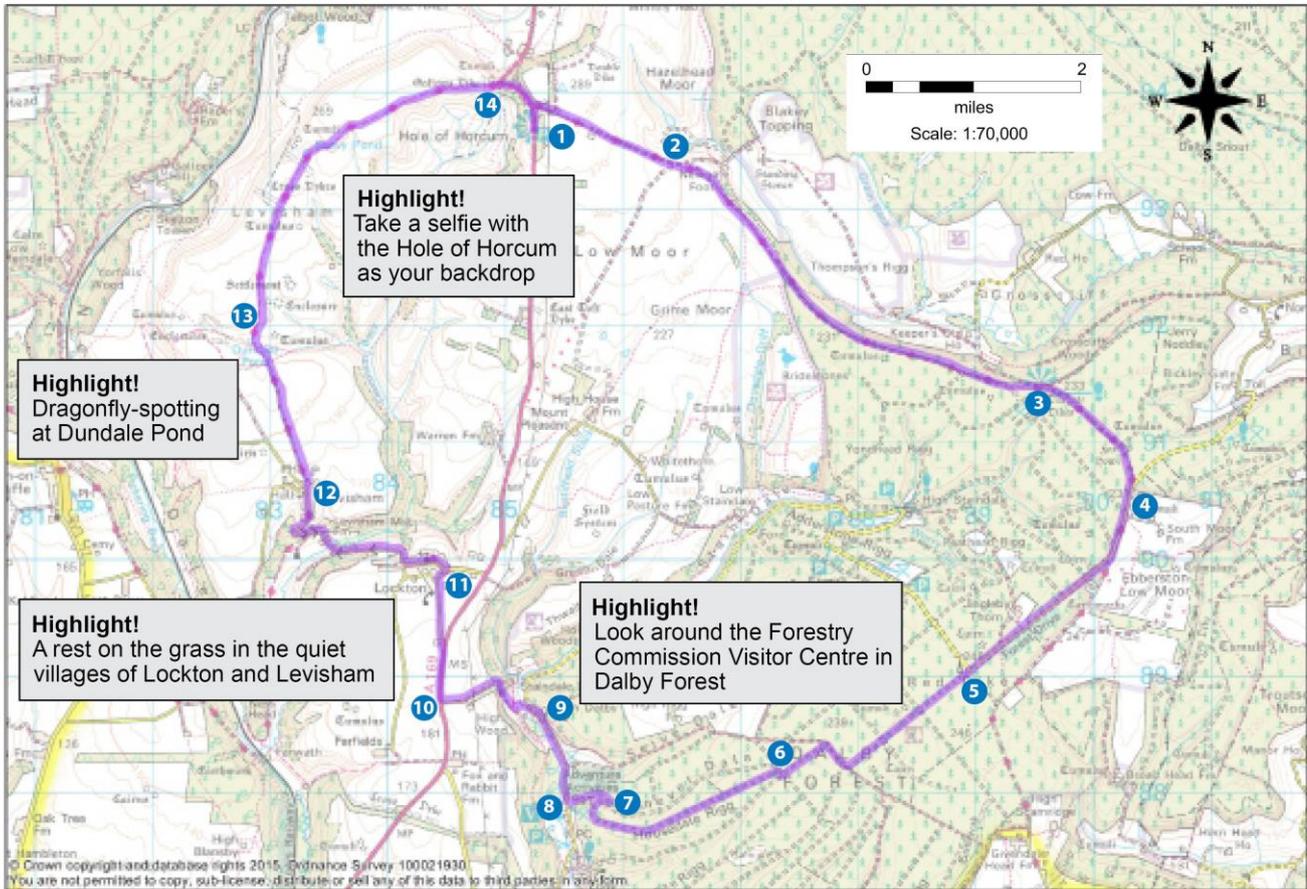




Dalby Forest Loop

www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/cycling



Introduction

On this easy-to-follow circular bike ride you'll experience iconic moorland and splendid views across the legendary Hole of Horcum, and discover two traditional villages and the mountain-biking delights of Dalby Forest.

You should be prepared to walk up the short, steep roads to Lockton and Levisham, but otherwise it's a ride for beginners, families and explorers alike.

Note – it's pay and display parking at Saltergate, while access to Dalby Forest by vehicle is by toll road (though cycling into the forest is free).

Cycle route info

Distance: 14½ miles (23km)

Time: 2 to 2½ hours

Terrain: mostly good stone tracks and tarmac, with a grass/stone moorland section to finish

Start: Saltergate car park (SE 852 936) or Forestry Commission Dalby Visitor Centre (SE 855 877)

Map: Ordnance Survey OL27

Directions: see reverse



Directions

1. From Saltergate car park, turn right and push your bike along the right-hand verge. Turn right on the tarmac drive (signposted 'Crosscliffe 4 miles').
2. Continue along the top bridleway, past the National Trust sign for Bridestones and Crosscliffe. Keep straight on, ignoring side tracks, to reach a viewpoint with a bench and picnic table.
3. Just after the viewpoint, turn right at the crossroads away from the scarp edge, along a stone road (signposted 'Cockmoor 4 miles').
4. Continue straight onto the tarmac and follow Dalby Forest Drive and Moor to Sea cycle waymarks.
5. Carry straight on at the metal barrier and toll point and follow the tarmac, eventually bearing right and then left (following 'Moor to Sea' cycle waymarks).
6. Where a forest track crosses the tarmac, turn right onto the track, then immediately left down Housedale Rigg (still following Moor to Sea signs).
7. At a junction of forest tracks (at the 'Discovery Trails' listening post, turn left and continue down through the wooden barrier into a car park at Go Ape.
8. For the Visitor Centre and café, turn left; otherwise turn right and follow the Moor to Sea cycle-route north on the tarmac Forest Drive up the valley.
9. Pass High Dalby House on the left and turn left onto a stone bridleway. Follow this down over Dalby Beck, then up a field, through a wood and up and along a tarmac lane, climbing steadily.
10. Just before the busy A169, turn right at a Moor to Sea waymark and follow a field-edge cycle-track that parallels the main road. Go through a gate and cross the road – beware fast-moving traffic – onto a cycle-track that leads onto a minor road.
11. Bear right at a junction and follow this road into Lockton, turning left at a T-junction (signposted 'Levisham only'). Ride down the main village street, with the Youth Hostel and church on your right. Follow the road round to the right at a junction, and drop down steeply before climbing – again, steeply (1:5) – up the road to Levisham.
12. At the top of Levisham village, keep to the right of the Horseshoe Inn and follow the road out onto the moor.
13. Go through a gate (signposted 'Saltergate 3 miles') and continue along the track, passing Dundale pond on your left, before following the bridleway across Levisham Moor. The Hole of Horcum begins to open up to your right.
14. Drop down through a gate onto the roadside verge and follow the signed bridleway up the hill – please don't use the surfaced path around the dyke to your right, as this is a footpath through important archaeological remains. Cross the main road – beware fast-moving traffic – and return to the car park, or continue straight on for the return to Dalby.

Facilities

Bike hire is available in Dalby Forest Courtyard and at Dalby Bike Barn in nearby Thornton le Dale.

There are two cafés in Dalby Forest, a pub at Levisham and a seasonal tea room in Lockton, and very often an ice-cream van at Saltergate car park.