



Moor to Sea Cycle Network

www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/moortosea

7: Whitby to Danby



Cycle route info:

Distance: 15 miles (24km)

Time: 2 to 3 hours

Start: Whitby railway station

Grid ref: NZ 898 107

Map: Ordnance Survey OL27

Terrain: undulating, with a few steep hills, mainly on tarmac back roads and with one short bridleway section



Starting at the seaside in Whitby, follow peaceful back lanes and country roads through the beautiful Esk Valley into the heart of the North York Moors. After passing through quiet villages like Ruswarp, Aislaby and Egton, there's a gentle climb across moorland to the magnificent viewpoint of Danby Beacon. Your efforts are easily repaid by the view of the moors and the sea from the top, before descending to The Moors National Park Centre and on to the moorland village of Danby.

Directions: Whitby to Danby

From the roundabout outside Whitby railway station, take the exit furthest from the station, heading towards the estuary and the swing-bridge. Follow the road round over the bridge – the road then angles sharply to the R and continues alongside the River Esk for 1km, rising to meet a junction with the A171. Go straight over – take care, traffic can be very busy.

The road climbs through a residential area, becoming a steep, narrow lane which winds its way down into Ruswarp. Turn R over the iron bridge and take the first L on the other side of the river. Follow the road for 2.5km to a road junction with the A169.

Go straight over and up the driveway of St Oswald's Pastoral Centre. Climb through woods and past buildings to an old footgate, where the tarmac drive gives way to a green lane. Follow this lane uphill through a series of bends to a gate opposite the bus shelter in Aislaby. Go through the gate and turn L.

Take the L fork at the war memorial. The road narrows to a single track. Keep going past a series of farm turnings. After about 3km the road bends sharply to the L. Another 1km further on, ignore a turning on the L. Continue for about 500m and fork L.

Follow the lane to a T-junction and turn R, which takes you into Egton. Turn R onto the main village street and go past the Wheatsheaf Inn and Ye Horseshoe Inn. Ignore the first L turn. After the war memorial, take the L fork. Continue to a crossroads and turn L. (*cont.*)



After 1km turn R and continue along a narrow lane to a T-junction. Turn L. The road passes a farm, dips down into a wooded gill and crosses a beck, then climbs again to pass another two farms. As the fields on your R give way to moorland, ignore a R turn and continue for another 200m until you see an un-metalled track on your R. This leads you across Lealholm Moor up to Danby Beacon.

At the Beacon, re-join the tarmac and turn L to descend into Eskdale. Ignore a road to the L and follow the road as it bends steeply round to the L and arrives at a T-junction. Turn R, go over a cattle grid and down the hill to another junction at a sharp bend in the road by a cottage and gamekeeper's store – turn L to visit The Moors National Park Centre. Otherwise turn R, up the hill and along the lane for 600m, to descend to the junction in Danby by the Duke of Wellington Inn.

Directions: Danby to Whitby

From Danby, by the Duke of Wellington Inn, head up Briar Hill, past the doctor's surgery on the R. Follow Lodge Lane for around 600m, down a steep hill, until the road bends sharp R. Continue on the road to visit The Moors National Park Centre (on your R, car park on L). Otherwise, turn L at the bend and follow the lane past a cottage on one corner and a gamekeeper's store on the other. After the cattle grid, take a steep L turn, signposted to the Beacon.

At the summit, where the tarmac swings L, the cycle route continues straight on along an un-metalled track (signposted to Lealholm). Keep straight on at a track junction to climb gently and cross another moor, before meeting a road, where you turn L. Follow the winding road down into a wooded gill, across a beck and back up to where it levels out, with hedgerows on either side. Just after a farm take a narrow lane on the R, signposted to Egton. Go straight on down the lane with tremendous views over to Glaisdale. At the next junction, turn L.

At a crossroads, turn R and go into Egton. Take another R past Ye Horseshoe Inn and the Wheatsheaf Inn. Go L after about 30m, along a road between buildings, signposted to Grosmont and Sleights. After 150m, find a narrow turning on the L between tall hedges. Go along the lane to a T-junction and turn R. Follow this undulating single-track road until it widens and enters Aislaby. A road joins from the L at a war memorial. Go straight on and, shortly afterwards, turn R on to a stone road through a gate, opposite the bus shelter (signposted to Ruswarp). The track descends steeply – take care, loose surface. Pass through an old footgate. The track (later a tarmac drive) descends through the grounds of St Oswald's Pastoral Centre to reach the A169.

Cross straight over and go down the road to Ruswarp. At the T-junction turn R and, on the other side of the iron bridge, take the first L, up a narrow winding lane, which finally drops steeply down to a junction with the A171 on the outskirts of Whitby. Cross the main road – take care, traffic can be very busy – and continue down into town, alongside the River Esk, bearing sharp L to reach the swing-bridge. Cross the bridge, follow the road round to the L, and ride up to the railway station.

Route highlights!

Take a break at The Moors National Park Centre, Danby.
Danby Beacon – 360-degree views of the National Park.
Sweeping ride across Lealholm Moor.

Facilities

Accommodation, shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants in Whitby. Also pubs and/or cafés in Danby, Egton, Aislaby and Ruswarp, and café at The Moors Centre, open when Centre is open.