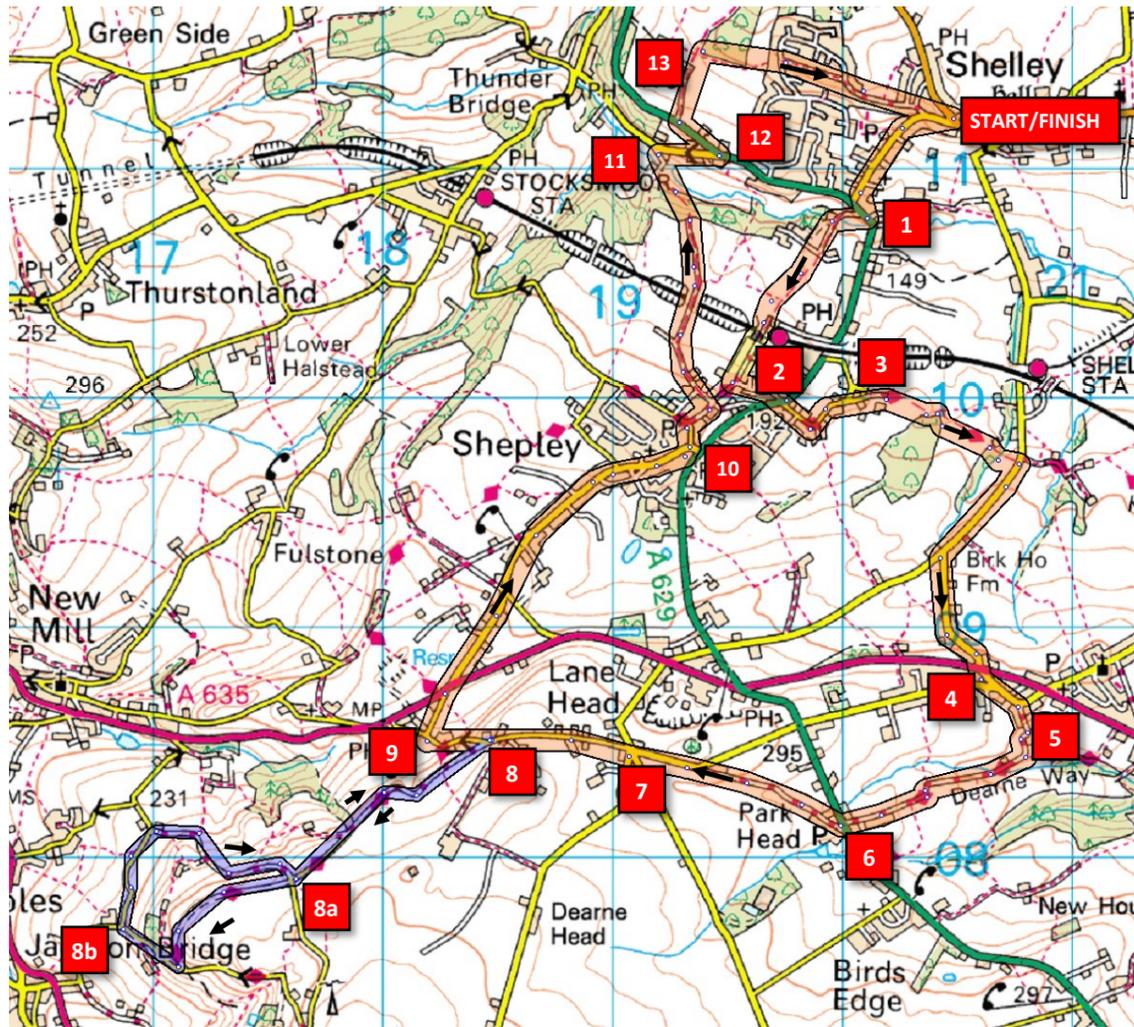


Scenic Southern Loop Distance 12km/7.5 miles Time 2 to 3hrs Ascent 276m/907ft

Optional extra Distance 2.4km/1.5 miles Time 30 to 40 mins Ascent 97m/391ft

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

This is a great introduction to our local trails that can be enjoyed by beginners and experienced riders alike. Starting at the Village Hall you are taken in a clockwise loop to the south of Shelley which provides wonderful views of the surrounding countryside. The route combines a mix of off-road and quiet lanes. There is also an optional 2.4km extension loop towards Jacksons Bridge that adds a little more off-road challenge and fun, as well as stunning views. If you are unsure, don't worry about trying it out as you can always dismount for the short sections that are a little rough or steep. It will be worth it just for the views.



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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 Heator 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 50m turn right onto the gravel lane in front of barns to your left. Continue along the lane which, after a short climb, will bring 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. **See below for the optional extended loop via Hurst Lane.**
- 8** Descend past the houses and cottages on Gate Foot Lane. Keep an eye open for your next right turn into Marsh Lane, it is easy to overshoot given a fast descent.
- 9** Turn tight into Marsh Lane, continue to the junction with the A635 and go straight ahead to descend to Shepley.
- 10** 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.
- 11** 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.
- 12** 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
- 13** 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.

For optional loop, at **8 turn left onto Hirst Lane and follow for 1.1km, then**

- 8a** Where the road turns sharp left, you continue straight ahead on Hirst Lane which becomes a track. At the junction take a look to your right, here you see the top of Scaly Gate from which you will emerge later as you complete the loop. Descend Hirst Lane until you join the tarmac of Scar Hole Lane. After stopping to admire the views turn right and descend the lane for 300m. If you enter the 30mph limit you have gone too far.
- 8b** Turn right into Meltham House Lane and continue along here for 500m to a T-junction and turn right to climb Scaley Lane back to Hirst Lane, then left to retrace your route back to Gate Foot Lane at 8.