



WALKERS ARE WELCOME

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Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk

Medium Walk: Worsbrough circular

- Length – 6.5 miles
- Grade - Mostly well-defined paths, [Trans-Pennine Trail](#) (TPT), stiles and steady ascents
- Start – Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) Kendal Green Crossing car park near Wigfield Farm (1) or Worsbrough Mill car park (4)
- Grid Reference - SE 344 038, or SE 349 034
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking – TPT Kendal Green Crossing car park near Wigfield Farm (1), or Worsbrough Mill car park (4). There is a charge for the Worsbrough Mill car park, but no charge for the TPT car park
- Public transport – 66 to Worsbrough Mill (4) from Barnsley Interchange
- Refreshments – [Cock Inn](#) (Birdwell), [Edmunds Arms](#) (Worsbrough), Millers Tea Rooms ([Worsbrough Mill](#)), [Wigfield Farm](#)
- Public Toilets – Wigfield Farm, Worsbrough Mill

Description - This is a walk mostly along defined paths and quiet roads. Some paths can be boggy while other sections may be overgrown. There are short sections close to the M1 motorway. You will pass close to a number of interesting and historical sites: Rockley Engine House, Rockley Forge, Rockley Old Hall, Wigfield Farm and Worsbrough Mill.



Old Park Woods (14)

Route Instructions

1. Turn left (east) onto the TPT. Cross Haverlands Lane and continue.

The TPT was once part of the Woodhead railway route (Sheffield to Manchester). The railway closed in 1981. It is now part of the [Trans Pennine Trail \(TPT\)](#), a route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders linking the North and Irish seas, which passes through the Pennines, alongside rivers and canals and through historic towns and cities in the North of England.

2. After 150 m, at Wigfield Farm, leave the trail turning half-right towards Worsbrough Reservoir. On reaching the water, turn left, following the path alongside the reservoir.



- After about 250 m, turn right along the dam wall and over the spillway.

The sixty acre reservoir was built in 1804 to keep a head of water in the Worsbrough Spur of the Dearne & Dove Canal. It is a haven for wildlife and obtained Local Nature Reserve status in 2002.

To your right, at the base of the hill is a 'goyt' (stream). This was used to feed the Canal. It runs under both houses and the A61.

On your left, you will pass Worsbrough Mill, a C17th working water mill. C19th parts house a restored Hornsby Hot Bulb Engine. This was originally used to drive mill stones when water levels in the reservoir were low. Also on site is a gift shop and cafe.

- At the end of the dam wall, bear left, then right over a wooden bridge (4) then left for 20 m.
- Turn right over a wooden stile (5) and across a field before another stile and stone steps (possibly overgrown) which leads to the busy A61.
- Cross the road and follow the marked path, ascending, through woods, towards Worsborough Village. After 150 m, at the T-junction, bear right. After a further 100 m, about 10 m before a pair of stone gateposts, bear left, then right along the edge of a field.
- Pass through the large gap in the line of trees ahead of you (7) and cross the next field, aiming for the church tower. You will emerge into another field, bear left, then right onto Priory Close before a right into Worsbrough Village.
- Follow Worsbrough Road, passing the Edmunds Arms on your right and St.Mary's Church on your left.

St.Mary's Church dates from Saxon times. Many changes have resulted in a mixture of architectural styles. It contains the double decker oak tomb and figures of Sir Roger Rockley who died in 1553. The figures are said to have been covered with fine linen which was made to adhere closely to the wood before being painted.

- After 200 m, take the marked footpath off to the right (9), passing the cemetery on your left. Keeping houses to your left, cross two fields. The path bends to the right, over a stile, then descends to the A61.
- Cross the A61 and pass through the gap in the wall (10) into Birdwell Woods. Follow the path ahead, descending steeply. The path bends to the left, ascending and widening. At the T-junction, turn left, ascending back towards the A61.
- As you approach the A61, take the right turn (not the first, sharp right), descending. At the next T-junction, turn right towards the M1 motorway. After 200 m, turn left.
- When you reach the M1, turn left and follow Rockley Lane parallel to the motorway. After 10 m, turn right into the woods, following an unmarked path. After 400 m, you will emerge back onto Rockley Lane.
- Turn right and follow Pilley Lane over the M1. To visit the Cock Inn, do not turn right: follow Rockley Lane for a further 150 m. After the motorway bridge, take an immediate right turn onto a marked bridleway into Old Park Woods. This bridleway is likely to be muddy.
- At SE 335 014, when the bridleway bends to the right, leave on the path to your left (14).



15. Then at SE 332 014, take the right turn (15). Follow this path, taking two left forks. You emerge from the woods at a wooden stile. Cross the stile and bear left along the path which is between the fence and a hedge. This path turns to the right. It may be overgrown. You then emerge onto a road.
16. Turn right. You will pass two mill ponds on your left before reaching Stampers Hill. Turn left, then cross the road. Rockley Engine House (16) is in front of you. (SE 337 021)



16



This was built in 1813 by Darwin and Company (of Elsecar Ironworks) to house a Newcomen-type steam engine which was used to pump water from nearby iron workings. The engine ran for 14 years before the company went bankrupt, and the engine moved to nearby Chapletown. It was purchased by the Sheffield Trades Historical Society (now The South Yorkshire Industrial History Society) in 1957 and later excavated.

17. Continue past the Engine House, taking the path into the woods. Bear left over the footbridge, then right. Rockley Furnace is directly in front of you (17).



Built c1700, Rockley Furnace was part of a Yorkshire trade syndicate centred on the Spencers of Cannon Hall. It operated until 1741 with charcoal as fuel. It is thought that the furnace operated again c1790, using coke fuel, to produce gun casting.

Rockley Furnace made cast iron in the C18th, using ores mined in the same valley and charcoal from the surrounding woodlands. Archaeological excavations took place between 1978 and 1982. These indicate that molten iron was cast from the hearth (now missing) in the base of the furnace, into moulds in a bed of sand to the west. The pigs of iron which were formed would be sent to finery forges (eg. Wortley Top Forge), to be converted into bar iron.

18. Retrace your steps to the road and turn right onto Stampers Hill. After about 500 m, turn right onto Old Hall Road (18). Pass over the M1 motorway and take the immediate left turn, down steps, onto a marked footpath.

Rockley Old Hall was the site of the home of the Rockley family from the time of the Norman Conquest until about 1280 when it was lost by marriage to the Everingham family. The present Hall is an Elizabethan building which has been added to. It is a series of private residences, having previously functioned as an orphanage.

19. Cross the edge of the field, then turning right, cross the far side of the field. The path changes into a wider track.
20. At the crossroads, following the sign for Wigfield Farm, turn left, keeping the reservoir on your right.
21. 20 m after a wooden bridge, as the path bends to the right, follow the marked footpath, which is ahead of you, up stone steps and across a field to emerge on Haverlands Lane.
22. Cross the road and take the footpath directly opposite. After 100 m, turn right onto the TPT and return to the start point.



You may wish to divert into Wigfield Farm, a working farm which provides a base for Barnsley College courses in Horticulture and Animal care and an accessible Open Farm and Visitors Centre including café. Animals include: alpacas, cage birds, cattle, chinchillas, chipmunks, goats, guinea pigs, meerkats, pigs, poultry, rabbits, sheep and Shetland ponies.



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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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