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Bradfield Walkers are Welcome

<https://bradfield-walkers.org.uk/>

Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

<https://stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk/>

Inclusive Route: Beeley Woods and Oughtibridge

- Length – 2.5 miles (4 km) in total (outwards and return)
- Time – approximately 30 minutes one way
- Start – Oughtibridge village centre
- Grid Reference SK 308 934
- Parking – on-road parking, Oughtibridge
- Public transport – bus routes SL1 and 57 stop in Oughtibridge village centre on Langsett Road North. Bus 57 starts from Sheffield Centre Interchange, bus SL1 starts from Middlewood Supertram stop/Park and Ride. From the bus stop, continue in the same direction, then turn sharp right at Lulu Mae bridal, (the ex-White Hart pub) onto Low Road. At the bottom of this gentle hill cross over the bridge to your left onto Station Lane. The return bus stop is on Low Road, kerb-free from the end of the route.
- Accessible Refreshments – [The Cosy Café](#) in Oughtibridge (7-9 Langsett Road South, S35 0GY) is wheelchair accessible. There are parking spaces along the road next to the café and the kerb is approximately 2 cm high, low enough for a powered wheelchair to manage. The road directly from Oughtibridge to the Cosy Café on Langsett Road South is steep. However, Low Road and Langsett Road North offer a slightly longer but gentler alternative route to the café.
- Accessible Toilets – RADAR key operated public toilets in Coronation Park, Oughtibridge. The Cosy Café has an accessible toilet.
- Seating - there are no benches but occasionally there is a tree stump or fallen log at the side of the path.

Description

A linear woodland route along the bank of the River Don, with beautiful views of the river and its wildlife. The route follows the eastern bank of the river and is completely off-road.

The path is 2 m wide and is generally flat with some slightly narrower sections and short gentle gradients.



A weir on the River Don at Oughtibridge

Access Information

Road/off road: The route is completely off road, apart from crossing roads in Oughtibridge village. There are dropped kerbs at all the crossing points (1). The woods continue beyond the end point described here, but the only further access is along a quite busy single lane road with muddy verges and no pavement.

Surface: The path is concrete. Occasional shallow muddy patches. There is tactile paving at a crossing point by the turn-off to Waterside Gardens.

Width of path: The path is mostly 2 m wide, but there are some places where it narrows to approximately 1.5 m. The narrowest part of the path, with the steepest edge, is shown (2).

Camber: There is an occasional slight camber, but the path is generally flat.

Gradients: The path along the river is mostly flat but there are occasional short gentle gradients approximately 1:15 steep and approximately 7 m long. The road directly from Oughtibridge to the Cosy Café on Langsett Road South is steep. However, Low Road and Langsett Road North offer a slightly longer but gentler alternative route to the café.

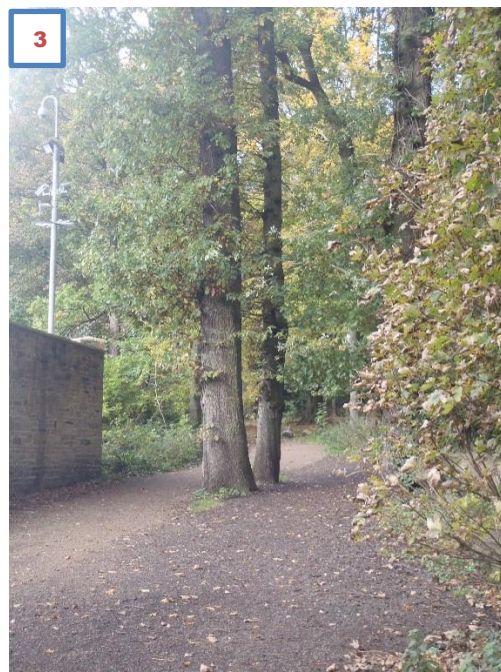
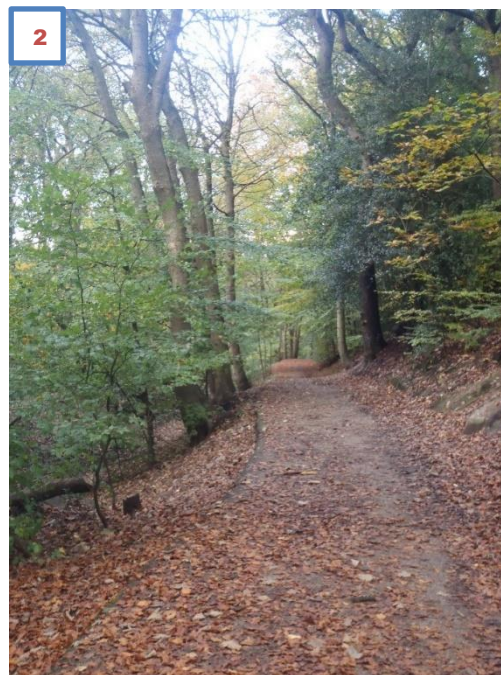
Rails/edges: At the start of the route there are metal railings for approximately 100 m on the left-hand side of the path. There is foliage, trees, rocks, and mud/earth on each side of the path.

In several places there is a fairly steep drop away from the path on the river side (2). The distance between the path and the river is variable but there are no sudden drops between path and water. At the end of the route there is a stone wall for approximately 50 m close to the right-hand side of the path.

There are no painted lines at the edge of the path.

Obstacles: In one place toward the end of the route there are trees in the way of the path. The path goes around the trees (3). There are no stiles, gates, or narrow plank bridges. At the time of writing there were no obvious overhanging branches.

At each end of the route there is a gap wide enough for wheelchairs to go through (4). It is 95 cm wide, which narrows at a height of 87 cm to 57 cm wide.



Route Instructions

1. With Coronation Park on your left, cross the River Don and go along Station Lane. To reach the inclusive route to the river, ignore the 'Public Footpath' sign which leads directly off Station Lane and instead turn right onto Waterside Gardens.
2. Then turn right again at the Oughtibridge War Memorial Sports Club and 'Public Bridleway' signs (2), where a short road/drive will take you to the path along the river.
3. Follow the drive round to the left and onto the river path, with the railings of the sports club on your left (3).
4. Follow the path through the woods (4) for roughly 1¼ miles until you reach the entrance/exit at the far end, with a stone wall on your right.



Historical Notes and Points of Interest

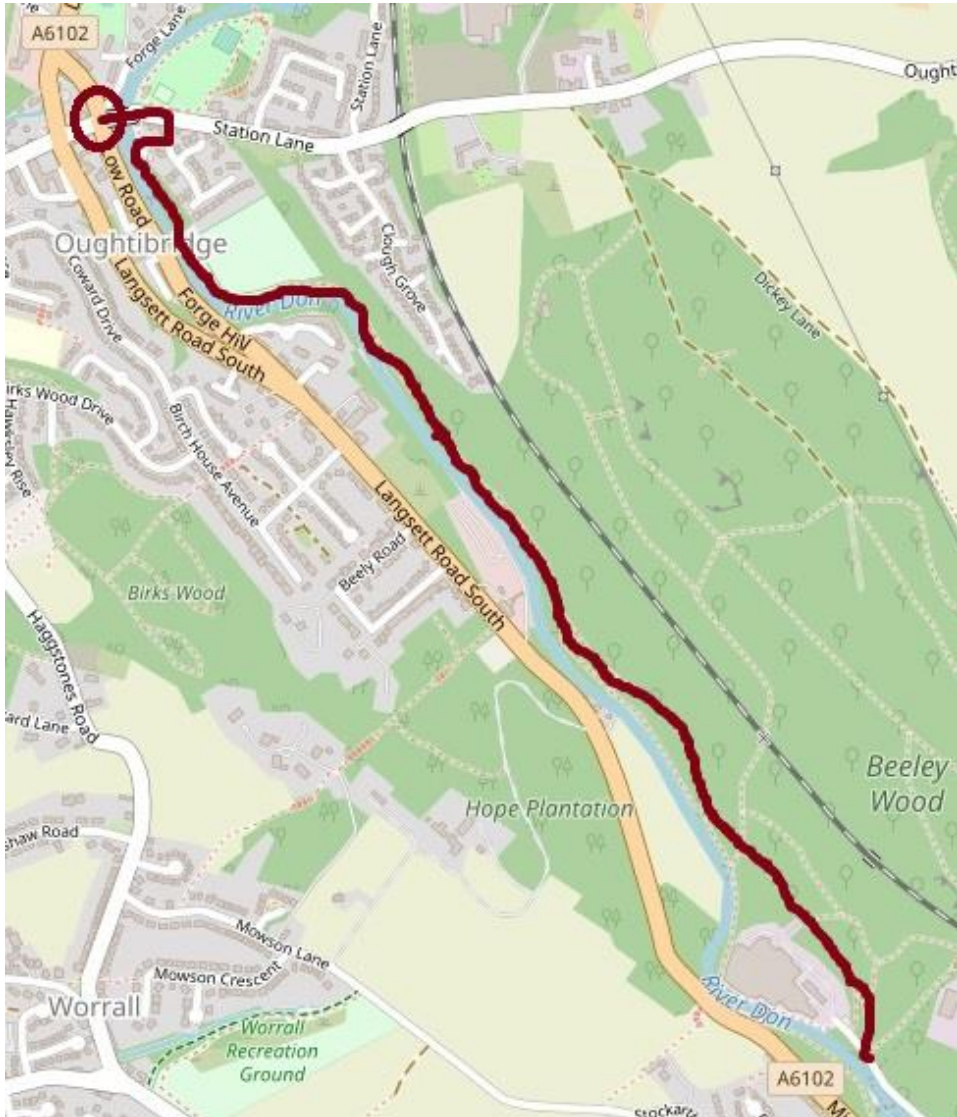
Oughtibridge developed around a ford managed by Oughtred who lived in a local cottage. When the bridge was built in 1150 to replace the ford, it took his nick name, "Oughty". The local community became known as Oughty's Bridge. Oughtibridge remained a rural hamlet until the late 18th.Century.

The village's position within the Don Valley meant that the water power of the river could be used to drive machinery. Throughout the 19th.Century, industry thrived, with a corn mill, paper mill, tannery, and a small brewery. The Oughtibridge forge was the main industry. It has since been converted into private apartments.

Oughtibridge reached its peak as an industrial centre when Oughty Bridge railway station opened in 1845 on the Sheffield, Ashton-under-Lyne and Manchester line. The station closed in 1959.

Beeley Wood is the remains of a larger, ancient woodland: a site that has been continuously occupied by woodland from before 1600. The earliest written reference to Beeley Wood is in a deed dated 1161 in which the monks of Ecclesfield Priory were given permission to graze their flock from January to Easter. Later it was used to make charcoal and was also mined for Ganister, a hard sandstone used in the manufacture of silica bricks used to line industrial furnaces.

On 6th.July 2014, international cycle-race, the annual Tour de France came down Church Street before climbing up Station Lane and Côte d' Oughtibridge (a category 3 climb).



Please utilise the 'contact' link on our websites if you wish to suggest any amendments to these instructions

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Layout: Dave Pickersgill & Katherine Wedell
Edited by: Dave Pickersgill

Text: Katherine Wedell & Isaac White
Acknowledgements: Malcolm Nunn, Archivist, Bradfield Parish Council.

Photos: Dave Pickersgill & Katherine Wedell

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