DRAFT - Tour of the Ochils 200Km – 13/03/2027 @ 0800
Held under the rules and regulation of Audax UK

Route Information

The route is broadly a lap of the Ochil hills via their satellites in Fife, a new start location this year takes us to Markinch ancient capital of Fife, where MacDuff Thane of Fife held court, you will set off over Star Moss to Cults and along to the Home of Golf, Students and Religious Martyrdom during the Scottish Reformation. Take your time or not then scoot over Tentsmuir to the Tay Coast and follow it to the Earn and Allan, then onto the Teith at Doune where you turn. Following the river by the Carse of Lecropt to Bridge of Allan and then the Hillfoots to Muckhart, Cleish and Loch Leven which will bring you onto Leslie where you have a choice of routes back, the cycle track of Böblingen Way gives you a near car free run into Markinch using an old railway line, or a short section of old road links Leslie to Cadham road and the shortest route into Markinch.

Route advice

At the top of Betson Street there is a Stop sign, UK signage only allows Stop Signs where they are absolutely necessary, please heed it. I will set you off in groups based on when the junction is clear.

At StAndrews I have routed you through West Port, round the corner at the Abbey and out by North Street, this is the full tourist route. If you're like me and have spent more than enough time in StAndrews provided you get the Info Control at West Port you can easily cut down City Road or through the Car Parks to North Haugh, if you do the later please remember it is a public car park as well as a through route and to anticipate the traffic movements you may expect in car parks.

Please use the cycle track alongside the A91 out to Guardbridge, it is a bit narrow at Kincaple so ensure you're riding single file there and give way to other users.

There is a gravel section in Stirling Uni's grounds and it's a reasonably steep descent, if you are unsure of this you have 2 options, walk or go round by Causewayhead, there are shops there.

At Fruix I have routed you via the pedestrian bridge, this avoids having to interact with traffic leaving/joining the M90, there is a step up onto the bridge on the left-hand lane, and it is about 1.5 bikes wide, please watch out for other users and give each other plenty of space here.

If you are following the direct route via Cadham, join the Cycle Track after Leslie by the Hands statue, this takes you across a toucan crossing thus avoiding the Leslie roundabout, then watch out for the cycle track taking an immediate left off Aspen Avenue just after the junction and follow the old road up to Cadham road. When you reach the A92 you essentially have 3 options.

1. Turn Right onto the A92, ride down to the Tullis Russel Roundabout and turn Left, easy to follow but in fairly heavy traffic
2. Turn Right onto the A92 and immediately join the Cycle Track on the left, also fairly easy, avoids roundabout, keeps time in the traffic to a minimum
3. Take the cycle track on the right before the car wash (Signed Markinch Station) this takes you down to the Roundabout and you cross the A92 in 2 stages.

All 3 options bring you along Balbirnie Street on the cycle track, you will want to join the carriageway at Balbirnie House Hotel's driveway.

If you are following Böblingen way, you join the cycle track in Leslie and immediately cross the Leslie Viaduct, there are signalled and unsignalled road crossings, it brings you to Woodside at the Lomond Centre and you have some light traffic through Alburn park before picking up the cycle track again to cross the Balbirnie Viaduct, this then brings you into Markinch at the Station for the last wee leg to the finish.

Route guide on the day

I have provided both routes on Ride With GPS where you can download the file or link to your device, please review this and the route sheet prior to the day of the ride, as this Audax has an Advisory route you do not have to follow the route exactly.

What to bring

As well as your Bike, appropriate clothing, tools and repair kit you will need a Pen to answer the info questions and to sign and fill in the Brevet Card before handing over at the finish.

Markinch

An ancient capital of Fife, now dwarfed by the New Town of Glenrothes next door, Markinch has retained it's identity with a variety of amenities including shops and hotels. Don't forget to try the Fisher and Donaldson's cakes from Greens.

The local railway station is served by regular trains from Edinburgh, Dundee and Perth. You can also get a train to either Thornton (6km) or Cameron Bridge (10km - Don't ride the A911 used the route through Balgonie) and ride to Markinch.

A large car park is available a short distance away to the South of the station, this has over 100 spaces, there is also a smaller car park on Betson Street at the Primary School.

Start Location

The start will be at the 252 Memorial Hall on Betson Street in Markinch, where Toilets and light refreshments will be available. Bikes must not be brought into the hall, however there is a large area at the front where bikes can be parked.

Finish Location

The finish control will be in the hall. We will have further light refreshments available to you.

As this is a BRM event, your Brevet card will need to be sent to the Audax UK Validator for processing, I will return your card once all 4 BRM events have taken place. If you need your ACP Homologation number this will be available on the Audax UK website or I can provide it to you on request.

You must hand in your card, if you are not recorded as a finisher by the time limit you and/or your emergency contact will be contacted.

Abandonment/Incidents

If you abandon the ride please send me a message on 07732905735 me so I know you're ok.
Failure to do so may result in you being treated as missing and your emergency contact contacted if I cannot get in contact with you.
If you have an accident or Incident whether ride ending or not, this needs to be reported to me for my event report to AudaxUK.

Controls

St Andrews – Info Control – See Brevet Card for Question, E-Brevet within 500m of West Port roundabout.
Tayport – Free Control – Obtain a receipt, E-Brevet will work at both Nelson Street and Castle Street Co-ops
Braco – Info Control – See Brevet Card for Queston, E-Brevet within 100m of the Feddal Road junction
Doune – Free Control – Obtain a receipt, E-Brevet will work within 500m of the Cross
Craigarnhall Farm – Info Control – See Brevet Card for Question, E-Brevet within 200m of the Farm

E-Brevet: The code for this event is 27-1066