



# WALKERS ARE WELCOME

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**Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome**

[www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk](http://www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk)

## Medium Walk: The Wigtwizzle Bridleway

- Length – 6 miles
- Grade - mostly well-defined paths, stiles and steady ascents
- Start – on New Road at the SW corner of Broomhead Reservoir
- Grid reference - SK 255 959
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking - on a small lay-by
- Public transport – none close by
- Refreshments – none on the route
- Public Toilets – none on the route



### Description

This route is a pair of circular walks which are linked by the Wigtwizzle Bridleway. This was formally opened in April 2014 (see photo). The project was funded by the [Paths for Communities Fund](http://www.pathsforcommunities.org.uk) and managed by [Steel Valley Project](http://www.steelvalleyproject.org.uk) (SVP) staff, with work carried out by SVP volunteer trainees supporting the contractor, Frost Plant Hire. The route originally came from a suggestion by Terry Howard who worked in the woodlands in the 60's and 70's. It is also known as 'Lucky's Lane.' You will walk on [Yorkshire Water](http://www.yorkshirewater.co.uk) permissive paths (woodland bordering reservoirs) and other good quality paths.



### Route Instructions

1. Take the track, into the woods. After 20 m, turn left
2. After 200 m, you will reach the start of the Wigtwizzle Bridleway (SK 255 958). Turn right (2)
3. When you reach the top of the bridleway (SK 252 951), turn right onto Lee Lane and head towards Wigtwizzle for about 500 m



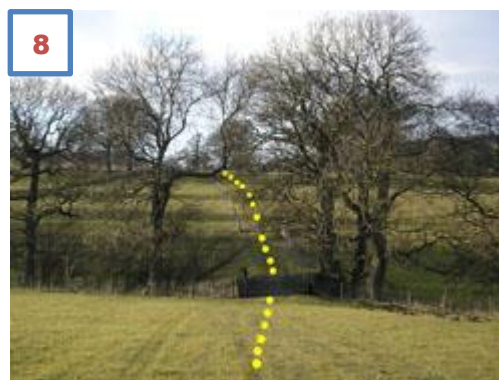
4. At the junction with Moor Lane continue along Lee Lane. Just beyond the next junction there is a sign posted stone stile (5) into, what was once, the grounds of Broomhead Hall
5. Cross the stile and continue ahead, crossing a small stream. Continue in an approximately straight line, cross another stream, and veering slightly to the right aim for the metal gate in the stone wall
6. At the gate in the wall continue across the same field keeping the wall to your right. The path swings slightly to the left, heading in a north westerly direction.



*This field is the site of the annual Broomhead Show. It is also the site of Broomhead Hall, the former home of the Rimington Wilson family. The original Broomhead Hall originated in the 14th century. A second, the home of the staunch Parliamentarians Christopher and Mary Wilson, took its place in 1640. The last building, erected by the James Rimington (1786-1839) in 1831, remained empty and derelict for many years before its demolition.*

*In the latter part of World War II, British planes used the Langsett, Ewden, Bradfield and Derwent Reservoirs for practice runs. Wing Commander Guy Gibson, the Commanding Officer of 617 Squadron, who led the "Dam Busters" raid, stayed with the Rimington Wilson family at Broomhead Hall, to oversee the practices.*

7. As you pass over the slight brow you will see the path continue up the hill through a couple of gates and over a bridge (8)
8. Look out for the blue signs marking the footpath
9. Continue up the hill aiming to go to the right of the farm buildings (9)
10. After passing the farm building you will reach a large stone wall with a stile in the left corner
11. Cross the stile and follow the path and cross another stile onto the farm lane. When you reach Mortimer Road, turn left



*If you wish, you could extend your walk by progressing onto Broomhead Moor (see Medium Walk 5)*

12. Go about 1.5 km along the road past the junction with Moor Lane until you reach the junction of Mortimer and Penistone Road (SK 245 948). This stretch of road was part of the Tour de France route on 6<sup>th</sup>. July 2014



*At this junction is an old milestone. This is likely to have existed before the construction of Mortimer Road as it is dated 1740. It shows directions and distances to Penistone, Sheffield, Hope and Bradfield. It is marked in 'Yorkshire miles' (ten furlongs), not Imperial miles (8 furlongs).*

13. At the junction enter through the farm gate (13) and go down the bridle path, between the stone walls
14. Follow the track through the farmyard (Old Booth Farm) and down to the road junction





On your right is 'The Canyards,' a 64.1 hectare (158.4 acre) biological and geological site of Special Scientific Interest which was notified in 1990.

This site possesses the most impressive examples in England and Wales of 'ridge-and-trough' or 'tumbled ground'. Beneath a 10 m high cliff, the north-facing valley side is a chaotic mass of sub-parallel ridges, separated by intervening narrow areas of marshy ground. The site is formed in Upper Carboniferous Millstone Grit and has innumerable small Millstone Grit blocks taking up a large landslip.

15. Then follow the bridleway downhill. When you reach the bottom of the bridleway, turn right
16. After 150 m, you reach a metal gate. Turn right onto Dwarriden Lane. Take the next left turn (SK 258 955) passing the Dwarriden Cruck Barn on your left (16)

*Originally built in the 16<sup>th</sup>. Century, this Grade II listed building was restored in 1991.*

17. Follow the path through the woods until you reach New Road (SK 263 955)

*If you wish to shorten our route, take the marked path into the woods which is directly opposite. Then, descending, follow the path, then the road until you reach a T junction with Broomhead Reservoir directly ahead of you. Cross the road and passing through the entrance, turn left onto the path alongside the reservoir, re-joining our route at (24) (SK 259 957).*

18. Turn right onto the road, uphill. Ignore the paths to the left, into the woods. About 200 m after the end of the woods on your left, as the road begins to bend to the right, by the buildings, take the marked path (no.12) off to your left (SK 271 954)
19. The path drops down through a field. Keep the small copse on your left and drop to the far corner before passing over a stile (20) (SK 273 955). Descend down the track for 100 m, then take the stone stile on your left
20. After 10 m, turn left over the stone stile (21). This stile is very easy to miss. Do not proceed ahead into the farmyard.
21. Descend across two fields until you reach Jack Lane, turn right. After 100 m, turn left through the gap in the fence. Turn left, keeping More Hall Reservoir on your right until the path opens out onto New Mill Bank
22. Turn left for 50 m, then take the bridleway on your right into 'Horse Wood' (22)

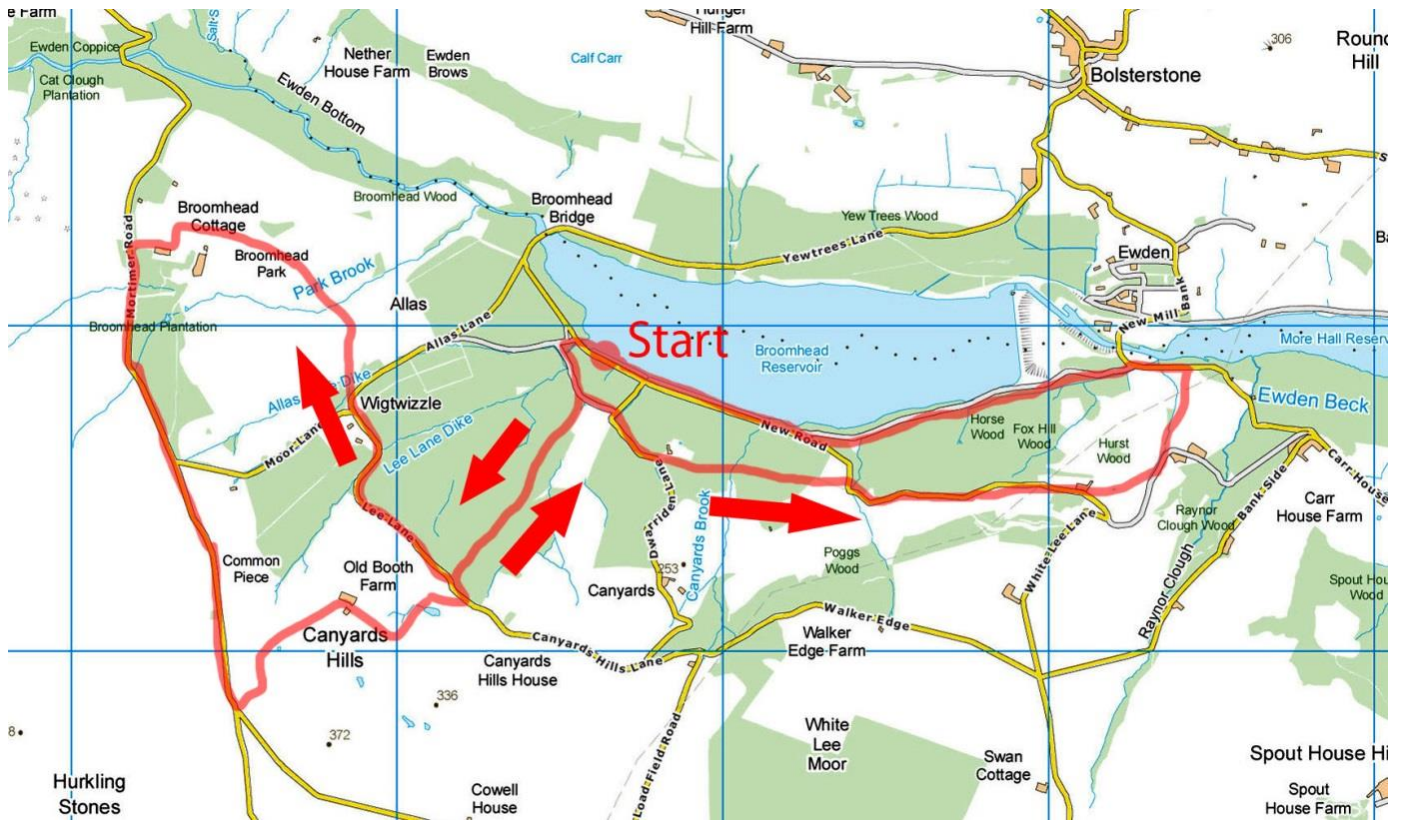


23. After a gentle ascent, continue to follow this path along the southern side of Broomhead Reservoir
24. When the path meets New Road go through the gap in the fence on your right and, turning left, continue along the permissive path towards the top of the reservoir
25. Immediately after a stretch of planks, leave this path (26), cross the road and return to our start point



This walk is sponsored by Simon Blyth:





[www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk](http://www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk)



Historical information on the area is available from Stocksbridge and District History Society: <http://www.stocksbridgehs.co.uk/>

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

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