

# KIELDER

## WATER & FOREST PARK

*Your Great Outdoors*

## A WHEELY GOOD TIME

**Intermediate cyclists or mountain bikers who have basic off-road skills and reasonable fitness will love the blue graded Border Counties Railway route. There are small amounts of challenging features (man-made and natural) but most of the gradients are moderate. Some short steep sections may have to be walked.**

**Distance** 5.5km

**(return using same trail) = 11km**

**Route follows 80% former railway line.**

This is a short trail on mainly level terrain making it ideal for a family day out. The trail uses the former railway line to Scotland and when cycling along you can see how the former railway line carved its way through the landscape. As this trail goes through open farmland the scenic view is different to anywhere else in the Park and in the distance you may even be able to see the Scottish Border hills.

Begin your day at Purple Mountain or the Bike Place Kielder - both offer cycle hire but also great advice and tips on mountain biking in the Park. Once you're kitted out, make your way to Kielder Castle car park where the trail begins.

It heads downhill for a short section and from here the trail goes through the Kielder campsite. A short

section follows the C200 road (Bellingham to Newcastleton/Jedburgh) and then you will enter the forest to rejoin the former railway line.

The trail then follows the former railway line until you enter Scotland. You can return using the same route. (Note, as you will be cycling through a working farm and most likely see farm animals along the way, please remember to shut all gates behind you and keep any dogs on leads at all times.)

The ride should take around an hour and a half (depending on how often you want to stop and enjoy the view). Back at Kielder Castle, drop in at the Duke's Pantry tearooms for a hearty and well earned lunch.

For more information on the former railway line, why not pop into the Bellingham Heritage Centre that afternoon? You can also find out more information on the railway and also the Bellingham Centre's opening times by going to:

**<http://www.bellingham-heritage.org.uk/pages/exhibitions/the-border-counties-railway.php>**