time in a bell tent strewn with fairy lights, beds and blankets. We played charades and listened to music by a wood stove before turning in.

**RETURN BY RAIL TRAIL**

We rode back into Aylsham on our final day and spotted an old steam train on the Bure Valley Railway, Norfolk’s longest narrow-gauge railway. The workers there let us in to see it up close. Much of the rest of the day was spent beside the train tracks on a parallel trail surfaced with what I call ‘kitty litter gravel’. This trail took us all the way to Hoveton, where virtually all of the shops are called ‘Roys’ after a pair of local businessmen brothers.

After riding along Hoveton’s pretty riverside for a while, we turned back towards Norwich. More lovely lanes and a bit of bridleway got us most of the way there, then a busier road took us back into the heart of Norfolk’s county town. We agreed that, before catching our various trains home, we had one last stop to make: Kett’s Heights, where Robert Kett and his 10,000 followers gathered before they besieged the city in 1549 to protest at the ‘redistribution’ of common land.

Over five days we’d had an enjoyable journey through centuries of Norfolk’s history. On top that, it had been a pleasant and easygoing bike ride. I come from an ultra-cycling background, so this route was a breath of fresh air. I could confidently bring my sister on this ride – or a friend who is just getting into cycling. Yet there’s enough to entertain my mates who are experienced bikepackers. Flat does not mean boring.

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**Experience project**

As one of 14 partners on the EXPERIENCE project, Cycling UK is working to deliver sustainable new off-season tourism experiences, including long-distance routes like the Rebellion Way. We’re also supporting businesses to attract cyclists with the Cycle Friendly Places accreditation.

The €23.3 million project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF, €16 million) through the Interreg VA France (Channel) England Programme 2014-2020, and aims to boost visitor numbers in six pilot regions including Cornwall, Norfolk and Kent.

[cyclinguk.org/experience](cyclinguk.org/experience)