

Today's route, is 68 miles long, and starts at Dobbies Garden Centre, Birtley finishing at the Vallum Tea rooms on the Military Road. There are two shortcuts, which are given below in red, and these reduce the length to 55 miles if desired.

You can stop for a picnic lunch at Pow Hill Country Park (Derwent Reservoir), or if the weather is poor there is the option to detour into Blanchland for the White Monk Tea Rooms. Other alternatives on the route are the Punchbowl Inn Edmundbyers, the Rose and Crown in Slaley village and the Travellers Rest just past Slaley.

In an emergency phone Kevin Prosser on 07905 450277

Instructions have been abbreviated as follows:

TL	Turn left	T	Tee junction
TR	Turn right	X	Cross Roads
SO	Straight on	RB	Roundabout

Mileage	Instruction	Signs & Comments
Zero trip	TR leaving Dobbies onto A167	
0.1	SO at RB, A167	Chester-le-Street
0.8	TL at RB, A693/A1	Sunderland
1.2	TR at RB, 5 <sup>th</sup> exit, A167	Durham
1.7	SO at RB, 1 <sup>st</sup> exit, A167	Durham
2.5	SO at RB, A167	Durham
3.1	SO at RB, A167	Durham
4.2	TR at RB, 2 <sup>nd</sup> exit, minor road	Waldridge
4.4	TL at RB, 1 <sup>st</sup> exit	'Plants and Logs' sign, Waldridge Lane
<i>Waldridge Fell is a rare lowland heath, and is a site of Special Scientific Interest. It is home to the rare green hairstreak butterfly and emperor moth. In the summer, working horses pull 'bracken bashers' across the fell to prevent it crowding out the heather.</i>		
5.4	TL at junction, to Edomsley	No sign
6.5	SO at X roads	Lanchester, Burnhope
7.8	TL at T junction	Burnhope
8.9	TL towards Burnhope (traffic calming in Burnhope)	Burnhope
<i>Burnhope is the only place outside Durham where the Durham Miners Gala has been held (1926 the year of the general strike). It is home to the author Terry Deary of 'Horrible Histories' fame.</i>		
10.3	SO at X roads	Lanchester
11.5/11.6	In Lanchester TR at T junction (A691 Consett) then immediate TL (B6296 Wolsingham), then immediate TR into Front St	

<i>Theresa May lived in Lanchester while campaigning for the N W Durham constituency in 1992.</i>		
11.8	Soon TL onto minor road	'Free Parking 100yds' sign
13.4	SO at X roads	<i>No sign</i>
14.5	SO at X roads	<i>No sign Beware potholes!</i>
15.9	TR at X roads	<i>No sign</i>
16.6	TR then TL at staggered X roads with A68	Stanhope, Muggleswick, Healeyfield
17.9	TL at T junction	Edmundbyers and <i>Cycle byway sign</i>
19.3	Cattle grid	<i>Beware sheep and lambs!</i>
19.6	At Water Works (red brick building like chapel) Turn sharp right.	<i>No sign</i>
19.9	Cattle grid	
20.8	TL at T junction	Muggleswick
21.0/ 22.2	Cattle grids	
22.2	Keep right at Y junction with grass island	Shotley Bridge
22.9	TL at T junction	<i>No sign</i>
23.3	Toilets in Country Park Centre on right if required, otherwise carry on.	
24.7	TR in Edmundbyers onto B6306	
25.4	TR into Pow Hill Country Park for picnic area (alternatively carry on B6306 into Blanchland for White Monk tea rooms – see below)	Pow Hill Country Park, <i>brown sign</i>
<i>Derwent Reservoir is 30m deep and holds 11,000 million gallons of water when full, and is one of the biggest inland waters in England. It is not a flooded valley – it was dug out of the ground!</i>		
26.2	TR leaving Pow Hill Country Park after picnic	
27.7	TR into minor road around end of reservoir (after Ruffside) and <b>RESET TRIP</b>	Cycle byway to Hexham sign
0	NB. If rejoining from Blanchland on B6306, TL into this minor road and <b>RESET TRIP</b>	Cycle byway to Hexham sign
4.1	TL at T junction	Blanchland, Slaley
<i>The Rose and Crown in Slaley was the first community owned pub in NE England (2013)</i>		
8.1	After Slaley, TR at T junction, B6306	Corbridge, Hexham
9.1	Just past Traveller's Rest TL  <b>IF TAKING FIRST SHORTCUT, CARRY ON THE B6306 INTO HEXHAM AND TURN LEFT IN HEXHAM TO FOLLOW B6531 TO A69. SEE 21.7 MILE INSTRUCTION BELOW</b>	Whitley Chapel, Juniper, Dukesfield

	<b>TO REJOIN ROUTE.</b>	
10.3	Cross bridge then TR, island in middle	Hexham, Juniper ( <i>hidden sign</i> )
<i>After the hamlet of Steel, you pass Dye House on the left. Until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Hexham was famous for 'Hexham Tan' gloves (280,000 pairs were produced in 1823). It is believed that Dye House was where leather for the gloves was dyed using bark from the local juniper bushes.</i>		
	Go through Juniper, Ordley, and Newbiggin	
13.8	Towards top of hill TL at X roads into single track road.	Allendale, Hexham Racecourse
14.3	SO at X roads	Allendale, Hexham Racecourse
17.0	TR at T junction, B6305	<i>No sign</i>
18.3	Bear right, stay on B6305	
20.1	TL at T junction, B6531 (traffic lights)	Hexham Industrial Estate
21.7	Approaching A69 keep in the right hand of the two TL lanes (marked Warden) and then, once on A69, TR immediately for Warden <b>SHORTCUT REJOINS</b>	Warden
22.3	TR in front of Boatside Inn	Chollerford, Chesters, Warden
24.6	TR at T junction, B6319	Chollerford, Chesters
25.4	TR at T junction, B6318	Newcastle
26.2	TR at RB by the George Hotel, 3 <sup>rd</sup> exit	<i>Traffic lights</i>
26.5	TL at X roads, A6079  <b>IF TAKING SECOND SHORTCUT, CARRY STRAIGHT ON AT THIS X ROADS. STAY ON B6318 ALL THE WAY TO VALLUM TEA ROOMS. SEE LAST INSTRUCTION AT 39.6 MILES</b>	Jedburgh, Rothbury, Barrasford
30.1	Cross A68 onto B6342 (Rothbury, Colwell), then immediate TR into minor road	Ryal, Matfen
36.5	TR at T junction	Newcastle, Corbridge
38.7	TL at T junction into B6318	Corbridge, Heddon, Newcastle
39.6	TR just before Robin Hood pub into Vallum Tea rooms At main car park carry on round to the right to gravel parking area past building on the right.	

Congratulations you've made it! Head for Vallum Tea Room (room on left reserved, or sit outside) for tea, scones, ice cream etc.