

# Dark Peak Mountain Biking

True Grit Trails



The following mountain bike route has been taken from the best selling guide book, **Dark Peak Mountain Biking – True grit Trails**, published by Vertebrate Graphics Ltd.

For more information please visit:

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VERTEBRATE GRAPHICS  
PUBLISHING

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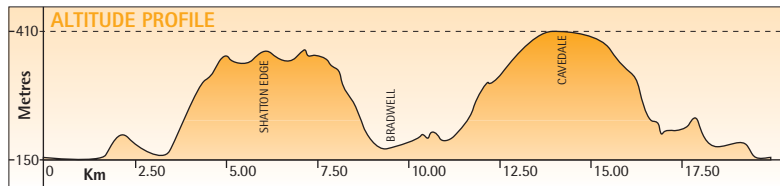
## Introduction

A great ride on the southern side of the Hope Valley. Although just fitting onto the Dark Peak map, this route is mainly on limestone, so prepare yourself for a little less grip on the rocks beneath your tyres. The drainage is good, so expect it to be in condition all year round.

Incorporating quite a bit of steady mileage, this route also throws in a couple of well-scary downhills – and an option to explore the Pin Dale 'Drop Zone'.

## The Ride

Starting from Hope, the route warms up nicely along a main road before a gruelling tarmac/gravel ascent up onto Shatton Moor. It then takes a big, wide circle round the Overdale Watershed. The first real descent is a little awkward to spot, but it's well worth finding and drops you, exhilarated, into Bradwell. The next section behind Hope Valley Cement Works is unusual – a bit like mountain biking through the location of a cheap 70s sci-fi TV series. Then it's steeply up on back roads and around some impressive holes in the ground to meet up with the Limestone Way and, eventually, a very demanding descent through Cave Dale. All that remains now is a little more road work to take you back to Hope.

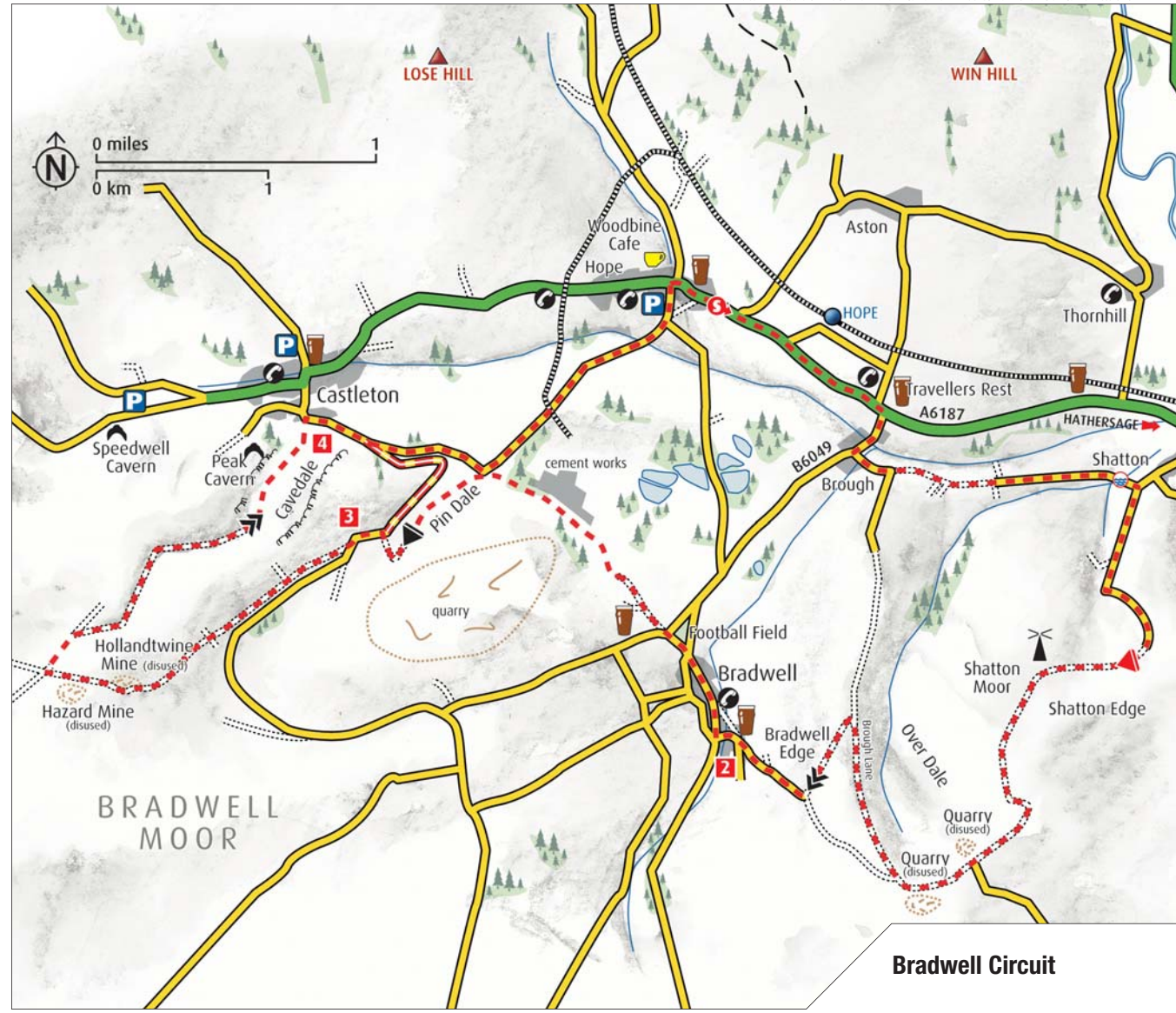


<b>BRADWELL CIRCUIT</b>		<b>GRADE:</b> ▲ » ▲
DISTANCE: 20KM	TOTAL ASCENT: 752M	
START/FINISH: HOPE	GRID REFERENCE: 172 835	
PARKING: HOPE VILLAGE CAR PARK	CAFÉ: WOODBINE CAFÉ Tel: 01433 621 407	
PUBLIC HOUSE: TRAVELLERS REST Tel: 01433 620 363		

## Directions – Bradwell Circuit

- R out of **Hope car park** » SA (east) in the direction of Hathersage along A6187 for 2km to R turn at lights onto B6049 follow this for 0.5km to L turn onto Brough Lane, just before narrow road bridge » Up steep hill on tarmac, keep SA onto track where the road bends off » Continue SA through gates to join tarmac road » Follow it L to descend into Shatton » Cross ford then R up steep climb on tarmac » Long climb to gate, then follow walled track past mast » Bear L over more eroded tracks, soon curving back R past road head curving around Overdale Watershed » Good track starts to descend – look out for gate on L (with old rusty latch and bridleway sign) after 0.5km (easy to miss) » L through gate, diagonally across field on small track to gate » Through gate, keep R along wall, bear L for good, exciting descent into Bradwell » Keep R, turn R onto B6049
- 2 Descend through village, through lights, after 0.5km fork L onto Town Lane, just before football field » SA at cross roads up track to gate, then R down path onto bridleway leading down into quarry » Keep SA at all junctions following waymarks leading across quarry roads » Stay with this bridleway to its end at road » Turn L, climb steeply up track past Pin Dale Quarry (Motocross playground all around you here. Some good drop offs, jumps etc. to be had, but handle with care!) » Turn R at top, turn L onto road » Follow road up past LH bend, turn R onto wide Dirtlow Rake track just before cattle grid
- 3 Follow track parallel to road then up and away from road » SA along track past large quarry on R » SA through gate » At bridleway crossroads, take track through gate on R » Follow track across field signposted *Castleton*, bearing down and slightly R towards small gate in drystone wall (**ignore 4WD tracks leading off up SA**) » Through gate, follow track down and L into Cavedale, keeping wall on L to gate » Through gate, track becomes very steep and very rocky (full-on trials skills required for success!), eventually easing as dale opens out, continue SA to gate
- 4 Through gate, R up road to acute fork » Take L fork, slightly up then down to junction, bear L, continue SA crossing railway cutting » Bear L over stream into Hope » Bear L for **car park** » Take R fork, follow road steeply uphill to L turn for descent of Pin Dale » From base of Pin Dale continue SA crossing railway cutting » Bear L over stream into Hope » Bear L for **car park**

Before you start out on this great route we suggest having a hearty breakfast, perhaps a delicious cake or two, or maybe some good old-fashioned flapjack at the Woodbine Café in Hope – enjoy! from all at VG.



**Bradwell Circuit**