



Panaracer Dirty Reiver 2026 Final Rider Brief

'Ten Years Riding Gravel'

Please take the time to read this short Rider Briefing - it contains important pre-event information which will help you to have a great day

Introduction:

- The Dirty Reiver is a non-competitive challenge and should not be treated as a race. Trails are shared and riders should ride responsibly at all times
- In true 'Gravel Grinder' fashion you must ride prepared. Kielder is a remote area and though on course first aid and support is provided you should consider this as supplementary to your own self sufficiency
- The Event Village will be open from 10:00hrs on Friday 24th April. Our event sponsors will be on hand to chat gravel and many have sponsor goodies and samples to distribute - please visit and thank them for their support
- There will be a number of social rides on the Friday - see the final event schedule and come along. These are a great way to make new friends, chat to ambassadors and check your bike is running perfectly - you can even try out one of the Lauf Seigla bikes!
- Kielder has very limited facilities and little/no mobile reception. This is great for a real getaway gravel adventure so please do your emails before you arrive
- The Event Centre has full catering and bar facilities - a full range of food from Friday throughout the weekend

Tarset Bridge Road Closure:

- For riders approaching from Hexham/Newcastle via Bellingham on the C199/200 there are signs warning of a road closure at Tarset Bridge near to Lanehead - for bridge repairs
- For the duration of the event weekend Northumberland Highways will operate a traffic light system on this bridge to allow vehicles to pass - this will not be signed as it is temporary
- The traffic lights will operate from late Thursday afternoon (1600hrs) until Sunday evening (1800hrs). After which the road bridge will be closed to traffic
- Alternative route are signed outside of this time
- This does not effect anyone driving from Carlisle/Newcastleton/Jedburgh
- We recommend allowing a little extra time to travel if arriving on the Saturday morning due to the lights

Arrival/Parking/Accommodation:

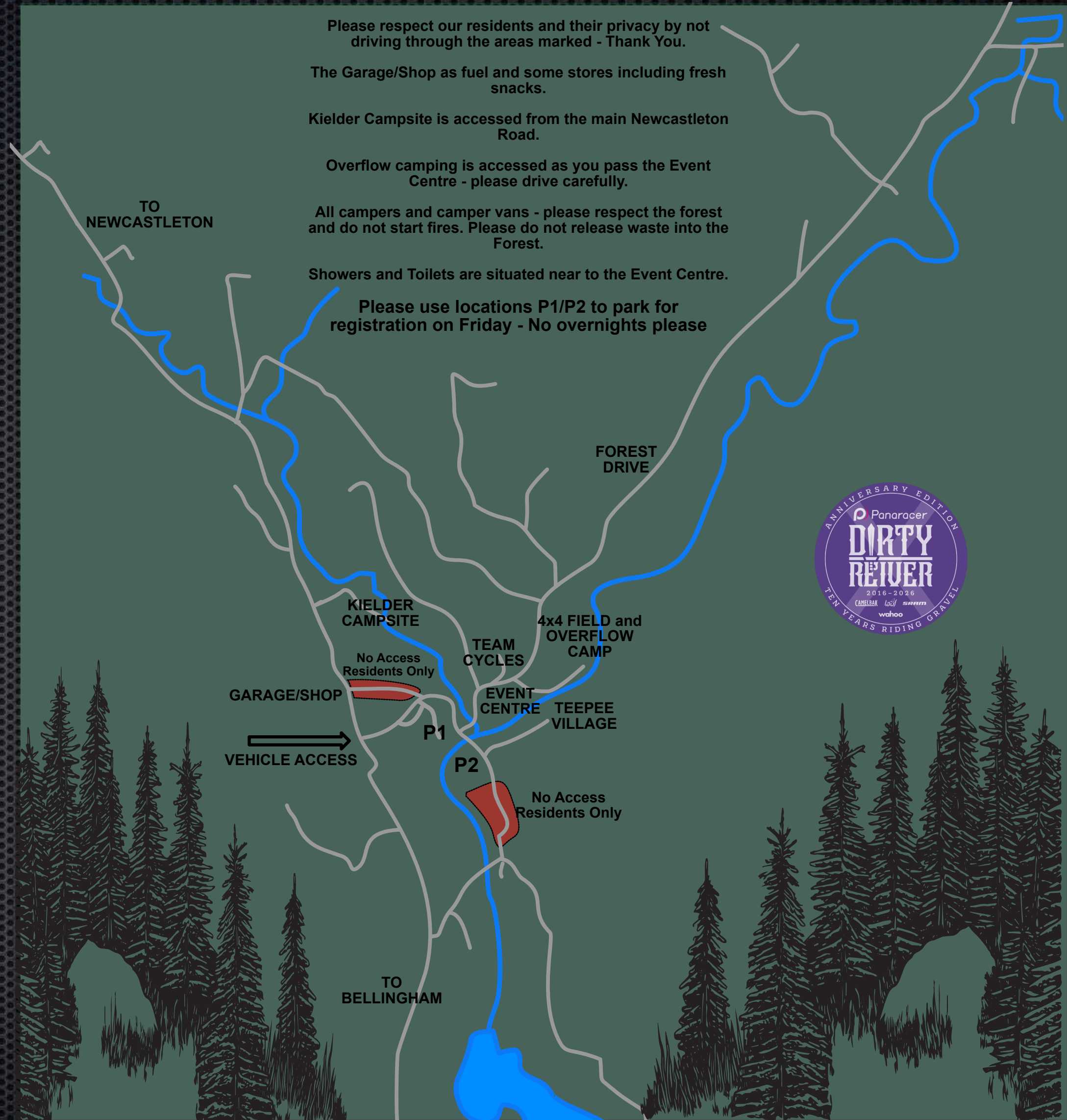
- Please avoid driving through the main village residential areas. Use the main access road signed to 'The Castle' - see separate map
- For those wishing to register on Friday please park either at the 'Depot' or on the 'Village Green' - we are aiming to keep the area adjacent to the event centre traffic free. Please do not use these locations to park overnight
- Those arriving by Camper van should report to the 'Camper Van Sign In' and we will direct you to a location - open 09:00 Friday
- We recommend camper vans be in situ by Friday evening as parking them first thing Saturday morning can be tricky
- The Teepee Village is situated on the village Rugby Field. The Tepees Team will be there to meet you - see map
- Overflow Camping is marked on the map adjacent to the Castle - Forestry Staff will be on hand to direct you/take payment
- If you are camping at Kielder Campsite this is located and signed to the north of the village. Park up there and you can walk/pedal to the sign on
- Saturday morning arrivals - allow **plenty** of time to park, sign on and get ready. You will be directed by event staff as you arrive
- Parking for the event is included in the entry fee - please do not park on the road side or obstruct the community highway

Please note:

If you are arriving on Saturday morning allow plenty of time to get parked, sign on, get your bike ready and get to the start - you may be a few 100m away!

The start line closes at 9:30am prompt.

DRONES - we have been requested NOT to fly drones over the event village and Kielder village. Thank you for your support.



Registration:

- Registration will be in the marquee in the field below the Castle - follow the registration signs
- The main registration will be from 10:00hrs - 22:00hrs on Friday (24th April)
- We have a very short sign on on Saturday morning 06:30 - 08:15hrs - please allow plenty of time to get ready
- Riders on the 130/200km distance will be able to leave a drop bag at sign on - this will be transported to Feed 2 (103km) and should be used to supplement your ride provisions - see notes on Feed Stations. We cannot take liquids and do not include valuables. A clear plastic bag will be available at sign on
- Please ensure that you have secured your bike around the event village

Catering:

- On site catering will be available from Podium Catering throughout the weekend
- Stohk will also be on hand throughout the weekend with their special IPA as well as other drinks
- A selection of pasta dishes and fresh pizza will be available until 22:00hrs Friday
- Breakfast will be available on site from 06:15hrs Saturday
- A post event meal is included for all riders - collect a ticket as you finish - this is from Podium Catering
- A range of dietary requirements will be catered for, please make sure that you make this clear when you order
- The on-site cafe will also be open during the weekend

Compulsory Kit:

Due to the remote nature of the event **all** riders must carry the following items for your safety:

- Whistle
- Mini Survival Blanket
- Waterproof Jacket even if it is not forecast rain (waterproof seams)
- Warm Hat or Buff
- **Front Light with a minimum 200 lumens and burn time of 2hrs - late finishers may be in the dark! (130/200km riders)**
- **Rear light with flashing mode**
- Mobile phone
- Food for the duration of the event
- Ability to carry 1.5l water
- Spare tubes (even if running tubeless)
- Tools, pump, tyre levers, chain splitter and split link, lube
- Spare baselayer (as a dry top if you have to stop)

Please be advised that the weather can change throughout the day and pack appropriately!

Course Summary:

- The 200km course has approx 3700m of climbing
- The 130km course has approx 2350m climbing
- The 65km course has approx 1300m climbing
- Riders should ride to their abilities and to the trail conditions - you will encounter all grades of loose gravel. All trails are shared so please ride responsibly and obey the Highway Code on any sections of public road
- Marshals will be on course - please be courteous and follow their instructions
- In the event of poor weather alternative plans or a reduced course may be used
- Course gpx files are available through the links on the website, files downloaded to other platforms may be adjusted by the mapping software - please check this against the original route.

The Start:

- Adjacent to Kielder Castle
- There will be no final rider brief so that we can allow riders space to set off in smaller groups - any final information will be communicated on the Rider Notice Boards - please read before signing on
- The start will commence at 09:00 - 09:30hrs - please note that the start will close after this time
- No riders will be allowed onto the course after 09:30hrs when the sweep vehicle/safety team will leave
- A short neutralised section of approx 3km will allow riders to settle into their rhythm - please note the event is not a race!
- Those wanting to get a clear start will be called to the first few start boxes - if this applies to you then let us know at sign on
- After the initial groups set off the start gate will be open for riders to leave at a more leisurely pace

Cut-Offs:

- We have two main cut-offs for rider safety on the course - these are adjusted to suit the new start time. Marshals will be on hand at these times to ensure riders take the correct route
- Please note these times and plan your start time as well as how long you spend at feed stations
- Wahoo have a top tube sticker available with all of the course information - available at their stand
- Cut-Off 1: 37km at 11:45hrs for 130/200km riders
- Cut-Off 2: 139km at 17:45hrs for the 200km route
- The course will close at 22:00hrs Saturday
- Times will be strictly adhered to - Riders will be advised if they do not make the cut-off. Please be respectful of this as we want to ensure rider safety

Course Marking:

- Full gpx files are available for each route via the website (2-3 weeks to go)- please download and check them in advance of the event - some gpx devices/software settings can alter routes to fit 'known' trails. It is the riders responsibility to check this!
- The course will be clearly marked throughout with black on yellow arrows and course markings flags - examples on Rider Notice Boards
- Please note any 'Caution' signs we will be using as well as notification of junctions
- Please follow course marking and marshal directions even if using a gpx
- Riders should remain on course, this is where we expect to find you if there is a problem - if answering a call of nature please leave your bike visible
- We cannot support riders who leave the official course

Feed Stations:

- Feed Stations are at 65km, 109km for 130/200km riders plus 159km for 200km riders
- Feed Station at 43km for the 65km riders
- Whilst we will endeavour to cater for all requirements please check with staff if you have specific dietary needs
- Feed Stations will be managed as sensitively as possible with consideration to hygiene
- We are avoiding using disposable plastic cups for drinks - please use your rider bottle
- We will aim to provide:
 - Feed 1 - Team Sage - Water, Hydration Drinks, CLIF, Bananas, sweet snacks
 - Feed 2 - Cliff - Coffee Van (remember to pack a few coins) + Rider Drop Bags, CLIF Nutrition, Soup/Roll, Water, Bananas, Fig Rolls, Flapjack - Redbull
 - Feed 3 - Team Cycles - (Water, Bananas, Flapjack, CLIF Nutrition, Savoury Nibbles all courtesy of Team Cycles)
 - Limited Neutral Service courtesy of Unior Tools/Fenwicks and Inflation courtesy of Topeak

Mechanical/Medical Support:

- EVENT CENTRE: SRAM neutral service will be on hand to support riders plus Team Cycles (shop), Fenwick's and Unior will have mechanics on hand at the Event Centre - please do not assume that this is a free service and check with the mechanics beforehand
- Topeak will have Inflation Stations at the Event Centre plus some self service options
- FEED STATIONS/ON COURSE: Unior and Topeak will be supporting at most feed stations and Fenwick's will have a mechanic at Feed 2.
- Many of our marshals are first aid trained and will carry first aid kits
- Our Medic Teams will be stationed at intervals on the course and will be mobile
- We will have a dedicated Medical Centre at Kielder Castle
- Any changes to Medical Information please let us know at sign on - **IMPORTANT: your medical and emergency contact info is linked to your rider number**

Timing/The Finish:

- Timing chips are built into Rider Number Boards - please do not trim your board or you may not get a time!
- Please display the number board fully and flat (facing forward) - do not wrap it around the head tube or bars!
- There are compulsory timing stations on parts of the route. Riders must pass through all of the splits to get a final time for their course
- The Finish is below Kielder Castle in the event village
- All riders **MUST** report to the finish even if they retire
- Please take care around the event centre as these roads are shared with the public
- Times will be available to riders once they have crossed the line - please ask for your print out

Sweep Riders/Retirees:

- Each section of the route will be 'cleared' by our event team
- The sweep team will carry first aid and some limited spares
- All participants should remain on the marked route unless agreed with a marshal
- Anyone wishing to retire should report to the next marshal point for guidance - please note that Kielder is a remote location and some parts of the route are a long way from the finish

And Finally:

- Please take the time to check out any last minute notices on the Rider Notice Board
- Keep your bike secure at all times
- Remember to enjoy the day
- Look out for each other and chat to new friends
- Pace yourself - it is a long way
- Remember: 'Food In = Miles Out'
- Please visit the event sponsors who have contributed enormously to the success of the event - many will have sponsor goody bags to hand to riders - please take your number with you