

After a fantastic weekend at XDUROWales with the organised campsite, rugged terrain and several thousand meters of ascent – XDUROEngland looked to be a very different challenge and therefore I decide to approach it very differently. Travelling from Liverpool to Scarborough meant I was homeward bound and I hoped this would give me the motivation I need to keep going for the 300km and the longest I had ever ridden in one ride. Never afraid to make a commitment I arrived at the Beatles statue to meet 4 others who were prepared for an overnight stop in comparison to my very lightly packed bike.

We waited a little past the allotted (9am) start time and 1 more riders arrived before we set off through winding streets and cycleways to escape the city. One of the lessons learnt from my previous XDURO was apparent straight away. I had upgraded my GPS to a unit with base maps a massive improvement over following a pink line in a white abyss and intuition. A group of 4 stayed together for the first hour or so before we split up and settled into our own pace.

After a few hours of riding along canal towpaths, riverside trails and cycleways it was time to apply the second lesson learnt at XDUROWales – I stopped for a break and some food and to recharge my internal batteries. The route wound its way up over the amazing scenery of the Peak District and the route continued to piece together bridleways and quiet roads. After a dinner break at a bikers cafe I passed a road sign for North Yorkshire, the final county of my journey but still quite a few km to go.

As the sun was setting I pushed on through York Racecourse and later experienced the best salt and pepper chips I have ever eaten after detouring into Malton and weaving through inebriated party-goers. A couple of navigational errors into Scarborough and I finished at the lighthouse at around 2am. Tired and very satisfied with an amazing day out through fast rolling and amazing parts of the North of England.

*Derek Queenan
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