



Green Lining in Lake District
2nd and 3rd March 2024

We started the green lane runs from a BP petrol station just off the A590, coffee and toilet provisions used. We, I say we, started the green lane run, but some hardy folk had arrived the night before and set up camp in a nearby campsite. Dan trying out his new 'Off grid trailer' in a small one man tent (with electric blanket and oil heater) and Chris in a converted shed (warm and dry, with outside kitchen, with shared electric ring for heat!). I had wimped out on camping, enjoying a warm toastie bed at home instead. Good for them.



The day had started a little gloomy weather wise, but it soon cleared with better-than-expected views. Chris Hickman had checked and double checked 25 green lanes to try, all researched online via Trail wise to ensure legality. Mainly South Lakeland. At 8.30am we set off in the direction of Levens and were soon off the tarmac onto our first lane. Like most Lakeland lanes they tend to be quite rocky and of solid construction, handy given the rain we have experienced this winter. Not wanting to be seen as green lane mudlarks it was good to travel on lanes leaving little or no trace of our presence.

This was the pattern of the day, green lane after green lane with very little tarmac in between, a really well planned route through stunning Lakeland scenery. Lunch was delayed so we could get to Parkmore (I think that's how its spelt?) quite a challenging one-way route, alas no through route. We travelled up a very rocky in places single track road hoping not to meet fellow laners coming backdown. Fortunately, we had a clear run, and took a well-earned break at the top all vehicles successfully having navigated the rocky track. Ian set up his beloved stove for his what is now a traditional routine of spam and egg sandwiches, freshly fried. The rest of us munched through 'normal' fair of cheese type sandwiches crisps and of course chocolate. Washed down with flasks of tea.



Opposite the views were stunning, Lake Coniston beneath us and the Old Man of Coniston just about poking its head out of the clouds, snow covered tops. On that note the weather changed for the worst, as it does in the Lakes, with rain and sleety snow starting to fall. Fortunately, I had the foresight to position my Landy facing the view so I could keep warm inside while munching food. Did ruin the 'classic line up picture' (there's always one!) sorry.



After suitably restored energy levels, we head back down the track, all going to plan. Well except the selection of 3rd in high box on a tricky rocking and bendy stretch, which I bounced down rather than drove down. At the bottom of this stretch I turned to Lucy my passenger

with a quizzical face to say what happened there, only to be met with up turned eyes to the heaven's when she noted the said poor gear selection. Definitely a case of driver error!!

The Lakes did not disappoint with its rain, falling steadily for the rest of the days action. More lanes followed. Then the decision was to head back to camp in the daylight as Disco Dave had to set up his small 25 man tent..... Lucy and myself followed to camp sheltering in whatever accommodation with could find that was dry. Scrounging tea from Chris camp kitchen and sharing the one rig electric hob. Where was lofty and his infamous fire pit when needed!. Dave successfully set up his tent rather worse for the rain (as were the other brave soles who assisted. I had my excuses ready, like no rain jacket just in case.

After a while we headed to the local pub for tea, a few well-earned pints and hot food. A bit pricey but we are talking Lakeland, but enjoyable, nonetheless. Dan earned brownie points for the small matter of saving Ian's life. Ok a little over dramatic, but in all seriousness, Ian did choke on some food (or was it the bill?) and Dan did come to his aid, a timely reminder that a first aid course may be more useful than we think. There was then talk of payment in compensation for Dan's heroics, maybe the loan of the electric blanket for the night....

Lucy and I bade our goodbyes and the remaining crew left to go back to the campsite for another night's camping. We racked up some 53miles, mainly offroad, plus probably another 7 miles that I forgot to record on the first couple of lanes. For anyone interested, OS maps app lets you track your route. Quite useful to review where you went during the day.

As to the campers, well Sundays was another eat sleep repeat day, although on different lanes. I believe there were no incidents, no breakdowns and all managed to safely drive home.

Big thanks go to Chris Hickman and Ian for organising, and of course for all your company on the Saturday. I just hope that Disco Dave managed to fixed that door leak, just saying.....

Chris and Lucy

