THE WOOLER WHEEL CLASSIC

CYCLE SPORTIVE

RIDER MANUAL

WOOLER WHEEL CLASSIC
100km Event
9th May 2026

BROWN'S BIKES

Northumberland National Park

H&H HARRISON & HETHERINGTON

WOOLER

Welcome to the Wooler Wheel Classic cycle sportive.

The Classic cycle sportive comprises two rides, a 60k and 100k for both junior and adult riders. Both rides start and finish in Wooler at the H&H Auction Mart.

The event has a dedicated controller at HQ, roving mechanical and rescue support and has first aid located at points on the routes. The routes are fully signed and there are road marshals located at key points.

At registration you will be issued with a timing chip that will be used to generate a time for your ride. This timing chip belongs to SiEntries and there will be a penalty fee applied for any lost or damaged timing chips, so please keep them safe and ensure they are returned at the end. Please tap out at the start, and back in at the finish to record your time.

On the 100k there are several water stations and a feed station and when you finish there is a hot meal at the Mart.

The event is conducted under the regulations of SiEntries and only riders who have entered via the SiEntries website will be permitted to participate in the event. There is entry to the event on the day if so desired, though this will still be through the SiEntries system.

Please read the rest of this information as it tells you about the location, organisation and route of your 100k event.

We hope you will enjoy yourself during the event, stay safe out on the road and please remember that

Roads are not closed for this event so other road users will be using them

Riders under the age of 18

All junior riders under the age of 18 on the day of the event will need a signed Parental Consent form to take part in the event.

To ride unaccompanied in the event you must be aged 16 or over on the day.

If you are under 16 on the day, you will not be allowed to ride unaccompanied and will need and an adult (over 18) to ride with and supervise you during the event. You and your accompanying rider must stay together whilst out on the ride.

Without a signed parental consent form and if under 16 an accompanying rider, we cannot let you ride

About the Classic 100k Event

Event located at **Harrison & Hetherington Wooler Auction Mart**
Berwick Road
Wooler
NE71 6SL

Parking opens from **07:00**

Register and start between **07:30 and 09:00**

Event closes at **16:00**

Contact numbers on the day

These numbers are only available from 07:00 on the day of the event should you need help during the event. Please make sure you have entered them into your mobile.

07492 272247 – Brown

07951 321776 - Rob

If you need help, text the controller with your rider number, location and a brief description of the problem and the Controller will contact you. Ideally using the 'what3words' app will help us locate you.

Please note that mobile phone coverage is patchy throughout the area, you may find you need to move your location slightly to get a better signal and it also varies between service providers.

Remember to bring a mobile with you.

Accidents and First Aid

We hope you won't need it, but should you need first aid it is provided by

St John Ambulance at Wooler Mart 07.00 to 16.00

If you suffer a serious accident requiring urgent medical attention always call 999 first, then contact the Controller

The 100k route

The 100k route makes its way through North Northumberland around Glendale, the Kyloe Hills and then over to the Tweed valley before returning along the Milfield plain to Wooler. The landscape is in the main hilly, with several steep ascents and descents, but on the Milfield Plain the route is fairly level. The first 47km of the route is shared with the 60k event.

Starting from the Mart the route first heads north towards Doddington before turning right to follow the River Till to Weetwood. After crossing Weetwood bridge the route climbs out of the valley and heads south to Lilburn and on to Old Bewick.

After a sharp left turn before Old Bewick, the route heads north past Chillingham to the water station at Chatton and then up Lyham Bank, the first large climb in the event.

Following the climb up Lyham bank with views over to the coast, there is a welcome descent before heading north again.

Belford Moor towards the coast

South of Holborn the route turns left towards Hetton Steads before heading north again towards Lowick following the old Roman road known as 'Devil's Causeway'.

The route then crosses the main Berwick to Wooler road towards Bar Moor. At this crossing, please ensure you come to a complete stop and check for traffic, as it is a national speed limit road you are crossing, and visibility is very limited on the approach. Please do not trust others, even well-intentioned marshals (who have been briefed to tell you to stop, not to ride straight over), to wave you across; it is your duty of care to check for yourself! Once across, it is then down towards Kimmerston. Before you get to Kimmerston, the WWC60 routes splits off to the left, so again tack care to slow down on this descent in order to make a hard right turn for the 100KM course.

After the route split, you make your way to Heatherslaw and the feed station. The route then travels through Crookham. This year there will be a VE Day celebration happening at the Crookham Village Hall, so do look out for pedestrians or increased traffic before heading over the A697 to Branxton and up to the River Tweed. After following the River Tweed to Carham the route then begins the return to Wooler and heads down towards the Cheviots.

There is a gentle descent to Bowmont Water before another large climb at Thornington Bank up to Flodden Edge.

It's then downhill to Milfield and a relatively flat section back to Wooler across the Milfield Plain, the lakebed of the former glacial Lake Ewart.

The roads used in this ride are mostly quiet, unclassified rural roads. A small proportion of the ride is on B roads where there is seldom heavy traffic and there are a couple of short sections on the A697.

Bar Moor towards Kimmerston

Note that the roads aren't closed for this event - they will be shared with normal traffic and national traffic regulations will apply.

Cut-off time

A cut-off time is implemented on the WWC100 to ensure that you have enough time to complete your ride before the event closes. The cut-off point on the route is:

Heatherslaw Mill: **13:30**

If you reach **Heatherslaw Mill after 13.30** we will ask you to abandon the remainder of your ride and either return to Wooler along the most direct (safe) route or be picked up. A route map will be provided by the marshals. The station will close after this time.

For those approaching the split between the 60km and 100km around 13:00, just before Heatherslaw Mill, we will advise that you consider taking the turn to complete the shorter 60km rather than continuing on the 100km route.

If you arrive at Heatherslaw after the cut-off time and choose to continue, **you will be considered to have withdrawn yourself and therefore no longer part of the event**. It will be at the discretion of the organisers and volunteers whether rider support remains available.

Please note that the water station and road marshals near Milfield will finish at 16.15.

Route downloads

You can view the route and download gpx files from Ridewithgps

OS Locate links Ordnance Survey Apple Store Google Play Store

Statistics for the route:

Total distance: **102.9km**

Total ascent: 998m

WWC100 Map and profile

HQ – Food, Toilets & First Aid

Food, & Toilets

Water & Toilets

Water only

Before the event

Bike

Your bike must be in good roadworthy order and be road legal e.g. fitted with two efficient braking systems, operating independently on the front and rear wheel. The use of e-bikes are permitted.

You will need to be as self-sufficient as possible whilst out on the road, so a puncture repair kit, or a couple of spare tubes, a pump and a basic tool set such as tyre levers, chain tool, spanners etc. are a must. If you have any mechanical issues on route, and need assistance, call Mark from Brown's Bikes on the number above.

Helmet

It is strongly advised that all entrants wear a helmet conforming to a recognised safety standard such as a CE standard EN1078.

Clothing

One thing that we cannot guarantee in Northumberland is the weather, so please keep up to date with the local weather forecast and dress appropriately. You can become uncomfortable if you have not brought suitable clothing such as a good waterproof and remember that layers are best.

Light levels can be low, so for your safety and that of other road users, if it is raining, overcast, misty or foggy, we recommend that you wear appropriately coloured clothing and if necessary, use lights.

Withdrawing before the event

If you wish to withdraw from the event before the event day please let the organisers know either via the SiEntires website.

Short term event cancellation

The Wooler Wheel Classic will only be cancelled if extreme weather or an incident makes the routes unusable, or something presents a significant threat to health and safety.

If this happens, a message will be sent to you using **the email address you gave when booking on the SiEntries website** and a cancellation notice posted on our Facebook page.

Please check before you set out to travel to Wooler

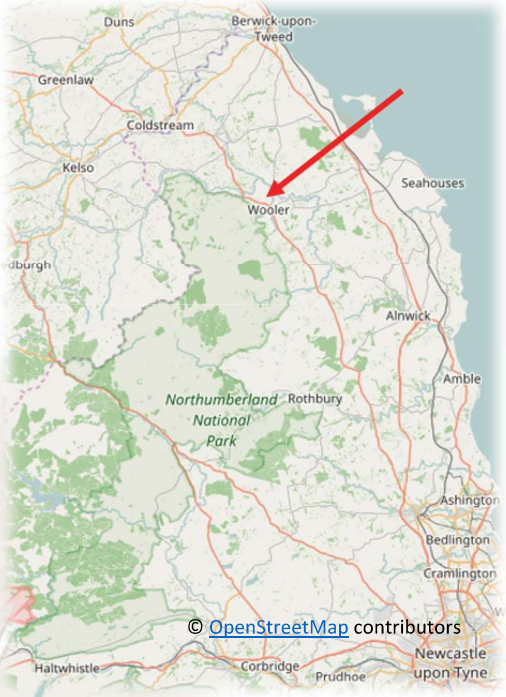
If it happens at very short notice (i.e. shortly before the event opens), marshals at the Wooler Mart and car park will let you know what is happening.

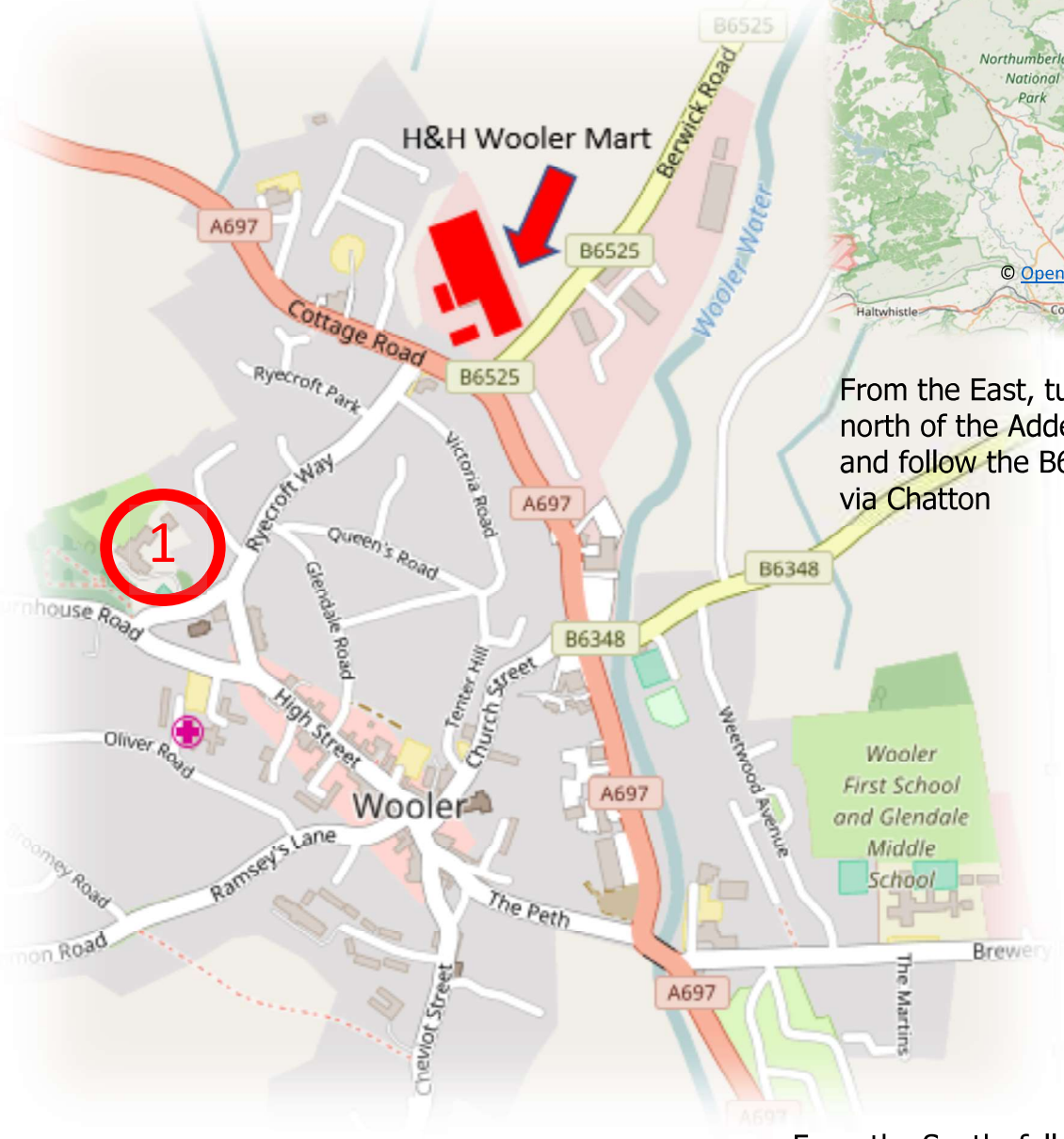
If we are forced cancel the event, the cancellation policy stated on the SiEntries website will be followed.

Getting to the event

Wooler is situated in North Northumberland to the East of the Northumberland National Park on the A697.

From the North, follow the A697 south from Coldstream in the Scottish Borders or the B6525 from Berwick-upon-Tweed





© OpenStreetMap contributors

From the East, turn off the A1 just north of the Adderstone Services and follow the B6348 to Wooler via Chatton

From the South, follow the A697 north from the A1 at Morpeth

Parking

There is limited parking at the Mart so we recommend:

1. Park at the long stay car park in Wooler which is safe and a short distance away.

Registration

Inside the building follow the signs to the bike park and registration. In the registration area go to the desk and speak with the SiEntries representative. If under 18, we will need your completed parental consent form if you've not already sent it back to us.

When you register, you will be given an elasticated band which incorporates the timing chip. Once activated at the start, this can either be worn on a wrist, or if desired can be zipped away somewhere safe for the ride before your return and tapping back in to finish.

Please take care not to lose or damage the timing chip as there will be a fee to pay from SiEntries.

Further information such as the weather forecast, large route maps and any last-minute changes or hazards to look out for will be displayed in the registration area. Copies of the risk assessment for the ride will be available on the registration desk.

Starting your ride

Collect your bike and walk down the passageway between the pens to the north end of the mart and round to the start point. Don't cross the timing gate start line until cleared to do so by a marshal.

You must activate the timing gate to start your ride and receive a time at the end. Also, for safety reasons we use the timing system to let us know who is out on the road. If we don't know you've started, we won't know if you've gone missing and not returned.

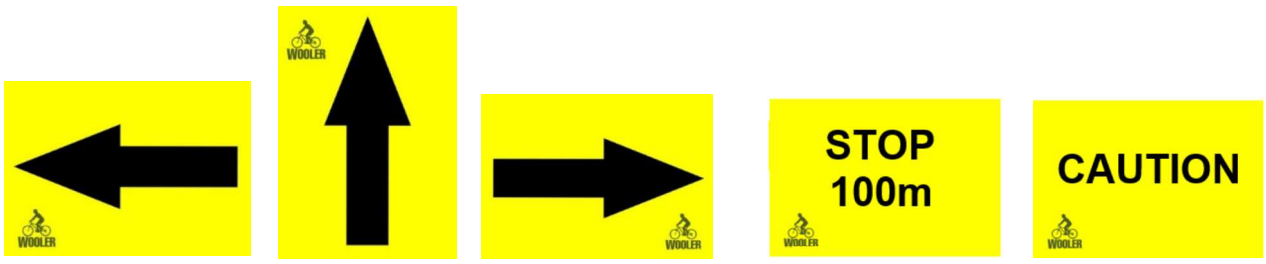
If the start becomes busy, riders will be gathered in groups of about 20 and each group will be released to start at intervals of several minutes.

If you're riding with companions, try to make sure that you're all included in the same starting group or else wait for them further down B6525 without blocking the way through for other riders or vehicles.

Out on the road

Signs

The route is signed throughout with direction and information signs, examples of which are shown below.

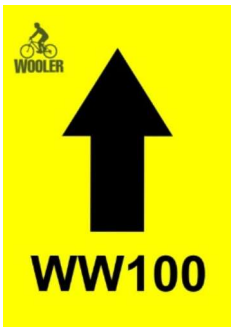


On long stretches when passing side roads and there is no direction sign, continue straight ahead.

There is one route split located at the junction with the road to Fenton Hill Farm, 46.5km (29 miles) from the start.

This is where the 100k and 60k routes diverge.

A route split warning sign will be located about 400m before the split.



At the route split, follow the WW100 arrow.

Although the route is fully signed, learning the route before you set off is important as sportives have, unfortunately, reported signs being removed.

Feed and Water Stations

The WWC100 route has a feed and water stations at the following locations from the start

- Water Station with toilets at the Percy Arms, Chatton
- Feed Station with toilets at Heatherslaw Mill
- Water Station with toilet at Carham
- Water Station with toilets beyond, Milfield on the turn to Doddington

There will be Jelly babies at the top of Lyham Hill (for those who make it up!)

THE WOOLER WHEEL LOGO ON THE SIGN WILL ALWAYS BE THE CORRECT WAY UP. IF IT ISN'T, THE SIGN IS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH SO ALWAYS ENSURE YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE ROUTE

Staying safe on the road

The Wooler Wheel Classic 100k route is generally safe and quiet but you should take extra care at certain junctions.

B6525/Sandy Lonnen. This requires a right turn across the B6525. Visibility is good in both directions but beware of fast traffic from either direction

B6525/Fowberry Mains. This requires crossing the B6348 towards Fowberry Mains. Traffic will be coming uphill from the direction of Chatton. The road appears, to the rider, to go straight on but

actually turns ninety degrees to the left so traffic will be coming round the corner towards you. Therefore, you must come to a stop before making this turn.

Fowberry Mains. The road surface has deteriorated over the past year along this section, please take care.

Fowberry Mains/Ferny Law. Hedges make visibility to the left at this at this junction limited. Although the road from Chatton to Lilburn has little traffic, be prepared to stop.

Old Bewick Bridge. A narrow single lane stone bridge that you approach via a right-hand bend. Look out for on-coming traffic in the middle of the road.

B6346, sharp left turn onto this road. You will approach this junction by the start of an S-bend on the B6346 and will almost turn back on yourself. It is not usually a busy road but hedges mean you will not be able to see vehicles approaching from the left along the B6346.

You are advised to slow right down or stop at this junction to avoid turning wide and into possible oncoming traffic

B6349 on Belford Moor. A sharp left turn at the junction with the road to Hazelrigg. Go too fast and a stone wall awaits you!

You are advised to slow right down

B6525 crossroads at Blue House, south of Barmoor. The B6525 is probably the most used B road in Glendale since it is the direct road between Wooler and Berwick. Visibility in either direction is good but traffic will be travelling at 60mph. Be vigilant when crossing this road.

You are advised to stop at this junction

A697, after Crookham. You will need to turn right onto the A697 and follow it for a short distance before turning left to Branxton. This is not usually a busy road but traffic may be travelling at 60 mph.

West Flodden at the crossroads with B6352. The road descends steeply from Flodden Edge and bikes can achieve high speeds. You must slow down when approaching this junction. The B6352 is not busy but vehicles approaching the crossroads may be travelling at 60mph and can be partly obscured by hedges and a dip to the right.

You are advised to slow right down at this junction

Junction with A697, just north of Milfield. The approach road to this junction is downhill and you may pick up speed. You will need to turn right across the A697 which may have traffic slowing down or accelerating on it.

You are advised to slow right down and may have to stop at this junction

Junction with the B6525 in Doddington. A right turn onto the B6525 back to Wooler. A 30mph zone, but care is still needed as traffic approaching from the left is partly obscured by trees.

You are advised to slow right down at this junction

Wooler Mart (finish). Getting into the Wooler Mart and the finish straight requires turning right across the B6525. This is a 30mph zone, but care is still needed.

Road surfaces

Given the rural nature of this ride, broken road surfaces, potholes and gravel / agricultural dirt from fields can occur anywhere along our routes and potholes can sometimes be surprisingly deep, **so always be on the lookout for them and please point them out to fellow riders.** Road junctions, entrances used by farm vehicles and beneath overhanging trees are particularly susceptible to damage.

In places, there can be grit and sand washed out of the fields (and potholes) by rain or blown by strong winds. These can cause skidding, especially on tight bends.

If the weather is wet or has been wet recently, expect to find mud deposits on the roads left by tractors emerging from fields.

If it has been raining try to avoid puddles, they may be hiding deep potholes.

Wild animals

There is a lot of wildlife in North Northumberland and you may encounter rabbits, hares, birds, and deer.

Hitting or trying to avoid hitting one of these may cause loss of balance and can result in you falling off your bike.

When disturbed they have different methods of escaping you.

Rabbits may run across the road or scatter in front of you. Hares will try and outrun you straight ahead along the road. They will usually win, eventually turning into a trusted field or wood. However, if you do catch up to them they will start a sudden rapid zigzag escape manoeuvre in front of you.

Smaller birds are not usually a problem but game birds may run, fly across the road or scatter in front of riders when disturbed. Pheasants tend to leave it till the last moment and then run across the road in front of you.

Deer can pose the greatest risk to a rider. When alarmed they tend to bound across the road from one field to the next in front of you. They are big, heavy and fast, and you will be hurt if you collide with one. So be vigilant if you see any deer in adjacent fields.

Domestic animals and livestock

Sheep often escape from their fields and will run randomly in front of you when approached, so follow them slowly until they find a way back into the field or you can get past safely.

Horses can be easily spooked, especially if approached fast from behind. Pass horses slowly, giving them a wide berth and don't make sudden loud noises near them. Horse experts advise cyclists to adopt the "Hail a Horse" technique. Since horses are used to the human voice, speaking to the rider identifies you as a human and not a predator. If the horse appears to become nervous, stop and allow the rider to calm their horse. Never ring a bell or blow a whistle.

Other traffic

The roads on the route can be so quiet it is easy to forget that there is other traffic. As well as cars, you may encounter agricultural traffic - farm workers in 4x4s, tractors etc.

In places the roads may be narrow and bendy with high hedges - you should ride them with the expectation (especially on fast descents) that there will be an oncoming vehicle in the middle of the road when you approach bends and on narrow bridges.

Marshals

Marshals will be recognisable by their hi vis jackets/vests. They will be in the Mart, the start and finish area, feed/water stations, and at locations around the route. Out on the route, they are there for your safety, **NOT TO STOP TRAFFIC**.

Conduct on the road

Remember the roads are not closed to traffic for this event and other traffic will be using them, so you must always

Obey the highway code

Riders should not be distracted by listening to headphones or use mobile phones whilst cycling. At all times it is the individual rider's responsibility to be aware of their surroundings, road conditions and hazards.

Be aware of other cyclists and road users, let those who are faster overtake and be patient with slower riders or horses.

Ride in single file when appropriate and no more than two abreast at other times (Highway Code rule 66), and remember that racing is not permitted on open public roads

Please remember you are required to give way and to avoid getting in the way of Emergency Services on their way to an incident

Litter

The event runs with the good will of the communities it uses so **Please keep Northumberland and the Borders litter free.** Use the bags at the water/feed stations or at the Mart when you finish.

If you need help

If you need help whilst out on the road contact the Controller directly, or marshals on the road and at the feed/water stations can contact the Controller for you. If you haven't done so yet, put the Controller's contact numbers in your phone.

07492 272247 - Brown

07951 321776 - Rob

If you are not with a marshal or station when you contact the Controller it would be useful to know where you are, so always be aware of your location. You can get a free app called what3words.

It will give you your location and enable you to share your location with us in a message (not email) so we can find you on our map. If you decide to move location whilst awaiting assistance, please update the controller.

Mobile mechanical support is provided by Pro Mechanic Brown's Bikes, Brown is contactable on **07492 272247.**

Other cycle repair services have been appearing on the routes, **they are not part of the event and will charge you for any work they do**.

Pulling out during the ride

If you decide to pull out of the event, please inform one of the marshals or contact the Controller.

If you are on the outward stage of the ride and it is possible to cut out sections of the ride and return to the mart by a shorter route, the marshal or controller will give you directions.

If you are unable to proceed, you and your bike will be picked up.

If you are not feeling well and there are no marshals nearby, please let other cyclists know and phone the controller.

If you pull out of the event you must let us know and please let the controller or one of the finish marshals know when you have returned to the mart.

Finishing your ride

To finish your ride, you must pass through the timing gate. **You will then need to return to registration desk to return your timing chip, receive your t-shirt and a voucher for a meal if you booked on or before April 20th.** You will be automatically signed out by the timing system as having returned and your ride time determined. We use the timing system to keep a record of who has returned

Please ensure you return the timing chip at the end of your ride, or else face a charge to cover the cost of a lost timing chip.

After the ride

Refuelling

At the finish you will be given a voucher to use in in Ann's Cafe for a hot meal a drink and a well-earned sit down. The café will close at 4pm, however hot meals will be left for riders returning 4-5pm.

Leaving the event

Thank you for taking part in the event from everyone involved in running the event, we hope you enjoyed it. Have a safe journey home.

Ride times

We will let you know when ride times are available, and they will be published on a website – we will give you the links.

The Wooler Wheel Classic 100k ride is not a race. It is challenge and we intend it to be safe and enjoyable. For some, just finishing their ride is the challenge and for others it is to complete the course in the best time they can for their own personal satisfaction or to measure how their fitness is progressing.

We publish times so that you can see your own personal time not to compare it with others. A rider that has shortened their ride may appear to have a quicker time than others who have completed the full route. On the grounds of safety and enjoyment we prefer riders on the 100k who are struggling, to be picked up or seek the shorter route (when we can offer it), for their own safety and that of others.

Photos

Photos packages may be available for any who would like them, please enquire ahead of your ride on the day or get in touch to check in for the latest information regarding images.

Advice from British Cycling

Clothing
Riding in mixed weather conditions
Bike maintenance
Cleaning your bike
Cycling nutrition
Riding safely on the road
Sportive etiquette
Common sportive mistakes
British Cycling rulebook

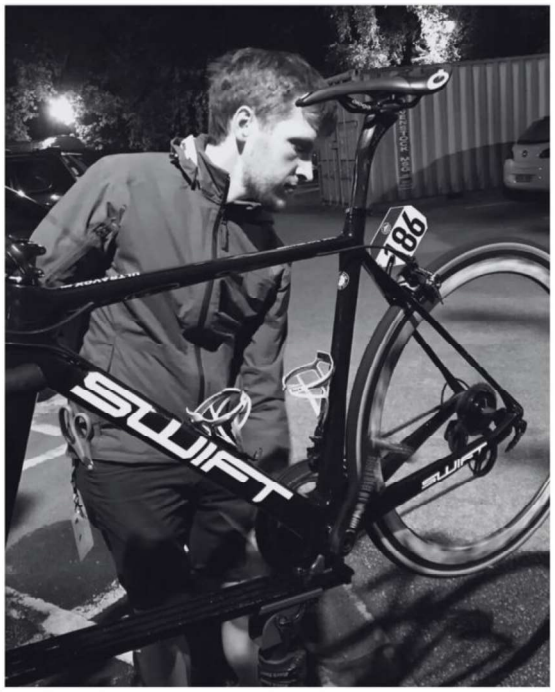
Friends, partners and Sponsors

The Wooler Wheel is grateful to the following who will be providing valuable services to the Classic event.

BROWNS BIKES

Browns bikes offers pro level bike serving, Servicing bikes of world tour riders like James Shaw, Alex Dowsett and Team GB to anyone just starting out on their bike riding journey.

Tel: +44 749 227 2247



H&H

Northumberland National Park

Northumberland County Council

Ford & Etal Estates

Ad Gefrin®

Special Offer to Wooler Wheel Participants

We would like to offer the participants in the 2026 Wooler Wheel the opportunity to dine in our Beodern Bistro at Ad Gefrin with a **10% discount** on food and non-alcoholic drinks during the weekend of the event (Saturday 9th May & Sunday 10th May).

The Bistro is open from 10am both days serving from our daytime menu with evening dining available from 5pm on the Saturday evening too. Sunday Lunch is also served on Sunday. Last seating is 3:15pm with last orders for hot food at 3:30pm.

Visitors are able to walk in on the day but making a booking in advance via our website is recommended to be sure of availability.

Bar & Bistro | Restaurants in Wooler | Ad Gefrin | Ad Gefrin

Please provide evidence of participation in the Wooler Wheel at the time of your visit to benefit from this discounted rate.

There is also the opportunity to visit our Anglo-Saxon Museum on site. Through immersive AV and historical artifacts experience the Great Hall of the kings and queens of Northumbria. Meet the people, see their lives and learn their stories that bring this rich - and largely untold - period of our history to life. Entry to the Museum is free.

Finally, if you have time in your busy weekend, we also offer Distillery & Tasting tours. Enjoy a guided tour of all production areas - from the arrival of our malt, through mashing, fermentation, and distillation to filling our casks for maturing, we encourage you to enjoy the full journey of our spirit making. Tours take 90 minutes and run each day, morning and afternoon. Again these can be booked via our website:-

Distillery Tour and Tasting with Museum Entry

If you cannot visit us this weekend we hope you might visit us in the future.

Wishing you well for the 2026 event.

The team at Ad Gefrin.

Marshals

A big thanks to all our marshals out on the road, at the stations and in the Mart. They give their time and help for free and without it we could not run the event.

Useful links

Wooler Wheel website	www.woolerwheel.co.uk
Wooler Wheel Organisers	hello@woolerwheel.co.uk
Wooler Wheel Facebook	www.facebook.com/woolerwheelclassic
Wooler Wheel Instagram	www.instagram.com/woolerwheelclassic

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

All riders under the age of 18 are required to have a completed Parental Consent Form to participate in the Wooler Wheel events.

Riders under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a supervising adult rider who will be responsible for them during the event and **must stay together whilst out on the ride.**

Riders over the age of 16 are permitted to ride without an accompanying adult and must therefore assume responsibility for their own safety.

A young rider who persistently misbehaves, puts others in danger or if under 16 has left their accompanying adult, will be stopped and may not be allowed to continue in the event.

Details of rider

Rider's Name _____

Address _____

_____

County _____ Postcode _____

Date of Birth _____

Declaration

By signing this I confirm that I am the parent or guardian of and holding legal responsibilities for the above rider and give consent for their participation in the event. To the best of my knowledge there are no medical conditions which could affect his/her ability to ride safely in the event.

Parent/guardian name (please print) _____

Parent/guardian signature _____

Date _____

For riders under the age of 16

Please give the name of the accompanying adult supervising the young rider.

Name of accompanying adult _____