

BHS Paralympic Legacy Access Project

Route 8 – Peak District



PLAP Route 8 – Peak District

Distance: approximately 10 miles

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer Map Number OL24 (Map 1:25000)

Due to the hilly nature of the countryside, the Peak District at first may not seem suitable for carriage driving. However, this isn't the case, especially in the southern area around Matlock and Ashbourne. Alongside the development of various tourist activities, the practical needs associated with physical disability are also recognised in the area, making this a picturesque and enjoyable ride for carriage drivers.

The following route is just one of many possibilities offering the option of:

- being driven/ridden as a one-off day out in fabulous countryside, or
- being ridden on a break or family holiday as the surrounding area offers a fantastic range of other sports and activities for all the family - even those not interested in riding or driving horses/ponies.

Route Description

Starting from Wirksworth Dale Car Park, north of Brassington (note this park is accessed via a narrow lane)

Follow down the track leading from the car park and turn right when you meet the road.

Continue to follow this road for approximately 1.5 miles until reaching the B5056

Cross over carefully (fast traffic) and continue for approximately 1.5 miles

Turn left along a track passing Rockhurst Farmhouse on your left (this track looks very rutted at the start but improves further on. The surface remains stony for the entire length). This section needs to be driven with care.

On reaching Mouldridge Lane turn left (opposite a stone wall) and continue round a sharp bend until you reach The Mininglow High Peak Trail Car Park and Picnic site.

Continue for a short distance and turn left) at the next road junction (signed Parwich).

On reaching the High Peak Trail sign (548) turn left down a tarmac road passing Roystone Cottages on your right.

Continue along this pathway until you reach a cattle grid and go through the gate alongside it.

From here continue to Roystone Grange (on your right).

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Continue along the path keeping the steep grassy hill on the left, passing through a gate.

Further down, beware Ballidon Quarry entrance is on your right and lorries may be turning to quarry.

On reaching the road, turn left towards Ballidon. Continue for approximately one mile until you reach a road junction. Turn left (signed Long Cliffe and after a third of a mile you will reach the B5056).

Turn left (signed Bakewell) and continue up the steep uphill road for approximately one mile after which you turn right onto Pasture Lane (signed at the end of lane 'Spencer Bos. 1903').

Continue for three quarters of a mile until you reach the T-junction, at which you turn left to Brassington.

In Brassington pass the Olde Gate Inne pub on your right and at the church bear left down Jaspers Lane and after a short distance bear right onto Maddock Lane.

On reaching the road junction at the end of the lane, turn left (signed Wirksworth) and continue up the hill for a short distance turning right back into the car park.

Alternative route - shorter route (approximately seven miles which does not involve either crossing or riding/driving on the B5065), starting at Mininglow Car Park.

Turn right out of the car park, and left at next junction (signed Parwich).

On reaching the High Peak Trail sign (548) turn left down a tarmac road passing Roystone Cottages on your right. Continue along this pathway until you reach a cattle grid and go through the gate alongside it.

From here continue to Roystone Grange (on your right).

Continue along the path keeping the steep grassy hill on the left, passing through a gate.

Further down beware Ballidon Quarry entrance is on your right and lorries may be turning to quarry.

On reaching the road (marked D on your map) turn left towards Ballidon.

Continue for approximately one mile until you reach a road junction.

Turn right to Parwich and follow on for approximately half a mile and at the sharp bend turn right signposted Pike Hill three miles. This is a gradually ascending lane which is narrow in places but has passing points.

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After approximately two-and-a-half miles there is a bridge in front of you. Before this, turn right (signed Car Park), which will take you back to the start of the ride/drive.

General Information

Parking: Parking is available at the start of the route at Wirksworth Dale Car Park, which is situated north of Brassington (note this park is accessed via a narrow lane). Parking is also available at Mininglow Car Park.

Insurance: The BHS recommends that before undertaking any part of this route, both horse and rider should be adequately insured against public liability. The British Horse Society can provide public liability and personal accident insurance cover as well as many benefits if you join as a member (terms and conditions and territorial limits apply). For more information or to join, visit www.bhs.org.uk/membership.

Feedback: These routes are kept to the standard that the local authority can afford. They were all accessible at the time of launch and are on definitive public rights of way. If you experience any problems with the routes or wish to raise any concerns, please contact the local authority, your local BHS Access Officer or the Access Team at BHS HQ via access@bhs.org.uk.

About the Paralympic Legacy Access Project

In 2013, the BHS launched the Paralympic Legacy Access Project (PLAP), dedicated to identifying and promoting 20 off-road routes across Britain. The 12-mile circular routes were recognised to suit the needs of carriage drivers with physical limitations.

The project was inspired by an anonymous donation to commemorate the achievements of the Paralympics and Para World Carriage Driving Championship in 2012. Launched by BHS President, Martin Clunes, the 20 routes were all tested prior to launch.

A huge thank you to those who volunteered their time, knowledge and input to create the routes of the Paralympic Legacy Access Project.

Discover more at www.bhs.org.uk/carriagedriving

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Find out more

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