

## Blanchland



Blanchland & Blanchland Abbey

Starting from Stanhope the ride begins with the steep long climb of Crawleyside Bank and over the grouse moors to the small village of Edmundbyers, past Derwent Reservoir to the haunted village of Blanchland and its Abbey. Blanchland got its name from the white robed French Canons of Premontre who settled here in 1843. *A tale about the canons has been passed down by generations of Blanchland folk which recounts how Scottish raiders looking for Blanchland got lost in thick mist on the fells; the sound of bells carrying across the dank moorland located the village, and the Scots duly sacked it.* The white clad ghosts of the canons are said to walk the village at night.

The route takes a steady climb out of Blanchland to the pretty village of Hunstanworth with its decorative roofs and on to Lintzgarth. The road then climbs gradually for 5 miles to the head of the Rookhope Valley over Wolfcleugh Common with its views of the disused Lead Mines. After crossing the county border and the descent into Allenheads the route climbs Stag Hill and Shivery Hill over the moors to Coalcleugh an old lead mining village, and on to join the climb of Killhope Moor descending past the Killhope Wheel and Killhope Museum. A return ride down the Wear Valley on the small local roads through Brotherlee and back to Stanhope.

### **Blanchland Circuit 46 miles**

- 1 Leaving the Dales Centre turn RIGHT onto A689
- 2 After 0.5 mile turn RIGHT on B6278 to Crawleyside Bank & Edmundbyers
- 3 After approx 2 miles bear RIGHT to Edmondbyers
- 4 At Edmondbyers turn LEFT on B6306 and continue through Ruffside past Derwent Water and on to Blanchland (*Blanchland Abbey*)
- 5 Leave Blanchland on local roads to climb Bale Hill into Hunstanworth and on to Mill Bank past Town Field and over St Cuthbert's Hill towards Rookhope
- 6 At T junction at Lintzgarth (*Lintzgarth Arch*) turn RIGHT to Allenheads (*The Hemmel*) over Wolfcleugh Common
- 7 Leaving Allenheads on the B6295 towards Allendale turn LEFT after half mile on local road towards Nenthead. Climb Stag Hill and Shivery Hill and follow the road to Coalcleugh.
- 8 Continue through Coalcleugh to the summit of Black Hill and continue to

Junction of A689 at Killhope (*Killhope Cross/Killhope Museum*)

9 Turn LEFT to Cowshill

10 At Cowshill continue on A689 until Daddry Shield

11 At Daddry Shield turn RIGHT on local roads to Brotherlee

12 Continue on local roads to T Junction

13 Turn LEFT to Stanhope

14 At junction with A689 turn RIGHT to Stanhope Dales Centre

Elevation profile: Blanchland & Hunstanworth total gain 5908 ft

## The Hills

Name	Height	Length	Steepest Section	Notes
Crawleyside Bank	1597 ft	3.8 miles	1 in 5	From the main A689 in Stanhope the climb starts abruptly from the first corner. The steepest section is through the outskirts of the town. Leaving Stanhope the climb goes on for over 3 miles over the moors to the turn for Edmundbyers. <i>Crawleyside is the last major climb on the C2C route.</i>
Bale Hill, Mill Bank and Cuthbert's Hill	1666 ft	3.2 miles	1 in 5	This is really three climbs all rolled into one. A short steep section on Bale Hill out of Baybridge up to Hunstanworth. On to Townfield and Mill Bank then the long drag over St Cuthbert's Hill to the summit.
Wolfcleugh Common	1745 ft	5 miles	1 in 7	Starting from the arch at Lintzgarth the hill climbs gradually up past the redundant lead mine on Wolfcleugh Common. A long climb but not difficult wonderful views of the Rookhope valley. Nice climb if you have a tail wind!
Stag Hill, Shivery Hill & Black Hill	2000 ft	Approx 3 miles	1 in 7	The climb out of Allendale (Stag Hill) leads on over Shivery Hill and the moor to the summit of Black Hill. <i>This road is in the opposite direction to the C2C route.</i>
Killhope Cross	2056 ft	0.5 mile	1 in 5	The highest climb on a classified road (A689) in England. This section of the climb starts part way up the main climb and goes up in stages with several false summits to its peak at Killhope Cross.

