

## What you can see

Throughout the ride you will travel through an industrial landscape created by lead mining in the 18th and 19th centuries when lead was needed for roofing, plumbing and glazing in the new towns and industries springing up during the period of industrial expansion. Lead is found in narrow almost vertical veins in rock and accessed by deep shafts with spoil tipped in a characteristic collar on the surface. Where many shafts were dug close together, larger spreads of spoil were created. Some spoil heaps are still quite barren of vegetation, showing how poisonous the lead still is, but they provide an important habitat for plant species that have evolved to exploit these difficult conditions.

At Hurst you might notice two tall chimneys, Cat Shaft (pictured below) and Browns Engine Shaft, built to serve steam pumping and winding engines in about 1883. Both are listed buildings, which have recently been repaired with funding from Natural England.

Fremington is surrounded by a more domestic landscape with small fields often showing lynchets or terraces where hay was grown. If the light is right, sometimes you can see low banks of ridge and furrow or earlier field systems underlying the current pattern of stone walls.

As you pass Musgrove or Cleaburn pasture at the end of the ride look for a long line of mine shafts. They follow a lead vein but overlay prehistoric fields and enclosures that pre-date the mining by at least 2000 years.



## At a glance

How far?	<b>12 miles (19.3km)</b>
How hard?	<b>Hard/moderate</b>
Which map?	<b>OS Explorer OL30</b>
Starting at?	<b>NZ 103 004</b>
Buses?	<b>traveline 0871 2002233</b>
Parking?	<b>Layby at GR NZ 103 004</b>
Any facilities?	<b>None on route, nearest in Reeth or Grinton</b>

**A circular off and on road ride, mainly on tracks with some steep gradients, across the moors above Swaledale.**

## Contact us

**North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD**

Our Customer Service Centre is open: Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm (closed weekends and bank holidays). Tel: **0845 872 73 74**

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# ny rides

**Marske Loop mountain bike ride**



1. From the layby, head up the road for 100 metres and then turn right along Skelton Lane, signposted as a dead end. Continue along the lane past Skelton Hall and the small wooded area on your right.
2. At the Y-junction turn left up the stone-surfaced track just in front of the telegraph pole. Continue to follow the track, gradually climbing onto the moor edge. Continue along the track for 1.7km (1 mile), passing through two gates. There are panoramic views from here looking back over Marske Moor.
3. Continue to follow the stone track through the gap in the stone wall on your right, heading down the hill towards Helwith. Take care on the descent. At the bottom continue through the gate and across the ford or bridge. Head up the track towards the farm building and then turn left up the tarmac lane in front of the buildings. This climbs steeply towards Holgate Pasture. Continue to follow the road for 1.6km (1 mile).
4. At the crossroads turn left, heading down the hill. After 600 metres the road turns sharply to the left. Ignore this and continue straight down onto the

stone track. Continue to follow the track down the hill and cross the beck by the ford or bridge. The track climbs steeply for a short length. Continue to follow this track along the edge of Shaw Moor. After crossing Skegdale Beck, the track turns to a tarmac lane. Continue to follow this down towards the hamlet of Hurst.

5. On reaching the junction with the road, continue straight ahead, passing the phone box on your left. As you pass through Hurst village, notice the disused mine workings on your left.
6. As you pass through the mine workings, head through the gate on your left opposite Hall Farm on the right. Continue along the stone track for 1.7km (1 mile) onto the moors through the mine workings.
7. Continue along the track that heads quite steeply down Fremington Edge. As you head down the track, the gradient decreases and the track turns to a tarmac track. There are good views looking down into Swaledale. Head through the gate and continue to follow the narrow lane down the hill into Fremington village.
8. At the T-junction with the road turn left and head along the road back towards Marske. Continue to follow the main road, which has some short steep sections.
9. At the crossroads, continue straight ahead along the road signposted for Marske. Continue along the road for 3.2km (2 miles) back to the start.

