Equestrian Guide – Rother Valley to Staveley

Disclaimer: This guide provides additional details to assist horse riders to use the Trans Pennine Trail. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information given is correct the Trans Pennine Trail and the volunteers who have supplied this information take no responsibility for any errors or omissions. It is the responsibility of riders to ensure the route is an appropriate ride for them and their horse. **This guide should be used in conjunction with the appropriate Trans Pennine Trail map.**

General Information

Start of Section: Rother Valley Country Park (Grid Ref: SK 453827)	**End of Section:** Poolsbrook Country Park (Grid Ref: SK 434738)
Approximate Distance: 6 ½ Miles	**TPT map no:** Map no: 2 Central, Section 16
OS Map Name and No: Explorer 269 (Chesterfield)	

Parking Information

Name / location Car Park: Rother Valley County Park		
Grid Ref: SK 453827		**Cost per day:** Yes – pay on entry**.** The park is open from 9am to 5pm during the winter season (October to March) and 9am to 8pm during the summer season. Gates are locked when park is closed.
Road Name: Off the A618, Mansfield Road		
Suitability for Car & Trailer: Yes		
Suitability for Horse Box: Yes		**Security of parking area:** Good, popular area
Height Barrier in place: No		
Approx Number of Parking Spaces: Lots but it does get busy in summer.		
Toilets: Yes, by Visitor Centre	**Water:** No	**Refreshments:** Café by Visitor Centre.
Other facilities: *(i.e. mounting blocks, hitching rail, corrals, picnic table, nearest public telephone)* There is a disabled mounting ramp by the bus parking area and picnic table at various locations in the park. There are other trails around the lakes and elsewhere in the Country Park that can be ridden.		
Approach route: *(Details of the nearest A road and any difficulties on the approach to the parking that could be a problem for trailers / horseboxes, e.g. low bridges, tight bends or junctions)* Easily accessed off the M1 junction 31. Take the A57 towards Sheffield and follow the brown tourist signs to the Country Park. Access is good and frequently used by coaches.		

Name / location Car Park: Poolsbrook Country Park		
Grid Ref: SK 434738		**Cost per day:** Free
Road Name: off Erin Road, Staveley		
Suitability for Car & Trailer: Chesterfield BC operates permit scheme for horse box / transporter parking at Poolsbrook Country Park - Call 01246 345345 for details.		
Suitability for Horse Box: Height barrier in place - see permit scheme details above for access.		**Security of parking area:** No known problems.
Height Barrier in place: Yes		
Approx Number of Parking Spaces: Reasonably large car park.		
Toilets: When Visitor Centre open.	**Water:**	**Refreshments:** Café in the centre.
Other facilities: *(i.e. mounting blocks, hitching rail, corrals, picnic table, nearest public telephone)* Picnic tables on site. Approx 4 miles of Trail for horse riding within the site.		
Approach route: *(Details of the nearest A road and any difficulties on the approach to the parking that could be a problem for trailers / horseboxes, e.g. low bridges, tight bends or junctions)* From the North, take M1 junction 30, then take the 1st exit at the roundabout onto A616 heading to Newark / Chesterfield. At the next roundabout take the 4th exit onto A619 / Chesterfield Road and follow for 2.5 miles. Turn left at Fan Road and then straight on over the roundabout. Turn right into Meadows Drive then left into Country Park. From the South, take M1 junction 29A. At roundabout take the second exit onto Erin Road. Straight on at the next roundabout and follow Erin Road for about a mile. Turn left into Meadows Drive and then left into Country Park.		

There is also smaller car park about half way down this section that can be used for horse box parking for a shorter ride. It is right by the Trail at Renishaw (Grid Ref: SK 444781), accessed straight off the A6135.

Section Summary

Please provide a summary of the overall experience and terrain on this section of the route
A pleasant route between two Country Parks following an old railway line all the way. With the exception of the tarmac access road in Rother Valley and a short tarmac ramp just before joining the old railway the route is a crushed stone surface, much of which has been resurfaced in since 2008.
Route Description
Stage 1 From the mounting ramp cross the bridge in front of you and turn left to follow the access road around the lake (there is plenty of grass verge to ride on). When the track turns down to the Water-Ski Centre continue straight on following the track right around to the opposite side of the lake. Note: Water-skiing is on a cable tow, so there is some noise from the overhead wires whizzing round that may spook some horses, plus the occasional water-skier walking back to the centre.

Stage 2

Once round the opposite side of the lake, turn under the railway bridge and then immediately left to join the old railway southwards.

From here the route is straight ahead all the way to Staveley. Within the first mile you cross the River Rother and the reasonably busy B6058 Sheffield Road at Killamarsh, both of these are on the substantial old railway bridges.

Stage 3

At Renishaw (after 4 miles) you drop down briefly to the parking area and through an underpass beneath the main road before continuing along the old railway again.

Stage 4

On the outskirts of Staveley take the bridge over the railway line (the other branch of the trail follows the canal towpath so soon becomes inaccessible to horse riders).

Continue along the old railway through Staveley. Immediately before the bridge over Inkersall Road turn off left and follow the path to Poolsbrook County Park (signposted).

Riding Opportunities

Canter: Yes	**Water Crossing:** No
Trot: Yes	**Tunnels:** Short underpass beneath road
Steep Incline: No	**Bridges:** 4 (3 over roads 1 over river).

Additional details of the above or any other features *(e.g. adjacent woodland that can be ridden through)*

Various paths in the Country Parks at each end that can be ridden.

Gates on Route

Number of Gates: 1 at Rother Valley	**Number of Horse Step Stile:** 6
Ease of Opening: Reasonable	
Other access controls: None	

Natural Hazards

Details of any natural hazards, obstructions or areas of concern *(including exposed areas where whether conditions could be an issue)*

Other Hazards

Details of any other hazards or areas of concern *(likely presence of illegal motorbikes, whether the route is through a built up area, other horses or livestock in fields)*

Illegal motorbikes can sometimes be a problem on the old railway. This is quite a busy section of the Trail particularly at weekends and school holidays, so look out for other users throughout.

Some traffic on the access track in Rother Valley, but there is plenty of grass verge here. Plus the noise from the water-ski cables at the southern end of the lake when in operation.

Route Breakdown

Approximate breakdown of the route in terms of percentage in 5% steps			
Bridleway/track	100 %	**Minor Road (marked yellow)**	%
Minor Road *(marked orange)*	%	**B Road (marked orange)**	%
A Road *(marked red)*	%	**Track / verge parallel to road** (not separated by a fence/hedge/wall)	%
Details of any particular danger points on road sections or crossings: None			

Facilities on Route

Details of establishments on or very close to this section of the route that provide additional facilities for equestrian: *(i.e. accommodation, cafés, pubs, shops, saddlery, toilets) and if there are tie up points / corals within view of these).*

Café and toilet facilities in the Country Parks at each end of the route.

Emergency Contacts

Details of vets, farriers close to this section, along with any emergency contacts / call out numbers:

Linking Routes / Bridleways

The TPT equestrian route continues south beyond Staveley to Tapton Golf course in Chesterfield and north through the Shirebrook Valley towards Sheffield.

Local Contact for further information

Tapton Lock Visitor Centre, Chesterfield. 01246 551035