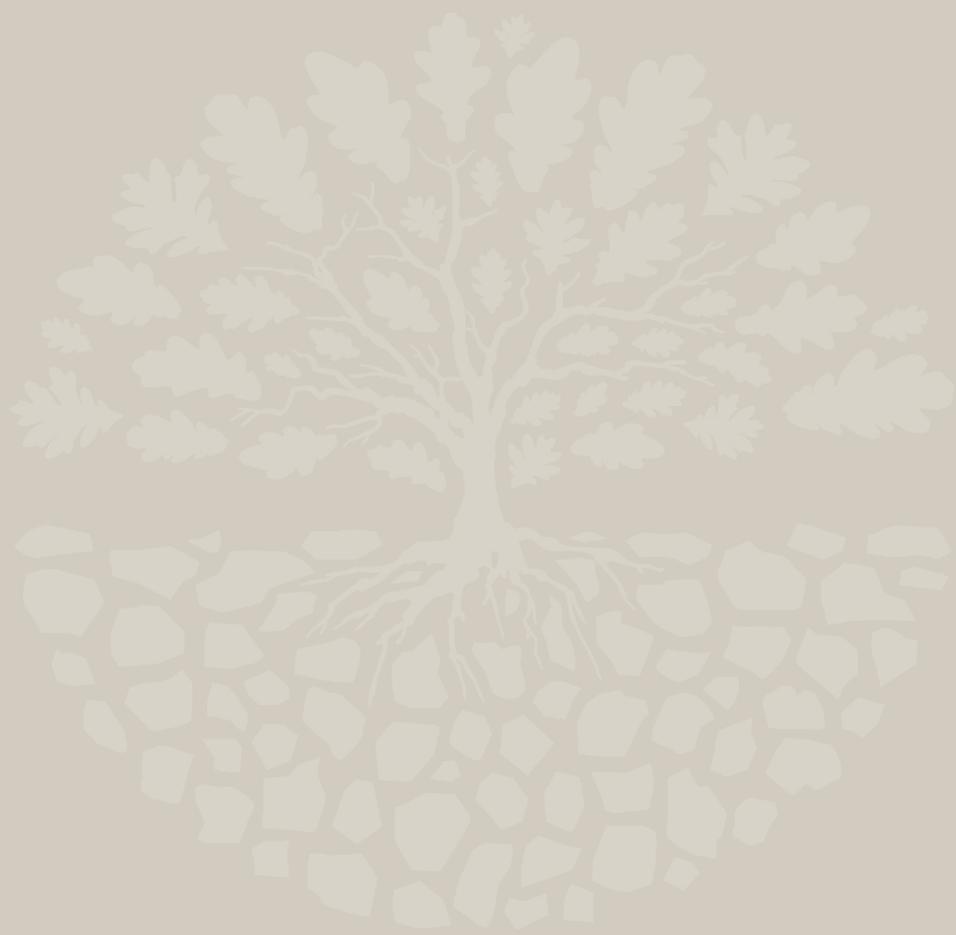




# Cycling in the Land of Oak & Iron

[landofoakandiron.org.uk](http://landofoakandiron.org.uk)



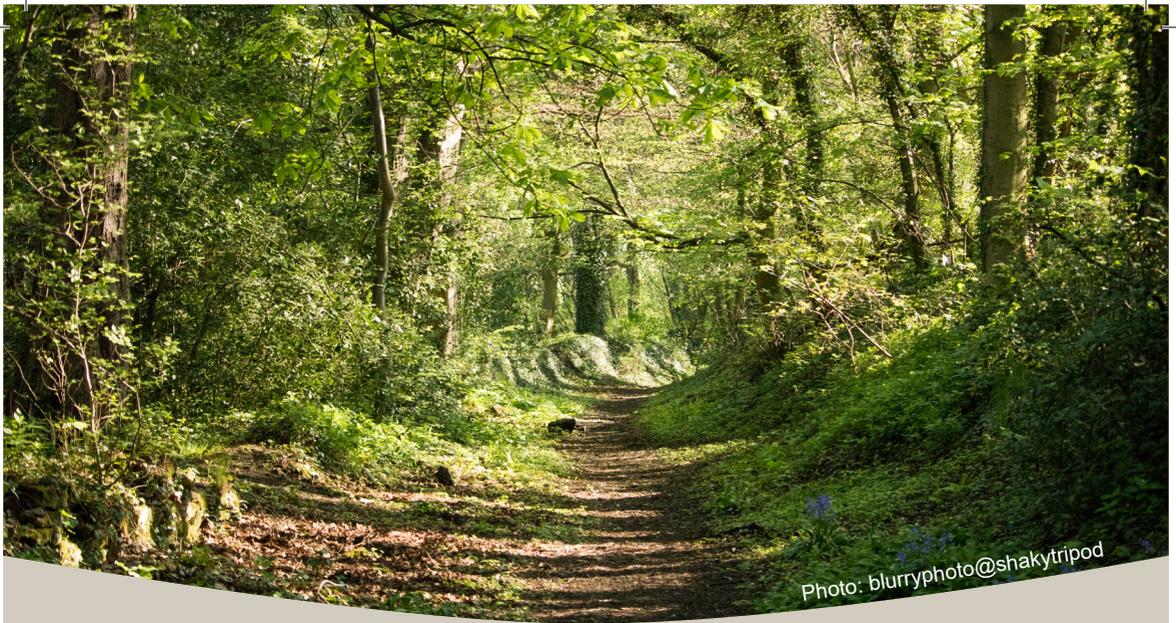


Photo: blurryphoto@shakytripod

Welcome to the Land of Oak & Iron. Covering 177 square kilometres of the beautiful and historic Derwent Valley and its surroundings, this is one of the most rewarding areas to explore.

Bursting with acres of beautiful natural woodland, rich in wildlife and with lots of industrial and cultural heritage to celebrate, the Land of Oak & Iron has many fascinating places to discover. With countryside to explore by bike, foot or horse, you can follow the River Derwent from the Derwent Reservoir to the River Tyne. Come and rediscover, or find out for the first time, what makes the Derwent Valley the perfect destination for a visit.

The scenic Derwent Walk is a 12 mile long multi-user route that follows the old line of the Derwent Valley Railway, from Consett to Swalwell. The Derwent Walk, or National Cycle Route 14 (NCR14) which it mostly follows, is referred to in many of the routes within this booklet.

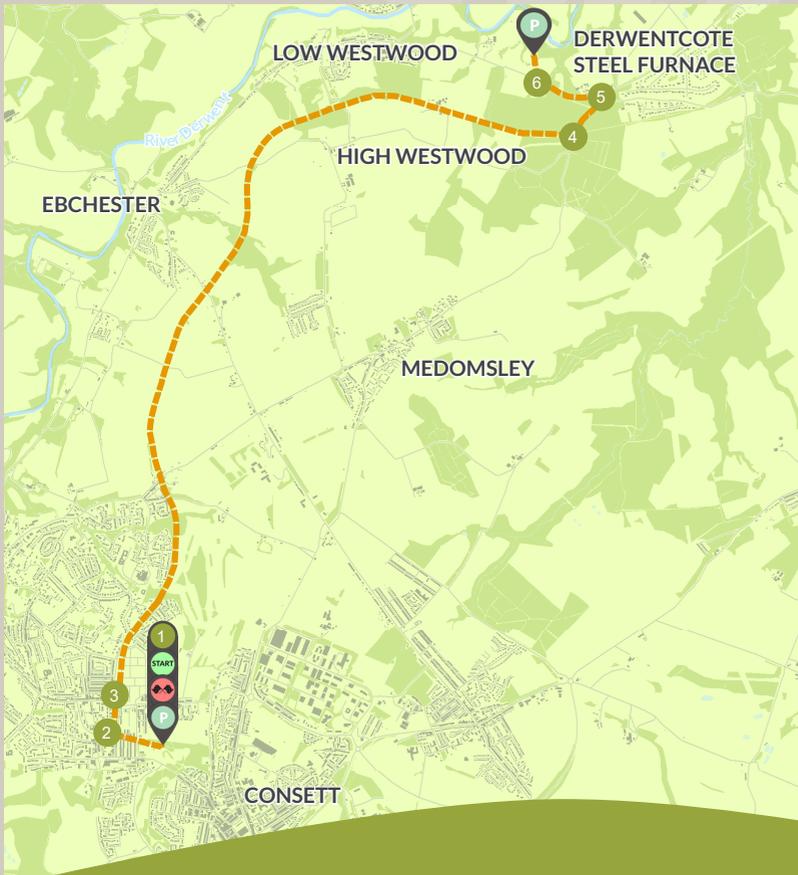
This series of nine cycle rides will introduce you to the beautiful landscape of the area and help you discover 500 years of heritage, history, heroes and habitats, whilst providing some great cycling opportunities.

Some rides are short and are likely to take just an hour or two whilst others cover a longer distance and can fill a whole day. They have been designed to range from easy through to difficult meaning there is something for everyone; from beginners and families with children, through to those looking for more of a challenge.

# 1

## Consett to Derwentcote Steel Furnace

An easy 17 km / 10.5 mile out and back ride that takes you along the Derwent Walk from Consett to Derwentcote, one of the earliest and most complete steel furnace sites in Britain.



### Key

-  Car Park
-  Start
-  Finish

**Time:** 1.5 - 2.5 hours

**Terrain:** Mostly off-road

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Start:** The Lodge Heritage Centre, Blackhill and Consett Park, DH8 5SZ

**Parking:** Blackhill and Consett Park

**Facilities:** The Lodge Heritage Centre & Consett Town Centre

**OS Maps:** Explorer 307 Consett & Derwent Reservoir, Landranger 88 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

# Directions

**1. From the Blackhill and Consett Park, head west across Laburnum Ave and follow St Aidan's Street**

**i** Blackhill and Consett Park was officially opened on 11th July 1891. The park was founded by the Consett Iron Company, as the largest local employer, providing a space to be enjoyed by company employees and their families.

**2. At the end turn right onto NCR14**

**3. Cross the A691 and continue on the Derwent Walk (NCR14) for 6.75 km**

**4. At the road junction with the B6310, turn left and ride downhill**

**5. At the T junction with the A691 turn left towards Shotley Bridge (busy road)**

**6. After 500m, turn right at the sign for Derwentcote Steel Furnace. A rough track leads to Derwentcote Steel Furnace, which is a great site to explore if you wish**

**i** The Derwentcote Steel Furnace was a significant producer of steel from 1730 to 1875. Bars of wrought iron and charcoal powder were packed into the furnace and heated to 1,100°C, producing about 10 tons of 'blister steel' in three weeks. The River Derwent powered a forge nearby, where rods of blister steel were forged into ingots; bars that were easier to transport. These were then sent to local workshops where they were made into products such as cutting tools and springs.

While you are here make sure you explore the beautiful surrounding woodland and the site of the workers cottages.

**Return the way you came, leaving NCR14 where signposted for Consett and Lanchester to return to Blackhill and Consett Park.**



# 2

## Consett & Lintz Lane Loop

A moderate 25 km / 15.5 mile, off-road circular route that takes you from Consett, through open country and over Pontop Pike, taking in stunning views of the Derwent Valley.



### Key

-  Car Park
-  Start
-  Finish

**Time:** 2 - 3 hours

**Terrain:** Off-road (mountain bike recommended)

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Start:** The Lodge Heritage Centre, Blackhill and Consett Park, DH8 5SZ

**Parking:** Blackhill and Consett Park

**Facilities:** The Lodge Heritage Centre, Consett Town Centre, Leadgate, Dipton

**OS Maps:** Explorer 307 Consett & Derwent Reservoir, Landranger 88 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

# Directions

1. From the park head west across Laburnum Ave and follow St Aidan's Street
2. At the end of St Aidan's Street turn left on NCR14 (offroad). Continue for 2km, passing by the old Consett Iron Works site

**i** Open from 1840 to 1980, Consett Iron Works produced thousands of tonnes of steel every year from iron ore and coal. In its heyday this site employed 6,000 people and the town became renowned for its red dust of iron oxide.

3. Cross the A692, then follow NCR14 for a further 400m to the car park at Lydgett's Junction
4. At Lydgett's Junction follow signs for Sunderland, NCR7 C2C, turning left onto the cycle route and continue on the C2C through Consett
5. Cross the A692 at the roundabout where you can see a petrol station (busy road) and then follow the shared pavement onto Leadgate's Front Street
6. Cross the road at the island and pick up the off-road route where it begins again on the corner of West Street
7. Cross Watling Street opposite Leadgate Surgery and continue on the C2C behind the houses to the Jolly Drivers Inn
8. Follow the C2C cycle route across the roundabout and ride through Andy Goldsworthy's maze on the opposite side and out into open country

**i** Goldsworthy's maze represents the tunnels that make up the underground labyrinth of the Durham Coalfield.

9. Leave the C2C path before crossing the bridge, just after the 'Old Transformers' sculptures

**i** The 'Old Transformers' were built in 1990 by David Kemp. The Ironmaster and the Coalminer (made from old machinery) look across the valley to the site of the old ironworks.

Turn left and ride uphill to the crossroads. Go straight across (busy road) onto Pontop Pike Lane, indicated as a 'Quiet Road'. Follow to the T-junction and turn left. Continue on this road for 400m to the junction with Front Street in Dipton

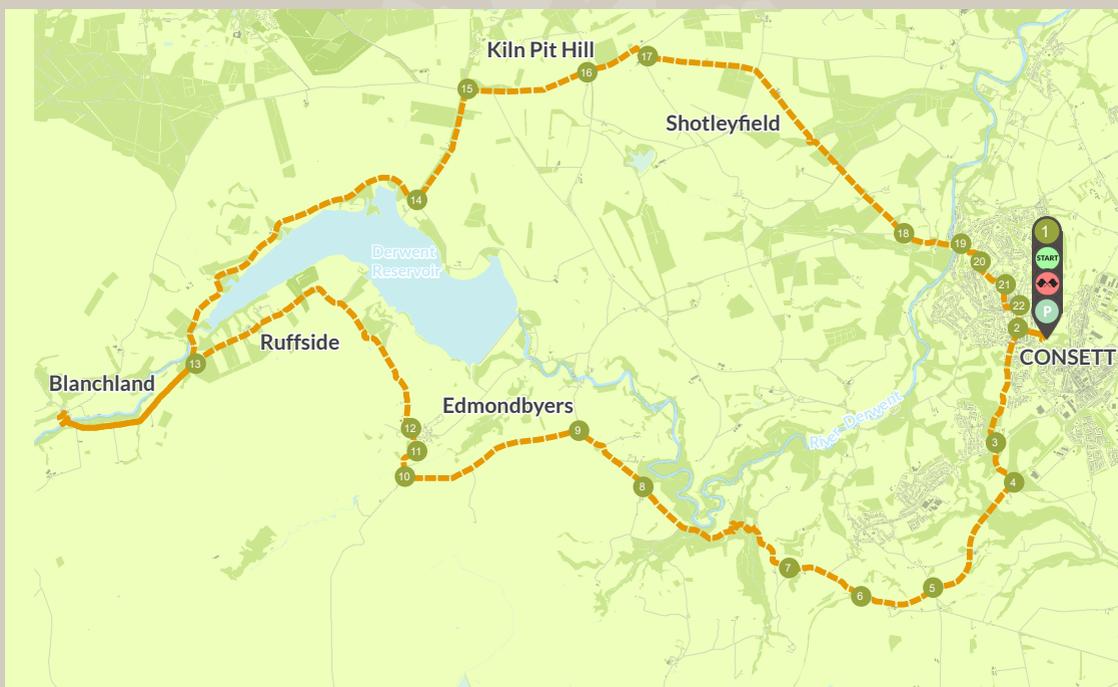
10. Turn right and follow Front Street (A692) for just over 1 km
11. A minor turning on the left gives access to the old railway path
12. At the junction with Lintz Lane, turn left and continue past a farm and down the steep lane
13. Arrive back on tarmac at Lintz Hall Farm and continue to the T junction with the B6310
14. Turn left and descend for just over 1 km, to the crossing of NCR14
15. Turn left to join the path, staying with it for almost 8 km
16. At the junction with the A691 at Blackhill cross over to continue on NCR14

Leave at the next path junction, turning left to return to the park on St Aidan's Street.

# 3

## Around the shores of the Derwent

A hard, 42 km / 26 mile, on and off road circular taking you from Consett out into the open country of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and along the shores of the Derwent Reservoir.



### Key



Car Park



Start



Finish

Time: 4 - 4.5 hours

Terrain: On & off-road (mountain bike recommended)

Difficulty: Hard

Start: The Lodge Heritage Centre, Blackhill and Consett Park, DH8 5SZ

Parking: Blackhill and Consett Park

Facilities: The Lodge Heritage Centre, Consett Town Centre, Edmondbyers, Pow Hill Country Park

OS Maps: Explorer 307 Consett & Derwent Reservoir, Landranger 88 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

# Directions

1. From the park head west across Laburnum Ave onto St Aidan's Street
2. At the end turn left off-road onto NCR14 and continue for 2 km
3. Cross the A692, then follow NCR14 for a further 400m to the car park at Lydgett's Junction
4. Turn right to follow signs for Waskerley Way, heading south west, and crossing Hownsgill Viaduct

**i** Opened in 1858, Hownsgill Viaduct is a feat of engineering that enabled the Stockton & Darlington Railway to cross the 244m wide Hown's Gill. 2.5 million white fire bricks were used to build this 12 arched viaduct.

5. Cross the A68 and continue for 1km to the road at Whitehall picnic site
6. Turn right to follow Whitehall Road to the junction with Healeyfield Lane, keep left and continue for 500m
7. Turn right and follow the road down to Combe Bridges (warning: steep descent!) Climb steeply away from the Hisehope Burn
8. Cross the cattle grid to the T-junction at Muggleswick. Turn right
9. Keep left at both triangle junctions
10. At the junction with B6278 turn right
11. In Edmundbyers turn left onto Church Lane, climb to the junction with B6306
12. Turn left. Follow this road for 4.6 km, through Ruffside, to the turn on the right at the white fences (signpost 'Carricks Picnic Area')
13. Turn right and follow this road along the opposite shore of the reservoir, for around 4.8 km

**i** The three mile long Derwent Reservoir was created in the 1960's to supply water to Wearside and South Tyneside, creating the second largest manmade lake in Northumberland.

14. Where the road swings left. Climb here to the T-junction at Barley Hill
15. Turn right at the T-junction and follow to the A68 crossroads at Kiln Pit Hill
16. Go straight over at the crossroads and after 700m turn right
17. Take the first turning left and continue on this road for approx. 4.7 km to the T-junction with B6278
18. Turn left and descend to Shotley Bridge
19. Keep left at the T-junction and turn right to head up hill on Snow's Green Road (B6310) Take the second right turn onto Summerdale, opposite the primary school

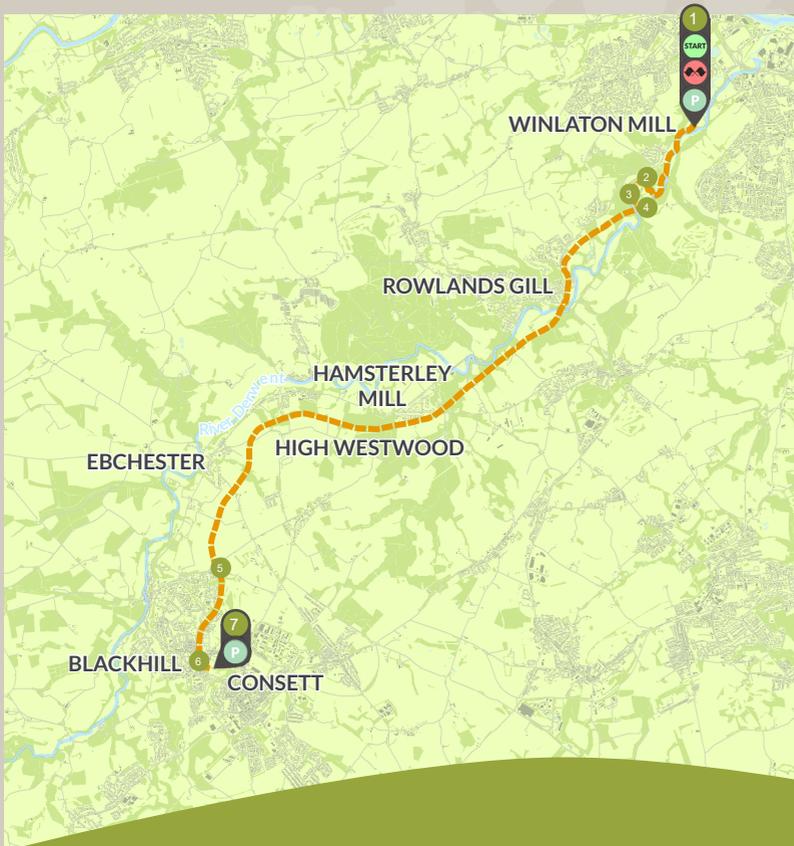
**i** Shotley Bridge was once the heart of Britain's sword making industry. German families moved into this area in the late 1600's and became renowned for their skill in making hollow sword blades.

20. At the T-junction with Benfieldside Road turn right. Take second left onto St.Cuthbert's Avenue and follow for 550m
21. Turn right onto Ritson's Road at the green space. After 300m, turn left onto Ritson Street
22. Turn right at the T-junction and follow Queen's Road. At the junction with the A691 in Blackhill cross over to follow NCR14. Leave at the next path junction, turning left onto St. Aidan's Street to return to the park

# 4

## Crowley's to Steel Town

An easy, 34 km / 21 mile, off-road out and back ride starting at the Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre and travelling from the site of Crowley's Iron Works at Winlaton Mill up the Derwent Valley to Consett, once one of the world's most prominent steel making towns.



### Key

-  Car Park
-  Start
-  Finish

Time: 2 - 2.5 hours

Terrain: Off-road

Difficulty: Easy

Start: Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre & café shrub, Winlaton Mill, NE21 6RU

Parking: Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre

Facilities: Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre & café shrub, The Lodge Heritage Centre at Blackhill and Consett Town Centre

OS Maps: Explorer 316 Newcastle-upon-Tyne & 307 Consett & Derwent Reservoir, Landranger 88 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

# Directions

1. **From the Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre, turn right onto the multi-user route**

**i** This was once home to one of the largest ironworks in Europe. In 1691 Ambrose Crowley developed one of the first ever factories here, using the power of the River Derwent to produce wrought iron, employing 1500 men at one time. In 1928 the Consett Iron Company developed Derwenthaugh Coke Works here providing fuel for further industry.

2. **Follow the route past Clockburn Lake and go over the stone bridge crossing the River Derwent**

3. **Turn left around the edge of Kite Hill**

4. **Turn left to the Derwent Walk, turn right along it passing over Nine Arches Viaduct**

**i** This is one of the Land of Oak & Iron's greatest landmarks, built to take the railway across the River Derwent and into a huge cutting so that it would not be visible from Gibside. The Derwent Walk follows the route of the Derwent Valley Railway, opened in 1867, which connected Swalwell, Gateshead to Blackhill, Consett. As well as passenger trains, the railway carried iron ore to Consett and timber, bricks and coal to Newcastle.

5. **Beyond the old railway platform at Shotley Bridge, the track starts to climb into Consett**

6. **Cross the A691 at the light-controlled crossing and continue on NCR14 for another 200m**

7. **Turn off where indicated for Lanchester and Consett to ride along St Aidan's Street. Cross Laburnum Avenue to reach Consett and Blackhill Park**

**Return to Winlaton Mill the way that you came.**



# 5

## Mountain Bike Mini Ride

A 9 km / 5.5 mile off-road, moderate circular ride suitable for mountain bikes, taking in the Derwent Walk Country Park, beautiful woodlands and fantastic views over the Derwent Valley.



### Key

-  Car Park
-  Start
-  Finish

**Time:** 1.5 - 2 hours

**Terrain:** Mainly off-road

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Start:** Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre & café shrub, Winlaton Mill, NE21 6RU

**Parking:** Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre

**Facilities:** Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre & café shrub, The Lodge Heritage Centre at Blackhill and Consett Town Centre

**OS Maps:** Explorer 316 Newcastle-upon-Tyne & 307 Consett & Derwent Reservoir, Landranger 88 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

# Directions

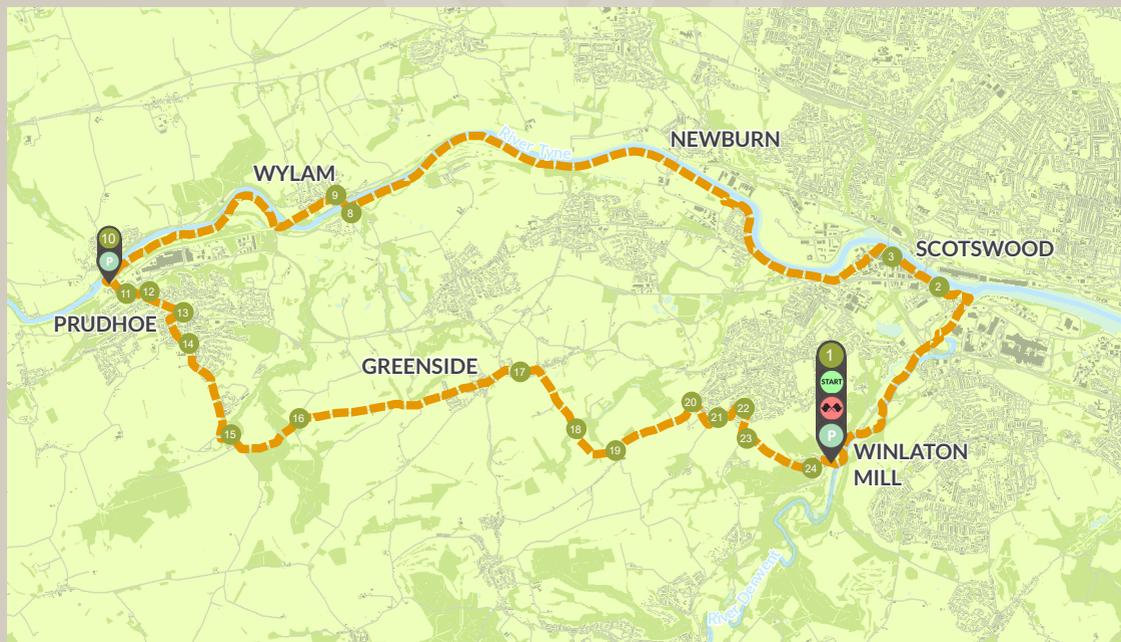
1. From the Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre, turn right onto the multi-user route
  2. Follow the route past Clockburn Lake and go over the stone bridge crossing the River Derwent
  3. Turn right, following the path behind Kite Hill until you reach the old railway line (NCR14 The Derwent Walk)
  4. Turn left onto The Derwent Walk. Immediately turn right up the steep hill. Follow this to Hollinside farm
  5. Go past the buildings via the left hand side and pick up the track into the woods
  6. At the junction with a rough track turn right and climb steeply
- i** This is Clockburn Lonnen, once the main highway from the north to Durham. Cromwell's army of 16,000 men used this route on their way to the Battle of Dunbar on 15 July 1650.
7. After 500m, turn left onto Woodhouse Way, a bridleway which was once the route of the Western Way Waggonway. Follow this as it descends behind the houses and through the woods
  8. When the track joins tarmac, keep ahead and follow to the T-junction with Swalwell Bank
  9. Turn left (busy road) and descend to the traffic lights
  10. Turn left (busy road) and ride for 100m
  11. Turn onto Park View, at the entrance to Blaydon RFC, where artwork remembers the area's railway heritage. Follow Park View for 700m as it rounds the cricket ground
  12. Turn right at the weight limit sign to cross the bridge
  13. Turn immediately left onto NCR14 cyclepath. Follow this for 600m to return to the Heritage Centre on your right



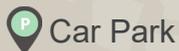
# 6

## Winlaton Mill to Prudhoe Castle

A 30 km / 19 mile on and off-road, moderate, circular ride taking you from the Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre at Winlaton Mill to Prudhoe and the site of Prudhoe Castle, a ruined medieval fortress.



### Key



Car Park



Start



Finish

**Time:** 3 - 3.5 hours

**Terrain:** On & off-road

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Start:** Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre & café shrub, Winlaton Mill, NE21 6RU

**Parking:** Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre

**Facilities:** Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre & café shrub, Tyne Riverside Café & Heritage Centre, Low Prudhoe

**OS Maps:** Explorer 316 Newcastle-upon-Tyne & 307 Consett & Derwent Reservoir, Landranger 88 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

# Directions

1. Turn left onto the multi-user route at the Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre. Follow NCR141/ Keelman's Way signs along the River Derwent for approximately 3km, going under the A1, the Riverside Way and finally the steel railway bridge, to reach the Tyne's south bank
2. Follow this track (NCR141), past Derwenthaugh Marina and under the Scotswood Bridge
3. Just after passing under the next major road bridge (the A1 again), NCR141 diverts left onto Patterson Road into the industrial estate, using painted cycle paths on roads also used by traffic. Follow Patterson Street past the Travis Perkins yard
4. Turn right onto Factory Rd. Continue past the barrier on the Keelman's Way, a public bridleway alongside the river, passing Blaydon railway station
5. At the new housing estate, bear right where the track splits, staying on the riverside
6. Turn right onto King Oswald Drive and follow for 200m
7. Turn right to follow the Keelman's Way for 6 km
8. Upon reaching Wylam railway station, leave through the car park (beware traffic) and turn right to cross the bridge over the River
9. Take the first right into Wylam Country Park car park. Turn left onto the old railway line to follow NCR72 and continue through Tyne Riverside Country Park for approximately 4 km
10. Leave the riverside path at the Tyne Riverside Café & Heritage Centre and exit through the car park, turning right onto Station Road
11. At the roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Station Road and continue for 260m
12. The entrance to Prudhoe Castle can be found on the left

**i** The Normans built this magnificent fortress to watch over the Tyne Valley, and to guard a strategic river crossing. It also helped to defend England against Scottish raids, and Prudhoe is the only Northumbrian castle that the Scots never captured.

**From here, continue on Station Road to Prudhoe crossroads**

13. Turn right onto Front Street for 130m then turn left onto South Road and follow for 450m
14. At the Moor Road junction, turn right. Follow for 1.8 km into open country, crossing Stanley Burn
15. At the layby, turn left onto a rough green lane
16. Turn right at junction with Bradley Fell Rd at North View Farm. Continue to junction with Lead Road at Greenside
17. Turn left and stay on Lead Lane for 750m, then turn right onto Barlow Lane
18. After 900m, when the road swings left, keep ahead on a dirt track. Emerge onto Barlow Road at Barlow
19. Turn left and follow Barlow Road to the edge of Winlaton Village
20. Turn right onto Knobbyends Lane
21. After a sharp left-hand bend, turn first right onto Coldstream Drive
22. At the T-junction with Scotland Head turn right and follow for 400m
23. Turn right onto Mill Lane
24. Follow into Winlaton Mill (Holly Avenue) and turn left onto Noel Avenue, staying on this as it swings right. Cross the A694 into the Heritage Centre car park

# 7

## Discovering Blaydon Burn

A 16 km / 10 mile easy, on and off-road ride that will take you through an industrial heartland and into a haven for wildlife, which is flourishing where industry once thrived.



### Key

-  Car Park
-  Start
-  Finish

**Time:** 2 hours

**Terrain:** On & off-road

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Start:** Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre & café shrub, Winlaton Mill, NE21 6RU

**Parking:** Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre

**Facilities:** Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre & café shrub

**OS Maps:** Explorer 316 Newcastle-upon-Tyne & 307 Consett & Derwent Reservoir,  
Landranger 88 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

# Directions

1. Turn left onto the multi-user route at the Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre. Follow NCR141/ Keelman's Way signs along the River Derwent for approximately 3km, going under the A1, the Riverside Way and finally the steel railway bridge, to reach the Tyne's south bank
2. Follow this track (NCR141) left past Derwenthaugh Marina and under the Scotswood Bridge
3. Just after passing under the next major road bridge (the A1 again), NCR141 diverts left onto Patterson Road into the industrial estate, using painted cycle paths on roads also used by traffic. Follow Patterson Street past the Travis Perkins yard
4. Turn right onto Factory Rd. Continue past the barrier on the Keelman's Way, a public bridleway alongside the river, passing Blaydon railway station
5. After 350m go through a pedestrian tunnel under the railway, turn left to enter Blaydon Burn

**i** Coke from Derwenthaugh Cokeworks was taken off site via rail and either continued to its location by train or was transferred to ships at the Derwenthaugh Staithes, part of which is now the site of Derwenthaugh Marina.

**i** Blaydon Burn Nature Reserve shows the amazing transformation that can happen when old industries fall silent, and nature is able to return. In the 1800s there were corn mills here, as well as a brickyard owned by the Cowen family. Look carefully and you may still spot bricks marked 'Cowen' around the area.

You can follow the well-surfaced path as far as you like

6. The full out and back ride from the Heritage Centre to the top of Blaydon Burn is 16 km

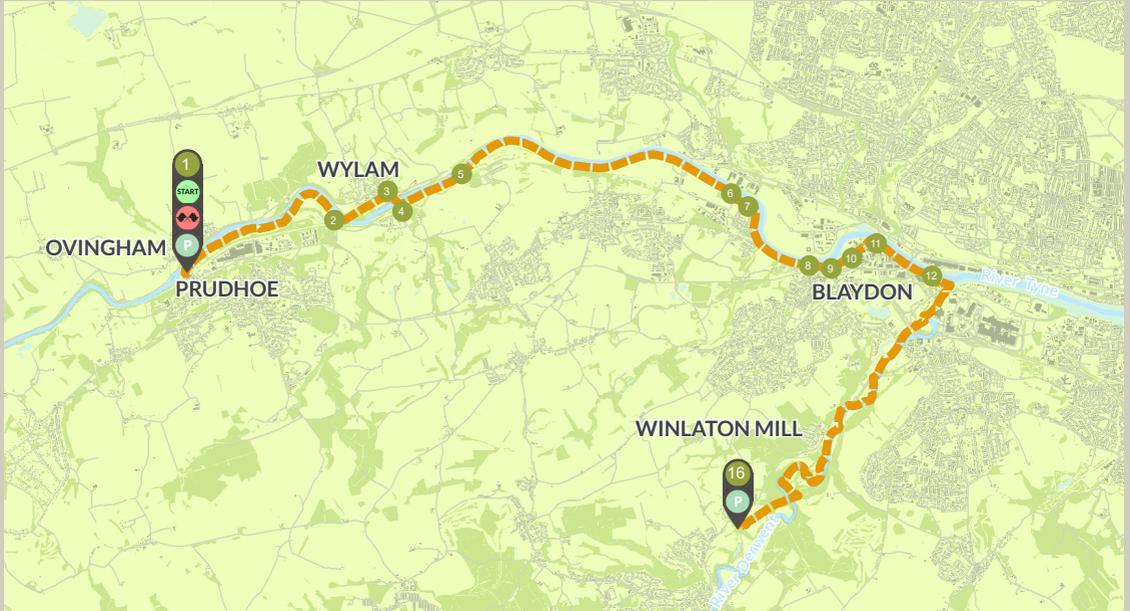
Stronger riders might like to come back via the road through Winlaton village, which is signed from the top of Blaydon Burn, and following the blue cycle route signs to Hamsterley Mill from the High Street. This makes a 12 km circular route, with a steep climb.



# 8

## Prudhoe to Crowley's Iron Works

This 43 km / 27 mile, easy, off-road, out and back ride takes you from Prudhoe, through Clara Vale Nature Reserve, past Derwenthaugh Marina and up to the site of Crowley's Iron Works at Winlaton Mill.



### Key



Car Park



Start



Finish

**Time:** 3 - 3.5 hours

**Terrain:** On & off-road

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Start:** Tyne Riverside Café & Heritage Centre, Low Prudhoe, NE42 6NR

**Parking:** Tyne Riverside Café & Heritage Centre, Low Prudhoe

**Facilities:** Tyne Riverside Café & Heritage Centre in Low Prudhoe

**OS Maps:** Explorer 316 Newcastle-upon-Tyne & 307 Consett & Derwent Reservoir, Landranger 88 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

# Directions

1. Turn right onto the riverside path at the Tyne Riverside Café & Heritage Centre and ride under the road bridge, with the River Tyne on your left for 2.8 km along NCR72 Hadrian's Cycleway
2. Join the tarmac and ride along the front of the terrace of houses (Front Street)
3. Turn left to continue on NCR72 and cross the river over Hagg Bank Bridge
4. Continue on NCR72 until you reach Wylam Country Park car park, leave via the exit through the car park
5. Turn left and cross over Wylam Bridge before turning left into Wylam railway station car park
6. Join the Keelman's Way and follow this riverside path for approximately 6km
7. On the other side of the railway from where you are cycling is Clara Vale

**i** Clara Vale developed as a coal mining community around 1890 and a pit was open here until 1966. The village and the pit were named after the wife of colliery owner John Bell Simpson: Clara. Today Clara Vale is home to a Local Nature Reserve, providing a home for many different species of wildlife and over 200 species of plants.

8. Upon reaching tarmac at King Oswald Drive, turn left and continue for 200m
9. Turn left to cycle towards the River Tyne and continue on the riverside bridleway, passing Blaydon railway station
10. Here you can detour off the route to visit Path Head Water Mill

**i** Built in 1730, this was a working corn mill until 1828. The waterwheel turned the grindstones and ground the corn. In the 1800s the mill belonged to the family of Joseph Cowen, a radical local journalist and politician. Nowadays it's a lovely spot for a picnic, and if you're lucky you might even spot a kingfisher!

11. Pass the barrier and join Factory Road
12. Turn left onto Patterson Street - be aware of traffic using the roads whilst passing through the industrial estate
13. Follow the wide tarmac path along the riverside, around the boatyard and continue to meet the River Derwent as it joins the Tyne
14. Turn right here to ride alongside the Derwent for around 700m
15. Turn right behind the allotments, then turn left to go under the A1 and emerge at Derwenthaugh Road, following NCR14 signage
16. The path follows the road for a short distance, then swings left a little and passes under a road bridge. Follow the path near the River Derwent for just over 1 km as it leads you to the Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre at Winlaton Mill

Return using the same NCR14 and NCR72 signage as guidance.

# 9

## Ovingham & Wylam Bridges

An 8 km / 5 mile circular cycle which takes you through Tyne Riverside Country Park and over the River Tyne to discover the delightful villages of Wylam and Ovingham.



Key



Car Park



Start



Finish

Time: 1 hour

Terrain: On & Off-road

Difficulty: Easy

Start: Tyne Riverside Café & Heritage Centre, Low Prudhoe, NE42 6NR

Parking: Tyne Riverside Café & Heritage Centre, Low Prudhoe

Facilities: Tyne Riverside Café & Heritage Centre in Low Prudhoe, Wylam, Ovingham

OS Maps: Explorer 316 Newcastle-upon-Tyne & 307 Consett & Derwent Reservoir, Landranger 88 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

# Directions

1. **Join the riverside path at the Tyne Riverside Café & Heritage Centre and ride east, under the road bridge, with the River Tyne on your left**
2. **On your right you will pass beneath the looming chalk heaps of The Spetchells Local Nature Reserve. Continue on the riverside path**

**i** Once an industrial dumping ground, The Spetchells has become an important habitat for wildlife. After a chemical plant closed in the 1960s, nature gradually reclaimed the heaps of chalk waste. Grasses and wildflowers spread, creating a large area of chalk grassland. Today The Spetchells is home to a wide range of species, including solitary mining bees and rare butterflies. Look out for the white chalk in the hillside to your right.

3. **Join the tarmac and ride along the front of the terrace of houses (Front Street)**
4. **Turn left to continue on NCR72, crossing the River Tyne using the old railway bridge 'Hagg Bank Bridge'**

**i** Hagg Bank Bridge was the first built across the Tyne with a single span arch, dating from 1876. The bridge carried trains over the river to join the Newcastle - Carlisle line until the closure of the railway in 1968.

5. **After 200m turn left onto Chapel Lane. Take care as you cycle the rest of the route on roads**
6. **At the T-junction with the main road in Wylam, turn left**
7. **Keep left at the junction and stay on this road all the way back to Ovingham**
8. **Turn left at the church to cross Ovingham Bridge, a former toll bridge built in 1883, and return to the starting point**





# Cycling in Chopwell Wood

Covering 900 acres, Chopwell is the largest woodland in Tyne & Wear. Located on the fringe of Gateshead, cyclists love exploring its excellent network of trails which offer something for everyone. If you love off-road cycling and mountain biking then make sure Chopwell is on your list of places to visit!

Find out more: [www.forestryengland.uk/chopwell-wood](http://www.forestryengland.uk/chopwell-wood)

## Enjoy Your Visit

We hope you have a great time when cycling in the Land of Oak & Iron but please remember that many paths are shared with walkers and horse riders, so do cycle carefully and think of the needs of others:

- Give an audible warning and slow down when overtaking other users
- Take extra care when approaching children, horses and dogs
- Take care in areas with poor visibility
- Leave gates as they are found
- Take your rubbish home with you

### Follow Us



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Land of Oak & Iron

### Contact Us

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