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It is distributed in association with [Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership](#)

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Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk

Medium Walk: Midhope Moor Circular from Underbank

- Length – 6.5 miles
- Grade – Some well defined paths, rough ground and stiles, steep in sections. Moors can become boggy.
- Start - Yorkshire Water Underbank Reservoir Car Park, Oaks Lane, Stocksbridge S36 4GH
This is adjacent to the '[Underbank Outdoor Centre.](#)'
- Grid Reference - SK 246 991
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking - Car Park (free)
- Public transport – The 57 terminates at Unsliven Bridge, allowing you to walk along the southern bank of Underbank Reservoir before joining our route at the start
- Refreshments – [Mustard Pot Inn](#), Midhopestones
- Public Toilets – none

Description

This is a varied walk which includes woods, fields and open moorland. You cross an eighteenth century turnpike route, and pass through both ancient woodland and a World War Two shooting range, before returning via a medieval church. This route crosses access land. Hence, the land owner has the right to close the land for up to 28 days a year, and can also ban dogs all year. On some occasions, the gate at (11) may be pad-locked, necessitating a climb.



Garlic House Farm, seen from just south of Millstones Wood, looking SW (8)

Route Instructions

1. Passing through the car park, go up the access lane to the road.
2. Go right onto the road (Oakes Lane). After 100 m, take the marked public footpath, on your left, through the gateway (2) up the hill into the woods.
3. Follow the path through the woods and over a stile into a field. Cross two fields. Passing between stone gateposts, continue ascending across a third field. Pass through a wooden gate and continue along the ridge with the fence and wall to your left.
4. Follow the path as it swings left and eventually reaches Long Lane.
5. Cross Long Lane and go through the gate (5) onto the wide path which runs across Whitwell Moor, with Millstones Wood to your right.
6. After 500 m, there are two upright stones (6). Turn right and go straight down the wood to the little gate in the south west corner.
7. Descend across the field perpendicularly away from the woods. After the next stile turn right, following the edge of the fields until you reach Mortimer Road.

Mortimer Road, also known as the Strines Road, was a turnpike road constructed by an Act of Parliament of 1771, following the line of an ancient packhorse route known as Halifax Gate which ran between North Derbyshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire. It was built at the instigation of Hans Winthrop Mortimer, Lord of the Manor of Bamford, and completed around 1777.

Mortimer wished to link Grindleford with the market town of Penistone to increase trade in wool and agricultural produce. Mortimer Road would link at Penistone with the Doncaster – Barnsley – Woodhead – Manchester Road, turnpiked in 1740 and the Sheffield – Huddersfield – Halifax road, turnpiked in 1777. At Grindleford it linked with the Sheffield – Ringinglow – Fox House – Buxton road, constructed in 1758.

8. Turn right onto the road. After about 50 m, turn left over the stile by the gate onto a well-made track (8). This leads to Ewden Height.
9. Keep following this track. After about 1 km, on your right, you will reach the remains of a series of three brick-built World War Two structures (9).



During the Second World War, this area was used by Canadian Servicemen as a training area in preparation for D-day in 1944. The brick outlines are the remnants of winch houses which were used to move targets across these shooting ranges. The targets, known as hornets, resembled tanks and were made from wood and canvas.

The main tank used on the ranges was the American "Sherman" which fired mainly 20 lb., 75 mm solid shot.

Views from the moors include [Emley Moor transmitting station](#) and [Royd Moor Wind farm](#). The 1,084 feet (330 m) tall concrete tower at Emley is the tallest freestanding structure in the UK. It is also a Grade II listed building. The [Royd Moor Wind Farm](#) consists of thirteen 500 kW turbines. Completed in 1993, at a cost of £6.3 M, the turbines are 35 m tall and have a rotor diameter of 37 m.



10. After the ruins continue along the track to the metal gate (10). Turn right before the gate and follow the line of the fence down the hill. Follow the line of the fence as it turns left. Langsett Reservoir, the Woodhead Pass and Holme Moss transmitter are in the distance ahead. When the fence meets another fence turn right and follow the fence north up a slight rise. Midhope reservoir will come into view. Follow the path down the moor keeping the wall to your left. The ground is uneven, hence, it is prudent to follow the path which runs parallel to a line of grouse butts on your right.

11. When you reach the road, pass through a metal gate (11). The gate may be pad-locked: in which case, you will need to climb over. Turn left. Continue along Gill Royd Lane, keeping Spring Moor on your left.



You will reach a clump of trees on your left (see photo). At this point, on the other side of the wall, are the remains of a WWII tank washing area. When the tanks returned from the moors, they were washed in order to remove mud and peat. This installation has been unused for a considerable number of years and has trees growing through the wooden remains.



12. Continue. The road is renamed as Shaw Lane. After passing the SW corner of Midhope Reservoir, the road rises and then as the road swings to the left take the signed path, to the right, up the hill to Upper Midhope (12). On reaching the road turn right and then after a few metres the next right, keeping the reservoir on your right. You will join Midhope Lane.

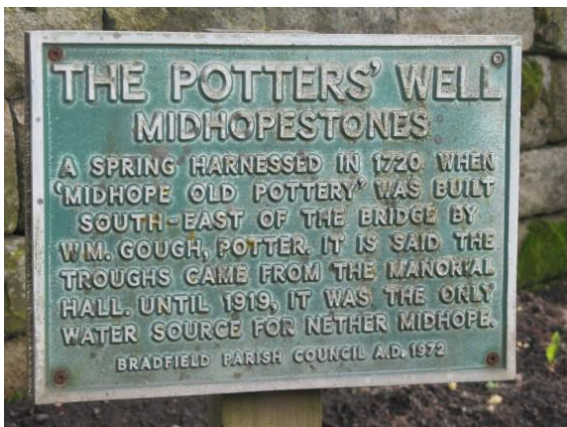


13. Turn right onto Midhope Hall Lane and follow the road, for about one kilometre, as it slowly descends into the village of Midhopstones.



On your left, you will pass St. James' Church, a Grade II listed building. Foundations were laid around 1360 by the Barnby family of Cawthorne. It was owned by Puritans between 1622 and 1690 falling into disrepair. The church was restored in 1705 by Godfrey Bosville. He had his coat of arms along with his and his wife Bridget's initial carved above the porch door as a sign that he regarded the church as his personal family chapel. Until 1847 services at St James' were performed by clergy from St Mary's Church, Bolsterstone.

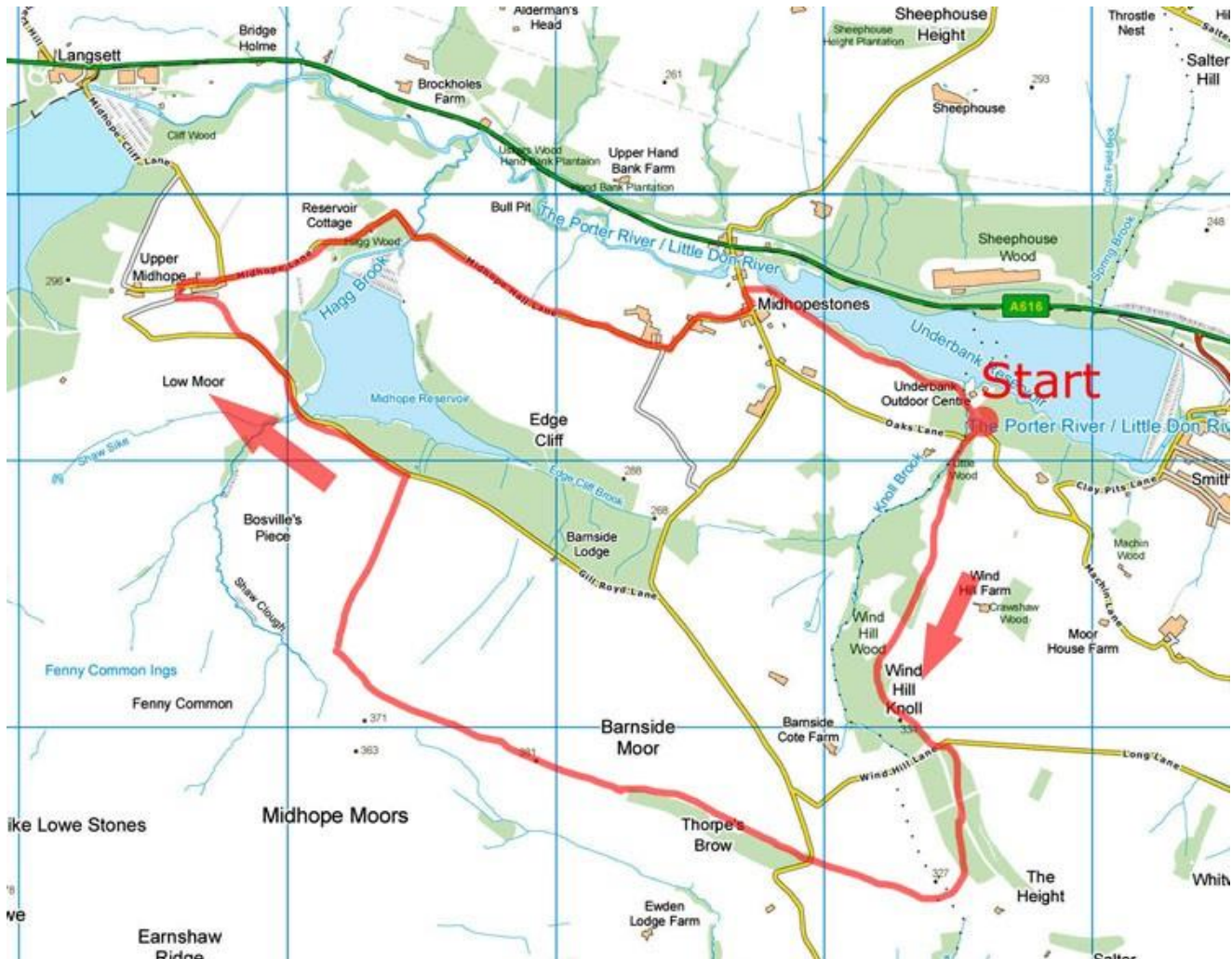
1978 renovations included lowering the pulpit, replacing brass candlesticks and cross with wrought iron and the removal of the front box pews. The oak was used to make inner doors and a desk and chair for the priest.



15. When you reach the [Mustard Pot Inn](#), turn left, then after about 100 m, take the right turn through the gate onto the path along the Southern side of Underbank Reservoir.

This right turn is just after the remains of 'The Potters' Well Midhopestones.' Originally harnessed in 1720, until 1919, this was the only water source for Midhopstones. The residents of Midhopestones did not receive piped water until the mid-1930s.

16. Follow this path until you reach '[Underbank Outdoor Centre](#).' Then turn right to return to the start point.



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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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