

The Big Cheese Gate

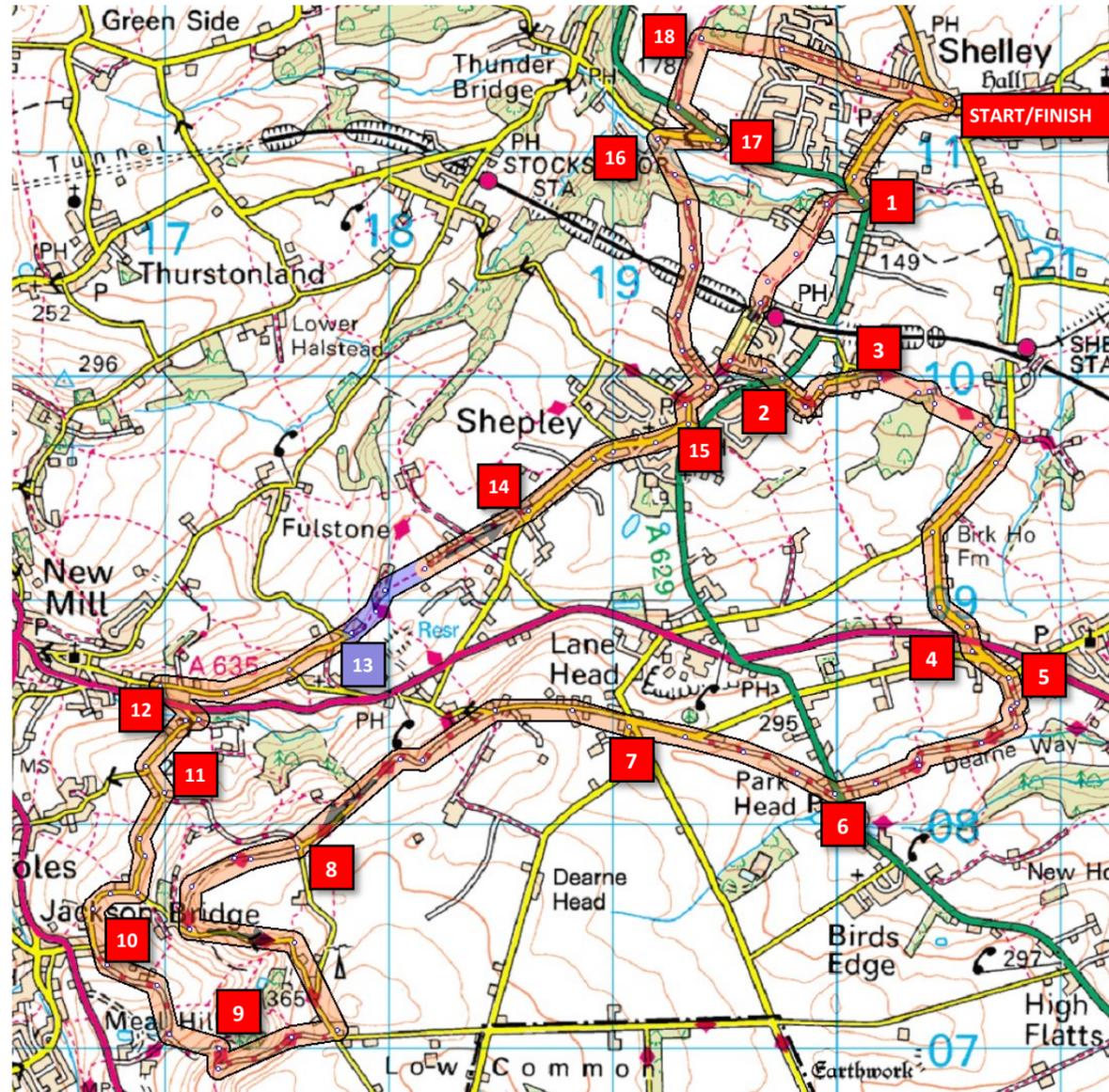
Distance 19km/11.8 miles

Time 3 to 4hrs

Ascent 500m/1639ft

OS 1:25000 Explorer Map 288: Bradford & Huddersfield is recommended

A great route for anyone who wants to experience some of the more rugged local trails, including the wonderfully named Cheese Gate Nab Side. The big off-road sections are enjoyed with gravity as your friend but dropping deep into the New Mill valley means plenty of climbing on the return. That said, the climbs are on quiet lanes with glorious scenery. The route also incorporates a short section of footpath that helps avoid dangerous intersections with the A635. Bikes must be walked along this short section and not ridden. This is certainly a route where fitness pays, but it is also a great ride for improving fitness, and where every stop to catch your breath will see it taken away again by the view.



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- 1** From the Village Hall descend to the bottom of Far Bank and turn left onto the A629, then take the immediate right into Stretch Gate. Climb Stretch Gate towards Shepley Village. Continuing past Shepley Station take the third left into Yew Tree Road.
- 2** Continue along Yew Tree Road and carefully cross the A629 into The Knowle. Follow the road for about 300m.
- 3** Join the bridle path sign posted Trans Pennine Trail to the right. Continue along the trail to the junction with Birk House Lane and turn right. Follow Birk House Lane for about 500m, turn left into Heater Lane then climb the hill to meet the A635 main road.
- 4** Carefully cross the A635 and go straight ahead to join Carr Hill Road. Go left at the next junction and then at the following left hand bend, bear right into Park Lane. Leave this right turn late until you can clearly look for oncoming traffic around the bend.

This route can be ridden by anyone in good health with basic bike skills and a reasonable mountain bike, but is not suitable for road bikes/hybrids. The estimated times reflect a leisurely pace and taking in the views.

When riding off-road there are a few basic rules to remember:

- While cyclist have 'right of way' on bridleways this means cycling is permitted, however cyclist must give way to horses and pedestrians.
- Don't frighten animals.
- Always ride in control and take care as you do not know who/what may be around the next corner.
- Please close all gates behind you.

- 5** After 80m turn right onto gravel, opposite barns to your left, to continue along Park Lane which follows the Dearne Valley. There is a short climb after crossing Park Dike, then the lane levels to carry you to the A629.
- 6** Cross the A629 into Park Head Lane and climb to the junction with Cumberworth Lane. Bear left joining the tarmac and continue to the cross roads.
- 7** Go straight ahead into Wall Nook Lane and continue for 700m to where Hurst Lane joins from your left, opposite a small hamlet of cottages and barn conversions. Turn left onto Hurst Lane.
- 8** After 1.1km, where the road turns sharp left into Intake Lane, you continue straight ahead on Hirst Lane which becomes a rugged track. Enjoy the descend of Hirst Lane with its stunning views and arrive at the bottom to meet Scar Hole Lane, where you turn left. Climb the lane for 900m to the junction with Windmill Lane to your left and a broad track to your right which is Cheese Gate Nab Side. Turn right and descend Cheese Gate Nab Side towards Jacksons Bridge.
- 9** After 700m the track joins the narrow tarmac lane of Scaley Gate, go straight ahead and continue to descend for 800m
- 10** At the junction with South View and Staley Royd Lane, bear right into Staley Royd Lane. Climb Staley Royd Lane (which becomes Tenter Hill) for 400m then turn left onto Meltham House Lane and follow this for 400m to a T-junction.
- 11** Turn left at the T-junction onto Hollin House Lane, bear right at the following junction and continue down Hollin House Lane to the junction with the A635.
- 12** At the A635 junction there is a narrow, surfaced lane diagonally opposite to your left, which climbs between the houses. Carefully cross the A635 and take this lane. At the end, turn right and continue along Horn Lane for 600m to a large open junction at which bear left onto Acre Lane. Go steady as you descend from here as it is easy to over-shoot your next turn and end up a farm yard.
- 13** After 300m on Acre Lane you will approach a very sharp left hand bend into Ebson House Lane, straight ahead is a farm yard entrance. On your right, as you approach the bend, two public footpaths join Acre Lane. You will dismount and take the second path, opposite a small barn conversion. This short section is a great link that enables you to complete the ride without venturing on to the A635 but DO NOT ride the path. Walk with your bike as the path climbs up behind the farm buildings. The path soon widens to a track leading on to Long Close Lane and you can remount.
- 14** Continue down Long Close Lane going straight ahead at the intersection with Wood House Lane. At the end of the lane turn left onto Marsh Lane and descend to Shepley.
- 15** Turn left opposite the Shepley Co-Op into Station Road, then after 300m turn left into Field Head. After a further 300m look out for the bridleway joining from the right immediately after the entrance to Field Head Farm Court. Take the bridleway, know as Long Lane, and descend to Corn Mill Bottom.
- 16** Turn right at the end of the bridleway and follow the road to the junction with Dam Hill, then turn right to climb to the A629.
- 17** Turn left along the A629 for about 200m then turn right onto the Healy Farm track, sign posted for the Trans Pennine Trail. After 200m, as the lane turns left, bear right onto the bridleway, know as Box Ings Lane. Climb up to the start of the woods on your right
- 18** Turn right, climbing over the remains of the old dry stone wall to enter the corner of the woods. Follow the trail along the edge of the woods running parallel with the stone wall separating the woods from the pasture. As you leave the woods continue straight ahead to exit onto Hawthorne Way. Continue straight ahead, dismounting to pass through the pedestrian link between the houses to Westerley Lane. Follow Westerley Lane round to the right, passing the Cricket Club and then go straight ahead into Water Lane as the road turns sharp left. Exit Water Lane onto Far Bank turning left to climb the short hill back to the Village Hall.