

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: Mill Lane, Heatley (Grid Ref: SJ 703882)	End of Section: Altrincham (Grid Ref: SJ 751808)
Approximate Distance: 3 miles	TPT map no: Map 1 West, section 4
OS Map Name and No: OS Explorer 276 (Bolton, Wigan & Warrington) and OS Explorer 277 (Manchester & Salford)	

Parking Information

Name / location Car Park: Henshall Lane, near Dunham Woodhouse			
Grid Ref: SJ 728885	Cost per day: No fee		
Road Name: Henshall Lane			
Suitability for Car & Trailer: Yes, but only a small parking area			
Suitability for Horse Box: Yes – as above	Security of parking area: <i>(a general feel – good/bad, busy and well used, etc)</i> No know problems		
Height Barrier in place: No			
Approx Number of Parking Spaces: Small parking area			
Toilets: No	Water: No	Refreshments: No	
Other facilities (i.e. mounting blocks, hitching rail, corrals, picnic table, nearest public telephone) please advise None			
Approach route <i>(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)</i> Follow the A56 (towards Altrincham) off the M56 junction 7 or 8. Turn left onto the B5160 signed to Dunham Massey (National Trust) and continue to Dunham Woodhouse. Bear right into Station Road and keep straight ahead to cross the Trail. Turn right and in 100m right again into the parking area.			

Section Summary

Please provide a summary of the overall experience and terrain on this section of the route

Route is along a former railway line so is easy and level, with a crushed stone surface. There is parallel grass strip that can be used, although this can be wet. In places the route is in cuttings and is quite tunnelled by trees in places. Horse would not need to be very fit for this section.

Unfortunately the only parking available for horse boxes is in the middle of this section and is limited in space. Heading out and back in either direction from here provides a long enough ride. This description starts from the parking, but obviously local users can start from either end.

Route Description

Stage 1

There is no direct access from the parking to the Trail, so you need to do a very short road section to get onto the Trail proper – turn left off the car park and then left again (into Station Road) to reach where the Trail crosses the road and step over stiles give access to the route in either direction.

Stage 2

From the road turn right and head west along the rail path towards Heatley. There are a couple of underpasses where farm access tracks go beneath the route. About 1/3 mile before you reach Heatley the route crosses the River Bollin on a substantial and wide old railway bridge.

At Heatley either turn around on the route or cross the road and turn round in the open space next to the route and closed pub. However, don't be tempted to continue on the trail beyond here it is not currently available to horse riders and you won't be able to get through the access control in approx 100m where there is not enough room to turn around.

Simply retrace the route back to the car parking area

Stage 3

On reaching the road crossing again continue straight over (or turn left off the road to start your ride heading this way)

Between here and Altrincham there are again a couple of underpasses where farm access tracks go beneath the route, and one that crosses the route – the gates will be closed across the route on the occasions it is in use.

At the Altrincham end of the railway path there is room to turn round on the Trail for the return trip to the car parking area.

Riding Opportunities

Canter: Yes

Water Crossing (stream/ford): No

Trot: Yes

Tunnels: No

Steep Incline: No

Bridge: Yes

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

As above the bridge over the River Bollin is wide and shouldn't present a problem for horses

Gates on Route

Number of Gates: None	Number of Horse Step Stile: 2 (3 if crossing the road to turn round at Heatley). Note these have three sleepers rather than the usual two, but don't seem to cause a problem.
Ease of Opening: N/A	
Other access controls: None	

Natural Hazards

Details of any natural hazards, obstructions or areas of concern (<i>including exposed areas where whether conditions could be an issue</i>) None - easy level track.

Other Hazards

Details of any other hazards or areas of concern (<i>likely presence of illegal motorbikes, whether the route is through a built up area, other horses or livestock in fields</i>) Very popular with other users - cyclists and walkers / dog walkers.
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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: Care needed crossing the road at Station Road, and on the short section between the car park and the route. Also on Mill Lane if crossing this to turn round at Heatley.			

Facilities on Route

Details of establishments on or very close to this section of the route that provide additional facilities for equestrian: (<i>i.e. accommodation, cafés, pubs, shops, saddlery, toilets</i>) and if there are tie up points / corals within view of these. None with any provision for riders.

Emergency Contacts

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

Linking Routes / Bridleways

The TPT horse riding route continues east along road sections to reach the Carrington Moss / Dainewell Woods area, and then links through to paths along the River Mersey. To the west there is a short TPT riding route to the west of Lymm, but not connected to this section
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Local Contact for further information

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