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Bradfield Walkers are Welcome

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

Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

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

Inclusive Route: Langsett

- Length – 2.4 miles (3.8 km) in total
- Time – 50 minutes (at 20 minutes per mile)
- Start – Langsett Barn car park, Langsett village (Yorkshire Water Services Ltd., Langsett Barn, S36 4GY)
- Grid Reference – SE 212 005
- Parking – Langsett Barn car park. Parking is free. There are reserved parking bays for people with disabilities.
- Public transport – the route is not accessible by public transport
- Accessible Refreshments
 - [Bank View Café](#), Langsett, S36 4GY is wheelchair accessible. It is approximately 200 m from Langsett Barn car park, towards Stocksbridge, on the other side of the A616. There is a path from the car park towards the café, but there is no dropped kerb to allow wheelchair users to cross the road. The café has a car park. Phone: 01226 762 337.
 - numerous refreshment options at [Fox Valley Retail Park](#) (Stocksbridge).
- Accessible Toilets -
 - [Langsett Barn](#), open dawn to dusk. This is next to the car park, down a short, paved slope with a handrail on one side.
 - Bank View Café, Langsett
 - Brearley House, Fox Valley Retail Park. This is near the front entrance to the retail park. Take the lift to the first floor and follow the hallway round to the right.
- Seating – There are benches approximately every 200 m along the lakeside path. Beyond the picnic area, approximately halfway along the return path, there is a single bench. There is also seating at Fox Valley Retail Park.

Description

A lakeside route through larch woods, opening out into deciduous woodland. There are views southwest across the water to the moors. The off-road path is between 1.5 and 2.5 m wide and generally flat, with some short gradients.

This route was formally opened on 4th July 2008 by Linda McAvan MEP.



Access Information

Road/off road: The whole route is off-road.

Surface: The surface is compacted gravel, suitable for wheelchairs. There is a textured surface at the entrance to the route from the car park (1).

The only part of the route where the surface is less accessible is just after the entrance, where it is slightly pitted and there are some loose stones (2).

Width of path: The path is between 1.5 and 2.5 m wide

Camber: In a few places there is a slight camber on the downhill side

Gradients: The path is mainly flat; however, there are several gradients 20/30 m long of approximately 1:10 – 1:12. One of these gradients at the start (3).



Rails / edges: On the uphill side of the path, for most of the route there are foliage, tree roots, rocks, and an earth bank along the side of the path. On the downhill side, for most of the route there is a foliage-covered steep slope between the path and the reservoir. At the bottom of the slope a stone wall runs along the edge of the reservoir parallel with the path.

Along some stretches of the route there is a wooden strip level with the ground, which marks the edge of the path (4). Along other stretches, there is no edging between the side of the path and the downhill slope (5).



Along the first ¼ mile / 1/3 km of the return path there is a shallow drainage ditch on one side of the path (6).

Apart from this stretch, there is foliage along the edges of the return path.

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

Obstacles: There are no stiles or narrow plank bridges. There are no tree roots across the path. At the time of writing there were no obvious overhanging branches.



Route Instructions

1. There are two entrances to the route from the car park. As you look towards the reservoir, one is on your left (1a, 1b) and the other to your right. Both are wheelchair accessible and take you via a short slope down to the main path.



2. Continue along the lakeside path, with the water on your left, for approximately 1 mile / 1.6 km (2).
3. After about a mile there is a short gradient and a stretch of deciduous woodland before the path divides. Take the upper path (3).
4. After 50 m, you reach a small junction (4).
5. In front of you is a pleasant grassy open area with a picnic bench.



6. Take the path to the right (6).
7. This continues through the woods for approximately 1/3 mile / ½ km (7). Follow the main path as it bears round to the right, ignoring a signed footpath which descends to your left.



8. You then reach a junction. Take the right hand path (8). (The left path leads up to the A616 which is visible approximately 200 m ahead of you).
9. Continue along this path for approximately ¼ mile / 1/3 km.



10. You reach another junction. Again, take the right hand fork (10). This descends, then ascends before bearing right and taking you out of the larch woods. It runs alongside fields parallel to the A616. There is a stone wall on your right.
11. Follow the path, with fields on your left and the wooded slope down to the reservoir on your right (11).
12. After approximately 2/3 mile / 1 km you will return to Langsett Barn car park (12).



Historical Notes and Points of Interest

The name 'Langsett' first appears in a 1252 charter which tells of an agreement, whereby Walter de Houdham granted his whole manor at Langside to Elias de Midhope. It was originally an agricultural community.

[Langsett Barn](#) is owned by [Yorkshire Water](#). It is used as a [Peak Park](#) Ranger centre and is also available for community hire. It is of timber frame construction, with a stone dated 1621 on the gable end. However, some details, such as the narrow church style windows give the impression of a much earlier medieval building like a tithe barn. It was one of several barns in the locality used for storing various arable crops and hay used for winter stock feed. The big double doors would have allowed fully loaded horse-drawn carts to enter and unload.



[Langsett Reservoir](#) was constructed between 1889 and 1905 and is now managed by Yorkshire Water. Supplying water to Sheffield and Barnsley, it is around a mile long, with an area of 51 hectares, a depth of 29 m and a volume of 1,400 million gallons. A temporary village of corrugated iron huts was built near Langsett village to house construction workers. This included hospital, canteen and recreational facilities.

Cut Gate is an ancient right of way which was used by farmers to get from the Hope, Derwent and Woodlands valleys to Penistone market. Originally it ran down the centre of what is now Langsett Reservoir and had to be re-routed over Brook House Bridge in 1904 when the reservoir was constructed.

During WW2, [the Langsett area](#) was used as a training area in preparation for the 1944 Normandy landings. In addition to a training range for tanks, armoured cars and artillery guns, it was also a test range for experimental shells. The car park has some interpretation boards with more information. For example, at (11) you can see the concrete remains of two of the five bases for a catenary defence mast.



Reference: Hey, D. (1979) [The Making of South Yorkshire](#). Moorland Publishing, Ashbourne.



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