

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.**

<u>General Information</u>		
Start of Section: Penistone Sports Ground Car Park (Grid Ref: SE 244034)		End of Section: Old Moor (Grid Ref: SE 423021)
Approximate Distance: 12½ Miles		TPT map no: Map 1 West, Section 6 or Map no: 2 Central, Section 13
OS Map Name and No: Explorer OL1 The Peak District (Dark Peak area) and Explorer 278 (Sheffield & Barnsley)		
<u>Parking Information</u>		
Name / location Car Park: Penistone Sports Ground Car Park		
Grid Ref: SE 244034		Cost per day: FREE - no overnight parking.
Road Name: off Stockcliffe Rd, Penistone		
Suitability for Car & Trailer: Yes		
Suitability for Horse Box: Yes		Security of parking area: Open, wide and well used.
Height Barrier in place: No		
Approx Number of Parking Spaces: 4 for horsebox / trailer & 40 cars		
Toilets: No (public toilets in Penistone during the week)	Water: No	Refreshments: No (cafes, pubs and shops in Penistone)
Other facilities: (<i>i.e. mounting blocks, hitching rail, corrals, picnic table, nearest public telephone</i>) Open dawn till dusk; NO OVERNIGHT parking		
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>) Route is often used for horse boxes and trailers: A628 to Penistone, detailed map available at www.penistoneshow.org.uk , or ask passers-by.		

Name / location Car Park: RSPB Old Moor		
Grid Ref: SE 423021	Cost per day: No fee	
Road Name: Off the A633 (signed with brown tourist signs)	Open 9am to 5pm May be necessary to use overflow car park – please ring in advance for horse box parking.	
Suitability for Car & Trailer: Yes, but the car park is for the RSPB reserve, so it gets very busy most days		
Suitability for Horse Box: Yes, but see above	Security of parking area: Open, wide and well used.	
Height Barrier in place: No		
Approx Number of Parking Spaces: 100		
Toilets: In RSPB centre	Water: No	Refreshments: Good café in RSPB centre
Other facilities: (<i>i.e. mounting blocks, hitching rail, corrals, picnic table, nearest public telephone</i>) Open when the RSPB centre is open only – see www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/ for up to date opening times.		
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>) There is main road access all the way and the RSPB reserve is well signed (brown tourist signs) of the A633 and the Dearne Valley Parkway (A6195).		

Name / location Car Park: Worsbrough Mill & County Park		
Grid Ref: SE 351032	Cost per day: Pay & Display, check signs current charge	
Road Name: Off the A61 at Worsbrough (signed with brown tourist signs)		
Suitability for Car & Trailer: Yes, but the car park is for the Mill and Country Park, so it can get busy		
Suitability for Horse Box: Yes, but see above	Security of parking area: No know problems, well used.	
Height Barrier in place: No		
Approx Number of Parking Spaces: Room for 6 large / 8 smaller horse box trailers.		
Toilets: At the Mill	Water: No	Refreshments: Yes – in Souvenir shop drinks machine and pre packed snacks open Saturday to Wednesday 11.00 am to 4.00 pm April to October
Other facilities: (<i>i.e. mounting blocks, hitching rail, corrals, picnic table, nearest public telephone</i>)		
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 A61 from either M1 junction 36 or from Barnsley town centre.		

Section Summary

Please provide a summary of the overall experience and terrain on this section of the route
Almost all of this route is along an old railway line so is easy and level, although the exception to this is climb out of Oxspring and back down to Silkstone Common. Originally surfaced with a crushed stone and black ash surface, many sections of the route can be muddy in wet weather and is narrowed in places by vegetation encroaching. Some sections of the off road route are more stoney after the June 2007 floods / storms.

Route Description

Stage 1

The first section of this route duplicates part of the description in section 13 between Penistone and Oxspring. From the car park access to the Trail is down a stone track (follow signs). At the bottom (Penistone Showground), there is a skateboard park (curved silver metal abounds!) very close to the track and horses sometimes get panicky there. Turn right to head to Oxspring.

You have to ride alongside the railway lines for a while with only a meshwork fence between so the trains are in full view.

Stage 2

Take the obvious and well-signed turn off from the old railway at Oxspring. Head up the ramp and bear left through to the B road where you turn right onto Sheffield Road. Now you have two options:

- 1) Turn left off the road and follow Willow Lane down to the River Don and back up to the top of the hill, where there is a wide path and verge alongside the main road to the Travellers Rest pub, crossing the busy A629 on the way. Willow Lane is a pretty route paved with old flagstones part of the way. It crosses the old (and very narrow) packhorse bridge, and climbs back up hill on a steep, narrow-ish path.
- 2) A road route - continue about 300m further along Sheffield Road, before turning left into Roughbirchworth lane and bearing left into Bower Hill for the steep climb up to cross the busy A629 at the crossroads by the Travellers Rest pub.

Stage 3

Whichever option you choose, continue uphill at the pub (on Coates Lane), take the first track on the left and follow the lanes to the railway bridge.

Before the bridge turn right onto a path parallel to the railway. This drops down to the old railway, but is narrow and visibility is limited as it winds through trees – take extra care and watch out for other users particularly those coming down the hill.

Before you reach the old railway you have to cross the fairly busy Knabbs Lane, which you reach quite suddenly.

Stage 4

Once on the old railway, everything is straight forward, although vegetation and low branches can sometimes be an issue. There are one or two bridges over roads, but these are wide old railway bridge so shouldn't pose problems.

After 2½ miles the growing road noise signals your approach to M1. The bridge over this is again a wide old rail bridge, with high solid parapets, but the traffic noise may spook some horses.

Down the hill you pass a small car park, where there is the first of five road crossings within the next 1½ miles. The busiest is the A61 just after passing Wigfield Farm and Worsbrough Country Park, but this has a Pegasus crossing to aid you across.

Stage 5

After Worsbrough the old railway continues, although the surface can be more puddled and muddy in places. Bear right where the northern TPT route option (towards Barnsley) joins. The route is now straight, with only a couple of minor road crossings on the way. Two underpasses beneath main roads need to be negotiated just before Old Moor, the first is prone to broken glass, while the second is longer and darker.

Riding Opportunities

Canter: Yes	Water Crossing: Yes – if the Willow Lane option is followed
Trot: Yes	Tunnels: No – but a longer dark underpass below the A633 just west of Old Moor.
Steep Incline: Down and up from Oxspring to the Travellers rest (on either route) and from the railway bridge to rejoin the old railway	Bridge: Several – most notable are the packhorse bridge on Willow Lane and the M1 bridge as detailed above.
Additional details of the above or any other features (e.g. adjacent woodland that can be ridden through)	
As noted above re the bridges, packhorse route and incline through woodland to join the old railway.	

Gates on Route

Number of Gates: 19	Number of Horse Step Stile: 5
Ease of Opening: Many gates are low so some riders will find them awkward to reach and open. Those on the Worsbrough section are due to be replaced by standard bridleway gates in early 2009	
Other access controls:	

Natural Hazards

Details of any natural hazards, obstructions or areas of concern (including exposed areas where whether conditions could be an issue)
Narrowing by vegetation and low branches can sometimes be a problem.

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)
As noted above re the bridges, packhorse route and incline through woodland to join the old railway. These sections are busy with other users (walkers, cyclist and other horse riders) so care is needed. Illegal motorbikes can be a problem in the eastern section of this route (from Worsbrough through to Old Moor) although there are regular Police operations to clamp down on these. Fly tipping and rubbish can sometimes be a problem on the eastern sections, closer to the urban areas.

Route Breakdown

Approximate breakdown of the route in terms of percentage in 5% steps			
Bridleway/track	95 %	Minor Road (marked yellow)	5 %
Minor Road (marked orange)	%	B Road (marked orange)	%
A Road (marked red)	%	Track / verge parallel to road (not separated by a fence/hedge/wall)	Willow Lane option - 500m beside A629
Details of any particular danger points on road sections or crossings:			
All road crossings, need full control of horse.			

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).*+

Emergency Contacts

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

Nearest Vets: Churchfield Vets, Barnsley 01226 733 333

Linking Routes / Bridleways

The TPT horse riding route continues west from Penistone to Dunford Bridge and beyond. Also you can continue south on the TPT from Oxspring to Wortley and beyond, from Old Moor eastwards to Cadeby, and on the northern route towards Wakefield and Leeds. The majority of these sections are traffic free route (see relevant equestrian Guide sections for details).

There are also quite a few bridleway and minor road options in the Penistone area that can be explore

Local Contact for further information