

Viking Wolds View

📍 10 stages | 📏 24.5 mi (39.5 km) | 🚲 Ride Well

Situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this circular cycling route takes you down sleepy hedgerow-lined lanes that wind through the bucolic North Lincolnshire countryside, still undiscovered by many. The route encompasses the Humber Estuary, with its rich variety of habitats, the rolling hills of the northern Wolds, Elsham Hall's spectacular park and gardens, and the architectural gem that is Thornton Abbey.



Highlights



Thornton Abbey

Marvel at this medieval abbey's impressive two-storey, fortified gatehouse – the largest in England. Its extravagant design reflects its history as a prestigious house for Augustinians, a religious order in the Catholic Church, and their involvement in the area's prosperous wool trade. Currently in the care of English Heritage, along with just a handful of other abbeys it survived Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries by becoming a secular college. Be sure to venture inside to not only explore the early-Gothic ruins but to observe the wildlife that now inhabits them – and maybe, if the rumours are to be believed, the odd ghost! With views of the surrounding farmland, it is also the perfect spot for a picnic.

North Lincolnshire Wolds

This idyllic corner of England, with its tapestry of gently undulating hills, hidden green valleys and charming stone villages runs parallel to the North Sea from the Humber Estuary. Its varied landscape, rich in flora and fauna, is a haven for an array of wildlife. Although the area has a predominately rural feel, it is steeped in history and a popular destination for heritage lovers who delight in its beautiful churches, stately homes, abandoned settlements and military structures.

Elsham Hall Gardens and Country Park

A place for the whole family to enjoy; the grounds, owned by the Elwes family, incorporate an adventure playground, sweeping lakeside gardens and a spectacular four acre walled garden, which has recently been re-landscaped. Dotted with sculptures and overflowing with flowers from spring until autumn, the gardens include a sensory section, paddocks, aviaries, and a guinea pig village. The country park is also a hub for the arts, holding regular events including open air theatre, circus acts, art exhibitions and car shows. If you're feeling peckish, head to the Secret Garden Tea Room where you'll find delicious sandwiches, homemade cakes and freshly ground coffee.



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Getting There

The railway station at Ulceby, where the cycling route begins and ends, is served by some of the smaller networks.

If you are arriving by car, Mary and Darrell, the proprietors of the Yarborough Arms, invite you to park in their car park. A traditional pub, built in 1856, the Yarborough Arms serves homemade food throughout the day and is the perfect place to relax at the end of your ride.

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. **There is a section of this route that in wet conditions is not suitable for road specific bicycles. This section features after crossing the bridge over the River Ancholme and travelling along Starham Road.** Starham Road is best described as a Bridleway.

Suitable for Gravel, Mountain and hybrid bicycles.

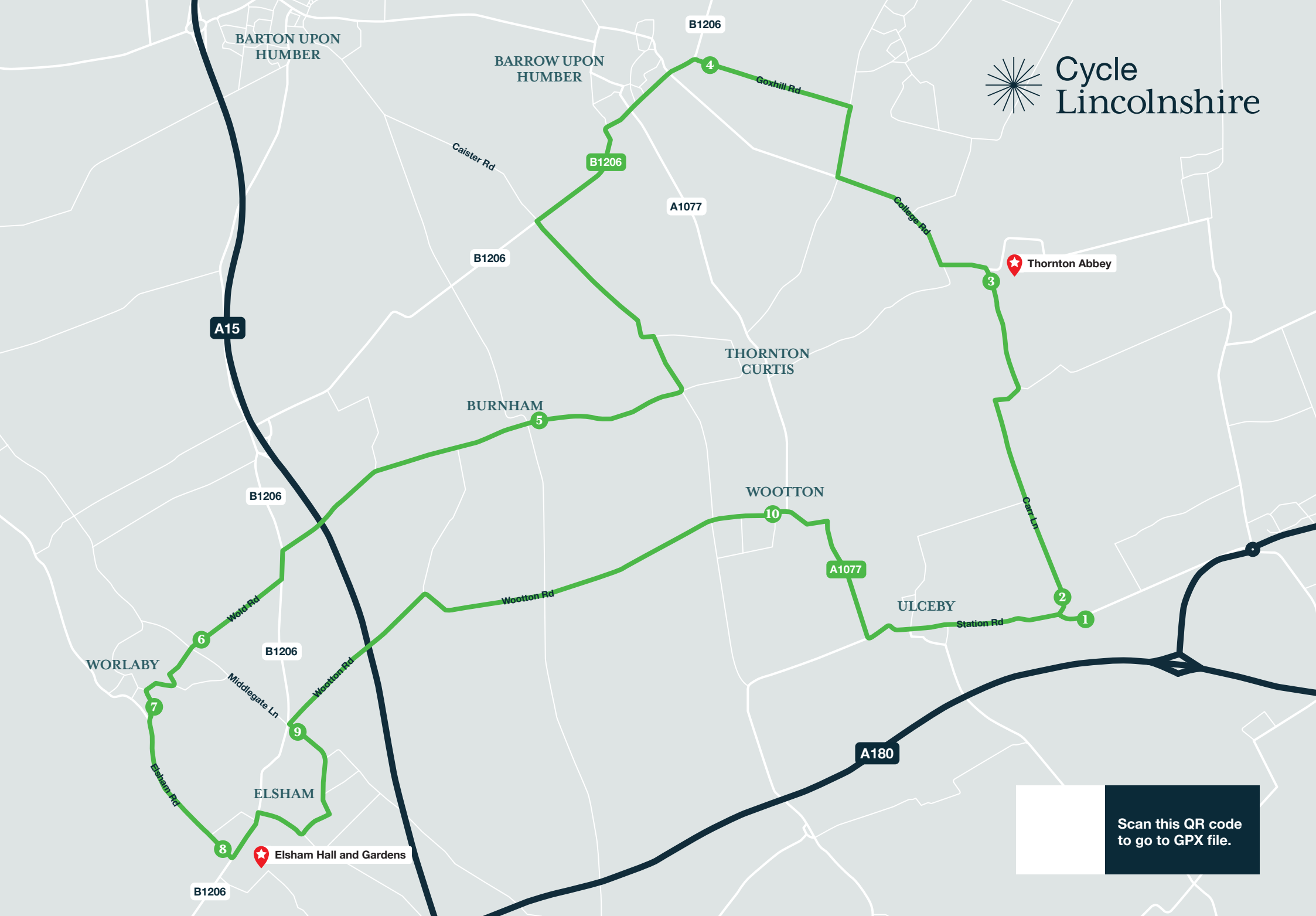
The grades for cycle rides

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

- 1 Starting from the Yarborough Arms pub, turn left out of the car park, heading over the railway lines, turning first right on to Carr Lane.
- 2 Lovely quiet road, with another country line railway crossing just after the sharp right bend. A little further the road splits, carry on towards your left. Just before arriving at the end of this road, there is a small right turn leading to Thornton Abbey and Gatehouse, well worth a visit to look around when it is open. There are some picnic benches just outside the gates.
- 3 On arriving at the T junction, turn left and over the Goxhill train crossing. Following this road a little further until the cross roads, turn right here heading towards Goxhill village. After a short stint the next junction is a crossroad, to turn left at. At approximately 5 miles into the route on the right, is Shawbriggs farm shop who have a selection of refreshments too.
- 4 At the end of this road, turning left on to the B1206. Here you will be travelling just outside the village of Barrow. This road at times can be busy. Cycling to the 3rd turning on the left, which will lead towards Thornton Curtis and Burnham on reaching the crossroads, turn right towards the quiet village of Burnham, here you will see a Colourful Cycle Route Marker.
- 5 Continuing through Burnham, this road will lead under the A15 (this road is not used much, please avoid the debris). At the end of this road turn left then immediately right. This road takes you to the top of the high ridge of North Lincs Wolds, looking down towards the lower villages of Worlaby and Brigg in the distance. Well worth stopping and looking at the view.

- 6 Continue to head towards Worlaby by going straight on at the crossroads, please be careful on the descent into the village, approximately half way down there is a junction where you will need to give way, after the 90 deg left hand bend. At the junction turn right and continue to descend into the village. Once arriving at the junction in the village turn left, around the sweeping bend to the right.
- 7 Arriving at the bottom villages' road of the ridge. Turn left and head in the direction of Elsham Hall. The next junction, if a trip to the tearoom at Elsham Hall is in order, turn right, a few hundred yards on the left you will find the entrance, cyclists can visit the tearoom only without paying entrance. Please leave the same way you arrived back to the junction.
- 8 The route turns left if not visiting Elsham Hall, to then turn right (please be careful this road can be busy at times) into the village of Elsham. Travelling through Elsham until you reach the crossroads, turning left and following this road all the way up past the church. On top of this hill there is a junction where you will turn left. This brings you back to the top of the ridge.
- 9 The next junction is a 5 way junction, where you will turn right. Almost hooking back on yourself. Travelling down this quiet road, which travels back under the A15, towards Wootton. Keep travelling past junctions and follow the road. On arriving on the outskirts of Wootton you will reach a junction almost like a crossroads, although the main road swings around the corner, here keep heading straight into Wootton, where you will find an idyllic village pond.
- 10 Follow the road around the pond towards the junction with the pub on the corner, here turn right and head back toward Ulceby (A1077, although an A road it is still fairly quiet, only local traffic). At the end of this road you will have reached the outskirts of Ulceby, turn left. Follow this road round the s-bend and downwards back towards the railway tracks from the start of the ride. After the railway lines you will find the Yarborough Arms on the right.



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