

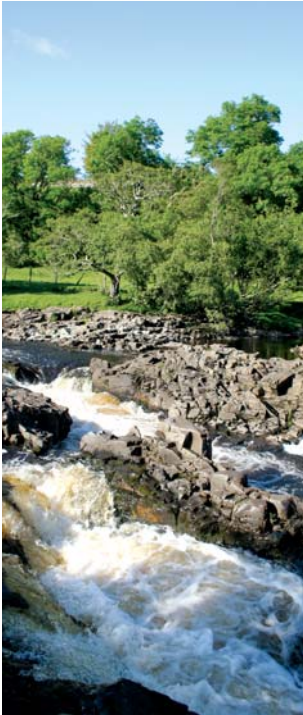


North Pennines Circular

ROUTE 3

Experience the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - moorland expanses, peaceful dales and tumbling waterfalls. From the market town of Stanhope in Weardale, the ride follows the river valley to the village of Westgate. From here you can either take the steep climb to Scarsike Head and enjoy the views before returning to Stanhope via Rookhope, or retrace the route to Stanhope. After your ride why not visit Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum?

- 1 From the Dales Centre turn right onto the main street (A689). Take the second left from the main street onto the B6278 (signed Barnard Castle) cross Stanhope Bridge and turn right.
- 2 Follow the road along the river (ignore the bridge after 2 miles), continue to a forked junction (right signed Westgate, left signed Daddry Shield), head to Westgate across the river. If you plan to do the flatter riverside route turn back here and retrace the route to Stanhope.
- 3 If you are taking the hilly option and pressing on to Rookhope, turn left after the bridge onto the main street (A689) then first right in the direction of Lintzgarth. The road climbs steeply for 2 miles (push up the sections you can't ride as the views get better the higher you go).
- 4 At the highest point (Scarsike Head) turn right and freewheel downhill towards Lintzgarth (take care with your speed, there are a few sharp bends).
- 5 A sharp left hand bend brings you down to a crossing of the Rookhope Burn. Turn right at the T-junction towards Rookhope. Rookhope is a good place to rest and refresh before returning to Stanhope. Follow the 'on road' C2C Route signs - the route leaves Rookhope along the main street and then turns left onto a minor gated road which offers magnificent views of the dale.
- 6 The route climbs for 2 miles, and then descends to the A689 where you turn left and use a shared use path alongside the main road to take you back into Stanhope.



ROUTE INFORMATION

START: Dales Centre, Stanhope

DISTANCE: 16 miles/26 km

GRADE OF RIDE: Strenuous (or moderate - if you only ride the 6 miles from Stanhope to Westgate and return along the valley making an undulating 12 mile trip)

TIME: Half day (or full day making allowance for refreshment stops and exploring Stanhope)

ROUTE SURFACE: On road

HEIGHT LOST AND GAINED: Severe but worth it for the outstanding views

SUITABLE FOR: Any bike

BIKE HIRE: Available from Rookhope Inn (on route) or Dale Bike Hire - mobile bike hire service.

TIC: Stanhope Dales Centre.



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HOW TO GET THERE

From the A1/A69, take the A68 then the A689 to Weardale
OS Map Grid Reference NY997393

TRANSPORT

To plan your route call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 or visit www.traveline-northeast.co.uk

FACILITIES

Shops and accommodation in Stanhope, Wolsingham & Middleton-in-Teesdale

Pubs at Stanhope, Eastgate (just off the route), Westgate, Rookhope

ATTRACTIONS ON ROUTE

- A DURHAM DALES CENTRE

MAP KEY

- 1 ROUTE START
- TOWN/VILLAGE
- P PARKING
- PH PUB
- WC WC
- i TIC

DETAILED MAPS & GUIDES FOR THIS ROUTE



OS LANDRANGER 92
Barnard Castle & surrounding area
£6.49

OS EXPLORER 307
Consett & Derwent Reservoir, Stanhope
£7.49



OS LANDRANGER 87
Hexham & Haltwhistle
£6.49

All available from good bookshops or call 0845 200 2712
www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk



FREE MAP
CYCLING IN THE NORTH PENNINES
Fold out map featuring 4 routes for experienced cyclists. Pick up from Stanhope TIC (on route)

