

# Kielder Run and Kielder Car Show (optional)

June 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

Steve Miller 07976 523602

Overall Distance 114 miles. Estimated duration 5 hours including 1 hour for lunch at Old School Tea Rooms in Falstone 01434 240459.

Petrol stations on Route, Kielder Village unmanned card only (pricey), Chollerford.

- 0.0 - Dobbies Garden Centre
- 0.1 - 3<sup>rd</sup> exit at roundabout SP Ponteland
- 0.9 - straight on at traffic lights first exit at roundabout
- 2.0 - turn left SP Dissington
- 4.2 - turn left at T junction
- 4.5 - turn right SP Dissington Hall
- 7.1 - turn right SP Stamfordham
- 7.3 - turn left SP Matfen
- 13.2 - turn right T Junction SP Chollerford
- 16.2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> exit at roundabout SP A68 Jedburgh
- 24.4 - hold onto your breakfast
- 36.0 - give way turn left SP A68
- 49.1 - viewpoint photoshoot Carter Bar
- 49.5 - turn left SP Hawick A6088
- 54.9 - keep left
- 56.8 - turn left SP Kielder Water
- 66.7 - turn left SP Kielder Water

Option to call into Kielder Classic car show. Head for Kielder Castle. The organisers have reserved 12 parking spaces for MGN. This is a free event and ticket passes can be obtained from Steve Miller at the start of this run. The organisers are aware we are on an MGN run and are invited to call in to show our cars and may leave at any time during this event.

You may have lunch here if you wish or continue to Falstone.

To avoid confusion please zero your clock when you arrive at Hawkhope carpark. This is the last carpark on your left at Kielder **before** the dam.

- 0.0 - Hawkhope carpark, photoshoot then exit carpark turning left
- 1.2 - turn left SP Falstone
- Lunch at the Old School Tea Rooms Falstone. Building on the left as you enter Falstone. Small carpark at rear.

- 1.7 – exit carpark turn right back the way we came in.
- 2.2 – give way turn left SP Bellingham
- 7.2 – turn right SP Bellingham/Newcastle/Hexham
- 10.4 – turn right SP Hexham B6320
- 21.9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> exit on roundabout at Chollerford. Traffic lights over bridge
- 22.3 – turn right SP Wall
- 25.6 – turn left join dual carriageway SP Hexham A69
- 26.2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> exit on roundabout SP Newcastle A69
- 31.9 – 1<sup>st</sup> exit on roundabout SP Brockbushes
- Coffee/tea and cake

## Some mildly interesting facts

**Kielder Water** is a large artificial reservoir in Northumberland in [North East England](#). It is the largest artificial lake in the United Kingdom by capacity and it is surrounded by [Kielder Forest](#), the largest man-made woodland in Europe. The scheme was planned in the late 1960s to satisfy an expected rise in demand for water to support a booming UK industrial economy. But the decline of traditional heavy industry, together with more water-efficient industrial processes and better control of water supply leakage, served to undermine the original justification for the reservoir and many came to criticise the government-funded project as a [white elephant](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

Kielder Water is owned by [Northumbrian Water](#), and holds 200 billion litres (44 billion gallons, or 0.2 cubic km), making it the largest reservoir in the UK by capacity ([Rutland Water](#) is the largest by surface area). It has a 27.5-mile (44.3 km) shoreline

## Construction

After the scheme was approved by Parliament in 1974, work to build the reservoir and the dam in the Kielder Valley began in 1975. The reservoir and dam was designed for Northumbrian Water by consulting engineers [Babtie, Shaw and Morton](#).<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> with Sir [Frederick Gibberd](#) and Partners as consulting architect.<sup>[5]</sup> Earth moving and infrastructure construction was undertaken in a joint venture with [AMEC](#) and [Balfour Beatty](#).<sup>[6]</sup>

The design meant the loss of numerous farms and a school. The former [permanent way](#) of the [Border Counties Railway](#) was also taken away through the development of the reservoir.

Work was completed in 1981. [Elizabeth II](#) officially opened the project the following year. The valley took a further two years to fill with water completely.

## Hydro electric plant

Kielder Water is also the site of England's largest [hydro electric](#) plant. It was opened by [Queen Elizabeth II](#) on 26 May 1982 and is owned by [Northumbrian Water](#). In December 2005, [RWE Npower Renewables](#) bought the rights to operate the plant and sell the electricity generated by it, with a contract lasting until 2025. Following the takeover, the turbines were refurbished in 2005–2006, which increased the efficiency of the electricity generation. Controls were also updated, meaning that the plant can be operated from [Dolgarrog](#) in Wales.

The plant generates electricity using dual turbines which produce 6 [megawatts](#) (MW) of electricity. This comes from a combination of a 5.5 MW [Kaplan turbine](#), which generates electricity when water release takes place, and a 500 kilowatt (kW) [Francis turbine](#) that generates constantly from the compensation flow of water from the reservoir into the [North Tyne](#). This gives the reservoir an average production of 20,000 [MWh](#) of electricity per year, a saving of 8,600 tonnes of [carbon dioxide](#) per year compared to fossil fuel based methods of generation.<sup>4</sup>

## Operations

The reservoir's main use is to provide compensating discharges into the North Tyne to support abstractions of water further downstream. It also underpins the Kielder Transfer Scheme, whereby water can be transferred to the Wear and the Tees, to meet shortfalls in those areas. In recent years, Kielder Water has become increasingly important, with underground springs ensuring that it always remains at high levels, regardless of the prevailing climate condition. This means that while the south of England is often forced to implement drought strategies and hosepipe bans, north east England enjoys plentiful water supplies.

There are two main visitor centres at Kielder Water—Leaplish waterside park and Tower Knowe visitor centre—and other facilities at Kielder, Falstone and Stannersburn villages. It is also one of the region's major tourist venues, attracting more than 250,000 visitors a year who come to enjoy the wide range of leisure opportunities on offer