

About the route

A medium length ride on bridleways, byways (13.5 miles) and quiet country lanes (6.5 miles) through pretty villages South West of Gainsborough dominated by West Burton and Cottam power stations. Suitable for MTB and determined Hybrid riders.

Cycle Checklist:

Route number

13 of 20.

Start Point

Town Street, South Leverton.
O.S. Grid Ref. **SK 785810**

Distance

Approximately 20 miles (32 kms) to 21.4 miles (34.5 kms) (depending on optional routes).

Duration

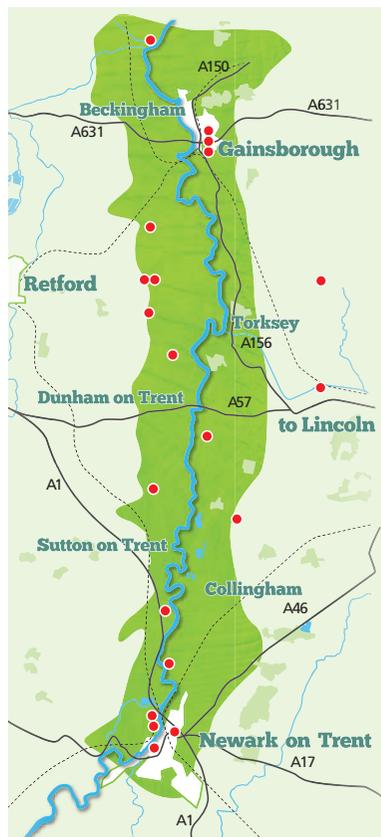
3 - 4 hours + stops (depending on optional routes).

Significant points of interest

- Littleborough Church and Riverside.
- North Leverton Windmill.
- Ashtons Meadow NWT Nature Reserve (SSSI).
- Clarborough NWT Nature Reserve.

Refreshments

Refreshment possibilities in route side pubs at South Leverton, North Leverton, Sturton and Cottam.



The dots show the start points of all our 20 cycle routes. Visit our website for more information.



Trent Vale



Trent Vale Cycle Route

TVCR13

North and South Leverton Off Road Circular



Looking across fields towards North Leverton Windmill.

Start Point: Town Street, South Leverton

Total Route Length: Approximately 21.4 miles (34.5 kms)

Optional Routes: Main route approximately 20 miles (32 kms)

Littleborough route approximately 1.4 miles (2.25 kms)

Route Duration: 3 - 4 hours + stops (depending on optional routes)

Route Type: Medium length, off road and on country lanes



Trent Vale



This series of cycle rides has been developed in partnership with the charity Sustrans.



For more information, visit:
www.trentvale.co.uk

North and South Leverton Off Road Circular

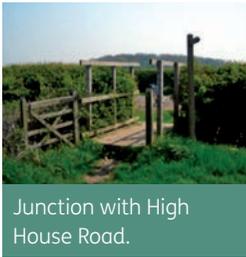


Meeting House Lane with the Meeting House and Barn at right.

1 Head East from the start point along Town Street and take the first right into Rampton Lane (byway), at the first cross track turn right which

leads onto High Street. At the crossroads go straight across onto Meeting House Lane and follow round several bends to reach Retford Road where we turn left. After 400 metres turn right and at the next junction just before the Railway Bridge go left to pass by North Leverton Windmill.

2 Continue on past the Windmill for one and a half miles then turn right into Caddow Lane. Go down the hill, over the railway crossing and past



Junction with High House Road.

Clarborough NWT Nature Reserve then climb up again to rejoin tarmac at Whinleys Road. Turn left for 250 metres then go right along Blue Stocking Lane, pass a brideway on the left then almost immediately go right to join High House Road travelling East towards Sturton le Steeple.



Clarborough NWT Nature Reserve is a limestone grassland and scrub woodland and covers over 5 hectares. The reserve consists of four sections; an old orchard and garden (now grassed over) adjacent to the reserve entrance, and three areas of spoil deposited during cutting of the railway tunnel in 1849 covered with dense woodland, woodland and scrub, and grassland. Most of the reserve is over the tunnel itself. The grassland, which is dominated by upright

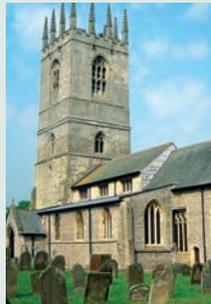
brome and tor grass, is rich in flowering plants including cowslip, bird's foot trefoil, wild carrot, hoary plantain, knapweed, yellow-wort, spiny restharrow, ox-eye daisy and several species of orchid.



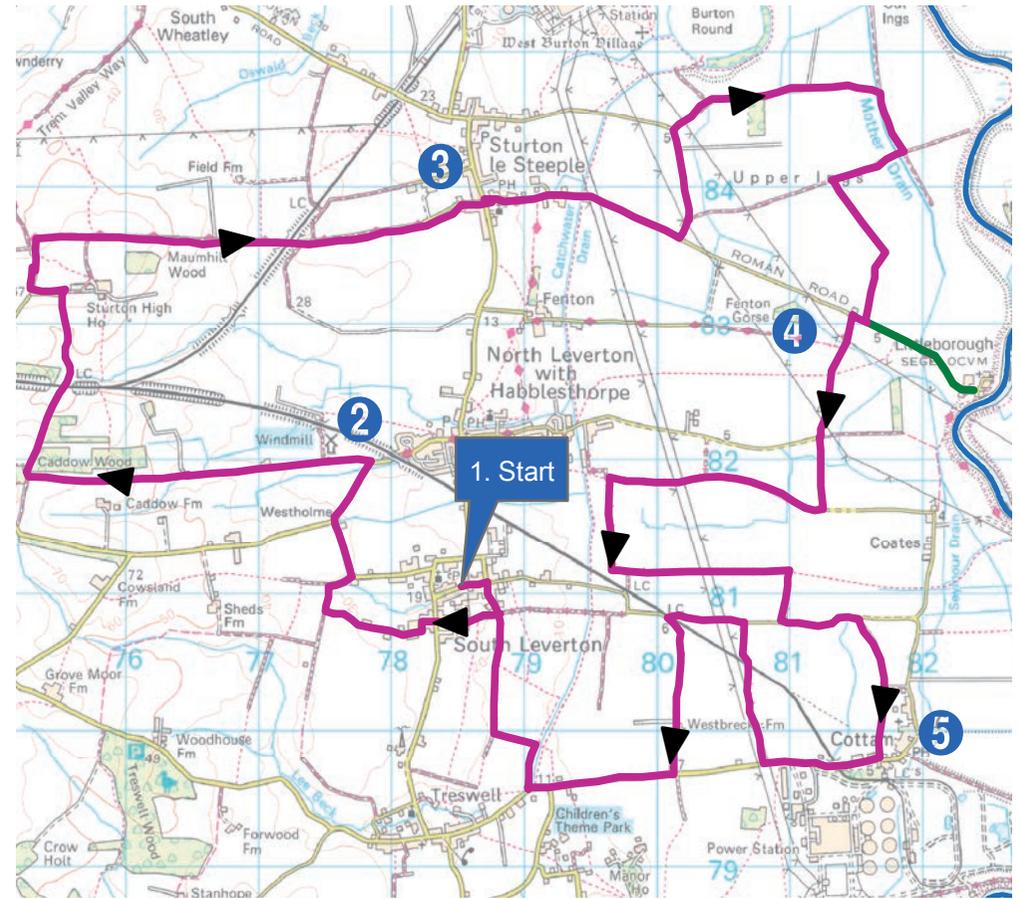
3 At the crossroads in Sturton go straight across along Church Street past the Church and the pub. Shortly after crossing the Catchwater Drain turn left onto the well marked Cross Common Lane brideway. Follow the wide, level, well surfaced tracks of Cross Common Lane, Cowpasture Lane, Middle Lane, Upper Ings Lane and then turn left along Long Farm Lane to reach Littleborough Road (where the optional route to the River Trent goes left).



Sturton le Steeple is recorded as 'Estretone' in the Domesday Book of 1086. The name is thought to derive from the words 'straet' and 'tun' meaning 'town on a Roman road'. It does indeed sit on a main Roman road that once crossed the Trent by way of a ford at Littleborough. The church doesn't in fact have a steeple, but rather a tall tower with 12 distinctive pinnacles that can be seen for many miles around.



4 Turn right for a short distance and at Littleborough Cottage turn left for one mile as far as a sharp left hand bend. Take a left onto the byway, which is followed round



several left-hand bends and a right to join Broad Lane. Go left for a short distance then right onto Overcoat Lane for Cottam.



Littleborough Cottage at the junction of Thornhill Lane with the old Roman Road from Doncaster to Scampton. An interesting Hexagonal shape, was formally a Toll House but is now a private dwelling.



5 On reaching Cottam turn right along the front of the power station, go over the Railway Bridge and after a further quarter of a mile turn right up the byway

of Cowpasture Lane. Cross the railway line, turn left at the tarmac go over the level crossing and immediately turn left along Westbrecks Lane. At the T-junction turn right along Outgang Lane for three-quarters of a mile then right up Rampton Lane past Ashtons Meadow NWT Nature Reserve and back into South Leverton.

Optional Littleborough Diversion

1 At the end of Long Farm Lane turn left along Littleborough Road for 0.7 mile to reach the River Trent, Littleborough Roman Town and St Nicholas Church. To return to the main route retrace your steps.