

# Torver Trail from Torver to Coniston

Coniston used to have its own railway line with a terminus station in the village just up from the Sun Hotel. It was connected to the Furness Railway at Foxfield but sadly it was abandoned in 1958. The track bed has since then been unused (apart from a section near Torver which carries a new road). Recently though, some sections of track bed on the approach to Coniston have been converted into a cycle path.

The cycle path can easily be linked to a series of permissive routes through Waterpark and alongside the shores of Coniston Water. All the cycling is very easy and this route is perfectly suited to beginners and those looking for a gentle ride. However care should be taken if you plan to return on the A593. The road is narrow in places and unfortunately traffic can move quite quickly along these sections.

**Grade:** Strenuousness 2, Navigation 2, Technicality 2

**Start/Finish:** Torver (SD284941)

**Distance:** Approx. 6 miles (10km) there and back

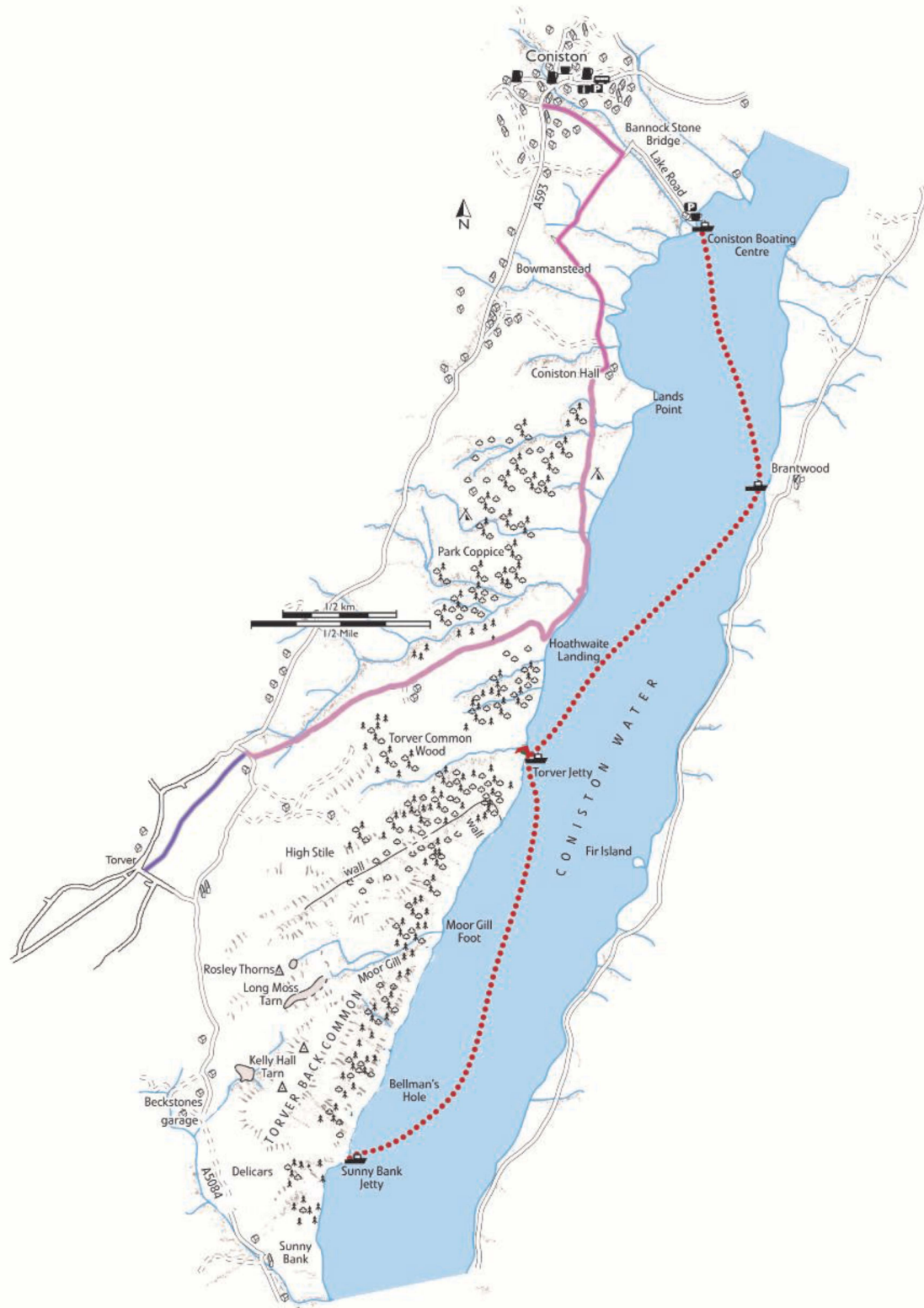
**Time:** 1 ½ - 2 ½ hours

**Height gain:** 110m

**Terrain:** lanes, valley roads, old railway track bed, access tracks bed and lake side tracks.

**Maps:** OS Landranger 96 & 97, OS Explorer OL 6, Harveys' Superwalker (1:25 000) Lakeland South, British Mountain Maps Lake District (1:40 000).

- There are two ways to get onto the Trail from Torver village. Walk up the footway along the A5084 for 50 metres and turn left down the embankment onto the Trail. Alternatively you can reach the Trail from the back of the Church House Inn car park. From here the route is obvious – follow the surfaced track through to Hoathwaite Bridge. It goes through fields to start, crosses over the new bridge at Torver Beck and then enters an increasingly steep sided cutting, leading you on to Hoathwaite. Go under the railway bridge and bear left up to the road.
- Turn left over the bridge then turn left again to follow the access track North East to Hoathwaite Farm. Ignore the entrance to the farm, instead continue North East past it and head along the pleasant track towards Coniston Water. Near the lake shore ignore the path and track on the right, instead skirt left and head North near the side of the lake and follow the access track through the camp site to Coniston Hall.
- At Coniston Hall follow the access track North for 100m to pick-up the cycle path on the right. Follow the cycle path North, North West then North East for about 1km to join Lake Road. Turn right onto Lake Road and follow it back to the start at the lake side car park. From here you can either head up to Coniston Village and carefully follow the A593 back towards Torver or simply re-trace your steps. Either way the pretty village of Coniston with its county pubs and Cafés is a great place to stop for a breather.



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