



Information Sheet - Real World Riding Borders Grand Day out - Thieves Road

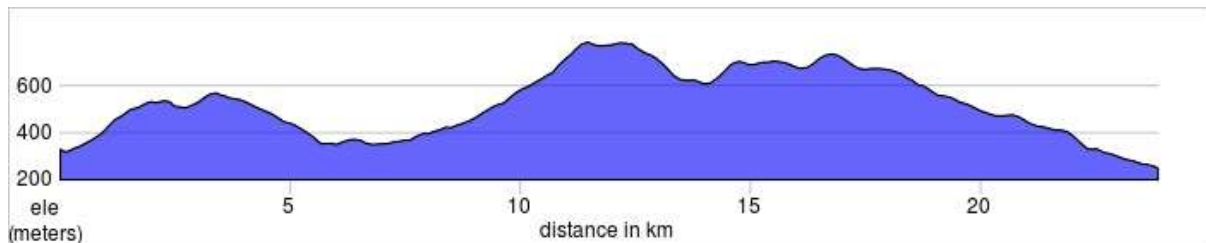
A big day out in the borders hills between the Tweed Valley and Moffatt.



Distance: 25km with shuttle

Height Gain: 830m

Profile:



Description: With a shuttle we start high up in Manor Water Valley above Peebles, and follow an old drove road through rough cattle pasture as it slowly gains definition. Cow-trod and potentially boggy at first this track steadily improves as we climb, giving lovely views to the head of the valley, and behind: back down to the Tweed Valley below. With an initial haul up we climb to the head of the valley, where we suddenly feel the remoteness of the higher hills, zig zagging down to the watershed close below, needing careful crossing to gain the hardened landrover track ahead.

Once established we make swift progress on the rough but steady trail up and over the second set of hills and eventually at speed (mind the gates!) down to the shores of the Meggett Water reservoir. A very short road ride along the shore soon sees us gain the return (longer and higher) leg of the journey as we climb steadily up on a rough estate track on the longest climb of the day to Navigate toward

Dollar Law, and the end of the track, swapping to slightly more technical hill path to traverse and descend on our approach to the Pykestone Hill climb, some of which may be quite boggy.

Taking in the spectacular broad views from Pikestone hill, we then descend the narrow ribbon of hill track around The Scrape towards the forestry of Breach Law, briefly through the forest and into the open moorland around Breach Law, heading for the returning Drove road heading back through the remote gated track and the final whoosh down to the roadside back in the Manor Valley.

You and Your Bike:

This is suitable for graduates of a Ride It! Day or half day who have some confidence rolling over small obstacles and riding narrow track on open moorland. Any cross country bike in good condition with working brakes and mildly aggressive tyres will be suitable for this ride. You should be hill-fit capable of sustained hill-climbing and maintaining your strength for a 6 to 8 hour day on the hill. You should be capable of pushing your bike if necessary, but willing to try to pedal up everything at a slow but steady pace.

You should carry:

- Spare tubes
- Pump
- Plenty of food and drink
- A spare warm layer
- Hat and Gloves
- Waterproof jacket (as a windproof as well as waterproof)
- A helmet under 5 years old and in good condition
- Gloves

Also Ideally:

- A spare mech hanger for your bike
- Protective Glasses
- 1 set of spare brake pads

Variations:

It is possible to join this climb riding directly from Peebles on part of the John Buchan Way and over Cademuir Hill for a really big day.

Be Aware that there may be patches of snow on the higher paths which may require rough detours, riding on snow, or carrying to navigate around. Please choose your footwear accordingly in spring.

This route:

Start Is at GR 199 286

Finish is at GR 312 352 on the Peebles Map

Meet at the Tweedbank Car park over the river from Peebles - 9am