

How to get there...

By Car: From A1 follow A59 to Harrogate.


Parking: Pay and display car parking in Harrogate.


Train: A regular rail service operates between York, Knaresborough, Harrogate and Leeds with limited provision for cycles. Enquiries: 08457 484950.


Bus: Frequent buses to Harrogate. Traveline 0871 2002233


Photo Credits: Bob Allen



 **Public footpath** can be used by walkers. Waymarked with a yellow arrow.

 **Public bridleway** can be used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists. Waymarked with a blue arrow.

 **Restricted byway** can be used by walkers, horseriders, cyclists and non motorised vehicles. Waymarked with a purple arrow.

 **Byway open to all traffic (BOAT)** can be used by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and motor vehicles. Waymarked with a red arrow.

Always follow *The Countryside Code*

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Keep dogs under close control
- Prevent uncontrolled moorland fires
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Consider other people

Walk your way to a healthier lifestyle.

Walking one mile burns virtually the same number of calories as jogging a mile, it just takes a little longer!

Walking is FREE and requires no special equipment or clothing.

Regular walking helps reduce the risk of heart disease, strokes, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Contact us

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

Our Customer Service Centre is open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm (closed weekends and bank holidays). Tel: **01609 780 780**

email: paths@northyorks.gov.uk

www.northyorks.gov.uk/paths or you can access all North Yorkshire County Council information online at: www.northyorks.gov.uk

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please ask us. Tel: 01609 780780 Email: communications@northyorks.gov.uk



North Yorkshire rides

Harrogate to Knaresborough

About the ride

A short and easy urban rural route, that allows cyclists to travel in between Harrogate and Knaresborough without using the A59 road.



Ride overview

Distance: 8.6 miles (13.8 km)

Time: 2 hours

Terrain: Mostly tracks some uneven.

Map: OS Explorer Map 289

Local facilities: Toilets, shops, pubs and cafes in both Harrogate and Knaresborough

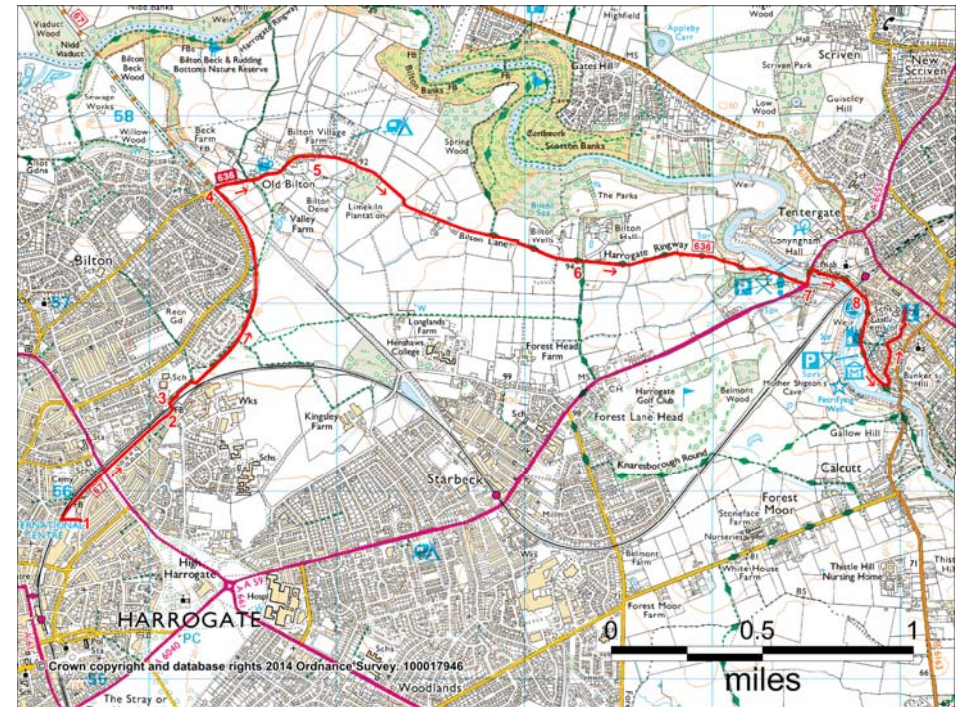
Points of interest

The wonderful curve on the railway track was put in at Dragon Junction to join up the new station at Harrogate with Bilton in 1862. It was closed to passenger traffic in 1966. Old Bilton was close to Bilton Colliery, which was worked from small pits and shallow shafts from the mid-18th century, but possibly during the medieval period, too. Spoil heaps can still be seen in Bilton Banks, accessible along a right of way.

This circular ride is produced by North Yorkshire County Council. Find more walks and rides on our website www.northyorks.gov.uk/walking. We welcome any feedback about this walk, contact details can be found on the back page.

Route description

1. From the centre of Harrogate, starting on Dragon Road past the supermarket, turn left into the car park (signposted Dragon Cycleway) then turn right along the cycleway running parallel to the railway line.
2. On reaching Grove Park Avenue, turn left and head along the avenue towards the pedestrian bridge.
3. Continue over the bridge crossing the railway line. Follow the cycleway to where the path forks. Take the right hand fork of the path and continue along the cycleway. Follow the cycle track along the dismantled railway to where it meets the road of Bilton Lane. This can be an alternative start to the route, with car parking available.
4. Turn right, heading along the lane (be aware of traffic). Continue up the short climb. This is the hardest section of the route.
5. After the short climb, after you have passed the caravan site on your left, continue along the Beryl Burton Cycleway along Bilton Lane.
6. On reaching the entrance to Bilton Hall continue straight ahead along the cycleway signposted for Knaresborough. Follow this cycleway, passing fields, a wooded area and then running alongside the River Nidd into Knaresborough.
7. Reaching the end of the cycleway turn left over the bridge crossing the River Nidd. Near the entrance to Conyngham Hall is on your left cross the road with care and head down the lane known as Waterside Lane. Continue down the lane, passing under the viaduct.
8. Continue along Waterside Lane past the castle remains on your left. From Waterside Lane bear left on to Castle Ings Road which turns into Brewerton Street, then bear left into the market square. After exploring Knaresborough return to Harrogate the same way.



Points of interest continued

The road bridge over the Nidd has been rebuilt several times since its medieval origins but gained status when it carried the Skipton to Knaresborough turnpike road in 1777.

The River Nidd runs to the north of Bilton Lane and the extensive woodland between the river and the lane is ancient woodland and a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. The wood contains a good range of tree and shrub species, including elm, ash, oak, field maple, hazel and wild cherry. In spring, the ground is covered in a carpet of bluebells, patches of beautiful white wood anemone flowers and tiny purple violets.