

18 miles | 29 km

cycle route

3

Conquer the Wolds

 **RIDE WELL**

Start - Baysgarth Park,
Barton-upon-Humber

Description

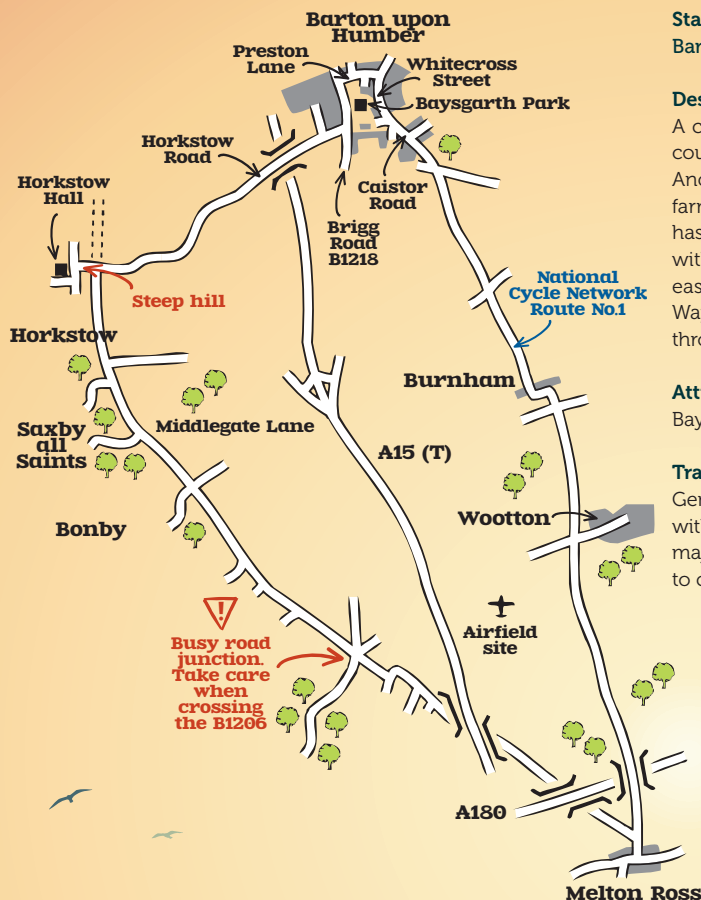
A circular cycle ride through fine open countryside with superb views over the Ancholme Valley and the rolling farmlands of the high Wolds. The area has many secluded roads to explore, with several attractive villages within easy reach. The long distance Viking Way footpath runs north to south through the centre of the route.

Attractions

Baysgarth House Museum.

Traffic Levels

Generally light but with one or two major routes to cross.



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Our circular route starts at Baysgarth House Museum, set in over 30 acres of grounds. The house dates from the late 17th and early 18th centuries and contains a museum with displays on the geology, archaeology and later history of the area.

Barton was once a centre for rope, tile and brick making, a story told by the Industrial Museum in the former Stable Block. The Rural Crafts Museum has reconstructed stonemason, shoemaker, and wheelwright's workshops. In the surrounding Leisure Park there are facilities for all the family and a secluded picnic area.

Turn left onto Preston Lane, left again onto Brigg Road and southwest along Horkstow Road.

The pretty villages along the western slope of the Wolds are locally known as 'the Low Villages'. Your route follows Middlegate Lane, an ancient road along the crest of the Wold slope above Horkstow, Saxby, Bonby and Worlaby. Most of the top land is now arable but grassland survives on the steeper slopes. From here, there are extensive views of Read's Island in the River Humber and over the distant woodlands around Broughton and Scunthorpe. The woodlands above Saxby attract many birds including buzzards.

A tranquil viewing area, with seats amid rich grassland, is found at the junction of the hillside lane down to Bonby. The verges here have a good selection of wild flowers including at least three orchid species and many chalk loving plants.

At the top of Elsham Hill, cross the B1206 Barton to Brigg road to skirt the remains of a major wartime airfield. Once the home of Lancaster bombers, the old base is now an industrial estate.

After you pass under the A15, the village of Melton Ross soon appears. The de Ross family living here were locked in feud with the Tyrwhitts of Kettleby. James I erected gallows (which still stand on the A18) as a warning that if the bloodshed did not come to an end, these would secure the fate of the next person to take a life. Turn northwards back on to the Wolds in Melton Ross, along the fringes of the extensive Brocklesby estate of the Earl of Yarborough. The Middle Wolds have wide roadside verges and scattered small woodlands, dating from the early 1800s, planted for fox hunting and shooting. The gently sloping "dales" valleys are of glacial origin, with the absence of streams or open water being due to the porous chalk soil. Many old quarries near the road show clearly the thin layer of boulder clay topsoil overlying the pure chalk.

In a field near the cross-roads the traces of an old church show that the small hamlet of Burnham was once a much larger settlement. Local legend tells of a major battle between the Saxons and the Danes fought here.

On the hill overlooking Barton, join Caistor Road for the last kilometre of the ride, passing the one-time lodge and carriage drive for the Barrow Hall estate.



The grades for cycle rides - **ride easy**, **ride steady**, **ride well** and **ride strong** have been developed by British Cycling to help cyclists to decide whether a particular route is appropriate for their ability and experience.

The routes shown on the N Lincs map have been designed and approved by North Lincolnshire Council and the colour grading system serves only as a guide as to the terrain, duration and nature of the ride.