



WALKERS ARE WELCOME



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Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

<https://stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk/>

Long Walk: Penistone from Underbank

- Length - 10.5 miles
- Grade - Mostly well-defined paths, Trans Pennine Trail (TPT), stiles and steady ascents
- Start - Unsliven Road, Stocksbridge
- Grid Reference – SK 254 991
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking - On street parking, Unsliven Road
- Public transport - Public transport – the 57 and SL1/SL1A bus services use the A6102. The 57 terminates at our start (Unsliven Bridge). Other services serve Penistone
- Refreshments – [Huntsman](#) (Thurlstone), Cafes, pubs and shops in Penistone, [Wagon and Horses](#) (Oxspring), Silver Fox (Stocksbridge) close to the start point
- Public Toilets – Penistone, near the church

Description - This is a long walk from Stocksbridge to the market town of Penistone. 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 TPT at Ecklands. The route then follows the trail through Thurlstone to Penistone and on past Oxspring before returning over Snowden Hill.



Millhouse Green (14)

Route Instructions

1. From Unsliven Road take the road over the bridge over the spillway from the reservoir and go up towards Manchester Road, the A616
2. Go left up the narrow road to the old Manchester Road (2)
3. Pass through the metal barrier, and up past the reservoir dam, through another metal barrier and then on up to the A616 in the direction of Manchester



- Continue along the A616, then cross and go into the entrance to, what was, the Fox Wire works

Fox Wire was established in the 1840s. It was a manufacturer of a wide range of cold drawn wire products, and had customers world-wide. In December 2014, it went into administration. In 2016, Equi-Trek, the largest producer of horseboxes and trailers in the UK, bought the facility for £1.6M. Their expansion plans will see the company expand its motorhomes and motorsport transport divisions.

- The path along the disused railway track to Langsett runs along the bank parallel with the A616. The path does not currently have a sign. Go up the grass bank on the left immediately past the stone retaining wall on the left hand side of the end of the entrance (5). Keep the fence on your right and proceed along the footpath, parallel to the road. There is a drain from mine workings that runs along the embankment for a mile or so

This railway was originally built to supply materials during the construction of Langsett Reservoir (1889-1905). Midhopestones did not receive piped water until the mid-1930s.

At Midhopestones, you cross over Mortimer Road. At this point, on your left, there is a large building situated at the crossroads with the A616. Originally The Rose and Crown, it was built by William Payne (1760-1831) when he was Lord of the Manor of Langsett. It closed as a half-way house in 1876 and has been converted into private dwellings. The year, '1881' is marked on the rear of this building.

- Continue along the old railway for almost 3 km, passing through three gates, over stiles and across farm tracks
- The path opens out onto a low embankment with views towards Langsett Dam on your left. There are also some bungalows. There are two telegraph poles along the centre of the path. About 30 m after the second telegraph pole, take the marked path down to the right, over the wooden stile (7)
- The path rises towards the electricity pylon in the next field (8). Pass between two stone gateposts and go up into the field with the pylon
- Keeping the wall on your right, progress over the stone stile hidden in the hedge at the top corner of the field (9)
- 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 (10)



11. 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 through the little gate which is directly opposite
12. Cross the field up to Lower Belle Clive farm. Pass through the gate and follow the lane from the farm up to the road
13. Turn left and go along the road for ~400 m to the signed footpath to the right. Go down the straight track. Millhouse Green is in the distance, ahead of you (13)
14. Follow the track down as it kinks left, down to Liley Lane. Turn right and follow the lane to the bridge over the TPT
15. Cross the bridge and take the marked path, on your right (15), down to the trail
16. Take the TPT east for about 6.5 km (4 miles), past Thurlstone, Penistone and Oxspring

Before Penistone, 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.

17. To divert into Penistone, take the path by the skate park (17). You rejoin the trail by taking walking past Tesco, going through the car park and past the Market Hall. Then cross the main road, go down Shrewsbury Road, by the church, and then right onto Eastfield Avenue back up to the trail

Penistone is a historic market town. The traditional retail open market occurs every Thursday and the country market (formerly the WI market) operates that morning. There is also an annual one-day [agricultural show](#), one of the largest in the country. The [St. John the Baptist church](#) dates back to the 12th.century. It has undergone extensive refurbishment.

The [Penistone Paramount](#) is a traditional cinema (opened 1915), complete with intermission, ice creams and bar. It also hosts concerts, pantomime and shows. The Paramount is also home to the [Compton Theatre Organ](#), the only one of its kind in the country.

On your left, you will pass Penistone station (1874). In the late 19th.century, Penistone was a key railway centre with a main line and two branch lines from its five platforms. You could travel to Barnsley, Huddersfield, Manchester and Sheffield. Penistone Old Station (1856) closed in 1970.

18. Continue along the TPT, past Oxspring. At the Blackmoor crossing, where there is a partial barrier



across the trail (18), turn right and go up the farm track onto Black Moor

19. Immediately after the farm building the track comes to a T junction. The path continues in the same direction as before into the fields. Go into the field keeping the wall to your left
20. At the end of the field, climb the dilapidated gate (20) and cross the next field
21. At the end of the field, follow the wall round to the right. After ~20 m, climb the stone stile which is on your left (21)
22. Continue up the hill, now with the wall to your right
23. The path reaches Pond Common Lane. Turn right and then, after ~250 m, go left up the farm track with the sign Tenter Lane
24. Pass the first buildings on your right
25. Take the signed footpath up between the barn and the farm house (25)
26. Go through the left gate and cross the field keeping the wall to your right. Cross the next field, down to the stone stile onto Tofts Lane
27. Turn right, after ~20 m take the footpath on the left (27)



If, instead of taking the footpath, you continue along Tofts Lane, after 250 m you reach a crossroads. Turn right. Close by, at the far side of the next junction, on the corner of Dyson Cote Lane and Salter Hill Lane is one of [the most unusual guide-stoops in the country](#). It is, as far as is known, unique in having six sides. It was erected in 1734, by order of the West Riding Justices of the Peace. It lies on the ancient saltway route which links Cheshire, via Woodhead, to Wakefield or Doncaster. There are no directional arrows; instead the user would take the road to the right while facing the name of their destination. There are only five obvious routes leading from the stone, not the six which are indicated. This photo is of the sides which read: 'Wakefield & Leeds' and 'Penistone Huthersfield & Halifax.' On an OS map, the latter is a right of way heading NNW.



To return to our route, retrace your steps.

28. Go through the field, keeping the wall to your left
29. At the woods go left over the stile (29) and follow the path down by the trees
30. At the metal gate cross the stone stile into the field
31. Cross the field, to the right of the tree (31), down to the wooden stile
32. Cross the stle and then swing right down to the next stile (32). Continue, passing to the right of the buildings
33. Pass through the two gates and then turn right onto the lane (Hunshelf Road). Go along the lane to the main road, Underbank Lane. This is a busy road with no pavement.

Take care

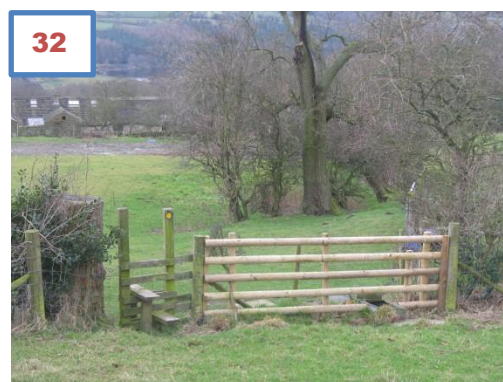
34. Turn left and go down the road, passing under the A616 (34), the Stocksbridge bypass and down to the junction with Manchester Road, the B6088

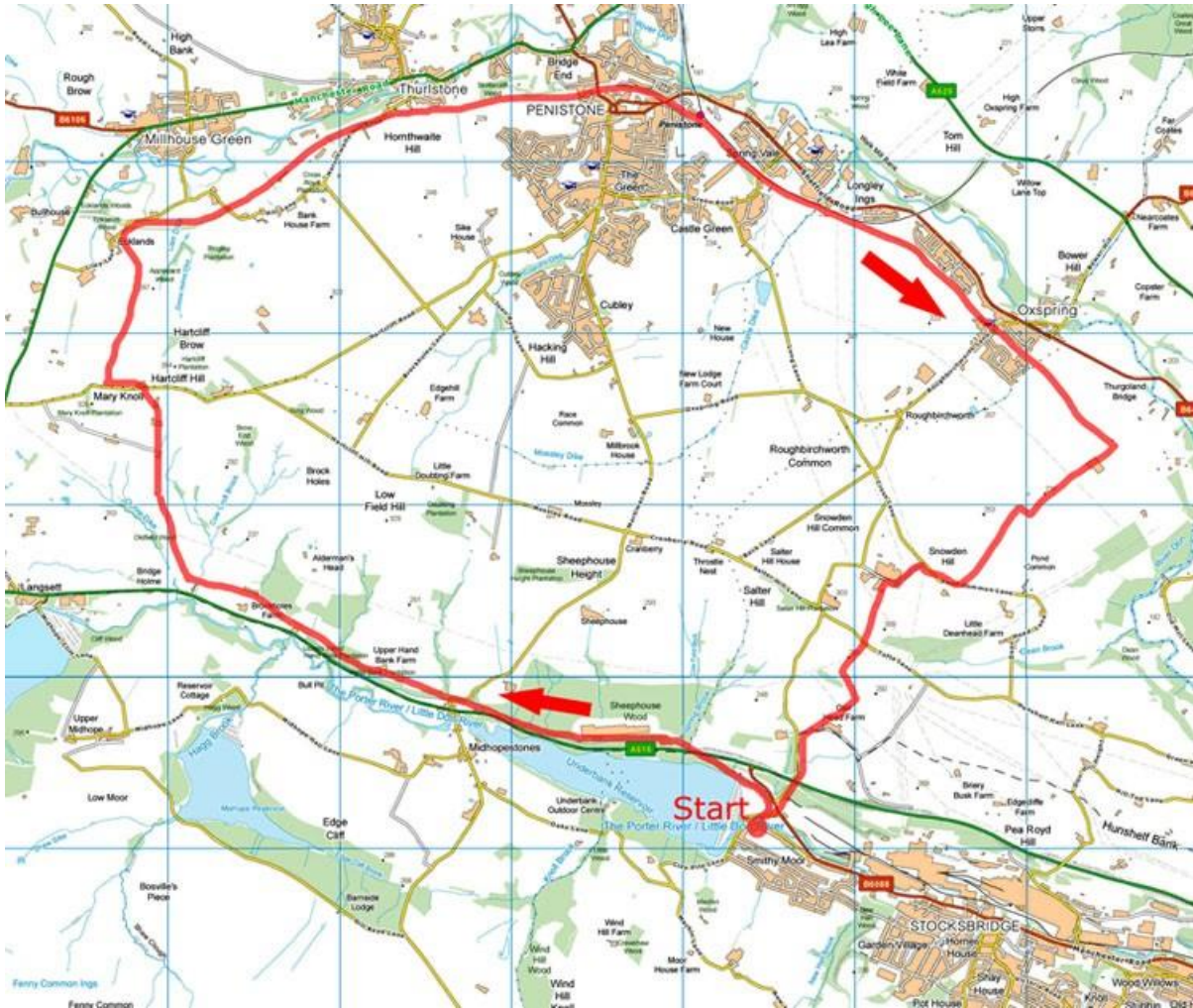
This road was the main route out of Stocksbridge until early 1988 when the by-pass was opened. The latter is a remnant of the 1980's M67 scheme which, at the time, planned to connect Manchester and Sheffield via a new motorway.

35. At the bottom of the road, cross Manchester Road, and go back down the lane to Unsliven Road

Underbank Reservoir was completed in 1907; work having commenced 10 years earlier. It is downstream of Langsett Reservoir and supplies compensation water to the Little Don. Historically this was used for cooling purposes at Stocksbridge steels. It has a capacity of 2955 million litres.

This walk is sponsored by:





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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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