

Clarion Climbing Challenges


Clarion House has been a meeting place for cyclists in Pendle, and from further afield, since 1912.

It is situated on Jinny Lane in Newchurch and is surrounded by beautifully challenging hilly roads, which have led to the creation of four 'Clarion House Climbing Challenge' rides.

Your challenge might be to get around the loop, set or beat a personal best, achieve a benchmark time or set a STRAVA KOM!

Clarion Climbing Challenge: First



Distance: 3.9 miles | Climbing: 563ft | Difficulty Grading 

Route: <https://www.strava.com/routes/2923596424988921038>


Bike Choice: Gravel, Hybrid or MTB | Estimated Time: 20min – 1hr

Riding anticlockwise, this route features great views of Pendle from Nogarth Lane and features two significant climbs. The first, Jinny Lane, is the most challenging, with gradients approaching 20%!



Clarion Climbing Challenge: Bronze



Distance: 9.7 miles | Climbing: 1,600ft | Difficulty Grading 

<https://www.strava.com/routes/2923595851284067504>

Bike Choice: Gravel, Hybrid or MTB | Estimated Time: 1hr – 2hrs

You'll see some great highlights of Pendle hill scenery on this route. After absorbing some panoramic views of the hill, you'll visit Roughlee where you can say hello to Alice Nutter.

You might want a little witchcraft to help you with the next climb, Stang top Rd where you'll gain almost 500ft in altitude in under a mile!


Iconic views of Pendle's 'Big end' and long descent into Barley provide a great reward for your effort.

From here, all that remains is a short, sharp climb back to Newchurch before returning to Newchurch and Clarion House for a Pint mug of proper tea made with tea-leaves!



Clarion Climbing Challenge: Silver



Distance: 14 miles | Climbing: 2,177ft | Difficulty Grading 

<https://www.strava.com/routes/2923598373190496604>

Bike Choice: Gravel | Estimated Time: 1hr 15min – 2hrs 15min

The silver challenge features stunning and iconic views of Pendle, with longer, more gradual climbs being favoured as you pedal through Newchurch, Barley, Pendle's Big end, Roughlee, Barrowford and Fence. The promise of gradual climbs has a couple of caveats! As with all of the Clarion Climbing Challenges, you will begin by climbing Jinny Lane, which approaches a 20% gradient. Immediately after this, you will turn right, climbing sharply to access stunning views and a descent into Barley. With Pendle to your left, you will climb gradually towards the Big end before taking a right and absorbing views of Black moss reservoirs and Aitken wood on your way to Brierfield via Roughlee.

A gradual and undulating climb from Barrowford, along Wheatley Lane features great examples of traditional dry stone walls, and views of Pendle opening up well above to your right.

All that remains now is to climb back up to Newchurch via Well Head rd before descending back to Clarion House for a well earned pint mug of proper tea, made from tea leaves!




Clarion Climbing Challenge: Gold

If you're taking on the Gold Challenge, you'll see stunning views of Pendle Hill from all angles. This route navigates around the hill and features the iconic cycling climbs, Nick O Pendle and Pendle's Big End.

Once you've conquered the nick, there's a short lived flat section on cycle lanes at the Clitheroe side of the hill before touring through the beautiful Pendle Villages of Downham and Twiston and making your way back round to Pendle's big end.



Distance: 23.2 miles | Climbing: 3,295ft | Difficulty Grading 
<https://www.strava.com/routes/2923600589038880944>
Bike Choice: Gravel | Estimated Time: 1hr 30min – 3hrs

A left turn at Barley takes you through Roughlee, to visit Alice nutter before tackling a less well known but equally challenging climb: Stang top lane. Once you've conquered this climb, you'll get a second look at the stunning panoramic views over Pendle's big end and descend back to Barley where this time a short, sharp climb (the last one!) returns to Newchurch where all that remains is a descent back to Clarion House for glory, infamy and a pint of proper tea made with leaves!



Trails round t'hill

We've created a pair of routes around Pendle Hill, both featuring trails that offer a mix of epic view and epic challenge!

You'll circumnavigate Pendle Hill, enjoying gentle off-road trails and stunning views as you ride the Pendleton Hall Bridleway and wonder what kind of witchcraft is needed to ride the Pendle side bridleway without stopping! The rides start from Brierfield or Clitheroe train stations.



Brierfield

Distance: 23 miles | Climbing: 2,784ft | Difficulty Grading

Route: <https://www.strava.com/routes/2979419571172762914>

Bike Choice: MTB or Gravel Bike with big tyres | Estimated Time:

2hrs 30 mins – 4hrs



Clitheroe

Distance: 24 miles | Climbing: 2,734ft | Difficulty Grading

Route: <https://www.strava.com/routes/2964817907947437228>

Bike Choice: MTB or Gravel Bike with big tyres | Estimated Time:

2hrs 30 mins – 4hrs




Videos:

[Pendleside](#)

Treacle Trails

Legend has it that the villagers of Sabden once mined treacle from tunnels under the surrounding hills. Have a look for any signs of treacle mining during this family friendly route from Sabden.



Distance: 5 miles | Climbing: 572ft | Difficulty Grading 

Route: <https://www.strava.com/routes/2979411552582505910>

Bike Choice: Gravel, Hybrid or MTB | Estimated Time: 20min – 1hr

The route takes in the Watery Lane Bridleway, which is a blue graded and easily accessible trail and the Sabden Bridleway from Back Lane, which is graded red due to having a short steep descent which can be challenging in wet weather.




Trails for the people: MTB from Clarion House

Fancy a change from a trail centre? This route, starting from Clarion House features some of the best trails in the Pendle Hill Landscape without needing to do too much on the road in between.

No carpark, but great facilities at Clarion House, including outdoor plugs for eBike charging, free camping, toilets and a bike repair station! And if you go on Sunday, brews are served in pint mugs and very reasonable priced!



Distance: 8.75 miles | Climbing: 1,450ft | Difficulty Grading 

Route: <https://www.strava.com/routes/2891023781622881246>

Bike Choice: MTB | Estimated Time: 1hr – 2hrs

Prepare for some leg burning (or battery draining) climbs, epic views and technically challenging natural trails.



Videos:

[Pendleside](#)

[Stang top to Whitehough Bridleway \(POV\)](#)

[Ogden Reservoir Bridleway \(POV\)](#)


[Clarion House \(POV\)](#)

Ride to Clarion House

The green and red building, tucked away on the side of Pendle Hill is the last remaining Clarion House. Clarion Houses are places for everyone to visit to access the outdoors. The best way to access Clarion House is by bike, so we've created a pair of routes for you to use, from train stations at each side of the hill!

Brierfield Station




Distance: 10.35 miles | Climbing: 932ft | Difficulty Grading 

Route: <https://www.strava.com/routes/2979446756748680482>

Bike Choice: Gravel, Hybrid or MTB | Estimated Time: 40min – 1hr 45mins

Clitheroe Station



Distance: 20.4 miles | Climbing: 2,474ft | Difficulty Grading 

Route: <https://www.strava.com/routes/2979440422296063266>

Bike Choice: Gravel, Hybrid or MTB | Estimated Time: 1hr 15mins – 2hrs

Coming from Clitheroe, your journey will involve some significant climbs and epic views of Pendle Hill.



From Brierfield, you will use canal banks and cycle infrastructure to access the countryside. There are two steep climbs on this route, but if you go on a Sunday, there's an opportunity to recover with a brew in between them!



Weets & Pendle

This varied and hilly route is perfect for an eBike ride or a workout on your gravel bike! It has a real mix of terrain including canal towpaths, country lanes and trails. The Pennine Bridleway passes the Pendle Hill Landscape area, and this route brings you right into the heart of it!



Distance: 25.2 miles | Climbing: 2,900ft | Difficulty Grading  

Route: <https://www.strava.com/routes/2979400879781007650>

Bike Choice: Gravel or eMTB | Estimated Time: 2hrs 30mins – 4hrs 30 mins



Video:

[Weets video](#)

[Pendleside](#)