

# Bike Bowes

**Total Miles:** 16miles (26km) with 9 miles (15km) or 12miles (20km) shortcuts

**Time:** Allow 2.5 - 5 hours depending on conditions

**Getting there:** Start the ride from Bowes Village Hall carpark (GR 996 135), opposite the Village Hall (parking by kind permission of the Village Hall Committee). Bowes lies at the junction of the A67 and A66, 4 miles west of Barnard Castle. From the A1M, take the A66 at Scotch Corner and follow until you reach Bowes.

**Bus/Rail:** Traveline 0871 200 22 33 info@travelinenortheast.info  
www.travelinenortheast.info

**Best time to go:** May – September. You're likely to experience mud, bogs and unpredictable weather except in the very driest times of summer. Some sections are exposed – be prepared!

**Maps:** OS Explorer Map OL31

**Accommodation:**

- Ancient Unicorn Inn (B+B and pub food) tel: 01833 628 321
- Clove Lodge B+B tel: Caroline Carter 01833 650030

**Tourist Information:** www.thisisdurham.com or call 03000 26 26 26

**Refreshments:** There are no shops on the route so take provisions and refuel at the Ancient Unicorn on your return.

**Things to point out:** You may think 16 miles sounds like a doddle, so we'd like you to try this route and think again! The routes aren't technically demanding but the rugged terrain will test your endurance. These quiet windswept bridleways and roads take you into the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and will be a delight to explore if you come prepared. This classic route is great for beginners or intermediate riders who aren't afraid to get off and push.

Expect erratic weather; it can feel quite remote so don't get caught out. There are plenty of feet-soaking bogs and fords to look forward to so plan on getting wet and muddy. There are a few fairly strenuous off-road climbs but the views make them worth the while. The route has great places to rest, Goldsborough is the number one picnic spot! Take a compass (and know how to use it), it can get misty on the moors. The North Pennines AONB is a protected area, like National Parks, so keep to the tracks, respect our feathered and furry friends and any other path users you may meet along the way. Enjoy your ride!

If you require this leaflet in any other format or more information on public paths please contact: [pro@durham.gov.uk](mailto:pro@durham.gov.uk) or call 03000 265 342.

Produced by Bowes Parish Council through the Parish Paths Partnership with funding and support from:



# Bike Bowes

Stunning rugged moorland route



# Bike Bowes

Classic route: 16 miles (26km)  
Shortcut 1: 9 miles (15km)  
Shortcut 2: 12 miles (20km)

BW = Public Bridleway  
PW = Pennine Way

## Estimated time of ride:

Allow yourself 2.5 - 5 hours, depending on conditions.

**Parking:** Bowes Village Hall Carpark (opposite Village Hall).

**1** From carpark turn **R** onto road, then **L** at mini-roundabout. Follow sign to Barnard Castle 7 miles (blue cycle sign). Go through village and across bridge over A66.

Continue up hill straight ahead on road. Go straight on following surfaced track round to fieldgate.

**2** **SHORTCUT 1:** 9 miles (15km)  
Turn **L** after fieldgate at sign for "Public Bridleway Pasture End 2 miles". Follow stone track until **BW** peels off **L** (at waymark post). Follow waymark posts.

After wooden signpost and stepping stones at end of stonewall, head **L** towards A66 alongside the wall down to the road.

Follow directions from point 7.

From gate follow track to farmhouse at Levy Pool.

Go to **L** of house, down to gate and splash through ford or take bridge.

Head **R** to waymark post and then **L** and follow white-topped posts across moor. Rush down steep section to cross stream. Then keep heading up, up and away!

**3** **SHORTCUT 2:** 12 miles (20km)  
At obvious track go **L** (Ladyfold Rigg) and follow directions from point 6.

Continue up following well worn moorland path. You'll encounter a small stream and boggy area with stepping stones.

Go through metal gate and continue on obvious path heading to the magnificent rocky outcrop of Goldsborough. This is a great place for a rest / picnic / shelter. Dump your bike at the bottom and climb up for great views.

With Goldsborough on your **R**, follow **BW** to road. Turn **R** and continue along until you go over second cattle grid. Then, turn **L** along **BW** (signed).

Cross bridge and grass field to ornate metal gate in stone wall. Head **L** onto stone track. After 60 metres, go **R** through wooden gate and over dam between two reservoirs.

**4** Follow edge of reservoir on **BW** until you meet the dam head. Take the metal gate in stonewall on **R**. Head **L** across grass field to metal gate in corner. Go along short section of tree-lined lane. Turn **L** at end before field boundary head to wooden gate. Through gate, across field and down enclosed lane and cross footbridge / ford.

**5** Cross fields through a series of gates until you get to a tarmac road with house (Birk Hat) on your left. Turn **L** onto track and follow for 50 metres to old gate marked "Pennine Way" – pick up **PW** to Clove Lodge (**CL**).

Follow track across two bridges to metal gate and head up steep rocky track to **CL**. Go through gate into **CL** yard and turn **R**, leave yard through gate, onto single track road. After 100 metres uphill, take **BW** (Pennine Way) off to **R**.

Follow well worn moorland track to Race Yate and gate at top. This is a gruelling, exposed, uphill section with lots of boggy bits and ditches. The great views and rewarding downhill after make it worth your while, especially in summer.

**6** Through gate, whizz down hill to wooden fieldgate over bridge or splash through ford.

Follow **PW** as you climb back up and then back down to Pastures End by the A66.

**7** At bottom of field go **R** along boundary and through underpass (through gate). Follow **BW** on left, parallel to A66. Go along track and turn **R** downhill onto track, past house and through metal fieldgate to God's Bridge (admire!).

Follow wall up a steep and bumpy bank to wooden bridlegate at top. Turn **L** and follow waymarks as **BW** then turns **R**. Continue to 3-fingered signpost.

Turn **R** and follow waymarks to wooden gate.

Through gate, turn **R** and continue along until you find a toe-curling drop down to the **L** (you may decide to dismount). Hang on as the **BW** curves down and round the hill to end at the gated footbridge.

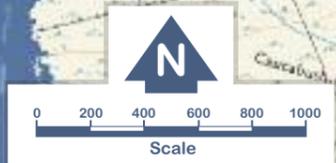
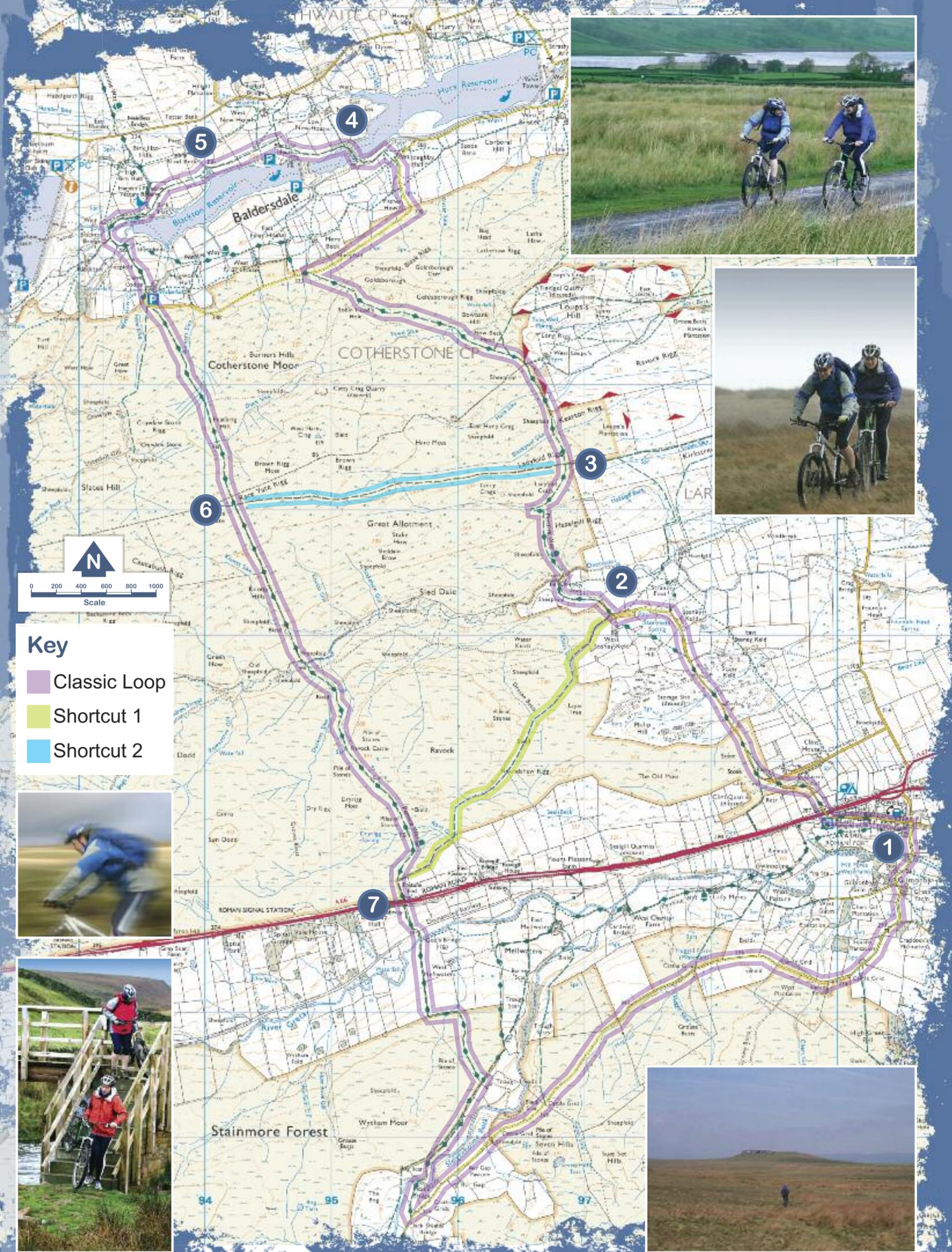
Cross bridge and go through a series of gates across grass fields until you reach the road. Turn **L** along the singletrack road and follow all the way back up to Bowes Village and the carpark. Take care on this bendy road.

**NORTH PENNINES**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



# Bike Bowes

Total miles: 16 miles (26km) with  
9 miles (15km) or 12 miles (20km) shortcuts



**Key**

- Classic Loop
- Shortcut 1
- Shortcut 2

