

A Cycle Ride from Old Hartley Club Site



This circular route has been suggested by Sustrans' Volunteer Rangers. Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity and is responsible for the development of the 12,000 miles of National Cycle Network. We hope you will enjoy exploring the local area near the Site and make the most of your stay at Old Hartley.

This route takes in part of National Route 1 of the National Cycle Network, which passes a plethora of historic sites including the world famous Lindisfarne and Bamburgh Castle, the ancient capital of Northumbria, as well as nature reserves until it crosses the border at Berwick-upon-Tweed and moves into the Tweed Valley. This small portion of the route is a 10-mile coastal ride, which can be extended to 15 miles for anybody who prefers a slightly longer ride.

The Route

- 1** From the Club Site follow National Route 1 (on the blue signs) along the coast, almost entirely traffic-free, shared with pedestrians and occasional horse riders, through the Dunes.
- 2** Leave the cycle route following Links Road. There is then a one-mile stretch along a road where extra care must be taken.
- 3** In Blyth, there is an opportunity to stop for refreshments, including ice cream and fish and chips. Return to Site by the same route.
- 4** For a longer ride turn on to Fountain Head Bank. This entails cycling uphill along a road for half a mile inland past the old Hall, before following a former railway line through the countryside towards Whitley Bay to a point just beyond the Club Site and returning to the Site along the Links past St Mary's lighthouse and a small waterfowl reserve. We recommend taking an Ordnance Survey map if attempting the extended ride.



The Route

Starting point: **Old Hartley Caravan Club Site**

End point: **Old Hartley Caravan Club Site**

Distance: **Two options 10 or 15 miles**

Grade: **Option 1: easy, Option 2: moderate**

Surface: **Some tarmac but mostly off-road**

Traffic: **Mostly traffic-free but crosses a busy road at two points, plus 1.5 miles on the road.**

Suitability for young children: **Short route yes, longer route is suitable for older children (10 plus). Supervision is necessary at crossings. No difficult barriers.**

Hills: **No notably large hills.**

Refreshments/facilities: **there are cafes, a fish & chip shop with newly built picnic/play area, six pubs and three public toilets on the route.**

Nearest railway station(s): **Newcastle upon Tyne Central Station 12 miles from start.**

Also 2 miles from local Metro light rail service (Monkseaton), which permits folding bikes only. Monkseaton metro station links with national rail service at Central Station, Newcastle.

Other routes in the area: **The Coast & Castles cycle route (National Route 1) passes the Club Site (all of the short ride is along this and two thirds of the longer version). Stretches of the Sea to Sea (C2C), Hadrian's Cycle Way (National Route 72) and the Reivers Route (Regional Route 10) are all within 2 to 10 miles of the route.**



Attractions: **St Mary's Lighthouse, Seaton Sluice, wind turbines at historic Blyth harbour, Seaton Delaval Hall, Church of our Lady at Seaton Deval (built around 1110).**

More information: **This is an attractive, interesting coastal ride with sea views almost all the way.**

If you have enjoyed your ride, why not look at The Club's website www.caravanclub.co.uk which shows other Club Sites with a cycle route close by or visit the Sustrans' website www.sustrans.org.uk to find other cycle routes and how to become a Sustrans supporter.



This route has been suggested by Sustrans' Volunteer Rangers. The Caravan Club would always recommend that any children or young people under 18 years should be fully supervised by a responsible adult.

Please be aware that using this route is entirely at your own risk.

Extreme care should always be taken when cycling on site, remembering that traffic will be moving around the site and to observe speed limits. Particular attention should be paid when going round blind corners or emerging from paths.