



# Northumbria

SUN 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016

Today's route, is 65 miles long, and covers the Durham countryside and villages to the west of the A1.

The run starts at Durham Services and finishes at Brambles tea room in the Poplar Tree Garden Centre, Shincliffe. It is on easy roads and should take about 3hrs without stops. You can stop at Eggleston Hall Tea Room for coffee/lunch, or if this proves too busy, there is the Three Tuns pub in Eggleston village, or the nearby village green if you have brought a picnic. Alternatively, at the end, the Garden Centre or the Seven Stars in Shincliffe village do Sunday lunches.

Instructions have been abbreviated as follows:

TL Turn left  
 TR Turn right  
 SO Straight on  
 T Tee junction  
 X Cross Roads  
 RB Roundabout

Mileage	Instruction	Signs & Comments
Zero trip	TL leaving Durham Services onto A688.	
1.2	2 <sup>nd</sup> exit at RB (A688)	Spennymoor, Bishop Auckland
2.2	TR into minor road	Hett
3.2	TL towards Hett	<i>No sign</i>
3.8	TR at T in Hett,	<i>Opposite village hall</i>

Hett is a small village first mentioned in 1168. Directly opposite the junction is the village hall, which is based on a WWII Nissan hut. The name Hett is said to come from the shape of the hill on which the village stands, which looks like a hat. There were once 5 farms in the village of which 3 survive.

5.3	Through Sunderland Bridge TR at T onto A167	Newcastle, Durham
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Sunderland Bridge is named after the nearby 15<sup>th</sup> century bridge, and is on land 'sundered' from Durham City. Nearby is Croxdale Hall which has been in the Salvin family since 1402.

5.5	Over bridge and 1 <sup>st</sup> exit at RB onto B6300	Brandon, Crook
7.4	At Brandon TL onto A690	Crook
9.4	At Brancepeth TR onto minor road	Tow Law, Stanley Crook, Sunnyside, Oakenshaw
12.3	TR onto B6299	Sunnyside, Tow Law, Crook
15.5	TR onto A68	Corbridge
16.0	TL onto B6297	Wolsingham, <i>by war memorial</i>
18.0	TL onto B6296	Wolsingham
	Toilets on right upon entering Wolsingham	<i>Just after country park on right</i>

King Charles II is said to have ridden his horse up the stairs of one of the old cottages in Whitfield Place in Front St. David Bellamy, and Neil Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys were born in Wolsingham.

19.3	In Wolsingham TR at T onto A689	Alston, Stanhope
19.4	Soon TL onto minor road	Hamsterley Forest
21.1	Bear right	Hamsterley
24.1	<b>Leaving Bedburn, after entrance to Hamsterley Forest drive, take first unmarked road on right as you start to go uphill</b>	<i>Opposite cycle way post on left</i>
24.7	TR at T	Eggleston, Woodland
28.0	After left bend in road, TR	Middleton in Teesdale, Eggleston
29.0	TR at T onto B6282 towards Eggleston	Middleton in Teesdale, Barnard Castle
30.2, 31.6	Cattle grids!	
32.9	TR at T onto B6278 (becomes B6282)	Middleton in Teesdale, Eggleston
33.7	TL onto B6281 for Eggleston Hall Gardens	Cotherstone, Mickleton, Romaldkirk
33.8	TR thru gates into Eggleston Hall Gardens <b>Caution narrow drive!</b>	<i>Halfway down hill</i>
	Park in car park for tea room (small overflow park at end).	

If Eggleston Hall tea rooms are too busy, the alternatives are the Three Tuns pub in Eggleston village, or picnic on the green in front of the Three Tuns. To get there leave Eggleston Hall, turn left up the hill, then left at T onto B6282, then second right up into village.

Eggleston Hall is owned by the Gray family, descended from Sir William Gray the shipping magnate. It was used as the location for the ITV series 'Ladette to Lady'.

#### **If leaving from Eggleston Hall:**

Turn left up the hill, turn right at T onto B6282 then soon, at next junction with B6278 bear right. **Zero trip meter** (by garage on right with MOT sign).

#### **If leaving from Three Tuns in Eggleston Village:**

Turn left out of car park, immediately right onto B6278, then soon bear left at next junction with B6282. **Zero trip meter** (by garage on right with MOT sign).

0.7	Bear left onto B6279	Staindrop, Bishop Auckland
4.8	At X roads TL	Woodland & Copley
	Pass Gaunless Lead Mill on right	

The chimney is all that remains of Gaunless lead mill, which was built by the Earl of Darlington to smelt ore from his Teesdale mines. It operated from 1770-1870.

7.3	TR at T onto B6282	Butterknowle, Toft Hill
7.5	TL almost immediately onto minor road	Butterknowle, Lynesack
8.5	TL, no sign	<i>next to Butterknowle village sign</i>
9.1	TL, no sign	<i>White house on corner opposite</i>

9.9	TL at T onto minor road	Hamsterley
10.3	TR at T	Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland
11.2	TL	Hamsterley
13.0	TR at T in Hamsterley to Witton le Wear	<i>No sign</i>
	If toilets required left at T, and toilets are ¼ mile on right hand side. Turn round, return through Hamsterley and carry straight on towards Witton le Wear	
14.6	TL onto A68	Corbridge, Tow Law
15.0	TR into Witton le Wear	Witton le Wear
15.3	TL at T, no sign	<i>No sign</i>
15.4	Bear left towards Howden le Wear	Crook
17.1	TR at T	<i>No sign</i>
17.2	TL at RB onto A689	Crook, Willington
17.4	Take third right into minor road just as main road bends to left, cross narrow bridge.	<i>No sign</i>
17.8	TL at X roads	<i>No sign</i>
18.6	Cross A690 at X roads onto minor road.	Tow Law
20.1	TR at T onto B6299	Willington
20.3	TL onto minor road	Durham, Brancepeth, Oakenshaw
23.3	TL at T onto A690	Sunderland, Durham
25.2	TR in Brandon onto B6300	Durham avoiding low bridge
27.1	1 <sup>st</sup> exit at RB onto A167	Newcastle, Durham
28.3	TR (2 <sup>nd</sup> exit) at RB onto A177	Durham
29.6	Keep right at traffic lights to stay on A177	Bowburn, Coxhoe
29.9	3 <sup>rd</sup> exit at RB to stay on A177	Bowburn, Coxhoe
30.7	Over bridge and TR just past Rose Tree pub	<i>No sign</i>
	At left curve in road, opposite Cowdray House, TR into Hall Lane for Poplar Tree Garden Centre	<i>Narrow entrance</i>
	Park in Garden Centre Car Park (We should be able to all park together at the bottom of the overflow car park on the grass, if not wet)	

Congratulations you've made it! Head for Brambles tea room inside the Garden Centre for tea, scones, ice cream (or Sunday lunch). If the first room is busy there is a second big room at the back, or seating outside, weather permitting.

If you want an alternative Sunday lunch the Seven Stars in Shincliffe village serves until 3pm.

The easiest route back (to avoid having to go into Durham City) is to turn right on leaving the garden centre, drive through Shincliffe village and turn right onto the A177, which takes you back through Bowburn to join the A1 at Junction 61.

In an emergency phone Kevin Prosser on 07905 450277