

**Along the Route**

**'Off Road' 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 & other 'Off Roads' (no edging)

Bridleways are for cyclists, walkers and horse riders and are generally well signposted. In particular the Pennine Bridleway is often signposted PBW. Mountain bikers must give way to people on foot or horseback.

**Uphill Indicator**

Show 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 (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
- Electricity Pylon
- Car park
- Visitor Information Centre
- Public House
- Cafe
- 1 Mileages
- A Reference markers for text description (see over)
- 'Off Road' not along the route
- Main Road: 'A' and 'B' Roads
- Minor Road 1
- Minor Road 2: often single track
- Other road, drive, track

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 gradings, 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.

Please note that on the shared out and back section (Hollingworth Lake to Summit) the 'Uphill' and 'Downhill' indicators are shown on the left of the route for outbound and on the right for the return.

Try a Trail by Bike...

# Littleborough - Lake to Lake

A choice of a 10 mile loop starting at Walsden or extending to a 20 mile ride starting at Hollingworth Lake. Sections of the route are on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail.

This map is part of a series that can be downloaded free from [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway)

ROUTE CHOICE

**10 miles/16km**

OR

**20 miles/31km**

**Pennine Bridleway**

NATIONAL TRAIL

# Littleborough - Lake to Lake Mountain Bike Route

**Full Route: 20 miles / 31km. Rough Time: 4-7 hours**

**Loop Only: 10 miles / 16km. Rough Time: 2-4 hours**

A classic mountain biking route. Tough & scenic, on tracks & paths that will take you from low lying farms to high up in the moors. You have the choice of starting at Hollingworth Lake for the Full Route. This has the same out & back section which is linked to a 10 mile loop, or start & finish at Walsden for the 10 mile loop only. For those arriving by train there is the choice of alighting at Walsden to do The Loop or at Littleborough to do the Full Route.

General Location: Hollingworth Lake is a few miles north west of Rochdale. Access from the M62 motorway is via junction 21 & then picking up signs for Hollingworth Lake. Walsden is on the A6033 road to Todmorden.

**START Full Route: Hollingworth Lake Visitor Centre - on Rakewood Road.  
Loop Only: Walsden, car park near the station (opposite general store) - see map**

For navigation please note that for all points, except for the section between D & G, you are on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail which is well signposted as the name or 'PBW'.

The points below are referenced on the map

## Full Route

**A** TL out of Visitor Centre driveway. After 100m TL up track signed PBW. Climb. Cross cattle grid. After small descent BR at track split - building on your right. Up stony path. BL at path fork. After a small ford the path splits, BL. Meet wide track & TL following line of the pylons. TR at lane, signed Summit. Follow to road junction & TR. After 100 metres TL onto path.

**B** Keep on the main track as it climbs to a pylon. Follow to road then SA. Continue to junction with wide track and TR. At track fork BL. Cross bridge & then through gate & to farm. The path skirts the farm on the right through a series of gates. Then climb steeply to reach a grassy top & follow the path down. Cross a river & bear sharp left then quickly sharp right. Drop to join track & TR. Through gate & follow straight down, over canal to main road. TR then quickly TL (just before 40mph sign) up narrow path. Climb, pass house, then up to road junction. TR then immediate TL onto track signed Mary Townley Route East.

**C** Climb. Just before a cattle grid BR onto track. Follow up, along, then down towards a pylon. Through gate & down to another gate. Keep following the main path to arrive at signpost for Bottomley. Follow this to start steep technical descent. Follow the markers as it zig zags down. After second gate TR to follow path to main road.

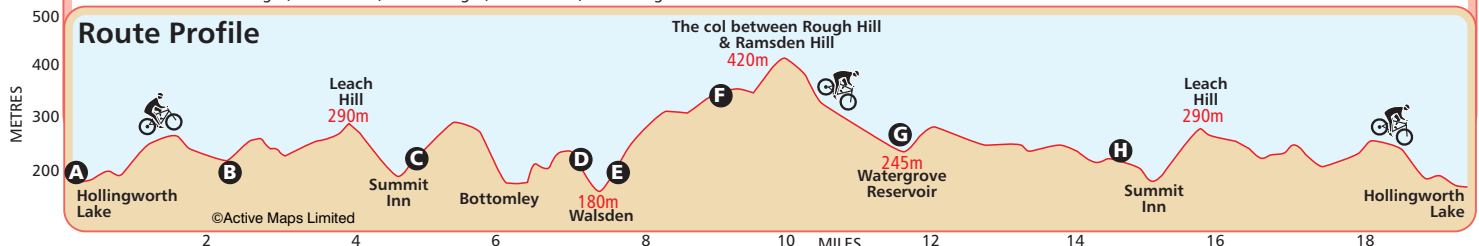
(To avoid a couple of tough climbs it is now possible to TL onto main road, continue to Walsden and TL onto Inchfield Road opposite the Post Office, then see point E) otherwise:

Cross main road & TL, follow pavement for 200 metres & TR (PBW sign) onto Bottomley Road. Follow around bend, over canal then straight on & up steep cobbled path. Continue to cottage, TL then quickly left again onto path (PBW sign). Cross stream and soon pass house on left. Now a steep climb follows. Then through gate & SA on tarmac lane.

**D** Stay on the lane & drop steeply (no longer on the PBW) to reach junction with main road at Walsden. SA onto Inchfield Road.

**E** Climb, keep straight on & the lane eventually turns to a track. Over cattle grid. Keep on this wide track to pass farm on your left. Continue to climb, BA at driveway for Lower Dytches Farm. Immediately before next farm BR through gate on grassy track. Climb to signpost at path split & BL.

Abbreviations: TR-Turn Right, TL-Turn Left, BR-Bear Right, BL-Bear Left, SA - Straight Ahead



**Travelling to the Area by Train (Align at Walsden to do 'The Loop' only or at Littleborough to do the 'Full Route').**

### Littleborough Station

#### A possible Saturday Itinerary\*

From Manchester Victoria: Dep 9.22 • Arr Littleborough 9.43  
Dep Littleborough 17.45 • Arr Manchester 18.07

From Bradford: Depart 10.00 • Arrive Littleborough 10.45  
Dep Littleborough 17.45 • Arr Bradford 18.31

### Walsden Station

#### A possible Saturday Itinerary\*

From Manchester Victoria: Dep 9.22 • Arr Walsden 9.49  
Dep Walsden 14.39 • Arrive Manchester 15.08

From Bradford: Dep 10.00 • Arr Walsden 10.39  
Dep Walsden 15.48 • Arr Bradford 16.31

#### To pick up the route from Littleborough Station

Take the back exit out of the station (you will see steel safety railings just before the road). TR onto the road and climb to Hollingworth Lake. TL onto Rakewood Road & the Visitor Centre is a short way along on the left.

#### To pick up the route from Walsden Station

**From Manchester.** With the bridge on your left continue around corner then left up steep hill. At top TR onto track, Peel Cottage Road. Follow to bend with cobbles & bear right. Join road & TR. You're now on Inchfield Road.

**From Bradford:** Exit onto main road side & TR. TR up Winterbutlee Road. At top turn left onto track (Peel Cottage Road). Follow to bend with cobbles & bear right. Join road & TR. You're now on Inchfield Road.

## Refreshments

There is a small cafe in Hollingworth Lake Visitor Centre serving hot & cold snacks & just along the road is The Wine Press pub. Littleborough centre has pubs, cafe & stores.

Walsden has two chippies, pubs and a village store. There is also a cafe in the Mill Shop opposite the garden centre (instead of following route up Inchfield Road TL onto main road for a third of a mile). Along the full route you will pass The Summit Inn at 5 & 14 miles.

**F** Just after next gate TL onto narrow path (broken wall on your left). Follow to gate then down & over stream. A bit of pushing is now required before the path eases & levels.

Descend. Cross stream (sometimes dry) & BR at path split (blue bridleyway arrow). Follow down to reach a wider track. Keep heading for the reservoir.

**G** Before reaching Watergrove Reservoir you will rejoin the Pennine Bridleway. TL signed Watergrove. TL at second gate (just before the reservoir) then next left signposted Shaw. Climb past two gates then stay on this main track, following signposts for Calderbrook & then Summit.

Eventually reach road & TL to Summit. Follow the PBW signs to the end of the road & continue on the track. Come out on tarmac & TR, down to junction & TL. Continue for 50 metres.

**H** TR signposted to Summit & descend past house & down to main road by the Summit pub.

Now it's a matter of retracing your steps following the PBW back to Hollingworth Lake (this is well signposted).

Turn onto lane just before the Summit pub. Cross canal, up track & through gate. Pass small reservoir on right, then TL up path.

At stream TL then follow path over the stream. Climb up & over the top then through the gates to reach farm track. Continue SA on the track. Through a gate then after about 400 metres TL onto path signposted for Hollingworth Lake. At road go SA & follow track to next road. TR then after last building TL onto the lane following line of Pylons. After 400 metres TL at signpost on to track (still following pylons). Climb, then when it levels look for a narrow path on the right, signposted. Follow this & descend to path junction & BR. Descend to road & continue SA to eventually join road by lake. TR back to Visitor Centre.

## The Loop Only

Start: Car Park in Walsden - near Station (see map).

TL from the car park. 100 metres & TR up Winterbutlee Road. At top turn left onto track (Peel Cottage Road). Follow to bend with cobbles & bear right. Join road & TR. You're now on Inchfield Road.

Follow directions **E**, **F** & to end of **G**.

Then TL (this is opposite the right turn to Summit)

Now follow directions **C**. When back at Walsden TR onto main road & to car park.

\*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 & more at the conductor's discretion, on a first come first served basis (no booking required).