

Along the Route

- Technical Difficulty**
- Easy: Generally a hard smoothish surface
 - Moderate: A more uneven surface
 - Technical: Rough, uneven going. Difficult!
- Generalisations only. Allowance for weather also required.

- 'Off Road' Path Type**
- Bridleways (a black edging to a technical grade)
 - Byways (no edging)
- Bridleways are for cyclists, walkers and riders and are generally well signposted. In particular the Pennine Bridleway is often signposted PBW.

- Uphill Indicator**
- Shown along the marked route. It's subjective but at least an indication of what is in store!
- Points Uphill**
- 1 Leg Warmer
 - 2 Pulse Racer
 - 3 Lungbuster

- Gradients / Heights**
- 310 Spot heights (in metres) marked along the route
 - 275 Contours (25 metre intervals)

- Surface Descriptions**
- As annotated on the map - generalisations only. Allowance for weather also required.

- 'Off Road' Downhills**
- Note : Long arrow in downhill direction

General

- PBW Pennine Bridleway National Trail
- Gate
- Wall
- Footpath
- Car park
- Tourist / Visitor Information Centre
- Public House
- Cafe
- Miles from the Start
- Reference markers for text description (see over)

The representation on this map of roads, tracks and paths is no evidence of the existence of a right of way.

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This route guide includes subjective elements such as gradients, and generalisations such as surface descriptions (both these may change over time & will be affected by the weather). Maps and routes are for guidance only. It is up to you the cyclist to judge your own cycling competence, be aware of the conditions on the ground and be in control of your bicycle at all times. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure all the information presented is accurate we can not 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 the route guide.



Try a Trail by Bike...

Hayfield Highs

A circular Mountain Bike Route around Hayfield, Chinley & Rowarth that includes sections on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail

This map is part of a series that can be downloaded free from www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway



ROUTE LENGTH
17 miles
27km

Pennine Bridleway

NATIONAL TRAIL



Hayfield Highs

Mountain Bike Route

Route length: 17 miles / 27km. Rough Time 3 1/2 - 6 1/2 hours.

This is a "full-on" mountain biking route where hopefully the wonderful memories will last longer than the tired legs! It has uphill to test the fittest and varied downhill that on occasion may test your nerves!

The ride is a great mixture of bridleways & byways connected by short sections of lanes and roads. Scenery is ever changing plus there are good choices for refreshment stops with several pubs and a cafe on-route.

There is an obvious short cut option at Birch Vale, taking the Sett Valley Trail straight back to Hayfield (see map). This would reduce the route to about 10.5 miles

START: Hayfield Village Car Park, which is also the car park for the Sett Valley Trail & is next to the Visitor Centre (it is signposted when at Hayfield).

For navigation please note from The Start up to 'Point C' and from 'Point G' to The Finish you are on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail which is generally well signposted as the name or 'PBW'.

The points below are referenced on the map

A From the car park, head into Hayfield village over the traffic light crossing (opposite the visitor centre) to come out by the church. TR, climb up street, passing The George Pub. TL by Antiques Shop (opposite Fishers Bridge Road), then immediate TL onto Valley Road. Follow road, keeping river on left. Road ends. Carry straight on, on the wide path. By stone pillars bear right & through gate. Climb through & out of the wood. Through gate then small dip to join tarmac lane.

B TR then immediate TR onto track that climbs (to South Head). Climb to top & then through 2 gates in quick succession. TL after next gate onto wide track (to South Head) & climb gradually. The track looks like it goes through a gate straight ahead of you but bears left immediately before it & through a gate system. Through next gate into National Trust 'South Head'. A bit of flat before a small rocky climb then a stony descent to a gate.

C 100 metres after the gate TR onto the track that drops down (Beet Lane). Follow as it descends steeply, eventually turning to tarmac. Keep going all the way to come out at main road by the Crown & Mitre pub. TL (to go under bridge) then at T-junction TR to Chinley. In Chinley pass St Marys Church (on left). Turn next right onto road signed 'Unsuitable for HGVs'.

D At T-junction TL onto Stubbins Lane. Keep on this lane as it climbs - follow all the way to top by Throstle Bank Farm. TR up bridleway track immediately after the farm driveway. Follow up, through several gates (keep wall on the left). At path crossroads (wooden signposts) continue straight on. After next gate TL, so that broken wall is on your left. Head straight down, eventually reaching a wall on your right. Keep straight on (wall on your right) and descend to reach a gate.

E Though the gate then straight down the broken tarmac lane. The lane ends by coming out on a main road, so caution required to stop in good time. When at the road junction go straight across. Follow road down then start gradual climb. Pass Sycamore Inn, then after a minute or two TR (sharp turn) onto narrow Sitch Lane (well signed) and climb all the way to the top (you will see lake down on the right).

F TL onto wide track. Keep on this track. It will climb gradually. At top, keep wall on left (ignoring path off to the right) & start bumpy descent. It then levels before a very rocky descent brings you out onto tarmac. Follow straight down and past Little Mill Inn. Take next road turning on right, signed Rowarth. Pass straight through Rowarth and onto steep tarmac climb.

After about 400 metres TR through the gate signed for Bridleway onto path. Drop down, over a ford then up and through gate. Follow straight up the steep lane.

G Before top TR onto track signed Pennine Bridleway. Up then through gate. Soon after next gate the path splits, bear right. Follow along then up slight incline. At top go through gate on right signed for Bridleway. Then with your back to gate head off in 10 o'clock direction on faint grassy track, slightly uphill. Over brow & you will see a gate with stony track beyond it.

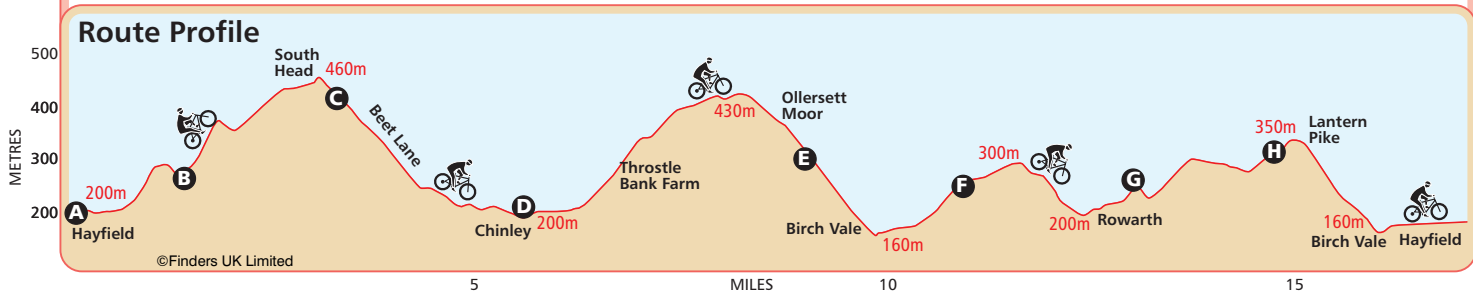
H Through gate and up short steep climb. Follow as it levels then descends. Through gate and the track soon turns to tarmac. Keep descending. At road junction (by 'Cyclists Dismount' sign) TR, then immediate TL (signed for bridleway). Descend to hairpin bend and head straight on onto the path through the gate. Descend all the way to road. Turn left. Turn left through gate immediately after Industrial Estate and follow path back to Hayfield car park.

Cycle Hire/Maintenance:

The Bike Factory (Whaley Bridge) Tel: 01663 735020
(please note: it is always a good idea to arrange hire in advance)

Refreshments

Hayfield has a good selection of pubs which serve food, a chippie and convenience stores and there are several pubs on route (see map). If waiting in Chinley for the train then there are two pubs a short ride away at Whitehough. Chinley also has a couple of shops. There is also The Special Touch Cafe at Birch Vale (selected opening hours, phone 01663 746157 for information).



Travelling to the Area by Train

Chinley Station, conveniently situated for the mountain bike route, is on the Sheffield-Manchester Line & the Manchester-Rose Hill & Chinley Line.

A possible Sunday Itinerary* that should leave time for rests and a lunch stop:

From Sheffield: Depart 9.30am • Arrive Chinley at 10.11am

Depart Chinley 16.46pm • Arrive **Sheffield** 17.31pm

From Manchester Piccadilly: Depart 9.35am • Arrive Chinley at 10.14am

Depart Chinley 16.25pm • Arrive **Manchester** 17.11pm

* please note this is for guidance only. Time taken on route will vary with individuals & train times may change. Please check with National Rail Enquiries for full service details (Tel: 08457 48 49 50 or www.nationalrail.co.uk). There is space for two bikes on the train and more at the conductor's discretion, on a first come first serve basis (no booking required).

To pick up the route from the station

TL out of the station. Proceed to T-junction & TL. Turn first left. Then as from the start of point **D**

To return to the station

Follow directions to Hayfield then back round to Chinley. Once in Chinley pass St Mary's Church and then take the second right turn (Station Road).

