

RAYNET-UK

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ETAPE DU DALES, Sunday, May 21, 2023 – Briefing for RAYNET and Ambulance crews.

The important thing to remember is that the Etape du Dales riders are travelling clockwise.

We have two events: a Long Route of 110-miles (record time 5hrs 36mins, average 8hrs 30mins) and a Short Route. We have approximately 350 riders on the long route.

The Short Route misses out the northern loop, including the new CP3 in Arkengarthdale which replaces Tan Hill, by travelling east from the T-junction at Ribbleshead to Newby Head where it continues direct to Hawes along the B6255. There are 50 riders on the short route, but we usually get some transferring from long.

LONG ROUTE: Expandable to show fine detail of locations is here:

<https://www.etapedudales.org/route>

and

<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27516239>

Long Route riders leave event headquarters at Wharfedale Rugby Union Club, Threshfield, near Grassington, in small groups from 07:00 to 08:30. There are approximately 350 long route entrants.

Short Route riders leave in small groups from 08:00 to 08:30. There are 50 short route riders entered. Inevitably some will transfer from one route to the other. Ideally Hawes and Control needs to know of any changes from the Moorcock checkpoint.

First Aid providers are A & E Life Support, who are coming from Lancashire. It is possible that some crews may not be familiar with the area. Ordnance Survey maps OL2 and OL30 (1: 25,000) or OS Sheets 91 and 98 (1: 50,000) cover the route. Parts of the route either have poor mobile phone cover or there is no coverage on some networks.

All ambulances and their RAYNET liaison operators should go direct to their operating locations. Unless there is a medical reason, it is suggested that ambulances do not meet at the event Start before going out to their operating locations. Routes to the north are narrow, steep and slow.

A & E Life Support may have handheld digital radios for communications with RAYNET over short distances. If you are loaned one, please remember to hand it back. (As a back-up, if possible, each RAYNET operator working with ambulances should try to have two handheld radios on UK General frequencies. If necessary, one should be loaned to the ambulance crew, so that they can remain in contact over short distances if there is a call to an incident.)

Ambulance 1(A) is going to the Stainforth checkpoint to cover the descent from Halton Gill and the loop forward via Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Ribblehead. The RAYNET liaison is Steve G1IUZ. The Ambulance needs to be on site and operational at 0745. This duty ends at approximately 10:30 when Stainforth CP should be ready to close. RAYNET should seek permission from Control before moving to take up the ambulance crew's second duty as Ambulance 1(B). Steve's mobile is 07790 616456

Ambulance 1B (Same vehicle as 1A) will relocate to the southern side of Fleet Moss at a cattle grid in the Oughtershaw area. The ambulance crew and Steve, G1IUZ, will operate from approximately 1130 until they see the sweep at the end of the event, which should be no later than 1830.

Ambulance 2 will be based at Garsdale Station at the bottom of the steep descent off the Coal Road towards the Moorcock Inn. The RAYNET liaison is Geoff, G7JZM. His mobile is 07774 891641. The ambulance will be operational from 08:15. Moorcock checkpoint closes at 12:00. The ambulance then moves to the Moorcock Inn until 13:00 to be ready to cover any calls for assistance up to Nateby in Cumbria.

When **Ambulance 2** is closed down at the Moorcock, Geoff, G7JZM will escort it back to the Start/Finish in Grassington.

Ambulance 3 is going to the Langthwaite Ford at grid reference NY99270 00860. Its crew should be on site and operational at 10:00. The RAYNET liaison is Alan, G1AAG. Ambulance 3 will operate at the Ford until approximately 15:30. Alan's mobile is 07812 036131.

Ambulance 3 will cover the northern loop from Tan Hill down to Swaledale and over Buttertubs Pass to Hawes. After riders pass through the ford, they travel south-west to Surrender Bridge at GR SD988998. In 2019 we had a major incident here involving a rider with spinal injuries. It was attended by the event ambulance, a NHS Rapid Response vehicle, NHS Paramedic crew and the Air Ambulance. The casualty was air-lifted to James Cook Hospital in Middlesbrough.

SAFETY POINTS

Coal Road descent to Garsdale Station

This has the potential to be a hazardous section. There is a very steep descent to Garsdale Station with a 90-degree adverse camber bend at the bottom followed by the station car park entrance. Ian, G7ESY, will park at the top of the steep section. His role will be to provide communications with Richard, G7ONL, who is at the station and Geoff, G7JZM, who is with the Ambulance in the Station car park. Ian should have the ability to warn riders if we get an incident at the bottom of the bank. John G8YDC (Mobile 07771 657936) is nearby at the Moorcock Inn checkpoint.

Langthwaite Ford

Although we ensure that the ford is swept clear of rocks before riders arrive, it has the potential to be hazardous. Although riders are recommended to use the footbridge, many cross the ford and there are usually some who finish up in the water. We have two RAYNET at this location: Alan, G1AAG, is with an event ambulance, which may be called away to other incidents. Steve, G4EKM, provides location comms. It is possible that Langthwaite Ford may not be marshalled, but warning signs will be erected.

Surrender Bridge on the minor road from the ford down to the B6270 in Upper Swaledale.

We had a severe incident here in 2019 which was attended by the event ambulance crew, a NHS rapid response vehicle, NHS paramedic crew and Great North Air Ambulance. A rider crossed the bridge heading south but then lost control and somersaulted, sustaining spinal injuries. Bill, G8HHV is here (07924 296988), but there may be no cellphone cover.

Buttertubs Pass.

Because riders are travelling north to south, this reduced the risk on Buttertubs Pass. RAYNET will not staff the pass unless we attend an incident.

SAFETY PROCEDURE

If an ambulance moves to an incident, the RAYNET operator will travel with the crew in his own vehicle, so that communications are maintained with Control. RAYNET may be loaned handheld radios for short range comms by the event ambulances. Alternatively, a pair of UK General handheld radios, would be useful.

Ambulances may respond to incidents on blue lights. If so, the ambulance should be the lead vehicle with RAYNET following. RAYNET does not have authority to take Road Traffic Act exemptions, which may apply to ambulances. RAYNET's first duty on arrival at an incident is to immediately send a situation report to Control and then help to secure the scene. RAYNET has no authority to direct traffic unless asked to do so by one of the "blue light" emergency services.

OS Locate and What3Words

If you have a Smart Phone, please download the OS Locate and What3Words apps and learn how to use them.

If you have mobile phone cover at the incident location and need NHS ambulance support, you or the event ambulance crew should make that 999 call and then report that you have done so to RAYNET Control. Be aware that you are likely to be asked the incident's Postcode. You also need to know that you may not be connected to the Yorkshire Control. We have experience of talking to the Newcastle Control Room.

NHS Ambulance Controls have the ability to take grid references but do so only rarely. If there is confusion about grid references, ask to speak to the Control Room supervisor. Ambulance Control should also be able to use the What3Words app. If possible, get an incident number from Ambulance Control so that if a second 999 call has to be made it can be cross referenced with the initial call. Otherwise, whoever makes the second or third 999 call will go through the entire procedure, which can take 20 minutes on each occasion.

If the Event Ambulance crews remove casualties from the incident scene, they will probably take them to James Cook Hospital in Middlesbrough, Darlington Memorial Hospital, Royal Preston Hospital, Royal Lancaster Infirmary or Airedale General Hospital. Please consult with RAYNET Control and the ambulance crew whether it is necessary for you to accompany their vehicle to hospital.

A and E Hospitals in the area are Darlington Memorial Hospital, DL3 6HX, 01325 380100; James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough, TS4 3BW, 01642 850850; Royal Preston Hospital, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HT, 01772 716565; Royal Lancaster Infirmary, LA1 4RP, 01524 65944; and Airedale General Hospital, Steeton, near Keighley, BD20 6TD, 01535 652511.

The nearest NHS ambulances are based at Richmond in Swaledale, Bainbridge in Wensleydale, Settle in Ribblesdale and Skipton in Airedale.

Events ambulance crews should not under-estimate the distances they may have to travel. For example, a casualty from an incident in remote areas of Swaledale or Arkengarthdale may have to travel more than 50 miles over minor roads, either to Middlesbrough, Darlington or Lancaster.

Checkpoint timing at Stainforth, Moorcock Inn, Arkengarthdale east of Tan Hill Inn and Hawes is done by using electronic equipment, which records as riders cross timing mats laid in the road. The system should allow the Etape organiser to ensure that everyone is accounted for before each checkpoint is closed. **No checkpoint staff or RAYNET should leave until they have permission from Control.**

RAYNET will use a series of repeaters located at:

TT1 Fleet Moss, Oughtershaw Road, Postcode BD23 5JS.

SD 86010 83840

54.2499N

2.2162W

TT2 The Fleak, Long Road, Askrigg, Leyburn, Postcode DL8 3JY.

SD 96450 94040

54.3428N

2.0561W

TT3 Above Helwith Bridge

SD 80917 68832

There are public toilets at Stainforth car park, the Wensleydale Creamery in Hawes and in the car park at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes at grid reference: SD875 898. The latter do not open until 10:00.

Event headquarters is at the Rugby Club at Threshfield, near Grassington at SD9904 6432. Postcode is BD23 5BS. Headquarters emergency number is 07522 079997.

My deputy for the Etape is Mike Priestley, G7HEN, who has lead responsibility for RAYNET engineering. Mike is on 07527 782073. He will have two of everything and a spare.

Details of the event are on the Internet at:

<https://www.etapeudales.org/>

Long Route Map (Expandable):

<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27516239>

Please note Tan Hill is not a checkpoint or feed station. The location is now six miles east in Arkengarthdale.

We are using the repeater system which we used on the Tour de France in 2014, which is why you will see a receive frequency of 152.350. We have an Ofcom licence to receive here. Your radios need to have CTCSS set on Encode at 82.5HZ.

Do not attempt to listen to both sides of the radio. You will de-sense the received signal you want and have poor performance. When you know which frequency you are listening to, turn down the volume on the other side.

Thank you.

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