

Billinge Hill & Pleasington

Distance: 11km **Height:** 270m

Suitable for: Mountain bikes - Intermediate level
(n.b. other tracks around Witton Park are suitable for families and beginners)

Start / Finish Point: Witton Country Park

Parking: A large free car park is available at the main entrance into Witton Park off Preston Old Road (A674)

Arrival by train: Distance to Witton Park Cycle Centre: Cherry Tree 1.2km, Mill Hill 1.5km, Pleasington 2.5km

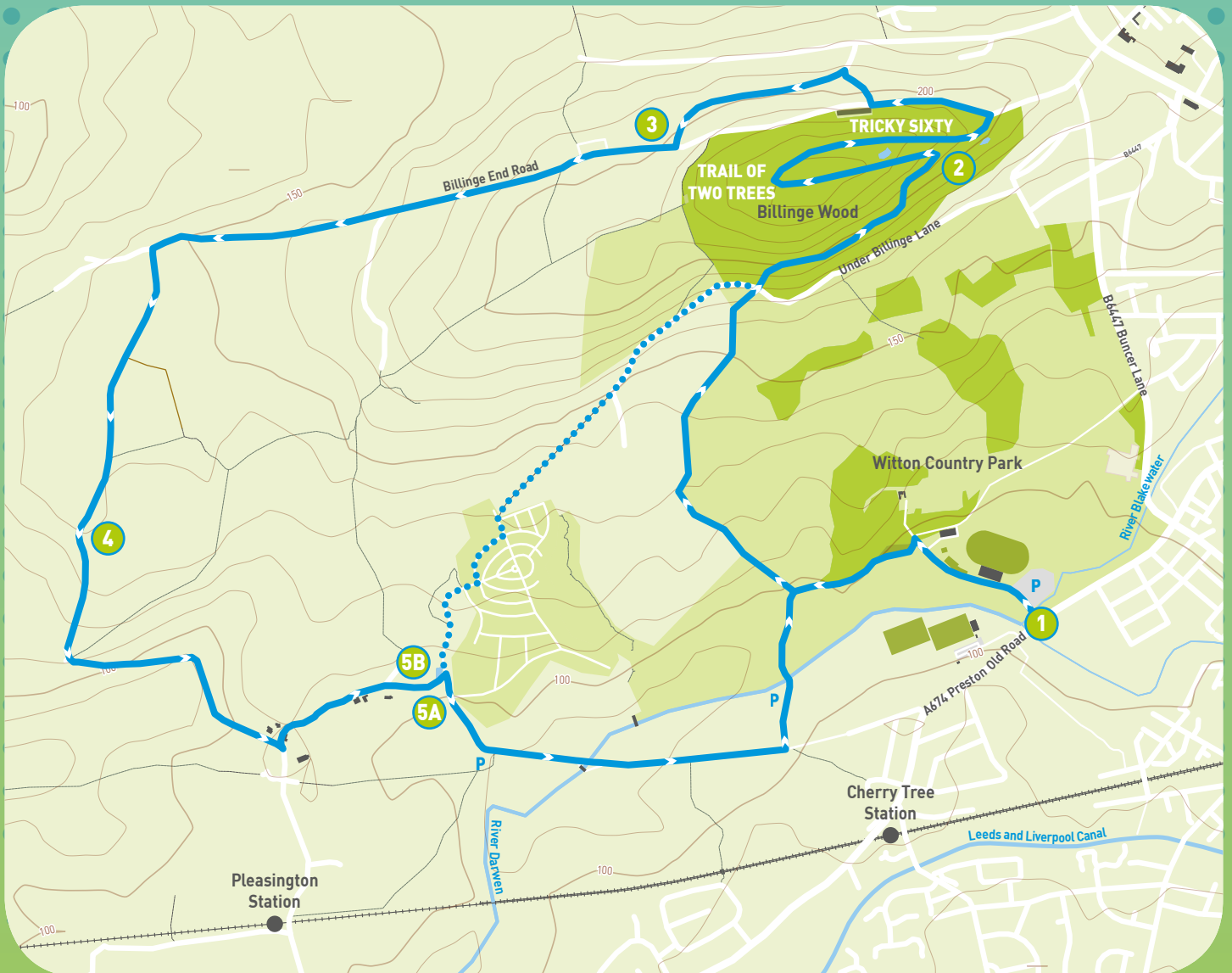
Refreshments: Pavilion in the Park Cafe is located next to the Witton Park Cycle Centre.
For further information please contact **01254 697307**

Toilets: Located next to the Pavilion in the Park Cafe

General description:

You may not realise you are only a few miles from the centre of Blackburn on this lovely country route through native woodlands, open country and the attractive village of Pleasington.

A great mountain-biking route, suitable for all levels. An equal mix of road and off-road riding.



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Route Description:

- 1** From the car park head along the path beside the Athletic stadium towards the Witton Park Cycle Centre. Turn left at the junction passing the childrens play area on your right. After approx 400m, take the track on the right into the woods (signed to Crow Wood) and enjoy this tough, but pleasant climb through the woods towards Billinge Hill (following the blue bridleway markers). At a tarmac lane, go straight across through an opening in the wall (signed to Billinge Hill). The track continues to climb sharply through the trees in an anti-clockwise circuit towards the top of the hill. Continue to follow the blue waymarkers. Take a good breather at the top enjoying the expansive view south across to the West Pennine Moors and Jubilee Tower.
- 2** Descend in the same westerly direction but take care to turn right at the first track junction. This takes you back round into an easterly direction on a smooth descent through the trees. At the track cross roads, turn left for a short stretch before passing through a large opening in the wall onto Billinge End Road. Turn left up the lane past some large properties upto a row of cottages. Turn right down Woodgate Road descending on a rough surface. Halfway down the hill take fork on left and follow track beneath the gardens of Billinge End Road to join the road again just short of the Clog and Billycock pub.
- 3** Turn right and follow the road as it descends gradually through open countryside for approx 2km. Hoghton Tower is hidden a short distance away across the River Darwen valley as you approach Pleasington.
- 4** There's a short, sharp climb up into Pleasington Village. Just before the Priory turn left onto the marked National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 6. However it is worth stopping for a look at the beautiful façade of the Priory, and maybe enjoying deserved refreshment at the Butler Arms. There are also some picnic tables by the bowling green.
- 5** Follow the waymarked National Cycle Route (NCN) route past the duck pond. At the next T junction you have a choice:
 - 5A** Turn right and follow the NCN (signed to the town centre). After approx 800m, after passing the football pitches, turn left through a small car-park, over a bridge and along a path skirting open parkland on the right and woods to the left. This brings you back to the visitor centre and car-park. (If you carry straight on by the small car-park you come to the A674 close to Cherry Tree station, chip shop and pub).
 - 5B** Turn left and follow the lane back up into the woods and trails of Billinge Hill via the cemetery. Here you can try out some of the other tracks before descending down the original bridleway you took back to Witton Park Visitor Centre.

For the those seeking further adventure there are two off road mountain bike trails in Billinge Woods (Tricky Sixty & Trail of Two Trees)

Witton Park Cycle Centre:

Whether you want to learn to ride a bike, gain more confidence on two wheels or simply benefit from joining one of our friendly led rides why not find out more about the cycling opportunities at Witton Country Park.

**For further information contact the Wellbeing Service:
01254 682037**

wellbeing@blackburn.gov.uk

Witton Park Community Cycling Club:

Wednesday and Thursday evenings between May and September at Witton Park Cycle Centre are now the home of the Community Cycling Club. Come down anytime between 4pm - 8pm to learn to ride, improve your skills or just enjoy a ride around the park. Bikes and helmets are available and are free to all beez card holders.