

Denniston Plateau MTB Tracks

Route Guide for the Drill Track Circuit

For important safety and background information refer also to pamphlet "Denniston Plateau Mountain Bike Tracks" - available via www.cyclebuller.co.nz

Drill Track Circuit

Approximate Riding Time = 1 hour
 Approximate Distance = 7.8 km
 Total Ascent = 220 m
 Grade = 3

- Sealed road (1 km)
- Gravel road (3.4 km)
- MTB track (3.4 km)
- Walking track (200 m)

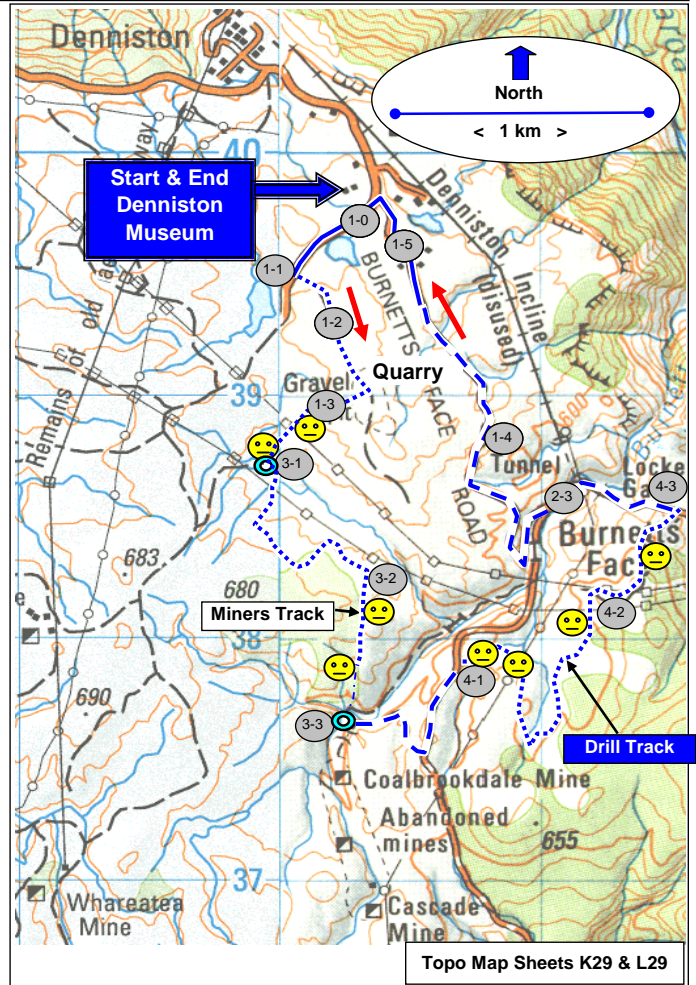
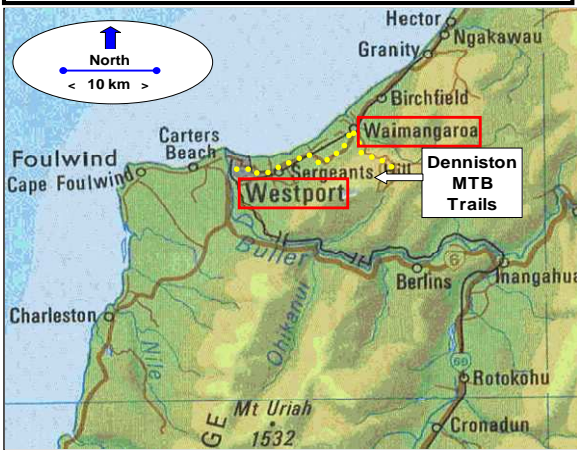
Predominant travel direction

River crossings (2)

Technical sections (4) + (4)

Way point & Track markers

Power line



DRILL TRACK CIRCUIT -

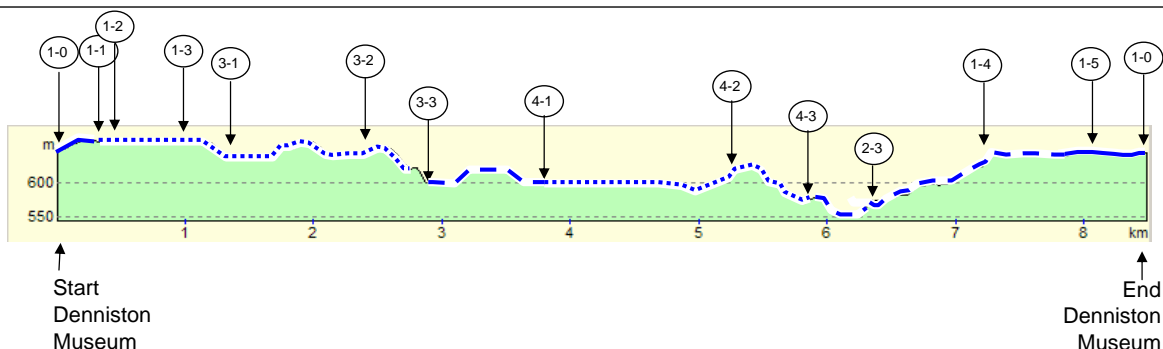
This circuit is named after the tracks that were originally made for the exploration drill rigs in search of coal. (The MTB track follows the same route as the drill tracks from marker 4-1 to 4-2).

The Drill Track circuit follows the Miners Track circuit for the first 3 km. So refer to the Miners Track route guide for a description of the track from the Denniston Museum to marker 3-3.

At marker 3-3 the Drill Track circuit separates from the Miners Track circuit and turns off to the right up a gravel road. At the top of the hill turn left and follow the gravel road for approximately 300m to marker 4-1. At marker 4-1, turn right off the gravel road onto the Drill Track and head down the wide MTB track. Between marker 4-1 and 4-2 the undulating track traverses some areas of softer rock, which provides a different riding surface to the hard sandstone experienced elsewhere on the Denniston Plateau. This section of track is popular with most riders. It is fun to ride and doesn't inflict the same damage as the hard, abrasive sandstone (for those unlucky enough to crash at Denniston!). From marker 4-2 there is another short, sharp climb before descending down to the gravel road in the Waimangaroa valley at marker 4-3.

From marker 4-3 it is a straightforward ride back to the museum. Just be aware that although this road often appears to be quiet, there is a good chance you will encounter other vehicles at any time, including 30T truck and trailers hauling coal from mines operating in the Cascade Valley. The road is narrow and the trucks are wide - so keep out of their way!! and enjoy the rest of your ride.

The Drill Track (between markers 4-1 and 4-3) is also often ridden in the reverse direction to that described above. It has a different "flavour" when ridden in the opposite direction. Opinions on the best direction to ride this section of track are evenly divided. Either way it is still fun.



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Route Guide for the Drill Track Circuit

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