



Rider Brief and Course Notes

Introduction

- Gravel Rocks is a 3 day gravel cycling festival in Duncombe Park, Helmsley
- Riding is on a mix of wide forest trails, well surfaced single track and moorland paths
- The event is most suited to a gravel bike with 42mm tyres, but can be ridden on an MTB or e-MTB (please note we have no charging opportunities)
- Riding is a mix of longer social stages with short timed segments which will decide our podium
- The event village has a full range of facilities and a busy schedule

Location

- Duncombe Park is signed from Helmsley (SE) on the edge of the North Yorks Moors
- Helmsley, on the A170, is a 25min drive from Thirsk on the A1
- The event centre postcode is YO62 5EB
- The event village will be open from 12:00 midday on Friday 12th July
- Camping/parking all on-site and Campervans are welcome - please book a campervan slot online
- Showers, toilets, bike wash, water, barista, catering and bar all on site

Camping and Campervans

- Campervans should pre-book a space ahead of the event through the website
- Camping is included within the entry fee
- You will be able to park next to your tent - follow marshals instructions
- Our event field is used for livestock so please ensure that any bike lubes/cleaners etc are contained
- Please do not light fires etc unless using a fire pan to protect the ground
- We would appreciate riders try to recycle as much of their own waste as possible

Nearby

- ✦ Duncombe Park is set in acres of parkland with woodland and riverside walks - plenty of space to relax
- ✦ Helmsley has a fully stocked Coop, a range of shops, bakery, garage, cafe's, take aways and local fruit picking
- ✦ Helmsley Castle and Rievaulx Abbey are nearby
- ✦ Thrisk has all facilities including bike shops

Arriving

- Duncombe Park is signed and is to the south east of the main village
- Drive through the main gates and up the main driveway passing the Bird of Prey centre and the main house. The event village/parking will be signed
- Please do not stop outside the main estate house - keep driving towards the event field and parking
- On arrival you will be met by one of our staff who will help with parking/camping
- If you have a tepee booked we can let you know your pitch
- You will be able to pitch your tent right next to your car
- Once parked/pitched pop along to sign on in the main marquee

Rider Registration

- Sign on is in the main marquee at the heart of the event village
- Registration is open from 12:00 midday until 21:00 on Friday
- Collect and attach your number to the front of the bike
- Read any Rider Notices and updates
- Collect and attach your timing chip to your bike fork - more info on handover
- Take your rider number to our brand stalls, they may have goodies to hand out
- Full timing schedule at registration

Catering and Bar

- On-site catering from Xclusive Catering:
 - Friday - 12:00-23:00
 - Saturday - 07:00-22:00
 - Sunday - 07:00-09:00
- The Spookton Brewery Bar:
 - Friday - 14:00-23:00
 - Saturday - 15:00-23:00
- A full range of dietary requirements catered for - pasta, roasts, burgers, fries, porridge, pancakes etc
- Northumberland Coffee serving barista coffees, teas and cakes - they will also be on course so pack a few coins!

Timing and Segments

- Your timing chip will be issued at registration and advice on how to mount this correctly
- Please keep it on the bike at all times, it is for timed segments as well as event safety
- Please ensure that you return your chip at the end of the stage on Saturday
- All times from the segments will be collated to give a final podium - this is eligible to riders who complete the full/longer route and complete all segments
- We also have 1 Strava segment on course between 34-36km. A prize will be given for the 'nearest' time to OUR pre-ride time on the course recce - we were riding steady!
- We will award the Strava prize to anyone who has uploaded their time by 17:30 on Saturday

Ride Format

- Friday has a short 10km night stage with 2 timed segments. Riders will need lights and for those without these can be hired from Exposure - details/links on the website
- Saturday is a longer 45-80km day with 5 short timed segments
- Sunday is for social rides or ambassador led rides. Route suggestions will be available and full details of led rides will be available at registration. Routes will vary in distance and be from 1-2hrs
- Stage start details will be displayed on the Rider Notice Board at registration

Friday's Stage Details

- This stage is a shade under 10km in total and all on private estate land
- The route will be fully signed
- The start window is from 21:30-21:40 - group roll out
- The start gate closes promptly
- Timed segment 1 - 2.4km on fast undulating double track
- Timed segment 2 - 1.7km woodland double track, wide concrete tracks and one punchy loose climb, finishing in the centre of the event village

Saturday's Stage Details

- A longer 45-80km stage taking in the wider moors and forests
- The full route gpx is available from the website - ONLY the timed segments will be course marked
- Start gate open from 09:00-09:20
- Start from the Prologue Ramp with a first timed segment of 1.5km on flat, well made surfaces
- Timed segment 2 - 1.7km on fast forest gravel trails with a couple of punchy climbs
- Timed segment 3 - 1.6km descent on fast wide trails with some sharp bends
- Timed segment 4 - 2.0km on mixed natural single track through the woods
- Timed segment 5 - A final 2.4km dash for the line on familiar fast concrete gravel trails
- We also have a Strava Segment on course - details at registration

Saturday's Stage Details - cont

- Full details of each timed segment will be displayed at the start of the section
- Riders competing all the timed segments and the full (80km) route will be eligible for our podium
- There will be one Feed Station at 28/40km (visited twice) supported by Clif
- The feed will have water, a range of Clif products and few sweet treats
- We will have a cut-off/Short Course option at the 28km mark - riders can then choose a shorter ride. The cut-off time will be 11:45
- There will be an optional cut-off at 58km for anyone unlikely to make the course closure at 18:00
- Any retirees must report to the event finish

Sunday Social Details

- We have a few of our brand ambassadors leading various social rides on the Sunday morning
- Topeak are hosting a ride with Commonwealth pro Tom Mazzone - more info and sign on at the Topeak stand
- Optional ride gpx files are also available for those wanting to explore further
- Please note that these are social rides and are not signed or supported in a similar way to the main event
- These rides will be at a leisurely pace and vary in distance - please ensure that you are suitably equipt and able to look after yourself
- Riders should follow the Countryside/Highway Code at all times

And Finally

- In the spirit of gravel please make sure that you are self-sufficient - carry enough water, snacks and spares to complete the ride
- Enjoy the chance to 'get social' between the timed segments
- Remember that many of the trails are shared and only the timed segments should be raced on
- Look after yourself and your fellow riders and ride to the conditions as well as your abilities
- We will have on course support with mechanics and medics with staff at the timed segments to help where possible

We want to say a big THANK YOU to all of our sponsors and event partners.

 crankbrothers PRESENTS

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