

Shortest distance 201km, there is no choice!

Roads generally fairly quiet, near Dounreay at shift change time a bit busier.

Apart from Lairg little in the way of food or shelter all the way to Ullapool, stock up where you can. Make up for that with the views of Assynt.

Youth Hostel at Ullapool <http://www.syha.org.uk/hostels-in-scotland/highlands/ullapool.aspx>.

W12 (205km). Ullapool, Lairg, Tongue, Thurso.

15/09/07, 127m on the clock, 12hr32, 0623-1855, Left in the dark and rain. No wind but strong southerly forecast.

I was getting cold going down Glen Oykel, so put my spats on.

Not worn them for years and some of the elastic had gone so they kept falling down. In

Lairg I scrounged some string to hold them up. Controls for the next day (Sunday) would

be difficult as Altnaharra and Kinbrace are tiny places, so I checked out the The Crask Inn

which was open and would be open on Sunday. Then it turned out that the Altnaharra Hotel

would be as well. Kinbrace would have to wait the morrow. I picked up a tail wind to Tongue. There's a shop and a couple of hotels here.

The road to Bettyhill was up and down and the wind in my face half the time as the road twisted and turned along the North coast. From Melvich the road flattened and I stuck with the main road past Dounreay to Thurso and Sandra's Backpacker hostel which is above a fast food shop. Did nicely for the evening meal.

