

LEJOG

From Land's End in Cornwall to John o'Groats in
Scotland

July 2024

An epic journey

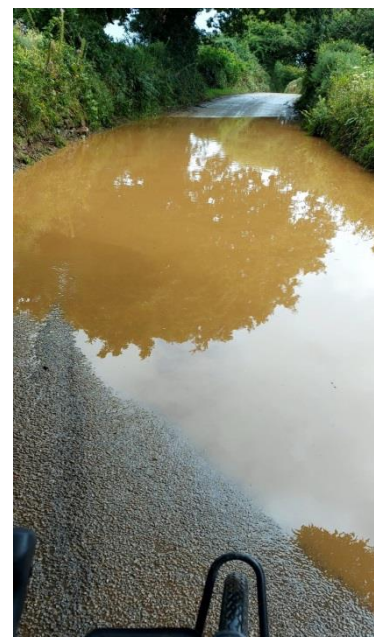


Doris Zimmer

This July I spent 12 days on a fabulous adventure, the LEJOG 2024. The 1,465 km from Cornwall to John o' Groats followed the Audax route for the most part. I went solo, unsupported, a free-lance biologist sleeping wild or at farm sites in my little tent. The tour was my birthday present to myself to celebrate turning 60 this year :).

I started at Land's End in fantastic weather after heavy rainfall the days before, and was surrounded by deep red heathlands, lichen-covered rocks and wild flower roadsides. A great start!

Passing Mediterranean palms in Penzance, and Mount St. Michael, the route turned inland and was still flooded here and there. I had some problems with the brakes at first, but got them solved.



Bike paths were rare and sometimes quite overgrown; characteristic of the area were the high hedges along the roads as well as the beautifully situated hill farms.

A stop at the fish and chip takeaway was a must, of course, and then I had arrived at the Severn Bridge. The bike path to the right was closed and so I followed a motorcyclist to the lower side.

Wales!! Temperate rain forest, mosses, ferns, so many shades of green. I was stunned by the beauty and will surely return.



What a surprise then to find that almost one-third of the route was already over after passing a wee shop and a local post office.

Of course I always give way to dinosaurs. And started talking to sheep, chickens and cattle, as well as to the countless rabbits on the way up north. I met a couple who specialized in butterflies, and we had most interesting discussions on the loss of species and nature conservation issues.



I fell in love with Cumbria and its mountains but it was quite rainy there (two photos above).

The Scottish border was a highlight, as well as crossing the Forth Bridge. At that point I started to watch out for aliens...



The route continued on through the Cairngorms National Park, with several 20 % gradients. I didn't know beforehand that I would be passing two skiing areas, but of course the scenery was gorgeous. I spent one night on a soccer field, and was in luck. The Tomintoul Highland Games were on!



Cycling became easier further north, following the coastal route through lovely landscapes. One area was surprisingly similar to our North German Schlei - Region.

Cycling the length of Great Britain.

Finished !!!

John o'Groats

23.7.24



My thanks go to my bike, my family, and to all the lovely people I met on the trip and with whom I shared a piece of chocolate, a coffee, cherries, water with ice cubes, chats, laughter and interesting stories. And to the Lejog forum for great inspiration!

The road ends here.

It didn't.

I took the Highland route back to Inverness. Best greetings to Ted, should you read this. Thereafter I followed the coastal roads to Newcastle, Netherlands, Germany and finally Böklund .

Adventures out of this world!

