

**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.**

<b>General Information</b>	
<b>Start of Section:</b> Old Moor (Grid Ref: SE 423021)	<b>End of Section:</b> Conisbrough Viaduct (Grid Ref: SE 519995)
<b>Approximate Distance:</b> 8 Miles	<b>TPT map no:</b> Map 1 West, Section 6 or Map no: 2 Central, Section 13
<b>OS Map Name and No:</b> Explorer 279 (Doncaster) & 278 (Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham)	

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

<b>Name / location Car Park:</b> Dearne Road, Bolton on Dearne	
<b>Grid Ref:</b> SE 446018	<b>Cost per day:</b> Free
<b>Road Name:</b> Dearne Road	
<b>Suitability for Car &amp; Trailer:</b> Yes – small car park so turning may be limited	<b>Security of parking area:</b> No know problems,
<b>Suitability for Horse Box:</b> Yes – small car park so turning may be limited	
<b>Height Barrier in place:</b> No	
<b>Approx Number of Parking Spaces:</b> 15	

<b>Toilets:</b> No	<b>Water:</b> No	<b>Refreshments:</b> No
<b>Other facilities:</b> (i.e. mounting blocks, hitching rail, corrals, picnic table, nearest public telephone) No		
<b>Approach route:</b> (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) Turn left of the A633 at the third roundabout after the entrance to RSPB Old Moor, signed for Bolton on Dearne. Car park is on the right before crossing the river.		

### Section Summary

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

This is an easy going route that is almost all off-road on purpose built paths and tracks following the River Dearne. Reclaimed sites make this a pleasant ride through areas of former heavy industry. Newly created sections of route during the last few years have taken additional sections off road and much more attractive for riding.

### Route Description

#### **Stage 1**

Exit Old Moors car park by the small bridge and turn left onto the Trail. Alternatively, ride up the centre's access road and use the ramp down onto the Trail. At the first fork in the route go right and up the hill and follow it all the way to Dearne Road. A Pegasus crossing is being installed here to help you across the road.

From the car park head left on the obvious path which leads through woodland and then into the recently reclaimed Bookfields Park. A new section of path has been created allowing you to cross straight over Mexbrough Road and go under the viaduct to access Common Lane where previously you had to follow the road through the viaduct.

#### **Stage 2**

A tarmac path take you along Common Lane which can be narrowed by vegetation growth, but this soon opens up and you can ride along the verge to Adwick Bridge.

Cross the bridge, and follow the tarmac path straight ahead. **A recent change to route now keeps you off road for longer.** Cross over the lane and continue on the tarmac path, forking right to meet and turn right onto the lane. At the end of the lane turn right and then left into Harlington village.

#### **Stage 3**

Go through the village on the road turning right into Mill Lane, which soon becomes an un-surfaced track. Go left and follow alongside the bottom of the flood bank, fencing then directs you up and over the flood bank to the other side. Continue to ride alongside the river towards the bridge and onto the flood bank, cross the wooden bridge and then cross Pastures Road.

#### Stage 4

Continue on the obvious path to the yellow bridge over the river, after which there is a short steep slope, so look out for cyclists whizzing down.

Continue on the good path through the country park area and past the former Earth Centre.

The riding route finishes at the top of the viaduct, if you go through the gate and down the slope beside the viaduct, a locked gate and access controls and the bottom of the hill prevent you going further and along the riverside. Note lorries going to the quarry use the adjacent road here.

#### Riding Opportunities

<b>Canter:</b> Yes	<b>Water Crossing:</b> only on bridges.
<b>Trot:</b> Yes	<b>Tunnels:</b> one short underpass.
<b>Steep Incline:</b> immediately after crossing the river Dearne (for the third time)	<b>Bridge:</b> Several – all are a good width.
<b>Additional details of the above or any other features</b> (e.g. adjacent woodland that can be ridden through)	

#### Gates on Route

<b>Number of Gates:</b> 9	<b>Number of Horse Step Stile:</b> 4 + 1 Step over gate
<b>Ease of Opening:</b> Some gates are low so some riders will find them awkward to reach and open.	
<b>Other access controls:</b> Some open chicanes (either rocks or metal chicanes), but these are wide and should not be a problem.	

#### Natural Hazards

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

#### Other Hazards

<b>Details of any other hazards or areas of concern</b> (likely presence of illegal motorbikes, whether the route is through a built up area, other horses or livestock in fields)
Road crossings need care.
The road section through Harlington village is in a 30mph area and roads are reasonably quiet.
Illegal motorbikes can be a problem on the western part of this route.

#### Route Breakdown

<b>Approximate breakdown of the route in terms of percentage in 5% steps</b>			
<b>Bridleway/track</b>	95 %	<b>Minor Road (marked yellow)</b>	5 %
<b>Minor Road (marked orange)</b>	%	<b>B Road (marked orange)</b>	%
<b>A Road (marked red)</b>	%	<b>Track / verge parallel to road</b> (not separated by a fence/hedge/wall)	%
<b>Details of any particular danger points on road sections or crossings:</b>			

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).*

Café and toilets at RSPB Old Moor. Shop and pub in Harlington village.

### **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 west from Old Moor to Penistone via Worsbrough (see the guide to section 13), or on a southern loop (but this involves a bad road crossing). The southern loop also gives access to loops of the Trail between Barnsley, Sheffield and Rotherham. You can also head north towards Wakefield and Leeds.

The former TPT route via Lowfield Lane is a bridleway, but to connect back to the TPT you have to follow the road through Bolton-on-Dearne to the parking area on Dearne Road.

### **Local Contact for further information**