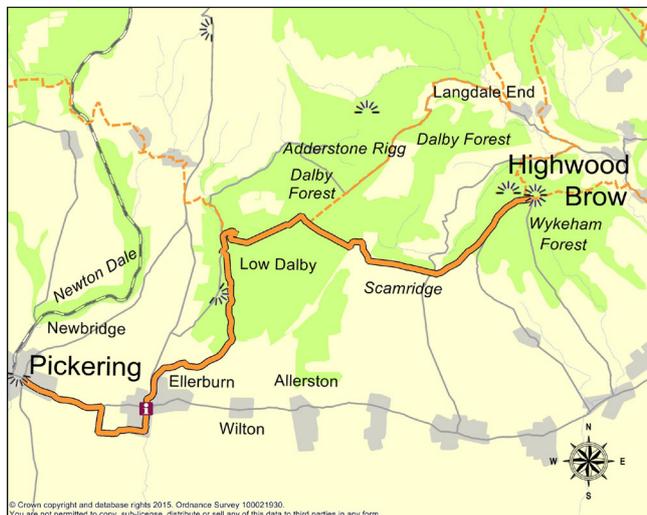




Moor to Sea Cycle Network

www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/moortosea

5: Pickering to Highwood Brow



Cycle route info:

Distance: 14 miles (22.5km)

Time: 2½ to 4 hours

Start: Pickering car park (by Co-op)

Grid ref: SE 796 839

Map: Ordnance Survey OL27

Terrain: roads and forest tracks with a fairly easy gradient, apart from a couple of moderate hills



Starting in Pickering – southern gateway to the North York Moors National Park – this stage of the Moor to Sea meanders from the sweeping expanse of the Vale of Pickering through the wooded heart of Dalby Forest. It passes through the pretty village of Thornton le Dale and the peaceful hamlet of Ellerburn, before a gradual ascent through pleasant forest, mostly on good quality forest roads. At Low Dalby you'll find a forest visitor centre, refreshments and cycle hire, after which you climb up onto the plateau and ride on to reach Highwood Brow, from where there are stunning views across Troutsdale.

Directions: Pickering to Highwood Brow

From Pickering, take the Thornton Road (A170) towards Thornton le Dale. Take care with the heavy traffic and at the end of the houses bear L onto the shared-use footway. After 1.5km turn R down Westfield Lane. Follow the road round to the L into Thornton le Dale. Turn L at the T-junction and ride into the village along Maltongate.

Approaching the village green, dismount and walk up to cross the main road at the pelican crossing, then continue up Whitbygate. Follow signs R and L for Ellerburn and, after 1.3km, pass the church, following the road R and L onto a bridleway. Go past Low and High Paper Mill Farms and head up the valley with the beck on your L. Enter Dalby Forest and continue straight on up to Low Dalby village.

From Low Dalby follow the forest drive north, up the valley past the Visitor Centre. At Sneverdale car park and Go Ape, turn R and go through a wooden barrier onto a forest track. At a crossroads, turn sharp R and snake up Housedale Rigg.

(Cont.)



Turn R at a T-junction and, almost immediately, L to join a tarmac road. At the top of the hill follow the road round to the R but where it goes L carry straight on along a stone road. Ignore the turning to Flaxdale on the R, and a major road to the L, and continue to the end of the forest. Turn L and after 90m fork L (not through the farm), following the track round to the R. Turn R at the T-junction and go past Givendale Head Farm.

After 470m and just before a clump of trees turn L down the second farm track. After passing through a forest, at the end of the track go through a gate and continue straight on to the tarmac road. At the road turn L and then immediately R at a small car park. Go through a metal gate out of the pasture. When the track joins a road coming from the R, continue along the road in the same direction for 1.7km to Highwood Brow view point and car park.

Directions: Highwood Brow to Pickering

From Highwood Brow viewpoint and car park head west, keeping the steep scarp slope away to your right, along the level tarmac road for 1.7km. Near the Tree Nursery, leave the tarmac road, which forks off L, and continue straight on along a stone road. Pass through a metal gate and continue to a car park, then turn L and immediately R across the pasture towards a gate. Pass through the gate, on a track through the forest. At a T-junction with a tarmac road, turn R.

Continue on a stone road straight past the entrance to Givendale Head Farm. Turn L down the first track and follow it round to the L. After another 180m turn R into the forest. Join a tarmac road, pass a turning into Flaxdale and follow the road round to the L. After 470m turn R on to a forest track and then immediately L down Housedale Rigg. At a crossroads of tracks, turn L and continue through the wooden barrier into the car park. Turn L onto the forest drive and continue along into Low Dalby village.

From Low Dalby take the forest track heading down the valley, with the beck on your R. Follow the lower bridleway past Low and High Paper Mill Farms and across the beck. Swing L on the tarmac road through Ellerburn, turn R at the junction and then turn L into Thornton le Dale.

In the village go straight over the crossroads, taking extra care crossing the road, and down Maltongate. After 700m, turn R up Westgate. Follow this road round until it reaches the A170 (Thornton Road) at which point go straight over and turn L onto a shared-use footway. At the houses, cross the road and continue (with care) along the main road into Pickering.

Route highlights!

Enjoy an ice cream in picturesque Thornton le Dale.

Don't miss the charming church in Ellerburn – and the tea rooms too!

A shady ride through the woods in Dalby Forest.

Visitor centre and café at Low Dalby.

Facilities

Pickering and Thornton le Dale have a full range of accommodation, cafés, restaurants and other facilities, including cycle hire.

There's also cycle hire, as well as a bike shop, refreshments and a visitor centre in Low Dalby, and picnic areas at Low Dalby and Highwood Brow.