

The South Peak Loop

Route Guide Section 3

Tissington (SK199 521) to Middleton by Youlgreave (SK186 629)

This section goes from Tissington to Carsington Water via bridleways and country roads. It circles the reservoir then, via bridleways, quiet lanes and a short stretch of the High Peak Trail heads north to Middleton by Youlgreave. **approx. 24 miles.**

18. After about 30m go right onto stoney track and follow it uphill. Go through gateway and diagonally uphill across the field to bridle gate in the corner. Continue, through gate and along narrow fenced path to another bridle gate. Go straight on across field to a farm gate. This leads onto Wigber Low. Follow the fence line below the hill to another farm gate. Pass through gate and bear left diagonally down the field to a bridle gate in the corner. Through the gate, follow narrow fenced path for short distance into a stable yard. Go through the yard and bear left onto a drive. After 250 metres this joins a tarmac lane. Turn left.

19. 400m past Newhouse Farm, the track forks. Go straight ahead, through farm gate and across field (NOT right to Banktop Farm). Continue on the track, downhill, until it joins a minor road.

Turn right along the road, past Netherton Hall to the junction with B5035. Cross with care and continue onto the cycle way past Uppertown Farm. Where cycle route emerges onto road, cross over on marked crossing and onto cycle track that leads to Carsington Car Park.

20. As you enter the car park, go to the right and follow the blue arrows that waymark the horse/cycle route round Carsington Reservoir. The majority of this route is multi-user, shared with walkers and cyclists but, after 500m, the horse route diverges for c1.5k. (DO NOT ride horses on the path over the dam).

21. Cross the road, go through the gate on the right and follow the 'horse' waymarked track as it winds back on itself and crosses a field to another gate. Go through the gate and continue following the track as it crosses another field, fords a stream and comes back to the road.

22. Cross over the road and follow the marked path into Millfields car park. Go through the car park and follow the blue waymarks for horse/cycle route. There are some short stretches where the route for walkers diverges (DO NOT ride on footpaths).

Continue on this delightful off-road route for about 9km to the northern extremity of the reservoir.

23. You will see a bridle gate on the right signed to Hopton and Carsington Historic villages. Go through the gate and cross straight over the busy B5035 to take the short surfaced track through the trees towards Hopton village. In Hopton, take the first right and continue to the junction with a minor road.

24. Cross straight over towards a bridge under the High Peak Trail. Just before the bridge, take a path to the right signed cycle route 54. (It also has a 'public footpath' sign, but horses and cycles are allowed on this to access the trail). At the top of the path, go left onto the High Peak Trail, signed towards Parsley Hay.

25. After 1km, take a bridleway on the right hand side. Follow BW straight up the hill then to the left as it joins a track. Continue straight on (NOT left to Griffe Farm). Continue on bridleway through a farm gate and downhill across a field to another gate. Go through gate to road junction. This is the A5012, a busy main road with a lot of heavy quarry traffic. Cross with great care onto the B5056.

26. Turn almost immediately right onto a single track lane. Follow lane uphill as it bends right then left. After about 1km you will reach a cross roads of tracks. Turn left. Continue along this gated road past Moor Farm to junction with a minor road. Go left along road to junction with B5056.

27. Turn right then almost immediately left to road junction. Go straight across onto track, signed 'Limestone Way'. Follow track to the end then go left on road towards Elton. Go straight through the village, passing the church on your right. Continue straight on, downhill along Gratton Lane. By the phone box, take the bridleway to the left (incorrectly signed as a footpath).

(During periods of wet weather, please continue along road to Middleton by Youlgreave to avoid damage to the sensitive landscape of Gratton Dale. (Go to Map 4))

28. At two farm gates, go through the right hand one and follow the narrow track for 2km through Gratton Dale. Eventually you reach a narrow bridle gate. Go through this gate, turn right and immediately through another gate into Long Dale. Follow the grass track for about 1.5km.

29. Bear right, steeply uphill to gate. Continue through gate, and follow bridleway across several fields and onto a gated track. Continue until the bridleway joins a minor road. Turn left and go uphill on the minor road towards Middleton by Youlgreave.

Maps and route text are for guidance only. We strongly recommend that you also carry the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL24. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure all the information presented is accurate we cannot guarantee it is error free. In no event will any party involved in the making of this route guide be liable for any special, direct, indirect or consequential damages out of the use or inability to use this guide.