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Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk

Medium Walk: Deepcar/Green Moor/Hunshelf/Fox Valley Circular

- Length – 5.5 miles (8.7 km)
- Grade - Country lanes, woods and fields with well-marked paths. Includes a mix of both gentle and steep climbs. Can be very muddy in parts
- Start – Station Road, Deepcar (1), Green Moor (9) or [Fox Valley](#) (22)
- Grid Reference – SK 290 980, SK 282 994, SK 274 986
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking – start
- Refreshments – [Fox Valley](#), Stocksbridge
- Public Toilets –
- Public Transport – SL1, SL1a, 57 pass close to Deepcar and Fox Valley. 23a and 24 bus routes pass through Green Moor

Description

Starting in Deepcar, this walk of contrasts takes you through woods, close to the River Don and then up to Green Moor. We then skirt along a recently designated path on Hunshelf Bank before providing using a recently constructed brideway. You then return passing through a shopping centre on your return to Deepcar.



'The Story of Steel,' Fox Valley (18)

Route Instructions

1. Go to the end of Station Road and turn right onto Wortley Road, the A6102. Pass under the railway bridge and then take the footpath on your right.

This line was originally privately built in 1877 to transport steel and goods and to link with the national rail network. It continues to carry freight.

2. Passing under electricity cables, this path leads to the River Don. Turn left along the bank. Cross the bridge (2) and turn left. You will pass under the Stocksbridge by-pass, the A616, before emerging back onto Wortley Road.

The bridge was rebuilt in 2014. There are often dippers on this stretch of river: black with a white throat and breast. When perched on rocks they habitually bob up and down and frequently cock their tail.



3. Turn left, along the road, over the bridge and right onto the marked footpath. This takes you alongside the Don towards the Tin Mill ponds.

These ponds were associated with the Wortley Tin Mill which was established c1743, closing in 1860. The site is a rare example of an early tin plate manufactory, particularly outside of Wales, and is possibly the most northerly 18th.century tin mill known in England. Despite its conversion to a rolling mill by the 19th.century, when it was adapted for rolling iron bars and plates, the complex does not appear to have significantly altered from its original layout. On your right, you will pass the ruins of the wire mill, a rolling mill and three workshops.



4. Continue until you reach the River Don at the Wortley Leppings (SK 297 991).

This is an ancient crossing point. Originally called the "Wortley Leppings", the old wooden bridge has long been replaced. You can also see the paved surface of the ford.



5. Retrace your steps. Pass two old gate posts on your left and bear left. Do not follow the river bank, opposite the marker post, take the right turn up the hill (Holly Hall Lane) (5).

This part of an old trading route still retains the profile associated with a "Holloway" worn away by narrow wheeled vehicles over many years.

6. After a steep 100 m, the track reaches three stone gateposts. Take the left fork, up through the rhododendron bushes (6). The path climbs up-hill following the ridge. Through the trees, down to your left you may be able to see Tin Mill Dam.
7. The path becomes less steep as a stone wall and field appears on your right. Just after the third field, the path goes up some wooden steps onto a lane, by Holly Hall. Go right along Holly Hall Lane.
8. At the T-junction with Well Hill Road, turn left and progress up to Green Moor.



The red ex-telephone box is the Green Moor lending library. In 2012, Hunshelf Parish Council helped to secure the traditional red box from British Telecom for £1.00. It is stocked with books, local information and leaflets.

The small stone roofed building is Green Moor Pump House (well). Originally built in 1904, this provided water for the village until 1951. A 30' vertical ladder and a 20' stone passage provide access to the well head. It is managed by English Heritage who periodically allow access for visitors, especially at the annual [Heritage Open Days Weekend](#).

On the opposite side of the road are the Ivy Millennium Green (2002) and the stocks. The latter were originally situated near Peck Pond and were re-erected to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI on 12th.May 1937.



9. Opposite the Millennium Green, take the marked left turn into Green Moor Delf, passing the telephone box (see image) on your left (SK 282 995).
10. After 50 m take the left fork. Continue following the path, ignoring the next left fork. Keep the field on your right. At the end of the field, bear left. After 10 m, right. Left fork at the next junction.
11. If you want a short break, take the next left turn: 20 m to a bench. Otherwise continue, taking a left at the next junction. Then ascend up steps to a stile.
12. Cross the stile and diagonally right across the field to another stile. This brings you out onto Hunshelf Bank. Turn right.
13. After ~ 600 m, on your right, you will reach a sign: 'Public Footpath to Green Moor.' (13) Passing over the stile, follow these directions. After 10 m, you reach a toposcope (a circular metal viewpoint on a stone plinth – erected 2002).



The map points out, to the east, the power stations close to the A1: Ferrybridge, Eggborough and Drax. To the west, Hunshelf Bank drops steeply down to Stocksbridge.

14. Retrace your steps, cross the stile and turn right, along the ridge. When you pass through a gate (14), follow the path, half-left as it slowly descends. Passing Wellhouse Farm, drop down to Pea Royd Lane.
15. Turn left and over by-pass. Passing through a metal kissing-gate, take the path on your right. Follow the path round to the right and you will reach a view point (created 2009). This offers panoramic views over Deepcar and Stocksbridge.



16. Retrace your steps, then turn right onto the path (16a). Follow this path (16b), and continue, passing through a kissing gate until you reach a wider bridleway. Turn left.
17. Turn right passing the totem pole on your left, down the hill to Fox Valley.

Work started on [Fox Valley](#) in February 2014. It is a £42 million mixed use scheme on a former steelworks site. The retail development was opened by Joanna Lumley OBE in June 2016.

18. Either: (1) follow the road (Fox Valley Road), keeping the shops on your right and take the first right turn (Samuel Fox Avenue) **OR** (2) enter the Shopping Centre (18) and walk through until you reach Aldi.

On your right is a series of large information boards which outline the story of steel in Stocksbridge (see image).

19. Turn left and follow the path round the edge of the building. You now enter the [Stonebridge Homes Fox Valley](#) housing development. Turn right, then first left. Follow the road, then as the road bends to the right, follow the marked path on your left, keeping the houses on your right. The river emerges from a tunnel on your right. When you reach a footbridge:



EITHER

20a. Ignore the bridge and turn left up the hill, keeping the concrete wall on your right (20a). At the end of the wall, you pass through a wooden kissing gate. Keep ascending, between two fences (20a).

21a. When you reach the top, after the wooden steps, turn right through a wooden kissing gate into Ellen Cilffe Farm. Pass through the farm yard (where duck eggs may be on sale) and follow the track. On your right is Deepcar. You then descend through woods and cross the railway track (21a).



OR

22b. Cross the bridge. After a further 50 m, you cross the train tracks. Pass through a green gate, then take the left turn along the Little Don Cycleway Link. This opened in summer 2018 and initially is parallel to the river.



23b. Follow this track over the river. You will pass a metal gate. After a further 200 m, you rejoin our route (23b).

26. Descend to Wortley Road. Turn right and return to your start point on Station Road.



Fox Valley was the site of the finish of the 2017 Tour de Yorkshire cycle race.

The final stage (194.5 km) of this 3-day event took place on Sunday 30th.April.





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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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Layout, photos and text: Dave Pickersgill

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