

Abbey and Airfields

📍 12 stages | 📏 14 mi | 🚲 Ride Steady

This circular ride from the lowlands of the Humber marshes up to the gentle lower slopes of the northern Wolds passes through mainly open countryside and pleasant villages.



Highlights

Goxhill

We start this route at Goxhill which once was a major centre for market gardening. On the edge of the village the route runs north-easterly along Howe Lane, skirting the site of Goxhill Airfield. Built for bomber operations during the Second World War, it was soon found to be too close to Hull, a target for much of the Luftwaffe's attention in 1941/1942. Hull's extensive defences included balloons moored on barges in the Humber, effectively blocking the flight path into Goxhill. As a result, the airfield became a training base for the American Air Force.

With its unusually long platform, Thornton Abbey Station was once a busy halt for the many day trippers who came to see the impressive remains of the Augustinian monastery.



Thornton Abbey

Founded in 1139, Thornton Abbey was one of the wealthiest houses of its order. Henry VIII stayed here with Katherine Howard shortly after its dissolution, but now the ruined Chapter House and great church are a stark reminder of the centuries of destruction following the closure in 1539. The Abbey is the focus of many tales of supernatural happenings such as the ghostly canon, buried alive at a table with a book, pen and ink.

The picnic area is open with breathtaking views over the Lincolnshire countryside

To the east lies North Killingholme Airfield, a major wartime bomber base. On the far side of the oil refineries is Killingholme Creek where some of the Pilgrim Fathers left for the New World in 1608.

Continue your ride through secluded back lanes, through mainly arable countryside bringing you to the village of Ulceby – a perfect place to stop off for a coffee or something stronger.

Wootton

It is worth taking a short detour into the attractive village of Wootton, with its traditional village pond, in years gone by it was a popular local ice-skating venue. A perfect place to rest is Wootton's imaginative 'pocket park' created on the site of an old chalk quarry, with a woodland planting meadow and a picnic area.



Thornton Curtis

Thornton Curtis has a fine old church which is set back from the main street, with a unique Norman font, one of the finest in the country.



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📍 12 stages | 📏 14 mi (22 km) | 🚲 Ride Steady



Rider Information

Road surface is constructed of tarmac and is in a reasonable state of repair. However, watch out for small potholes that pepper the roads.

Low traffic.

Suitable for all types of bikes.

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.

Directions

Goxhill sits just below the Humber Estuary on the North East of the county. It is within easy reach of Barton, heading East on the A1077; Ulceby from the South, again on the A1077; and from Grimsby along the A180, A1173, A160 and A1077.

- 1 Starting at Goxhill Railway Station, head North Easterly along Howe Lane, which leads onto Horsegate Field Road. This takes you passed the Cemetery and War Memorial on your right. After the War Memorial, turn right onto Ruard Road, and follow this to the T-junction.
- 2 At the junction, turn right onto Chapel Field Road. Again follow to the T-Junction and turn right onto Church Side.
- 3 Take the second left into Soff Lane. After passing Sycamore Caravan and Camping site on the left, you come to a T-Junction. Turn left onto College Road.

- 4 Follow the road for about 0.8 of a mile and with Thornton Abbey Gatehouse in front of you, turn right onto Carr Lane. Stay on Carr Lane until you pass Hill Crest Camping Site. Take your second right after the camp onto Cross Road. Follow the road, which after a sharp left hand bend becomes Thornton Lane. Follow this road until it comes to a fork in the road.
- 5 Take the left fork and continue to Ulceby.
- 6 At the T-junction, turn right onto the A1077 which will take you out of Ulceby.
- 7 After a sweeping left hand bend you will approach a junction on your right hand side. This is the turn to continue on the A1077. However, you need to continue straight on, onto the B1211.
- 8 After approximately 0.8 of a mile, there is a sharp left hand bend with a junction off to the right. Turn right at this junction onto an unnamed road and follow for about 1.2 miles. You will then come to a long right hand bend, with two road junctions on your left. Follow the road for the second junction, keeping the village of Wootton to the east of you.
- 9 After about a mile, turn right towards Thornton Curtis.
- 10 As you enter Thornton Curtis, follow the road around an 'S' bend and continue to the T-junction. Turn left onto the A1077.
- 11 As you come out of the village passing Home Farm on your right, take the next right turn, taking you onto Thornton Road.
- 12 Stay on Thornton Road for some two miles, crossing with care at two crossroads. After the two miles turn right onto Howe Lane and continue to the Railway Station.

Refreshments

- 📍 **The Yarborough Arms**
www.yarborougharms.co.uk
01469 588383
info@yarborougharms.co.uk
- 📍 **Thornton Hunt Inn**
www.thorntonhuntinn.co.uk
01469 531252
- 📍 **Fox Inn**
www.facebook.com/thefoxinnatulceby
01469 588777
thefoxinnulceby@gmail.com
- 📍 **The Nags Head**
www.facebook.com/thenagsheadwootton
01469 588253
thenagsheadwootton@hotmail.com
- 📍 **Shawbriggs Farm Shop and Ice Cream**
www.facebook.com/shawbriggsfarm
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