

Gunthwaite Loop

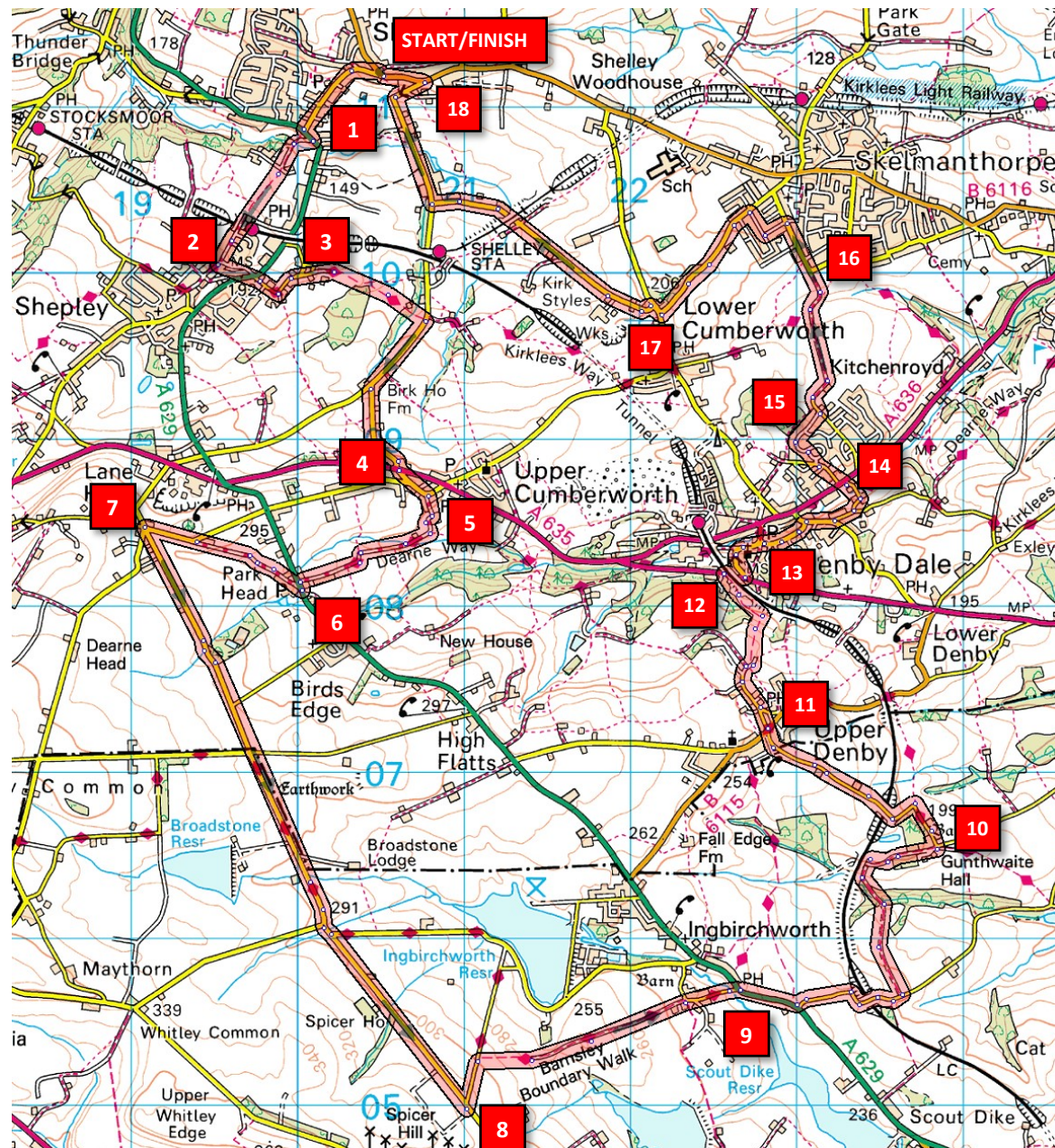
Distance 24.6km/15.3 miles

Time 3 to 4hrs

Ascent 470m/1541ft

OS 1:25000 Explorer Map 288: Bradford & Huddersfield is recommended

Quiet lanes help you reach the extensive bridleways lying to the south east of Shelley linking Ingbirchworth, Gunthwaite, Denby Dale and Skelmanthorpe. As well as great off road riding this route offers incredible views over the reservoirs west and south of Ingbirchworth, the chance to visit a little known nature reserve (ideal for a lunch break), a perfectly preserved medieval barn, and getting up close and personal with a gravity defying Victorian viaduct.



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- 1** From the Village Hall descend to the bottom of Far Bank and turn left onto the A629, then take the immediate right into Stretch Gate. Climb Stretch Gate towards Shepley Village. Continuing past Shepley Station take the third left into Yew Tree Road.
- 2** Continue along Yew Tree Road and carefully cross the A629 into The Knowle. Follow the road for about 300m.
- 3** Join the bridle path sign posted Trans Pennine Trail to the right. Continue along the trail to the junction with Birk House Lane and turn right. Follow Birk House Lane for about 500m, turn left into Heator Lane then climb the hill to meet the A635 main road.

This route can be ridden by anyone in good health with basic bike skills and a reasonable mountain bike, but is not suitable for road bikes/hybrids. The estimated times reflect a leisurely pace and taking in the views.

When riding off-road there are a few basic rules to remember:

- While cyclist have 'right of way' on bridleways this means cycling is permitted, however cyclist must give way to horses and pedestrians.
- Don't frighten animals.
- Always ride in control and take care as you do not know who/what may be around the next corner.
- Please close all gates behind you.

- 4** Carefully cross the A635 and go straight ahead to join Carr Hill Road. Go left at the next junction and then at the following left hand bend, bear right into Park Lane. Leave this right turn late until you can clearly look for oncoming traffic around the bend.
- 5** After 80m turn right onto gravel, opposite barns to your left, to continue along Park Lane which follows the Dearne Valley. There is a short climb after crossing Park Dike, then the lane levels to carry you to the A629.
- 6** Cross the A629 into Park Head Lane and climb to the junction with Cumberworth Lane. Bear left joining the tarmac and continue to the cross roads.
- 7** As you approach the cross roads, take the first left onto Dearne Dike Lane and continue straight ahead for 4km to where Annat Royd Lane joins from the left.
- 8** Turn left onto Annat Royd Lane. You may want to stop after 100m and explore the nature reserve on your left and take in the views across Ingbirch Reservoir before continuing a further 100m to the bridle way on your right. Take the bridle way and follow this for 1.4km to emerge on High Lane.
- 9** Turn right onto High Lane and after a short climb turn right onto the A629 for 300m before turning left onto Carr Lane. After 700m take the bridleway that joins to your left. Follow the bridleway for 1.3km to emerge at Gunthwaite Hall Farm.
- 10** Turn left onto Gunthwaite Lane and as you head away from the farm take a moment to look back over your left shoulder at the large barn which was built in the middle of the 16th century for Godfrey Bosvile (1520-80) lord of the manors of Gunthwaite and Oxpring. This Grade 1 listed building is largely in its original state. The roof, supported on twenty-four huge wooden pillars, covers half an acre.
- 11** Follow Gunthwaite Lane for 1.4km to the junction with Denby Lane. Cross the junction into Bank Lane and follow for 300m to where the tarmac ends and the lane bares right as it becomes a bridleway. Follow the bridleway.
- 12** The bridleway will descend into the Dearne Valley and bring you to the A635 beneath the railway viaduct. Turn right, pass under the viaduct, then take the immediate left into Bank Lane.
- 13** Follow Bank Lane, bare right at the junction with Norman Road and continue along Dearneside Road to a T-junction and turn right onto Miller Hill. Climb the short hill and take the first left into Cuckstool Lane sign posted for the Trans Pennine Trail. Follow Cuckstool Lane and the Trans Pennine Trail signs to arrive at the A636.
- 14** At the junction with the A636 cross carefully into Leak Hall Lane. Climb Leak Hall Lane for 200m then take the first right into Woodside and bare left. Climb Woodside, baring left at the next junction onto Greenside.
- 15** Follow Greenside to arrive at a T-junction. Turn left and join the bridleway and follow this for 1km towards Skelmanthorpe.
- 16** At the end of the bridleway turn left onto Lidgett Lane. Follow this past the cricket club then take the next left into Westfield Drive. After the short climb to the T-junction turn right and descend to the junction with Cumberworth Road, turn left and continue along Cumberworth Road/Ponker Hill for 800m to the junction with Shelley Woodhouse Lane.
- 17** Turn right onto Shelley Woodhouse Lane then immediate left onto Coal Pit Lane. Continue straight ahead to the T-junction and turn right to return to Shelley village via Near Bank.
- 18** On reaching the B6166 at the top of Near Bank turn left to return to the Village Hall.