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Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

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Medium Walk: Lady Cross and Woodhead Tunnels Walk

- Length – 7.5 miles (12 km)
- Grade - Well defined paths. Some rough ground and stiles. Steady climbs. Some rocky footing. Parts can be muddy and slippery in wet weather. There is one section of yomping across moorland.
- Start and Parking – Yorkshire Water, Windleden Lane Car Park SE 152 020. This car park is on Windle Edge, above Dunford Bridge.
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278/288
- Public transport – There are three bus routes to Dunford Bridge: 29 (Sheffield/Holmfirth), 401 (Millhouse Green/Penistone) and 491 (Millhouse Green/Dunford Bridge).
- Refreshments – none on this route
- Public Toilets – none on this route

Description - This walk has plenty of variety. We follow both an ancient packhorse route, and national trails, including the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT). We then reach open moorland, following the line of the Woodhead Railway Tunnels, via the line of three ventilator shafts which allowed the escape of smoke from steam trains.



The view towards Manchester (11)

Start:

1. Leave the car park and turn right onto the road (Windle Edge (1))
2. After 600 m turn left at the brideway sign (2) and descending, follow an, at times, muddy path downhill towards a wooden footbridge
3. Cross the bridge, continue descending then head up to the fence line. Upper Windleden Reservoir is on your left

Completed in 1890, Upper Windleden Reservoir was built by the Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Waterworks Board.

4. After crossing a second plank bridge, a slight descent brings a third plank bridge (4a) followed by a steep ascent to a wall/ fence junction with a wooden gate (4b)
5. Go through the gate bearing right and follow the path passing 3 guide posts and a solitary tree to reach a stone bridge. Follow the grassy path uphill to the Woodhead road, the A628. On your left is the South Nab trig point (461 m)
6. Leaving the Barnsley Boundary Walk, cross the road and, over the stile adjacent to a wooden gate (6), take the marked path opposite. Lasche quarries is on your left

TAKE CARE

The A628 is a major trunk road and can get very busy. It connects Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire by crossing the Pennines via the Woodhead Pass through the Peak District National Park. The height and the exposure of the road often creates problems during poor weather. It is occasionally closed due to snowfall or high winds

7. The grassy track swings right and gently climbs south west. After about 400 m on the right there is a stone inscribed XX indicating 20 miles to Rotherham (7)
8. When the path bears right after another 400 m there are the remains of Lady Cross on your left (8a)



Lady Cross marks both an ancient packhorse route across the moor and the boundary of the mediaeval monastic lands located around Glossop. Grade II listed, it may date back to the C13th. Only the base and a small part of the shaft remain. It is a reasonably well-preserved example of a documented wayside cross which is still in its original location and is associated with an ancient roadway. Its later reuse as a surveyor's triangulation point adds to its interest and importance. Behind Lady Cross is a string of grouse butts.



On the base, is a carving, 'IWB,' from the Manchester Engineer, Issac Watts Boulton (1823/99). Issac was the inventor of patent block wheels for traction engines and a pioneer of narrow-gauge railways (8b).

There are extensive views in almost every direction except to the south where Round Hill (496 m) obstructs the view. The transmitters at Holme Moss and Emley Moor are both prominent.

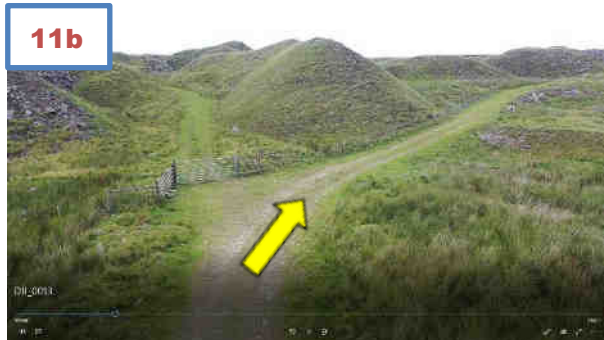


- Descending, the path becomes boggy and wet as you approach Lady Shaw ruins and a track going right. Pass over the wooden stile and continue following the sign "TPT West Woodhead" On the right are several boundary stones "MCWW" (Manchester Corporation Water Works) (9)

The Trans Pennine Trail (TPT), is a route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders linking the North and Irish seas, which passes through the Pennines.

- The stony track descends past the ruins of an old Inn the "Millers Arms" and crosses an old packhorse bridge over Salter's Brook. Higher up to the right is the present bridge carrying the A628

Ladyshaw bridge was most likely built in the early C18th. to replace a series of wooden bridges. It is about 11 m long and 1.5 m wide. The A628 bridge was constructed in 1830.



11. Pass through a wooden gate, cross the A628 and join the 'TPT West.' After 1.4 km, leaving the trail, bear right onto a path (11a). Bearing slightly to the right, this takes you towards the line of ventilator shafts. You will pass disused quarries on your left (11b)

There are excellent views to the west towards the various reservoirs and Manchester. The Woodhead Tunnels are three parallel trans-Pennine three-mile-long railway tunnels on the Woodhead Line, originally part of the Sheffield to Manchester Railway which opened in 1845. Engineered by Barnsley native Joseph Locke, it was built by the [Sheffield, Ashton-Under-Lyne and Manchester Railway](#).

When the line opened in 1845 the tunnels were incomplete and a stagecoach service operated from Dunford Bridge over the hills to the station at [Woodhead](#). The second tunnel opened in 1853 with the third tunnel opening in 1953.

In 1847 the railway merged with the [Sheffield and Lincolnshire Junction Railway](#), the [Great Grimsby and Sheffield Junction Railway](#), and the Grimsby Docks Company, becoming the '[Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway](#).' In 1897 it was renamed as the [Great Central Railway](#) (GCR). Ownership passed to The London and North Eastern Railway ([LNER](#)) in 1923, and finally to [British Railways](#) Eastern Region in 1948.

Passenger services ended in 1970 and the route was closed in 1981. This walk follows the line of three ventilator shafts.

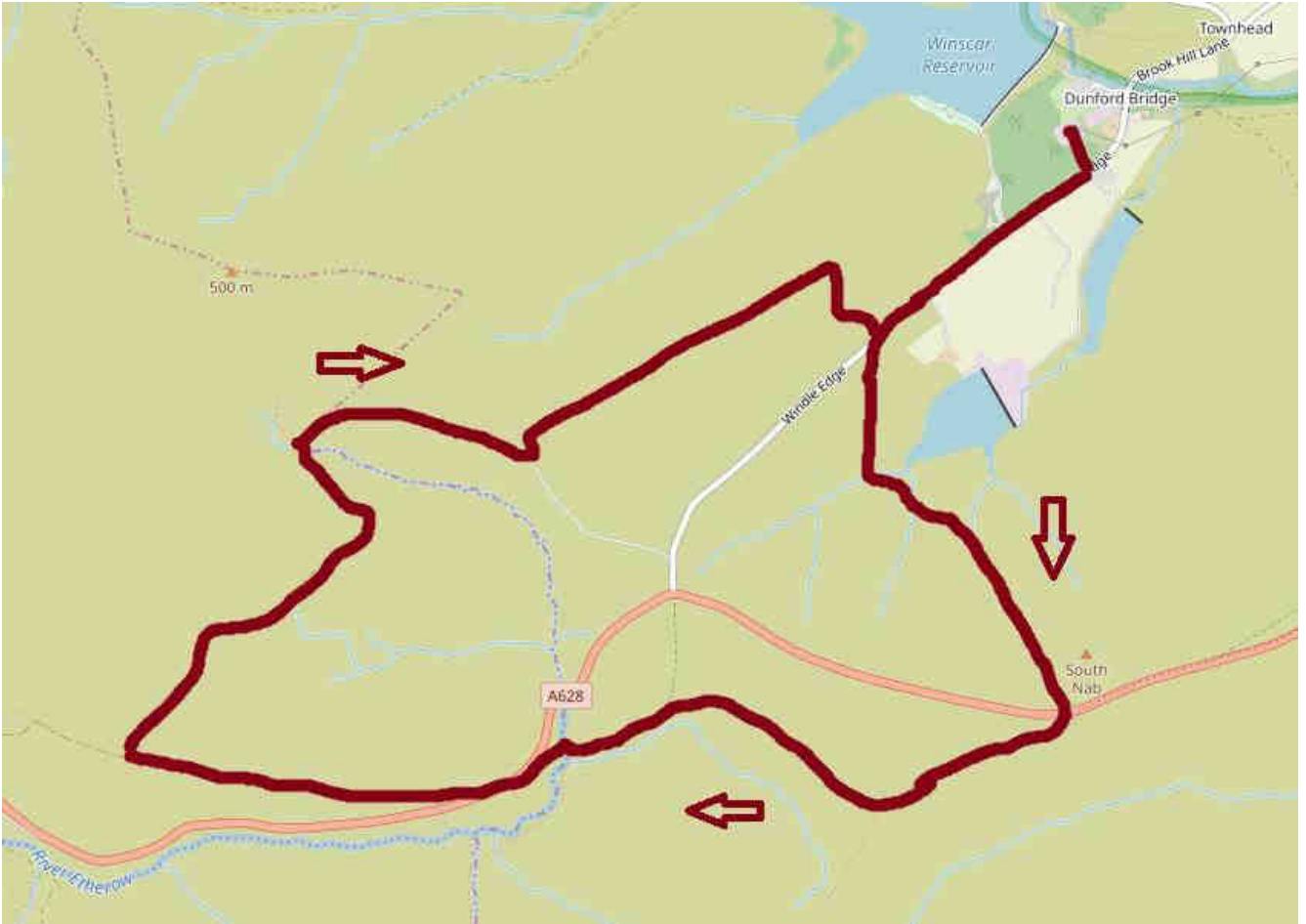
12. Reach the first air shaft (12)
13. The next section is less well defined with only sketchy paths. From the ventilation shaft look across the shallow valley and try and pick out a faint line running across the slope east towards some spoil heaps. You are aiming for a red brick building above the spoil heaps (13b). Head NW from the shaft for 300 m to reach a fence and stile near a small stream (13a). Cross both, head slightly uphill and then traverse across
14. Follow the best sheep tracks keeping to the same height and reach a track in front of the brick building. Bear left, the track then curves to the right ascending (14). As you approach the brow of the hill, you pass a small cairn on your right
15. Continuing NE, after a further 150 m, you pass a concrete pillar on your left (15). Emley Moor TV mast is in the distance
16. A further 300 m brings you to the site of the next next air shaft: a pile of rubble (16)



17. Follow the track, bearing NE. You will pass another concrete pillar on your left
18. After a further 250 m, you will reach a third Woodhead Tunnel Air Shafts. This is now covered by a rectangular brick structure (18)
19. Turning right, follow the track for 300 m (19a). Then turn left through a wooden gate (19b). Following the road, return to the start point



Upper Windleden Reservoir



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