

# 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

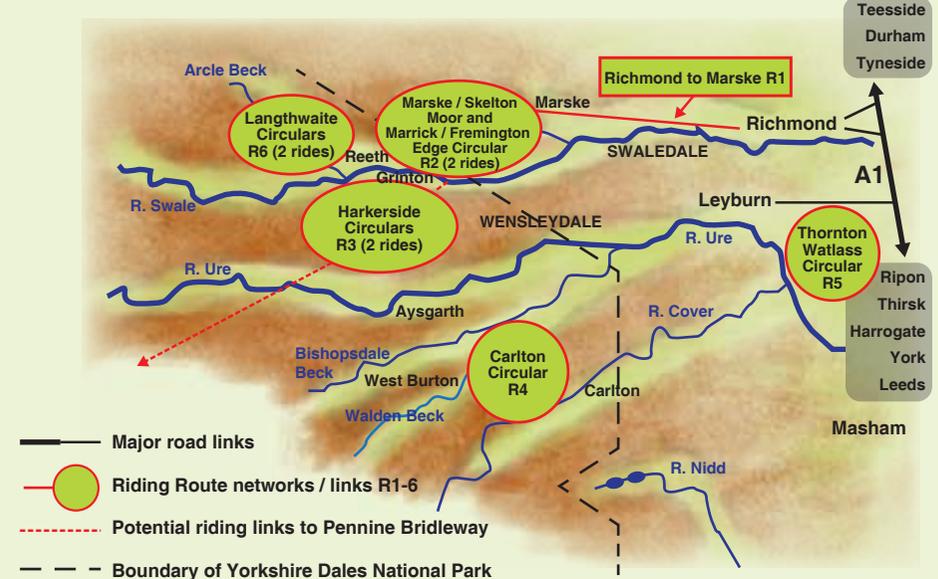
- Report back any route maintenance related problems to NYCC Rights of Way tel: 0845 8727374 or YDNP ranger service tel: 0300 4560030.

# 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



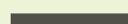
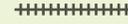
*Please note that the promoted routes depicted are maintained to the best possible standards that the local authorities can afford, and whilst every effort has been made to ensure the routes and structures (i.e gates) are of a good standard at the time of launch, we would be grateful for ongoing feedback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

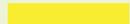
## Map Key

	metalled road
	unmetalled double track
	single track
	footpath
	river/direction of flow
	wood
	boggy
	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 C1
	recommended route C2
	start point/possible parking with grid reference
	alternative parking
	field gate
	bridle gate (5' wide)
	gate with horse latch
	bridleway fingerpost
	water/stone trough
	viewpoint
	other fingerposts

## Service Key

	public house
	church
	telephone
	post office

Upper Swaledale from Birks End



# HORSE RIDING IN THE NORTHERN YORKSHIRE DALES

Harkerside Circulars R3 C1 approx. 11 miles - C2 approx. 8 miles



## Riding Directions:

C1 orange line & numbering clockwise from **S** Grid Reference: SE038962  
 C2 yellow line & numbering anticlockwise from **S** Grid Reference: SE011983

## Circular 1-Gibbon Hill-Whitaside-Harkerside

Start point **S** 1.7 miles south of Grinton

- 1 South west uphill passing cairns RHS, fence RHS, through BG downhill and R at T junction (Dents House).
- 2 West along Apedale Road, steep stony climb after 1 mile, levelling, through HG, & descending to next available R (small cairn).
- 3 Follow double track for approx. 2miles passing shooting lodge LHS, next L.
- 4 North downhill on double track until road (single track BW option near bottom), R on road (wide verges), past Harkerside Place LHS, to BW on R.
- 5 Through G, follow BW track uphill, meeting track from L, then uphill through G, continue up stony track, then along, and L at next junction onto less defined track, becoming double track, across stream, through HG.
- 6 Continue east, R at 1st available grassy track uphill, passing shooting butts on RHS, cross gravelled track, ST uphill to road, R and south along road to start point. **S**

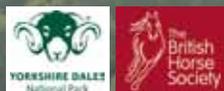
## Circular 2- Swaledale Low Houses-Whitaside-Harkerside Moor

Start point **S** 2.2 miles west of Grinton

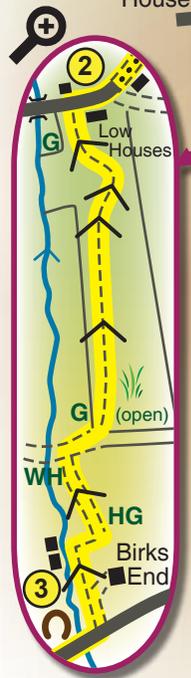
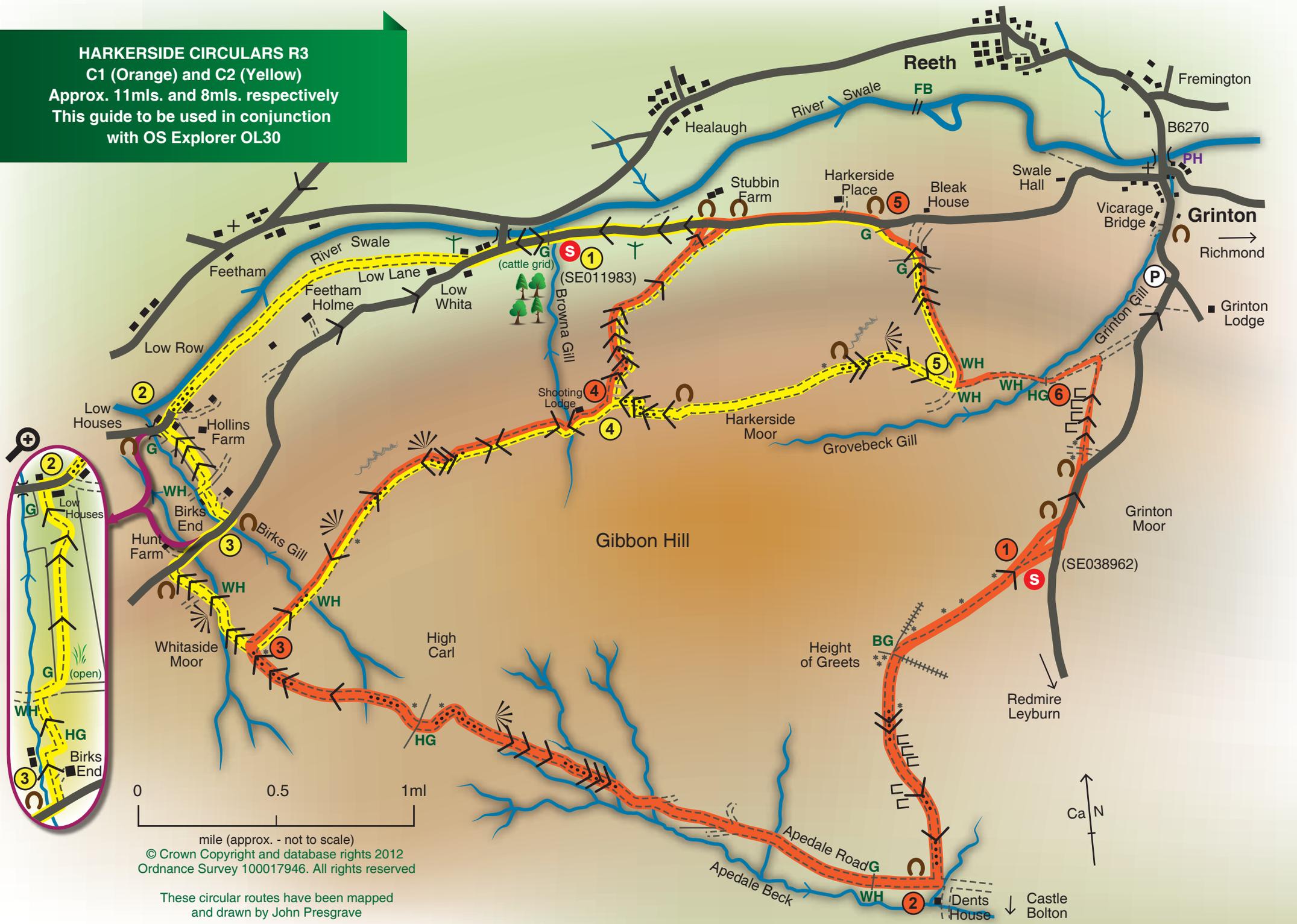
- 1 West along road, ST at junction, R onto green lane (Low Lane) and follow until road and house on L, immediate L through G (BW signpost).
- 2 Up steep grassy BW (surface uneven and a little boggy in parts), keeping wall on RHS, through gateway at top on R, then L before ford, uphill through HG, stream on RHS until Birks End and road at top.
- 3 R along road, L at BW sign, double track uphill taking 1st available double track to L (small cairn), follow approx. 2 miles passing shooting lodge on LHS. (For shorter option, next L downhill to road, then L to start point **S**.)
- 4 ST up steep stony track, to and across Harkerside Moor, descend to next junction.
- 5 L and follow double track along then downhill to G, then downhill a few yards and fork L down to G at road, then L along wide verged road till start point **S** is reached.

## Acknowledgements

The route map and guide has been devised by John Presgrave with the support of the Richmondshire & Bedale Bridleway Group, 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)



**HARKERSIDE CIRCULARS R3**  
**C1 (Orange) and C2 (Yellow)**  
 Approx. 11mils. and 8mils. respectively  
 This guide to be used in conjunction  
 with OS Explorer OL30



0 0.5 1ml  
 mile (approx. - not to scale)

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These circular routes have been mapped  
 and drawn by John Presgrave