of rapid weather changes especially over high ground.

### Feedback

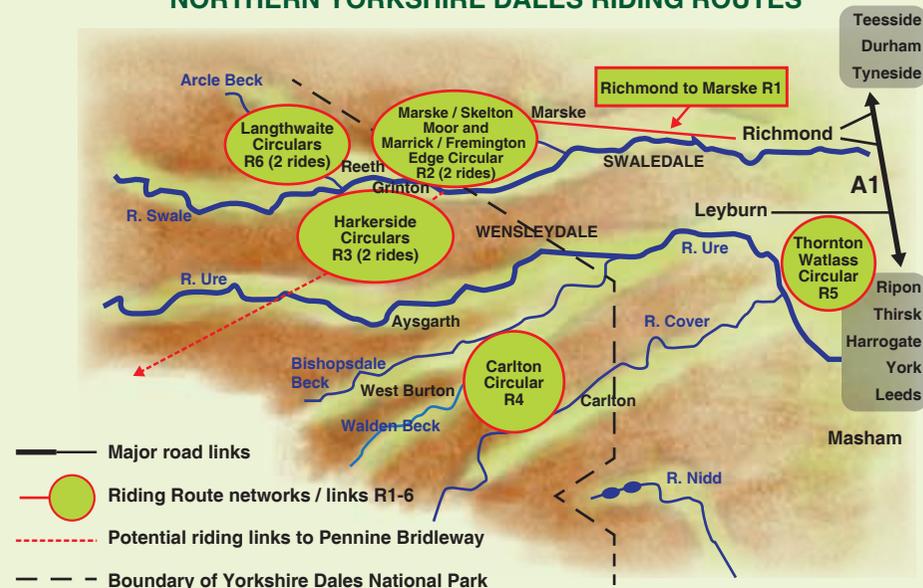
- Report back any route maintenance related problems to NYCC Rights of Way tel: 0845 8727374 or YDNP ranger service tel: 0300 4560030.

# HORSE RIDING IN THE NORTHERN YORKSHIRE DALES

Swaledale, Arkengarthdale, Lower Wensleydale & Coverdale



## NORTHERN YORKSHIRE DALES RIDING ROUTES



These circular rides use existing and well maintained public rights of way which take in some of the most spectacular scenery of the northern Yorkshire Dales including Swaledale, Lower Wensleydale and tributaries. The routes cater for a range of abilities and use mainly bridleways, green lanes and some unclassified county roads. The nature of the countryside in the dales means many of the routes are rugged and hilly. There are limited opportunities to canter but why rush through such fantastic scenery?

Local British Horse Society volunteer John Presgrave devised and mapped the routes with the support of Richmondshire and Bedale Bridleway Group, Public Rights of Way team at North Yorkshire County Council & Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The bespoke guide maps are specifically designed for horse rider use and provide an easy-to-follow route from a start point which can be reached by horsebox or trailer. Project logos are on occasional way marker and fingerposts. A PDF guide map for each can be downloaded for printout or loaded to most current smartphones via [www.northyorks.gov.uk/rides](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/rides). These routes are also part of the British Horse Society (BHS) National Equestrian Route Network which can be accessed via [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk). Information on local accommodation and related amenities can also be found by visiting the BHS website, Welcome to Yorkshire and YDNP websites.

### R1 Richmond - Marske

### R2 Marske / Skelton Moor and Marske / Marrick / Fremington Edge 6-21 miles 2-7 hours

2 circulars including the demanding but rewarding Marrick-Fremington Edge loop.  
Marske-Skelton Moor option is suitable for most riders.  
Build in time if using the picturesque Richmond link along lower Swaledale to Marske.  
Richmond to Marske and back makes for a delightful short ride.



Lower Swaledale from Richmond

### R3 Harkerside / Whitaside / Grinton 8-11 miles 2-4 hours

2 circulars both taking in the remote lead mined moors with breath-taking views of Swaledale & pastoral stretches above the river Swale. Some steep, stony sections.  
Be prepared for weather changes at the higher elevations.

### R4 Carlton / Melmerby Moor / West Burton 10 miles 3-4 hours

Circular includes a steep and stony climb out of Walden Beck but affords fantastic vistas along most of its length, including Bishopdale, Coverdale and views across to Great Whernside and over to the North York Moors. Pubs / toilets in Carlton & West Burton.  
Accommodation at Brough Farm, Middleham, nr. Leyburn (see individual guide map).



Swaledale from Whitaside on R3



Bishopdale on R4

### R5 Thornton Watlass Circular 9 miles 2-3 hours

A very relaxing ride of few gradients and including green lanes. Quiet road stretches mainly offering wide verges. Especially pleasant by the River Ure and with the bonus of a pub en route in Thornton Watlass.



The Buck Inn and Green at Thornton Watlass

### R6 Langthwaite Circulars 5-9 miles 2-4 hours

2 circulars either side of the impressive but remote Arkengarthdale, both of which scale the lead mined moors using old mining tracks, stony in parts, and pass through the picturesque village of Langthwaite. Pub / refreshments / accommodation at end of both circulars.

Circular 2 suitable for most riders. Circular 1 requires focus on terrain and navigation over Windegg Ings.



Riders above Arkengarthdale on R6



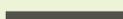
*Please note that the promoted routes depicted are maintained to the best possible standards that the local authorities can afford, and whilst every effort has been made to ensure the routes and structures (i.e gates) are of a good standard at the time of launch, we would be grateful for ongoing feedback to ensure these routes continue to be accessible. Please see overleaf for contact numbers.*

#### Acknowledgements

Routes devised and drawn by John Presgrave  
Graphic design by Prontaprint, Darlington  
Part funded and added to the National Equestrian Route Network by The British Horse Society  
John Presgrave is also the author of Bridleway Rides in the South Pennines  
published by The South Pennines Packhorse Trails Trust  
1998 ISBN 0 9530573 13

## KEYS

### Map Key

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
|   | metalled road           |
|   | unmetalled double track |
|   | single track            |
|   | footpath                |
|   | river/direction of flow |
|  | wood                    |
|   | field wall              |
|   | field fence             |
|  | cairn                   |
|  | shooting butt           |
|   | steep gradient          |
|   | stony/rocky surface     |
|  | buildings               |

### Riding Directions Key

|         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| R, L    | - turn right, turn left |
| BW      | - bridleway             |
| ST      | - straight on           |
| RHS/LHS | - right/left hand side  |

### User Key

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | recommended route                                |
|  | alternative/link routes                          |
|  | start point/possible parking with grid reference |
|  | alternative parking                              |
|  | field gate                                       |
|  | bridle gate (5' wide) with user friendly latch   |
|  | gate with horse latch                            |
|  | bridleway fingerpost                             |
|  | other fingerposts                                |
|  | water/stone trough                               |
|  | viewpoint  |

### Service Key

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | public house Forresters Arms-Carlton<br>Accommodation Brough Farm, Middleham<br>Nr. Leyburn Tel: 07776 186581 |
|  | church  |
|  | telephone   |
|  | post office   |



### Acknowledgements

The route map and guide has been devised by John Presgrave with the support of the Richmondshire & Bedale Bridleway Group and North Yorkshire County Council Rights of Way team & Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. Supported by The British Horse Society. Graphic design by Prontaprint Darlington. [www.prontaprint.com/centre/darlington](http://www.prontaprint.com/centre/darlington)



## HORSE RIDING IN THE NORTHERN YORKSHIRE DALES

Carlton - Melmerby Moor - West Burton Circular R4 (Approx. 10 miles)



**Riding Directions (anticlockwise)** - continuous yellow line on map

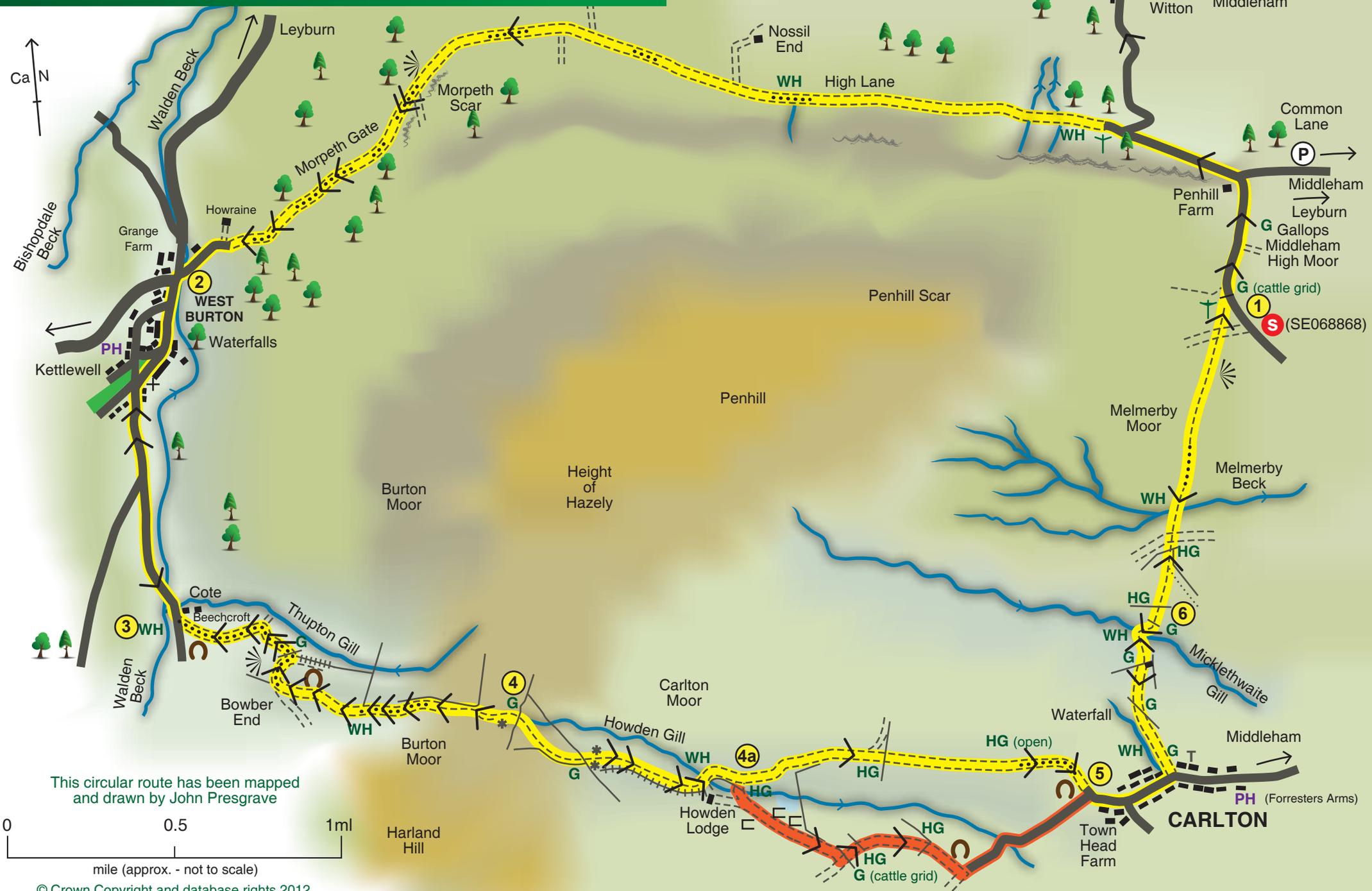
**Start point**  - 700m south of Penhill Farm

**Grid Reference:** SE 068868

- North then L at T-junction at Penhill Farm (ST if using alternative ) , follow downhill, and L at sign to West Burton. Track level for about 2 miles, then series of stony descents, becoming surfaced before crossing bridge over Walden Beck.
- L and ST uphill into West Burton, keeping L with green on R then fork L uphill (to Walden only), keeping L at next junction down and across Walden Beck and on to BW sign on L.
- L up BW (note preserved kiln chimney on R), long steep and stony climb. R after 1st G, up stony track and after 180 yards take left at fork, continuing uphill now grassy track with gill down to left passing BW sign on L, then again becoming a steep and stony track, keeping wall on LHS, until levelling off at plateau (cairn), ST single track till G.
- Continue along single track, through next G, starting gradual descent between 2 cairns, descending more steeply, keeping fence on RHS until Howden Lodge comes in sight, joining the Howden track to cross the stream, and around Howden Lodge.
  - Can take G to the R immediately after Howden Lodge as alternative, which meets up with circular at , or ST on double track through HG, becoming grassy, through further HG (open), then stony descent to T-junction.
- L and L again through Carlton village, and L at telephone kiosk, up through G, along track through next double G, uphill and through G adjacent to building on RHS, down field with wall on RHS, steep descent into Micklethwaite Gill and up to G.
- Through G, L up field track to HG, then ST and down through next HG, across gravelled track, across stream, up and ST along stony then firmer single track across Melmerby Moor, crossing further double track and downhill to road, then R to start point  (or continue downhill to Penhill Farm and R to alternative ).

# CARLTON - MELMERBY MOOR WEST BURTON CIRCULAR R4 Approx. 10 MLS

This guide to be used in conjunction with OS Explorer OL30



This circular route has been mapped and drawn by John Presgrave