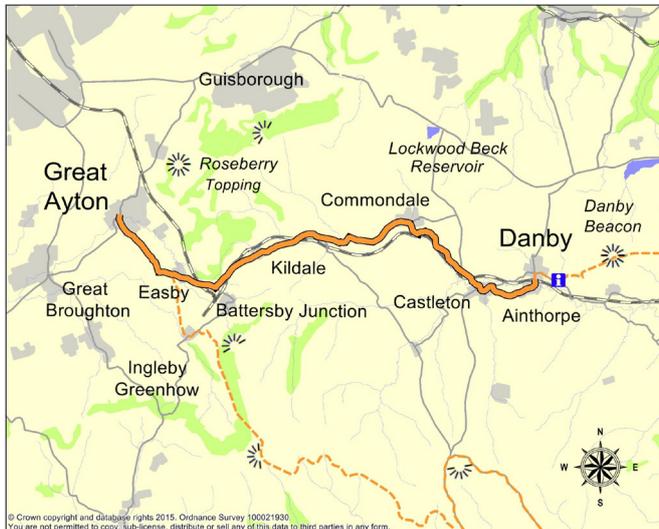




Moor to Sea Cycle Network

www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/moortosea

6: Great Ayton to Danby



Cycle route info:

Distance: 13 miles (21km)

Time: 2 to 3 hours

Start: Great Ayton train station

Grid ref: NZ 574 108

Map: Ordnance Survey OL26

Terrain: gently undulating country lanes, with a few moderate climbs and one off-road bridleway section



A journey of discovery that takes you from the edge of the Cleveland Plain right into the heart of the North York Moors. The magnificent peak of Roseberry Topping and the imposing Cleveland Hills dominate the first part of the route. You'll enjoy views over Eskdale and get a taste of the area's unspoiled villages, with the option of finishing your trip with a visit to The Moors National Park Centre, just outside the moorland village of Danby.

Directions: Great Ayton to Danby

From Great Ayton station, take Station Road down the hill and turn R to ride into the village. Turn L along High Street, passing the shops and the green, and when you reach the junction with the A173, turn L and go over the bridge. Across the bridge, as the main road bends R along the river, turn L (by a red pillarbox and a garage with red doors) along Bridge Street and then Easby Lane.

The road passes through a residential area and out into open country. Continue for about 2km, with a fine panorama of the Cleveland Hills in front of you. Pass a farm on the R. At the first T-junction, turn L and follow the road through the hamlet of Easby. The Captain Cook monument high on Easby Moor is visible through trees on your L. Enter the North York Moors National Park and pass under a railway bridge.

The road bends sharply to the L and passes under the railway again. After roughly 1.3km enter Kildale, go through the village and continue along the bottom of the dale. Cross the railway and climb to a crossroads. Carry straight on – the road dips steeply to cross a beck, then climbs again. Continue – with moorland to your L and a dry stone wall on your R – to Commondale.

By the Cleveland Inn in Commondale, turn R down a narrow lane, signposted to the railway station. Fork L by Foul Green Holiday Cottages. Ignore the gated turning on the R to the station and continue straight on through another gate. Remember to close the gate behind you. The road turns sharp L next to a bungalow and becomes a rough track (bridleway). (*cont.*)



Pass through another gate and descend steeply, passing cottages on the R. The track continues past Box Hall and then begins to climb, crossing a cattle grid and meeting a tarmac road. Turn R, go down the hill, past the station, under the railway and over the River Esk near the Eskdale Inn. Climb up to Castleton village. At the junction with the main street, by a corner tearooms, turn L.

Ride down to a bridge over a beck and go R immediately afterwards, signposted to Ainthorpe. Go through the village and over a bridge (old mill on the L), then follow the road into Danby village.

This section of the route ends at the junction in Danby, by the Duke of Wellington Inn, but to visit The Moors National Park Centre turn R at the inn, up Briar Hill. Follow the road (which becomes Lodge Lane), going down a steep hill and round a sharp R bend to find The Moors Centre on your R (car park further down on L).

Directions: Danby to Great Ayton

From the Duke of Wellington Inn in Danby village, go down the main street towards the river, cross the bridge by the old mill and follow the road round into Ainthorpe. Pass through the village and keep going on the same road until you drop down to a T-junction. Turn L, crossing a beck, and head uphill into Castleton.

In the village, turn R turn by the tearooms (towards the station) and follow the road down to the River Esk. Pass the Eskdale Inn on your L, go under the railway and up the hill. As the road swings round R, turn L down a stone track. Cross a cattle grid and continue down the hillside to Box Hall. Go past cottages on your L. The track climbs and then levels out, passing through a couple of gates, and becomes a tarmac lane at a bungalow.

Go through another gate (closing it behind you) and go straight down the lane past Foul Green Holiday Cottages and into Commondale village. Turn L on the road past the Cleveland Inn, head up the hill and along the road with moorland on your R, a dry stone wall on your L. The road dips steeply to cross a beck, then continues steeply up the other side, goes straight over a crossroads, drops down over the railway and along the dale bottom to arrive in Kildale.

Continue through Kildale, pass under a railway bridge and veer sharply R. A little further on, go under the railway again. The Captain Cook monument on Easby Moor becomes visible on your R through trees. Ride through the hamlet of Easby and turn R, signposted to Great Ayton. Follow the lane through open country for about 2.5km to Great Ayton. At the A173, turn R, passing through the village, past the shops and the green, then turn R at the corner. Continue along for 200m, turn L up Station Road and ride uphill for around 1km to reach the railway station on the R.

Route highlights!

A riverside picnic in charming Great Ayton.
Snap a pic of Roseberry Topping, Yorkshire's Matterhorn!
Discover the upper Esk Valley, from Commondale to Danby.

Facilities

Pubs and/or cafés in Great Ayton, Kildale, Commondale, Castleton, Ainthorpe and Danby.
There's also a café at The Moors National Park Centre, Danby, open when the Centre is open.

Great Ayton has shops and services, and there are also small shops in Castleton and Danby.