



NNW day two: view of Ingleborough above Yockenthwaite

Great Rides

CARDINAL SPINS

From his home in Derbyshire, **Mark Wedgwood** cycled to the extremities of the UK along (fairly) straight lines on all 16 points of the compass



MARK WEDGWOOD

Mark is a lapsed leadership training consultant turned adventure cyclist

It's not easy finding 16 different ways to leave home. But that was the challenge I set myself in summer 2024, with the silly idea of cycling in straight lines to each compass point, riding onward until the UK's land ran out.

I live in the Derbyshire Peak District, close to the centre of Britain. This lends itself well to the drawing of long, straight lines that pass through my house. These compass lines join together an eclectic collection of 16 coastal extremities. Some were hundreds of miles away, others reachable by bicycle in a couple of days. Britain, after all, is not a regular shape.

Following each of these lines away from home on my bike seemed like something I should do one day. When family

circumstances dictated that this year's big cycling adventure should bring me back home every few days, I decided the time had come. It would be many adventures in one!

HERE BE DIAGONALS

I'd often wondered where the longest land-based straight line passing through my house would go. Armed with a large map of the UK, a ruler and a pencil, I found two possibilities, each of similar length. A straight line heading roughly NNW to SSE, starting at Cape Wrath, and passing over the Forth Bridge, reaches the south coast at Worthing in Sussex. My other contender runs NW to SE, from Harris in the Outer Hebrides, via the Isle of Skye, to reach the south coast at Hastings.

Riding east, day one: Lincoln's historic Steep Hill

