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Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk

Medium Walk: A walk from Wortley to Westwood Country Park

- Length - 7.5 miles
- Grade - Mostly well marked paths over rolling farmland and woodland. Some muddy sections. The route crosses a number of busy roads.
- Start - Park Avenue, Wortley
- Grid Reference - SK 308 993
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking - street parking in Wortley village
- Public transport - numbers 23 and 29 bus routes pass through Wortley
- Refreshments – [Countess Tea Rooms](#), [Wortley Arms](#), [Wortley Club](#), [Wortley Hall](#) (all in Wortley).
The Club was CAMRA National 'Club of the Year' in 2015
- Public Toilets – none

Description - A walk over open farmland and through woodland. From Wortley village, the route passes across farmland before dropping into the woodland of Westwood Country Park. We then return through the village of Howbrook and Wharncliffe woods.



Wortley Hall (2)

Route Instructions

1. From the centre of Wortley, head east down Park Avenue, passing '[Wortley Village Stores](#)' on your right.
2. Take the right fork down The Flats (2). The left fork leads to Wortley Hall.

You may divert into the grounds of Wortley Hall, the ancestral home of the Earls of Wharncliffe, the Lords of the Manor of Wortley. The Hall fell into decay until the mid-18th.century when Edward Wortley commissioned



rebuilding. Further repairs and extensions to the Hall were made mainly during the Victorian period. During WW2, parts of the Hall were occupied by the Army. After 1945, it again began to fall into a state of disrepair until it was acquired in 1950 by the Labour and Co-operative movement who transformed it into a training college.

It is currently a hotel, restaurant and wedding venue.

3. Follow The Flats. You pass through ornate wrought iron gates (3) as you progress into the Wharcliffe Estate and open country.
4. Follow the track for about a mile until it ends at Westwood Lodge (c.1700) and a bend in the road. This bend is the junction between Carr Lane and Westwood Lane. There is an interpretation board on your right.
5. Our path runs parallel to Westwood Lane which is the road to your right. Cross the road and pick up the path (5). As you turn to the right, there are a couple of small arrows pointing over a small wooden bridge.
6. Keeping roughly parallel to the road, follow the path down through the woods until it opens out by the road at a bridge under the Stocksbridge by-pass, the A616.
7. Go under the A616 and then take the footpath up the lane immediately on the left (7). The path passes to the right of the metal gate.
8. After ~100 m take the wide track, on your right, into the woods (8).
9. Follow the track through the woods. You will pass under one set of electricity wires. The track swings slowly to the left before opening out onto Westwood New Road, the A61. This is a busy road with fast moving traffic.
10. Carefully, cross the road taking the path opposite and down steps into the wood.
11. Follow the path down through the woods. Other paths intersect. Keep heading in the same general southerly direction and downhill. As the path reaches the stream it swings left and heads east. Don't worry if you seem to be getting off-track. After crossing a field, you will reach Greaves Lane. Turn right.
12. Go over the bridge (12) and then past the houses.
13. Shortly after the houses and before the next property, take the marked footpath on the right



over the wooden stile (13). This path may be overgrown.

14. Go along the bottom edge of the field. At the end of the field there are two wooden frames which are built in order to allow walkers to pass under the electric fence.
15. Go through the frame, down the concrete steps and over the bridge over the stream.
16. Follow the path up and then up the steps back to the A61, a busy road with fast moving traffic.
17. Go right for 50 m up the road, then cross the road to the marked footpath opposite (17) and down into the fields.
18. Go along the path for ~200 m, with the hedge and stream on your right. This path is not well trod and the next turn is easily missed.
19. When the hedge starts left and uphill, take the path through the hedge (19), slightly to the right of the heading of the first section on the path. After less than 100 m, you emerge into a field where there are a couple of footpath marker arrows.
20. Take the path up across the field, aiming to the left of the big tree on the horizon (20). Depending on crops, you may need to follow the edge of the field.
21. As you come over the crest there is a footpath marker at the start of a hedgerow. Follow the path keeping the hedge to your right.
22. Continue up the path until it opens out onto the road junction. Go left at the junction down the steep hill (Bromley Carr Road) towards the village of Howbrook. It is likely that the road sign at this junction will be pointing in the incorrect direction.
23. At the crossroads go straight across, and proceed down Berry Lane.
24. After 50 m, take the signed footpath to the right up the track to the buildings.
25. At the top of the track take the footpath between the house and the barn (25).
26. Follow the field boundary, keeping the hedge to your right. This field has an arable crop, so the exact line of the path will vary.



27. Near the crest of hill take the path across the field towards the telegraph pole in the middle of the field.
28. From the telegraph pole aim for the woodland which is ahead of you, which runs from the crest of the hill down to the valley (28). Depending on crops, you may need to follow the edge of the field.
29. Follow the edge of the woods down to the path which nestles in the bottom corner of the field. There are some way-markers at the bottom of a tree on your left and handrails which will aid your descent.
30. Then follow the path through the woods and up to the A629.
31. The path opens out onto the road with no pavement. Cross the road and take the signed path opposite.
32. Continue up the track to the gateway into the field.
33. Take the left footpath (33), following the field boundary, keeping the hedge to your left.
34. Cross the wooden stile and follow the path, keeping the hedge to your right as you go up hill.

The large house on the right is Carlton House. This was the home of the Dowager Countess of Wharnccliffe. It was formerly known as Cotefield and was the home of the Curates of Wortley until 1880/81. The next house (Cundy House) is thought to have been built in the 17th Century and to have been part of an old coaching inn on the main Sheffield-Halifax turnpike.

35. At the stone wall turn left and take the farm track up to Bank Lane. At Bank Lane turn right and then at the T-junction go left.

At the junction of Bank Lane and the Woodhead Road is the 'Cundy Cross.' The base of cross, a roughly-worked block of Gritstone, ~0.75 m square with a socket for a shaft is a Grade 2 listed building. It perpetuates the name of Curate Edmund Cundy, Curate at Wortley 1592-1623. Opposite this cross is an old milestone, with a 'different' spelling of 'Hudersfield.' The Woodhead Road was built in the early C18th. at the time of the first Lord Wharnccliffe.

36. After less than 50 m go down the track on the right, through the gate (36).
37. When the track swings right, take the footpath left, through the gate. Cross the field past the trees to the metal gate opposite. Go through the gate and turn right.



38. Follow the path up over the crest of the hill and then down into Wharncliffe woods, passing Wharncliffe Chase on your left.
39. Continue down through the woods. About 200 m after passing a large pond on your left, you will pass between two old gateposts before joining the main track through the woods as it slowly rises and bends gently to the right.
40. Continue along as the road drops down under the Stocksbridge Bypass (A616) (40).

The by-pass was originally seen as part of the 1980's M67 scheme which, at the time, planned to connect Manchester and Sheffield via a new motorway.

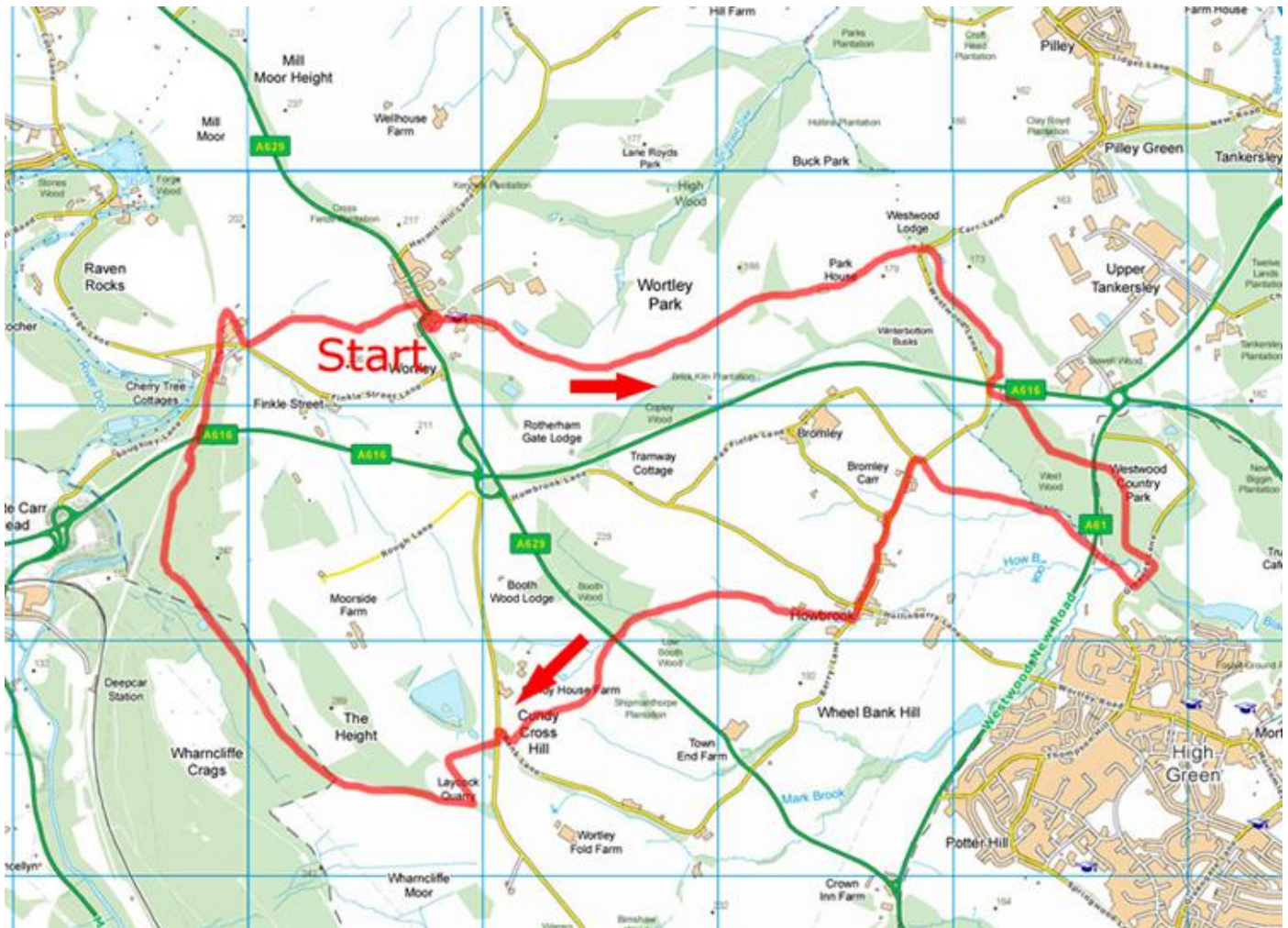
41. Immediately after emerging from the tunnel go through the stile on your left (41) and continue along the 'Upper Don Trail,' part of the Trans Pennine Trail.

Just after passing Mallard House Livery Stables on your right, you will pass the buildings of long closed, Wortley Station. These include the insignia (see below), of the long-defunct, 'Manchester, Sheffield & Lincoln Railway.' This was formed by amalgamation in 1847. It changed its name to the [Great Central Railway](#) and later became part of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway.

Wortley Station was in use for 110 years, from 1845 until 1955. Because of its proximity to Wortley Hall the station had a private waiting room for the use of the Earl of Wharncliffe, his family and visitors.

42. Before the over bridge take the track up to the right and past the car park.
43. Pass the farm buildings. About 20 m before the road, on your left, a stone stile leads to a footpath which heads off across the fields towards Wortley at the top of the hill (43). The first part of the path is paved.
44. Continue up the path (44) until your reach the main road, Halifax Road, the A629, cross the road and turn right, to return to your 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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