

South Peak Loop

Route Guide Section 1

Miller's Dale Station (SK 142733) to Hartington (SK128604)

The directions for the ride 'starts' at Miller's Dale car park on the Monsal Trail. Though the South Peak Loop can be started anywhere along the route.

This section goes west to the end of the Monsal trail then climbs up and crosses the limestone plateau. It then follows the Upper Dove valley south to the village of Hartington. **Approx distance 12 miles.**

1. From Miller's Dale Car Park go onto Monsal Trail and turn right to go west along the Trail. On the way, you will go through the two Chee Tor tunnels. The first, and longest, is 370m and curves so neither entrance is visible for a short distance in the middle. (There is lighting in the tunnel but it is very important to wear hi viz clothing and remain in walk as the trail is shared with many walkers and cyclists).
2. After just over 3k, approaching the western end of the trail, go through a bridle gate on the right, signed to Blackwell Mill and PBW. Immediately, bear right up a stoney track and over the bridge to re-cross the Monsal Trail. At far side of the bridge, go through another bridle gate into the Nature Reserve. Follow the PBW as it climbs steeply up the dale side to another bridle gate and into a field. Go diagonally across the field to a gate onto a farm track.
3. Follow the track to junction with a minor road, bear right and continue to T junction. This is the A6, a busy trunk road. Cross with great care, using the PBW crossing refuges onto minor no-through-road.
4. Bear right at top of the road onto a farm track. After about 100m, go through a gate on left, signed PBW, onto a track that winds uphill onto the limestone plateau. Go through another farm gate and continue along track to 5 Wells Farm where it becomes a tarmac lane. At junction, bear right to T-junction with local road, following Pennine Bridleway signs. Go straight across road onto a wide, stony track. Follow this uphill to join minor road.
5. Bear left and follow to T-junction. This is the A515, a very busy main road. Cross with extreme care and bear right onto safe, surfaced, fenced refuge track. At the end, go left through a bridle gate onto a rough track. Continue uphill to the end of the track. Turn right onto minor road. Follow this road to T-junction and turn right.
6. After about 600m, take a grassy track on the left, signed 'unsuitable for motors'. Follow this track diagonally downhill. The surface becomes rocky and the track eventually joins a minor road. Bear left along road and continue for nearly 1km to junction with 'stop sign'. Go right, pass the 'Packhorse' pub then left onto 'no through road' signed as public bridleway.
7. Follow bridleway as it leads through a farmyard and across a meadow alongside the river Dove. At the far side, go through a double set of bridle gates and immediately bear diagonally left, uphill to another bridle gate. Pass through this and bear right, following signed bridleway as it skirts the side of the hill and passes the earthworks of 'Pilsbury Castle', on the right hand side.
8. Continue to follow BW to a gate leading onto a grassy track. At the end of the track, go

through the gate and bear right onto a minor, gated road. Continue on this road downhill and along the valley bottom for about 3 kilometres. Passing a cattle grid and '30' sign, you enter the village of Hartington. Go past the green and duck pond to the T-junction. Bear left onto B5054.

9. Take the first road on the right and go up Hall Bank signed towards the youth hostel. Take first right, a narrow lane signed towards Wolfscote Grange Farm. This is Reynard's Lane.

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.