

You can borrow a map/route description from club & return them afterwards

Mountain Bike Rides from West Pennine Windsurfing Club – using the links below, download routes from www.strava.com (free app) and follow on your phone or GPS

Okay, let's start with a disclaimer! These directions are not exhaustive and most have been written from memory whilst referring to the map, so some minor details may be lacking and there could be an occasional mistake. I'm happy to improve them as I receive feedback. The ride times will depend on your fitness and experience, but typically assume about 4 to 6.5mph. All routes are still very rideable after wet weather, but the early parts of the red and blue routes will be more difficult.

WPWC Green Route 1 – download [here](#)

5.1 miles, 1 hour to 1 hour 30 mins, height difference 700 feet.

From the Club, turn right then left and climb up the track through the 'life for a life' tree plantation and go through the next gate where the track then levels out. Descend for almost ½ mile, passing a pond on the right. Soon after, there's a small gateway on the right signposted 'Shore'. Take this and descend until the track changes to cobbles and then reaches the King William Pub. Turn right there and follow the walled lane. At a T-junction, go through the gate and straight on. Carry on along this meandering and sometimes rough track for 1/3 mile and then descend to the left after the last cluster of houses. You now emerge in Wardle village and go straight across the village square (Pub, Village Hall, bus terminus). Proceed along a stone track, ignoring any left turns and through a couple of gates uphill, to return to the reservoir just uphill of the water treatment works which will be on your right. Take the permissive cycleway alongside the reservoir to return to the Club. Sections of this path diverge from the water. After dropping to a feeder stream, climb steeply uphill. Turn right at the gate at the top and follow the cobbles back to the club.

Blue Route 2 – download [here](#)

6.3 miles, 1 hour 15 mins to 1 hour 45 mins, height difference 815 feet.

As green route, but near the water treatment works bear left uphill and go along a narrow path between 2 walls. At the end of this turn a right angle to the right and follow the grassy path steadily uphill. This stretch is harder after wet weather. Follow this winding path until it goes through a galvanised steel field gate near a group of oak trees. Go left until the track meets another one at an acute angle. Here, double back to your right. Continue along a fairly level track keeping Brown Wardle (hill) on your left. As you reach the end of that hill, go straight on through a gate on to a signposted bridleway shale path. The track meanders about and undulates, then turn right at a blue sign to descend to the reservoir where the route is the same as 'green route 1'. Climb steeply, then at the gate at the top, turn right and go down the cobbles.

Purple Routes 3a & 3b – download [3a](#) or [3b](#)

14.3 or 13.5 miles, 2 hours 15 mins to 3 hours, height difference 1,350 feet.

From the Club follow the access route back to the cattle grid, then straight ahead and downhill to the right, across the foot of the dam, then uphill a little to emerge at the exit to the car park by the dam. Next, go down the cobbled road and through the village. At the mini-roundabout turn right. Go down to the main A58 at the bottom of the hill. At this mini-roundabout go left and immediately right on to Dye House Lane. Follow this track all the way to the canal and turn left on to the towpath. Leave the canal at the swing bridge and meander through the housing estate until you reach the next main road. Turn right. When the road turns a sharp left after ¼ mile, go straight on onto the track ahead of you. Follow this, keeping Hollingworth Lake on your left. At the tarmac road turn right. Follow

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the bridleway straight on until you go under Rakewood motorway viaduct and around a left hand bend. Ignore the 1st left turn marked private, but very soon after take the 2nd, which climbs steeply until it then passes over the M62. Turn right and follow the bridleway signs through the farm yard and turn left at the 2nd gate. Then just keep straight on (you may notice a couple of bridleway turnings on your left and these are good routes too) until you reach a tarmac road where you go straight on at the Y-junction. Then at a cluster of houses at Lydgate look slightly to the right and you'll probably see a 'Pennine Bridleway' sign'. Turn right at the T-junction, then left within 100 yards. After 1/3 mile you will turn left onto the A58. Go downhill for ½ mile, but not too fast or you'll miss the right turn for Lightowlers Lane. At the bottom you reach the canal and turn right. Don't cross it yet, but go along the canal and cross it at the next bridge then turn right again along the towpath to a factory with a car park. By now you've come about ½ mile along the canal. Across the valley you will see a walled track meandering uphill. Head for this, signposted 'bridleway' and follow it to the top. Cross the road and carry straight on. At the trout fishery in Calderbrook turn left on to the B-road. You have a choice of route from here for the 2 miles back to the club. You can stay entirely off-road on the Pennine Bridleway & Mary Towneley Loop (route 3b), which is signposted to your right here, next to the church, and well signposted all the way to the club. Or you can do a mix of on and off-road (route 3a), which is what is described here and shown on the map. 1 mile later after the trout fishery, turn right at cross-roads (traffic lights?). After another 2/3 mile you will reach the King William Pub at Shore. Go straight on along a walled lane that meanders, descends a little and then climbs. At a T-junction, go through the gate and straight on. Carry on along this meandering and sometimes rough track for 1/3 mile and then descend to the left after the last cluster of houses. You now emerge in Wardle village. Here, turn right and continue to climb back up to Watergrove Reservoir.

Red Route 4 – download [here](#)

9.1 miles, 2 hours to 2 hour 45mins, height difference 1,500 feet.

This route goes North over the hill to Walsden, near Todmorden and back via Calderbrook. Turn left out of the Club and go up the cobbles for 1mile. Where the cobbled road bends left at a right angle, leave it to take a path on the right which leads to the foot of one of several shale spoil heaps. Head for the white sign at the bottom of a slabbed path leading steeply uphill in a straight line. This is part of the Long Causeway and you'll probably need to push for a short stretch further up it. At the top, go straight on, then straight across the haul road for the wind turbines to a gate. The next section is a very long descent! The path takes you NE and N along the Long Causeway, eventually passing under a line of high voltage overhead cables before reaching a few properties at Ragby Bridge. The bridleway then climbs slightly to a road used for access to several farms – turn right on reaching this. Stay on the tarmac road until it descends steeply to Walsden. Go straight across the main road next to the Post Office and turn right along the canal (or stay on the main road if you want the burger, or ice-cream vans at Gordon Rigg's garden centre). After 1 mile, leave the canal at Bottomley lock. Turn right then left on the main road. At a controlled crossing point for horses turn right off the road and follow the bridleway uphill. This soon becomes very steep, so you will need to do some pushing (no matter how fit you are!) but it won't take long. At the top, turn left and go along the level track with great valley views, then through a gate and along a minor lane. Further along this look out for a right fork slightly uphill, otherwise all other turns are fairly obvious and well signed. Follow the Pennine Bridleway/Mary Towneley Loop signs all the way back to Watergrove. The track surface is good from Calderbrook to the Club.