

Windscale rifle club shooting on long range military shooting ranges

Windscale rifle club can book 3 ranges on the Bellerby Military range complex reserved for Civilian use; these ranges are known as:

B6 Mike - Peatfell range Which is a 600-yard range right on the top of the Pennine hills.



The calibre of firearms we can use on the ranges varies, B6 Mike and B6 Golf we can use anything from 223 up to 338 Lapua Magnum however B6 Golf only being 300 yards it doesn't really challenge the 338 calibre rifles.

Due to the range danger area, B6 Alpha can only accommodate up to 308 calibre.

All ranges are outdoor ranges so firing points are normally foxholes and are set up so you can put a table next to the fox hole on the top of the rubberised surface the firing points are constructed from and shoot from the table. You can also lie prone although it is advised that prone could do with a waterproof ground sheet to lie on as there can be standing water.

B6 Alpha and B6 Mike range only has raised firing points from 400 yards onward which are grass only so waterproof ground sheets is really a must on these ranges.

Toilet facilities are available on each range they vary in quality and normally have a stock of toilet rolls however I always bring an emergency toilet roll just in case supplies haven't been replaced.

Each toilet block has running water however not fit for drinking.

B6 Golf Has a covered area where there is seating and you can eat lunch however the other two ranges do not have this facility it is completely open to the elements, in those cases people tend to sit in their car to eat lunch if the weather is cold or wet.

There are no catering facilities on any of the ranges so packed lunch and drinks should be brought with you for the day.



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B6 golf Whipperdale Range which is a 300-yard range in the Valley next to whipperdale bank.



All ranges are open to the elements especially B6 Mike which is on the very top of the Hills and although dry weather brings some sunshine it can also bring a constant cooling wind so clothing that can Stop the breeze is advisable wind and rain fronts can come through pretty quick so the morning can be quite wet and the afternoon be sunny and dry so you need to bring equipment/clothing that can accommodate varying types of weather.

There isn't much equipment supplied just target boards which we need to set up and take down at the end of the day.

The target boards which will need to be taken out of storage and installed in the target frames (These are to be able to raise and lower the targets) the target boards are basically a plywood face screwed to a 2 by 4 frame which fits neatly into the butts target mechanism. (They are quite heavy and can be installed by one person but usually done in pairs as this is safer and quicker to do) we need to bring our own targets, paper targets are suitable but there are not to be any human shapes or faces or similar images of any kind. No staples are be allowed to secure targets so usually duct tape or similar fixings to sick targets onto the target frames are required. Remember you can be on the top of the hills so strong tape is required; frequently, loosely secured targets will be blown off the target board due to strong winds.



If you manage to get lost travelling to the meeting point please feel free to call....

Tony Spriggs – club chairman 07496 114274

Peter Cousar – Club Treasurer 07840 363165

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B6 Alpha Range which is a 600-yard range situated within the army camp at wathgill.

B6 Alpha Range on the wathgill camp is difficult to book because obviously the military used the camp ranges more than anything else.



The duration of the shoot is 10am start so arriving at the meeting point (see further in the document) between 9:00 and 9:30 to then travel to the range for a ten o'clock start. The Range Officers for the day will need to be available to take charge of the range a little bit earlier allowing sign off all the documents required to run the range on the day, unfortunately the RSO qualification doesn't cover military ranges. Only RCO's can command military ranges. There is a compulsory cease fire from 12 noon to 1pm on all ranges. The range is booked till 4pm but this includes pack up and hand over of the range control, so we normally shoot to around 3.30pm.

PLEASE NOTE MOVING FORWARD OF THE FIRING POINT REQUIRES ALL SHOOTERS TO WEAR SOME FORM OF DAY GLO CLOTHING SO THEY CAN BE SEEN AT A DISTANCE... THIS IS A COMPULSORY SAFETY REQUIREMENT

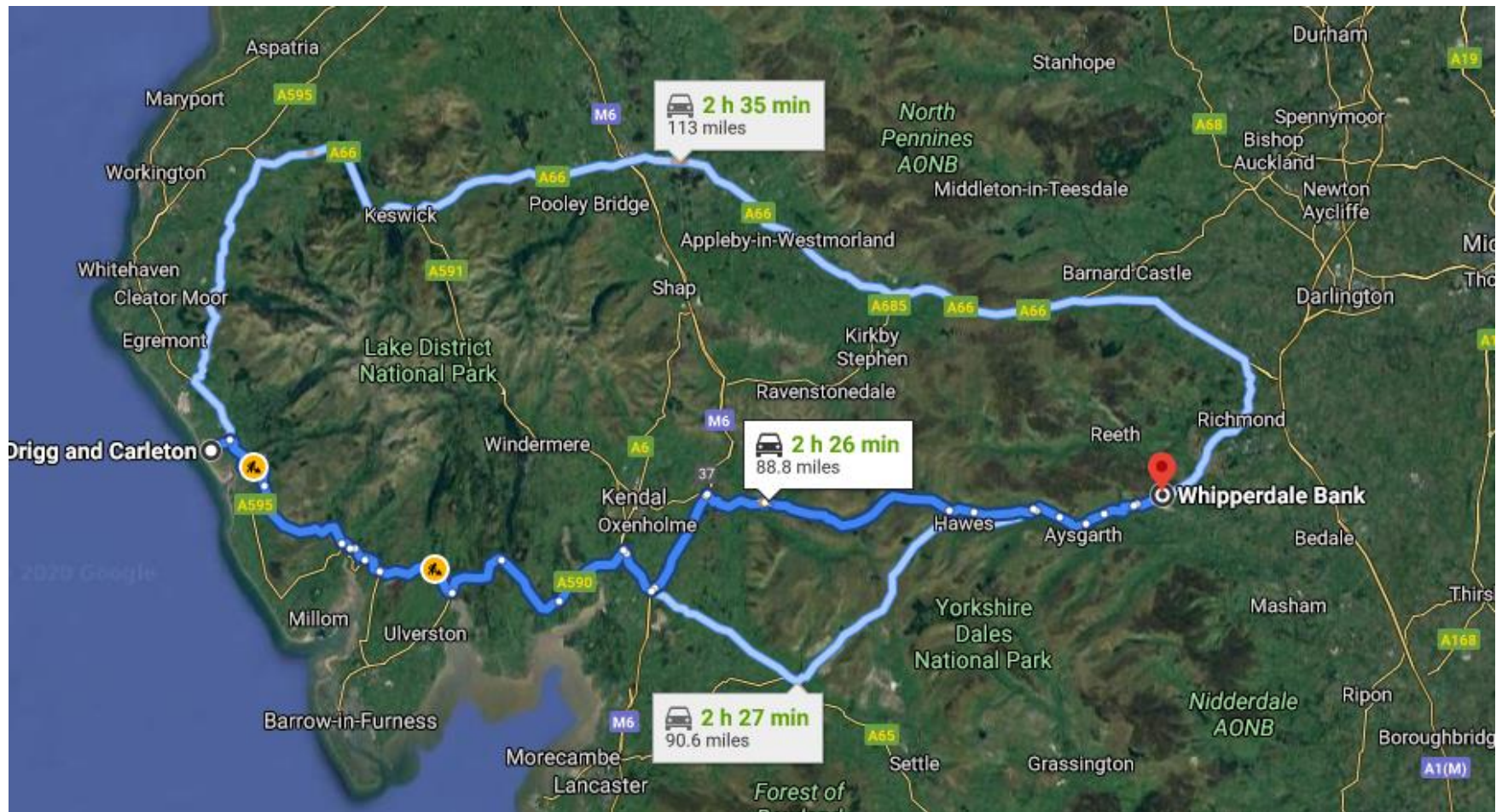
Safety process and procedure to be followed at all times (These are available from the club secretary)

The current cost of a day shoot at Bellerby is £20 per day for a full member, visitors can be accommodated at an extra cost but also need to be supervised by a fully qualified member of the club.



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Mileage from WRC Drigg



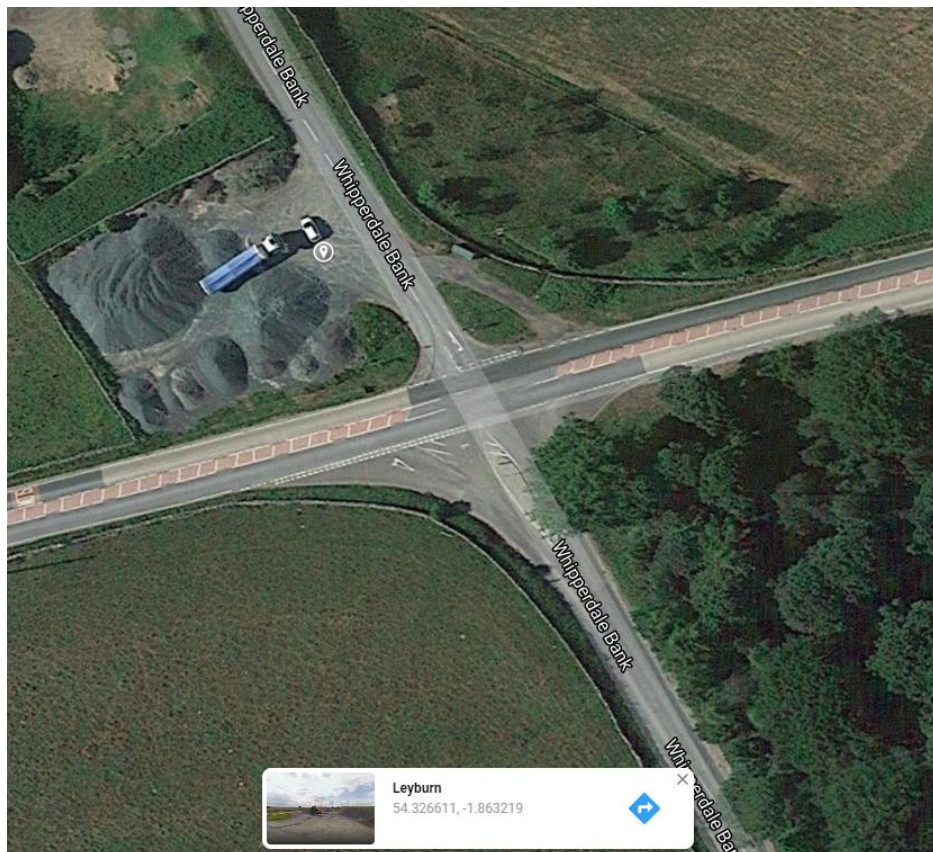
The format for the day is:

- Range handover.
- Set up targets.
- Set up equipment at the chosen firing point (usually 200 yards) but do not unbag.
- Range safety brief
- Set up equipment and ready to shoot (the RCO in charge will be giving commands for each of these actions)
- The practices are approx. 20 min each, when the majority of shooters at an obvious rest point the firearms will be cleared and the range declared clear. At this point shooters may go to check their targets. Once all shooters are accounted for and behind the firing point shooting can recommence. This practice is repeated till 12 noon.
- On restart at 1pm the RCO may have been changed, this will be announced to all shooters. The option to move to another firing point will have been agreed and equipment moved during lunchtime.
- The practices will be repeated as per the morning format.
- The option to leave the shoot can be enacted at any time during the day under the control of the RCO. Firearms will be cleared and bagged at the end of the live fire practice. Once the range is clear the shooters can advance to their target and put them away, once this has been completed the shooter can collect their equipment and leave the range.

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The meeting point at the cross roads between Scarth Nick and Whipperdale Bank with the map co-ordinates shown at the bottom of the image.

Safe shooter's cards need to be obtained prior to the shoot; however, it is possible that a safe shooter assessment needs to be undertaken on the day and on the range. This will be



undertaken whilst under full supervision by a qualified firearms instructor, once successfully completed the safe shooters card can be applied for from the NRA this will be undertaken by the club secretary on your behalf and the assessment signed off by the club chairman.

The current requirements under covid19 restrictions are that you must travel to the shoot on your own, unless you can socially distance yourself. If travelling with family members you can travel up to full capacity of your vehicle. Social distancing to be observed at all times. WRC can not police this, as RCO our accountability starts

when you arrive at the range. You will receive a copy of the NRA safety policy and procedures covering conduct during the Covid19 pandemic prior to the day of the meeting.



For those of you that use sat nav's the nearest post code for the meeting point is DL8 5JY

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Equipment check list; (not exhaustive just a reminder)

- Firearm
- Bolt for firearm
- magazine for firearm
- cleaning rod if you require (can be used to clear blockage in barrel)
- Ammunition (factory or home loads can be used , however you may be asked to declare the home load does not exceed advised limits for the powder, load and bullet weight being used, some ranges will allow tracer rounds but it is the clubs responsibility to extinguish any fires caused due to the use of this ammunition)
- Day Glo clothes (of some kind e.g a vest or hat can be used you do not require full day glo clothing)
- Warm/Waterproof clothes
- Gloves
- Hat
- Ear defenders
- Safety glasses
- Food and drink
- Firearms certificate (This Is not compulsory however you will be travelling out of the county, if you are stopped by the police they could confiscate your firearms until you can prove by production of your certificate you legally own those firearms)
- Shooting rest if required
- Table and chair if required
- Paper target(s)
- Tape to secure target to board
- A spotting scope if required
- A tripod for the spotting scope if required
- Toilet roll (a good idea just in case there is none available)
- Spare batteries if you have an illuminated scope fitted to your firearm
- Basic tools for firearms maintenance some people opt for a multi tool of some kind

A qualified first aider will be attending on the day, a comprehensive first aid kit is available for use on the day.

I hope this helps you enjoy the day shooting with the Windscale Rifle Club

Tony Spriggs

Current WRC Chairman

29th July 2020

Meetings have been restricted in 2020 due to Covid19 restrictions the remaining provisionally booked dates are:

Saturday 15th August

Saturday 19th September

Saturday 17th October