Malham Tarn circular

Distance: 7km (4.5 miles)

Time: a minimum of 2 hours

Accessibility: an undulating walk with a number of gates and stiles. Part of the route follows rough fields with slippy limestone outcrops.

Parking: Informal car park north-west of Malham Tarn. SD 8943 6582

Other transport:

- Malham Tarn shuttle from Settle in the summer

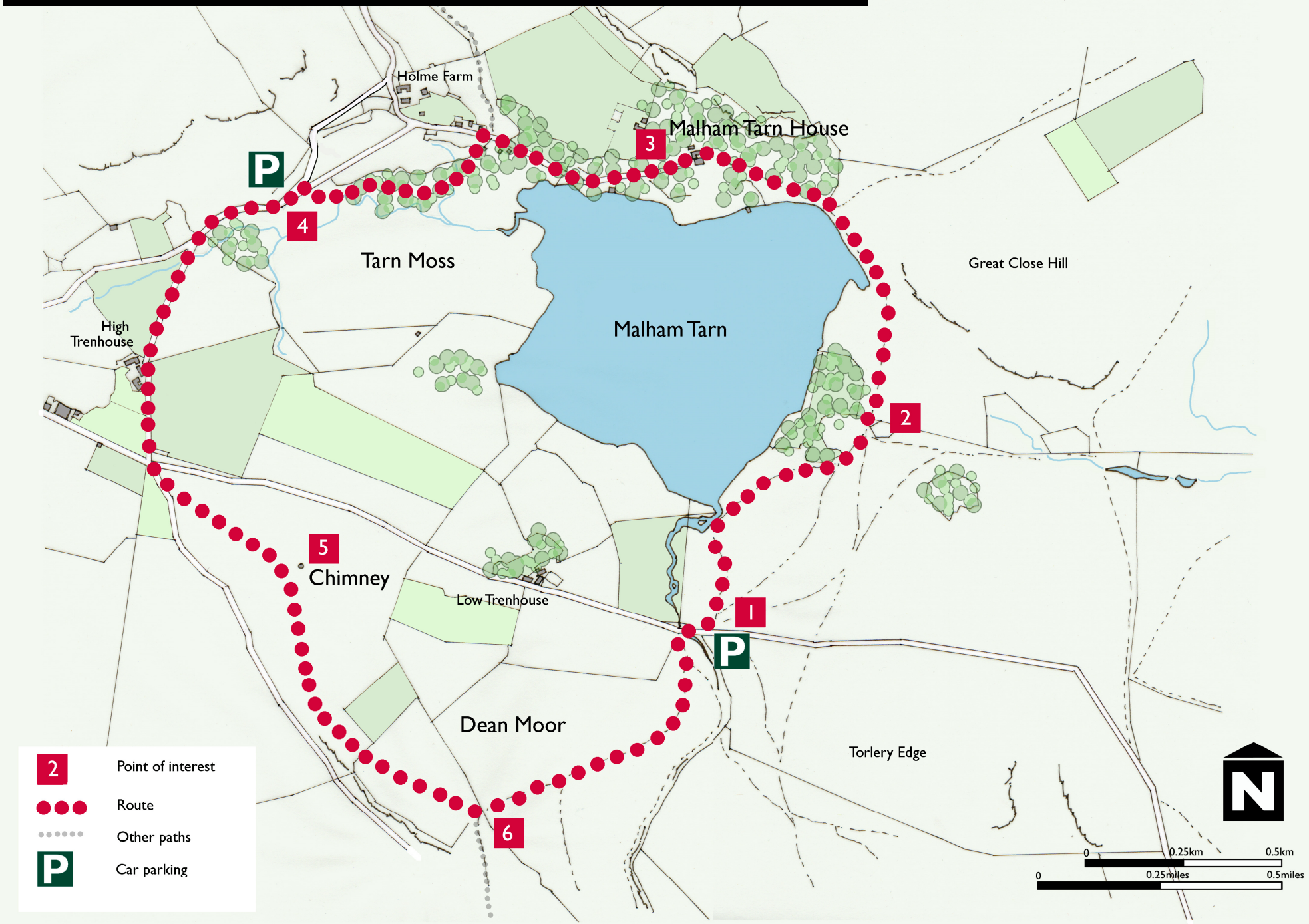
Toilets: Malham National Park Centre

Refreshments: cafés, pubs and shops in Malham village

Closest National Park Centre: Malham National Park Centre BD23 4DA (01729 833200)

Route description

This route explores the area using open access land owned by the National Trust.

1. Leave the car park taking the Pennine Way path towards Malham Tarn, England's highest lake. Follow the obvious grassy path next to the Tarn. This path leads to a gravel track around the Tarn National Nature Reserve.
2. The track heads through pleasant woodland belonging to Tarn House and leads around the back of the house. A National Trust Information Board provides a brief history of the house and site.
3. Continue on the track and pass the house, look out for a view point to the left—providing excellent views across the Tarn. A little further on the track a bird hide provides a bird watching point. Continue ahead past the cottages and look out for a track on your left. Follow this for a short while until you reach the road at a gate. You can also take an interesting diversion along the track by using the boardwalk trail.
4. Turn left and walk along the road. After 300 metres, at the first road junction, take the left fork signed to Malham. Continue along this road, passing High Trenhouse on your right. Go across the crossroads and take the gate or stile on your left to cross the open field and head towards the smelt mill chimney (1815).
5. Take the faint path straight ahead from the chimney, following the waymarkers for about 100 metres to the corner of the field. Continue with the wall on your left, to another wall at the brow of a hill. Go over a stile and head straight forward, as the land begins to descend bear left.
6. At the foot of the hill a track leads to a gap in the wall to your left, signed public bridleway. Follow the path across Dean Moor until you reach the road at Water Sinks.

Malham Tarn Circular distance 4.5 miles (7km)