



WALKERS ARE WELCOME

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Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

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Medium Walk: Midhopestones/Thurlstone Circular

- Length – 6.5 miles
- Grade - Mostly well-defined paths, Trans-Pennine Trail (TPT), stiles and steady ascents
- Start - Midhopestones
- Grid Reference – SK 236 977
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking - Midhopestones
- Public transport – the 23 Barnsley/Penistone service uses the A616 as does the South Pennine Community Transport 257 (Holmfirth/Stocksbridge, Wednesdays only)
- Refreshments – [Huntsman](#) (Thurlstone), [Ye Olde Mustard Pot](#) (Midhopestones), Cafes, pubs and shops in Penistone,
- Public Toilets – none on the route

Description

This circular walk takes you from Midhopestones to the edge of Penistone before a steep final descent. The first section follows the railway line used in the construction of Langsett Reservoir. We then climb across by Hartcliff Hill before dropping down to the Trans-Pennine Trail (TPT) at Thurlstone. The route then follows the trail before skirting Cubley and descending via Judd Field.



The village of Midhopestones, as seen from (21)

Route Instructions

1. From Midhopestones, cross the (busy) A616. Walk up Mortimer Road, under the ex-railway bridge (1), then take the path to your left. Follow this round until you reach the path along the disused railway track. This path runs parallel with the A616
2. Turn right in the direction of Langsett



This railway built during the construction of Langsett Reservoir between (1889-1905). Midhopestone did not receive piped water until the mid-1930s. You can see a large building situated at the crossroad. This was originally The 'Rose and Crown' public house. It was built by William Payne (1760-1831), Lord of the Manor of Langsett, following the construction of the 1804 Wadsley to Langsett turnpike. The year, '1811' is marked on the rear. It closed as a half-way house in 1876 and has since been converted into private dwellings ('Midhope Court').

3. Continue along the old railway for 1.6 km, passing through three gates, over three bridges and one stile and across farm tracks
4. The path opens out onto a low embankment with views towards Langsett on your left. There are also some bungalows. There are two telegraph poles along the centre of the path. About 20 m after the second telegraph pole, take the marked path down to the right, over the wooden stile (4). This may be partially hidden
5. The path rises towards the electricity pylon in the next field (5). Pass between two stone gateposts and go up into the field with the pylon
6. Keeping the wall on your right, progress over the stone stile hidden in the hedge at the top corner of the field (6)
7. Cross the next field and go through the narrow entry into the field beyond, Bearing half left, continue into the next field, passing between two old stone gateposts (7)
8. Continue up to Netherhouse Farm. Go to the left of the farm buildings, through the gate in the top right corner of the field and then over the stone stile. Cross the lane and then go through the little gate which is directly opposite
9. Cross the field up to Lower Belle Clive farm. Pass through the gate and follow the lane up to the road
10. Turn right and go along the road (Hartcliffe Road) for 100 m to the signed brideway to the left (10) (SE 220 017)
11. Passing between two stone gateposts, follow the brideway through the woods until you reach a wooden gate (11). Pass through this gate and continue, keeping the stone wall on your right. Royd Moor wind farm is away to your left.
12. Cross one field, pass through a wooden gate and continue between two stone walls. At the end of the brideway (Bank House Farm), turn right up the lane (Hill Side Lane). After 250 m, take the signed footpath to your left (12)





13. Continue following this path as it descends steeply through mixed woodland and fields. At the end of the path, turn right onto the lane (13), continuing to descend

14. Join the TPT (SE 213 034), turning right (East) towards Penistone.

From the TPT, there are signed routes to both Thurlstone and Royd Moor View Point. Thurlstone has a history in the wool trade. This began in the 1700's with cottage-based handloom weavers and continued to the 1930's with the development of woollen mills.



15. About 250 m after passing under a road bridge, turn right off the TPT, passing through a metal gate (15) (SK 235 033)

16. Follow the footpath across two fields. At the gateway switch to the opposite side of the wall. Continue in the same direction but with the wall now on your left. At the corner of the field, turn right, keeping the stone wall on your left. At the next field junction, turn left, over the stone stile (16)

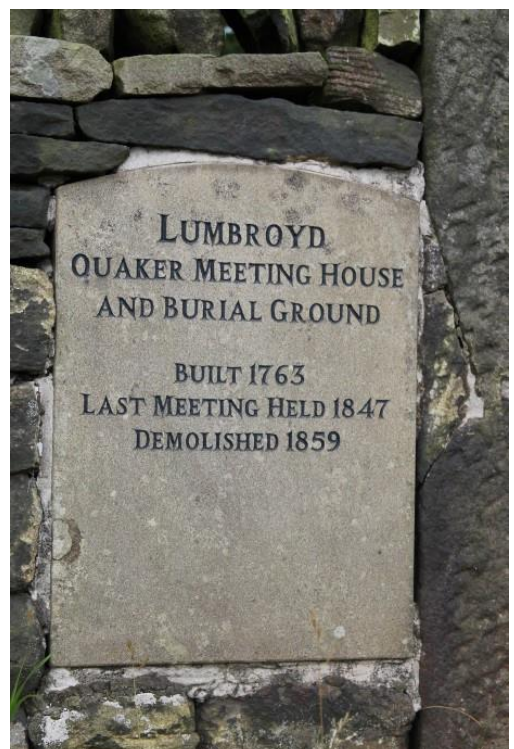


The dry stone walls in this area were built after the 1816 Thurlstone Enclosure Act when the fields were created out of commons and waste land.

17. Cross two fields, separated by a stone stile, then turn left onto a farm track. After 250 m, at the T-junction, turn right (Schole Hill). After, 100 m, turn left onto Hartcliffe Road, then immediately right onto Brock Holes Lane

After 25 m, on your left is a commemorative stone to Lumbroyd, a Quaker Meeting House, originally built in 1763 and demolished in 1859. The largest donation towards the original build came from John Sanderson of Midhope, a generous £6 5s 0d.

18. Take the next left (Joan Royd Lane), cross the bridge over Coal Pit Dyke, and bearing right, continue up Doubting Lane. About 300 m after passing Joan Royd House on your right, take the marked bridleway on your right (18)



19. After 700 m, at the T-junction, go left onto Mossley Road, then right onto the track. At the top of the hill, both Midhope and Langsett reservoirs are visible away to your right
20. Follow the track as it slowly descends. Cross over the stone stile at Lower Judd Field (20). After one field, cross a stone stile, down stone steps and continue between two stone walls.

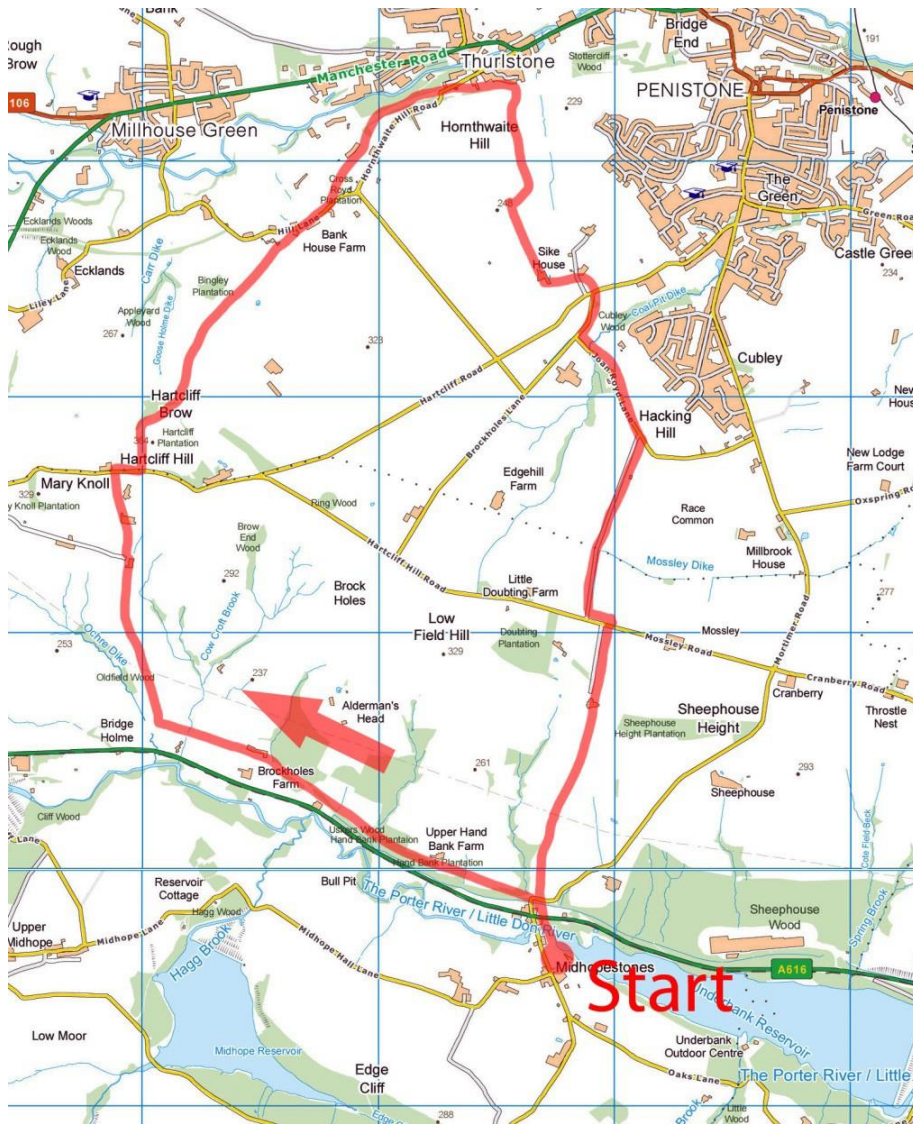
This path is an earlier packhorse route which was replaced by [Mortimer Road](#). Also known as the Strines Road, this was a turnpike road (1771 Act of Parliament), following the line of an ancient packhorse route (Halifax Gate) which ran between North Derbyshire and the West Riding. It was built at the instigation of Hans Winthrop Mortimer, Lord of the Manor of Bamford, and completed around 1777.

On the latter part of the descent, there are signs of its previous use as an old road, which has been eroded by the constant passage of traffic. The Causey stones (the base of the track) can just be seen.

21. Continue downwards through a kissing gate into a field. Midhopestones is directly ahead. A stone stile takes you into the next field (21). At the end of the field, the path swings slightly to the right before passing through a small metal gate and continuing downhill through woodland.
22. After two wooden stiles, you will reach Mortimer Road, Turn right and, crossing the A616, return to Midhopestones



On 6th July 2014, the second stage of the Tour de France passed through Midhopestones, riders commencing the 341 m, Côte de Midhopestones.



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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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