



# Kielder Water and Forest Park



Kielder Forest, the largest forest in Britain, surrounds Kielder Water, the largest man-made lake in Europe with a whopping 27 miles of shoreline. The combination of towering forest and sheer expanse of water creates a spectacular environment for outdoor enthusiasts, and its reputation as one of England's premier mountain-biking areas is well-earned. The site, mountain bike trails and facilities are open all year round and there are 13 way-marked trails to try, which vary from easy to demanding. If you stop for a breather you'll find a host of things to do and see in and around the forest, from spotting wildlife (the forest is home to the increasingly rare red squirrel), discovering a sculpture trail of hidden artworks among the trees, sampling a wealth of watersports or enjoying a quiet cruise around the lake.

With nearby accommodation and attractions including Kielder Water Birds of Prey Centre, delightful Hareshaw Linn Waterfall near Bellingham, Northumberland National Park and Hadrian's Wall, there is more than enough here to keep everyone interested.



Kielder, Northumberland



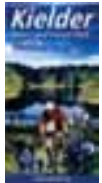
## KIELDER FOREST INFORMATION

**OS GRID REFERENCE:** NY632934  
**ACCESS POINTS & CAR PARKING:** Parking is available at Kielder Castle, Butterhaugh, various points around the reservoir and Leaplish Waterside Park  
**CONTACT DETAILS & FURTHER INFORMATION:** Kielder Forest Recreation Ranger, Forestry Commission England  
Tel: 01434 250209  
Kielder Partnership at Bellingham TIC  
Tel: 01434 220643

**BIKE HIRE:** Kielder Bikes Cycle Hire (bike wash and repair service also available). See page 68 for cycle hire listings and contact details  
**TIC:** Bellingham. See page 63 for listings and contact details

## DETAILED MAPS & GUIDES FOR KIELDER FOREST

 **OS EXPLORER OL 42**  
Kielder Water & Forest  
£7.49  
from all good bookshops  
or call 0845 200 2712  
[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

 **KIELDER WATER & FOREST PARK FREEDOM TO CYCLE**  
Area covered: Kielder Water and Forest Park.  
Price: £2.00. From Bellingham TIC and Kielder Castle Centre



# Kielder Forest Border Railway Trail

## ROUTE 10

Cycle to the border on a traffic-free trail built along the former Border Counties Railway which was operational until 1956. It is hard to imagine that there was ever a railway in such a remotely beautiful place, but some clues remain such as the old station buildings at Deadwater. This is a family friendly trail as it is flat and traffic-free, but you will need mountain bikes as the track may be wet or muddy in places. Cycle out and back along the railway path or make a circuit by returning along the quiet road.

- 1 From Kielder Castle Forest Park Centre follow the signs for the main road passing the forest depot on the left.
- 2 At the junction with the main C200 road turn right passing the old Kielder Station which is now part of the garage.
- 3 Cross the bridge, turn left off the main road and after 25 metres turn right before the cottage onto the old railway line.
- 4 After passing Kielder Church and another cottage, the line passes through a tree-lined cutting.
- 5 After 1 mile the route emerges at Bellsburnfoot, here the route goes onto grazing land (remember to close all gates).
- 6 When the trail reaches Deadwater Station the Scottish border is only a few metres away.
- 7 To return to Kielder retrace your route along the railway path, or turn right just after Deadwater station and right again onto the road. Follow the road back to Kielder.

## ROUTE INFORMATION

**START:** Kielder Castle Forest Park Centre/Kielder Bikes Cycle Hire

**DISTANCE:** 7 miles/11 km

**GRADE OF RIDE:** Easy

**TIME:** 2 hours

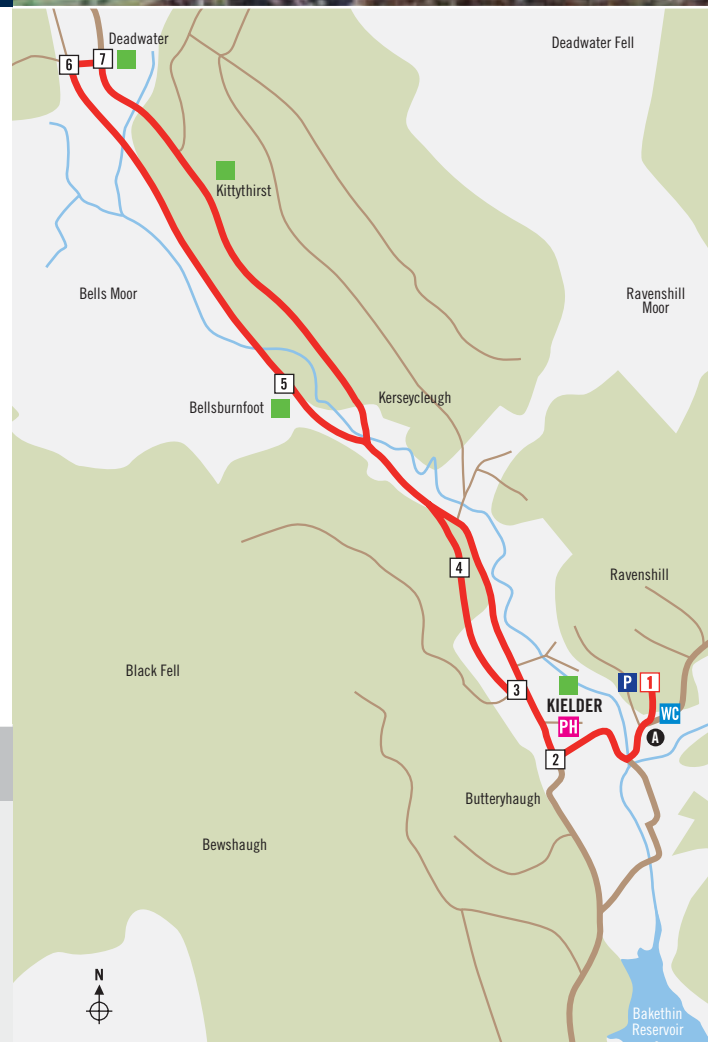
**ROUTE SURFACE:**

Grassy track, tarmac road

**HEIGHT LOST AND GAINED:**

Very low – flat route

**SUITABLE FOR:** Mountain bikes only



## HOW TO GET THERE

From the east (Newcastle) or the west (Carlisle), leave the A69 turning northwards onto the A6079 to Chollerford, then follow the B6320 to Bellingham and the C200 to Kielder. Follow the tourism signs for Kielder Water and Forest. The journey time from Newcastle is just over an hour.

From the north (Edinburgh) or the south (Darlington), travelling on the A68, take the B6320 and follow the tourism signs for Kielder Water and Forest

## TRANSPORT

To plan your route call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 or visit [www.traveline-northeast.co.uk](http://www.traveline-northeast.co.uk)

## FACILITIES

Accommodation available at Kielder, Falstone & Bellingham

Visitor centre and shop, restaurant, WC, play area, picnic site, trail quest, orienteering and walking trails

Pub at Kielder Village

## ATTRACTIONS ON ROUTE

**A** KIELDER CASTLE

PLEASE SEE PAGES 56-61 FOR INFORMATION ON NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

## MAP KEY

- T** ROUTE START
- TOWN/VILLAGE
- P** PARKING
- PH** PUB
- WC** PUBLIC TOILET