

## Bollihope



*High Force & Hoar Frost at Softly Bank Stanhope*

Leaving Stanhope this cycle route climbs steeply over Softly Bank following the Roman Road to cross Bollihope Common into Middleton in Teesdale. Following the Tees Valley the circuit goes to Bowlees, past High Force and its waterfall, Forest in Teesdale and Langdon Beck and then over Harthope Head descending into St John's Chapel and back to Stanhope.

### **Bollihope Circuit 32 miles**

- 1 Leave dales Centre and turn RIGHT onto A689 for half mile
- 2 Turn LEFT onto B6278 climbing Softly Bank out of Stanhope
- 3 *Continue over Scot Hill to climb* The Bollihope. After descending for approx 1.5 miles bear RIGHT onto local roads towards Middleton in Teesdale
- 4 At road junction entering Middleton in Teesdale turn LEFT
- 5 Turn RIGHT onto B277 in Middleton
- 6 Continue on valley road towards Alston until Langdon Beck passing Bowlees Visitor Centre and High Force
- 7 Take first RIGHT turn after Langdon Beck over the climb to Harthope Head to St John's Chapel
- 8 At T junction in St John's chapel turn RIGHT onto A689
- 9 Continue on A687 through Eastgate to arrive at Stanhope Dales Centre

*Elevation profile: Bollihope circuit height gain 4242 ft*

### **The Hills**

#### **Softly Bank And Scot Hill**

Height: 1300 ft

Length: approx 1.5 miles

Steepest section 1 in 4

Softly Bank starts after leaving Stanhope with a steep section of 1 in 4 followed by a 1 in 6 around tight corners. The ascent continues over Scot Hill before descending to the bottom of the Bollihope

### **The Bollihope**

Height: 1636 ft

Length: 2 miles

Steepest section: 1 in 10

Starting at the quarry the Bollihope climbs over the moors for 2 miles. There is a slight downhill section in the middle of the climb before it continues to the summit.

### **Harthope Head (Chapel Fell)**

Height 2056 ft

Length: approx 2.5 miles

Steepest section 1 in 7

The climb from the Teesdale side is easier than the ascent from the Weardale valley. This climb is in two sections the initial climb of about half a mile to the cattle grid. A short descent to a bridge then the main climb starts over the moors where the rare Black Grouse nest. There is a steeper section of 1 in 7 before the top of the climb.

This climb can suffer from adverse weather conditions due to its altitude.