

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

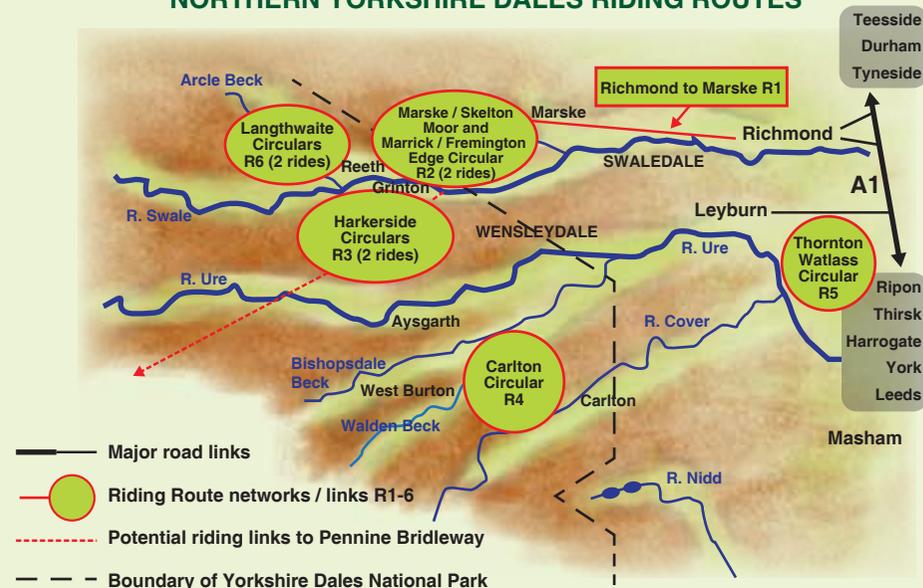
- Report back any route maintenance related problems to NYCC Rights of Way tel: 0845 8727374 or YDNP ranger service tel: 0300 4560030.

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. These routes are also part of the British Horse Society (BHS) National Equestrian Route Network which can be accessed via 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
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John Presgrave is also the author of Bridleway Rides in the South Pennines
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1998 ISBN 0 9530573 13

KEYS

Map Key

	metalled road
	unmetalled double track
	single track
	footpath
	river/direction of flow
	wood
	field wall
	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
	spur from Whashton Road car park
	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
	church
	telephone
	post office



Coast to coast cairn overlooking Lower Swaledale

HORSE RIDING IN THE NORTHERN YORKSHIRE DALES

Richmond to Marske R1 (Approx. 4 miles)



Riding Directions east to west - continuous yellow line on map

Start Point S - Gingerfield Lodge car park ("The Gallops" Richmond Old Race Course)

Grid Reference - NZ158020

Also parking on the Whashton Road with bridleway link to start point **S**
 Alternative parking at Round Howe CP (pay and display) - Link to recommended route uses short section of A6108 which can be busy.

- 1 R and after few yards along road, L down BW until T-junction with surfaced road.
- 2 R along road (BW) past High Leases onto unsurfaced track, down and through Whitcliffe Wood, through HG at end, across meadow keeping to grassy track passing fort up on the right.
- 3 Continue west, through a series of 5 BGs, ignoring accesses to East, High and Low Applegarth.
- 4 Cross over footpath junction with signpost and continue west through BG and HG and past West Applegarth RHS.
- 5 Through next open G (note stone trough on right), uphill and along (past cairn marker for Coast to Coast path) and continue to end of BW.
- 6 At road, L (watch for downhill traffic from R), continue downhill and along till Marske circular is reached. 7

Riding Directions west to east - continuous yellow line on map.

- 7 East along road in direction of Richmond for approx. 1 mile, over Clapgate Bridge and uphill till BW on right is reached.
- 6 Through HG and along BW (passing Coast to Coast cairn) and eventually downhill (note stone trough on left) and through gate (open).
- 5 Continue east past West Applegarth on LHS, through HG then BG and to footpath junction with signpost.
- 4 Continue east along BW, through 5 BGs, ignoring accesses to Low, High and East Applegarth.
- 3 Continue east along grassy BW through meadow, passing fort up on left, then through HG of Whitcliffe Wood, along the track through the wood and uphill eventually passing High Lease on RHS, where track becomes surfaced, then downhill to bottom to BW finger post on left.
- 2 L uphill along signed BW to top where road is reached, then R along road to start point. **S**

Acknowledgements

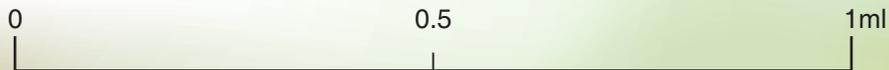
The route map and guide has been devised by John Presgrave with the support of the Richmondshire & Bedale Bridleway Group and North Yorkshire County Council Rights of Way team.
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Use of Richmond Gallops and car park and Permissive Bridleway, courtesy of Richmond Burgage Pastures Committee.



RICHMOND LINK TO MARSKE / MARRICK CIRCULARS R1 Approx. 4MLS

This guide to be used in conjunction with OS Explorer 304



mile (approx. - not to scale)
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This link has been mapped and drawn by John Presgrave