

The Otterburn Ranges

Controlled ACCESS AREA

② Dere Street Circuit

(orange route on map)

This 30km / 19 mile ride takes you up the western side of the Otterburn Ranges to Ridlees Cairn, to the Roman camps at Chew Green, returning by Dere Street.

NB. For cyclists the first section is on rough forest tracks, so for bikes with racing tyres the alternative start is by turning L on A68 to approach Dere Street via the road to Redesdale camp.

Start: The lay-by opposite the café in Rochester. Go right along A68 for 300m to take first road left 800m to High Rochester. Go through the gate and up the road 1km to Hillock Farm.

After the pond, take the track right into the forest for 300m. When this meets a larger track turn left downhill for 800m, until you see the straight road of Dere Street on right. Head 1km up the road.

Take first right to continue 4.5km to Ridlees Cairn. Continue in same direction 2.5km and turn right at junction back onto Dere Street.

After 2.5km turn right where the roads meet, to go for 3km along the ridge and down to Chew Green.

Return the same way, but keep on Dere Street the whole way for 10km, with a great straight descent to the 'T' junction.

Turn right to go past Redesdale camp 1km and rejoin the A68 for 500m left back to the café.

Edge of Empire

The Roman road of Dere Street crosses the estate. Built in 71-81AD by Governor Julius Agricola it carried troops and supplies from York to the legionary outpost fort at Inchtuthil, near Perth. Roman soldiers marched up this road to control the tribes north of Hadrian's Wall.

You can visit the earthworks of Roman camps at Chew Green and Birdhope at points on this exploration of Dere Street.

