



WALKERS ARE WELCOME

COMMUNITY

BRIDGE

SHOP

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Walkers are Welcome UK is a nationwide network which aims to encourage towns and villages to be 'welcoming to walkers.'

Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk

Long Walk: A circuit above Stocksbridge and Deepcar

- Length – 13.5 miles
- Grade – A long walk, mostly on high ground. Well defined paths. Some rough ground and stiles, steep in sections.
- Start - [Bolsterstone village](#), near Stocksbridge
- Grid reference - SK 271 967
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking - on the road
- Public transport – the 57 and 57a bus services both use the A6102 (join at 12). They terminate at Unsliven Bridge (join at 6) and the 23, (Penistone/Barnsley), passes through parts of the route
- Refreshments – [The Castle Inn, Bolsterstone](#)
- Public Toilets – in Bolsterstone

Description - A long walk surrounding Stocksbridge and Deepcar. Starting in Bolsterstone the route takes in [Wharncliffe Craggs](#), part of the [Trans Pennine Trail](#), Hunshelf Bank, Underbank Reservoir, Wind Hill and Whitwell Moor. We mostly follow high ground (330 m) but descend to cross three rivers.



Deepcar and Stocksbridge as seen from Wharncliffe Craggs (23)

Route Instructions

1. From the [St.Mary's Church](#) head south, away from the Castle Inn to the junction with More Hall Lane (also known as Sunny Bank Road). There is a stone stile on the left at the junction (1). This leads to a path that follows the high ground across the field away from the village



2. The path continues over another three stone stiles and a wall until it reaches Cote House Farm. The path goes around the rear of the property and over a wooden stile (2). Turn right after the stile and follow the fence until it meets the stone wall. Then keeping the wall on your right, resume your original direction of travel past another stile and across the fields
3. The path continues on the same level through two fields. It then swings slightly to the left as it proceeds to the gate at the far end of the second field (3)
4. The gate leads onto a wide track with woodland rising up on the left. Follow this track until, at a junction, you reach a tarmacked road.
5. Take the left turn up the rough track which rises steeply from the junction
6. Follow the track round to the area above the farm
7. Go straight on and then drop down as the track continues along the higher ground
8. Follow the track as it starts to descend, passing through two metal gates
9. The footpath forks off to the right, downhill. Then left, then right through another gate (9) and continues along a path with stone walls on both sides
10. Continue through another gate and continue passing downhill through the woods. You will pass a left fork which is signed '**Ministry of Defence Authorised Firing Range.**'
11. At the end of the descent through the woods you reach the Wantley Dragon sculpture (11)

The [Wantley Dragon](#) is a myth that was made into an opera and a satirical poem by Henry Carey in 1685. The story tells the tale of how More, of More Hall, slays a troublesome dragon which lives on Wharnclyffe Craggs. The legend was mentioned by Sir Walter Scott in the opening chapter of [Ivanhoe](#), "Here haunted of yore the fabulous Dragon of Wantley".

In 2009, professional dry stone waller, John Alston, recycled an existing old wall into a dry stone version of the dragon. The huge head, weighing a tonne and measuring 1.6 m, was chainsaw-sculpted by Mark Bell using elm from a Woodland Trust site at Beverley.

12. Continue along the main path as it drops down onto another track and then onto Morehall Lane
13. Turn left and go down Morehall Lane for 400 m. The main road ahead of you is Manchester Road, the A6102. This is a busy main road with fast traffic



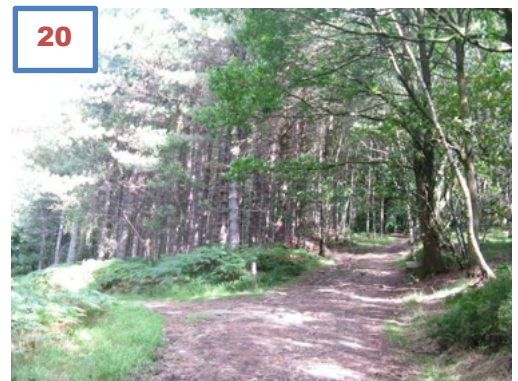
14. Cross the road and turn right. Continue past Ewden Water Treatment Works and then take the lane on the left towards Holmes Farm (14)
15. Cross the bridge over the River Don. Follow the path, keeping the farm buildings away to your right
16. Keeping the River Don on your right, the path progresses through woods for some 900 m. In Spring, there are tremendous displays of bluebells. Continue until you meet a wider path at a T-junction. Turn left and cross the railway bridge (16)
17. Follow the path as it continues to climb up into the woods. When the path emerges on to the forest road (Plank Gate) turn left
18. At [Trans Pennine Trail](#) sign 627, near the two telegraph poles, take the path that cuts up on the right. Continue up the track into the woods
19. The track splits near the base of an electricity pylon. Take the straighter path (19). Do not turn right
20. At the next fork take the right path that continues to climb (20)
21. A while later another path joins from the left. Continue uphill towards the crags
22. The path meets a main path that crosses it. Turn left. After ~150 m the path opens out onto Wharnccliffe Crags, with views across the valley
23. Continue along the path as it goes along the top of the crags

[Wharnccliffe Crags](#) has a long history of rock climbing and was at the forefront of the birth of the sport in the 1880s. Climbing legend [James W. Puttrell](#) pioneered many routes. By 1900, the crags were [the most popular climbing venue in the UK](#). This was helped by the presence of the (now disused) nearby Deepcar railway station.

It is possible to see Wharnccliffe Chase through the trees on your right.

24. Go through the gate (24) and continue across the crags. There may be sheep grazing in this area
25. As the path drops down follow the path round to the right
26. Go through the gate (26) into '[Wharnccliffe Heath Local Nature Reserve](#),' and continue along to a large pond

Wharnccliffe Heath is owned by the Forestry Commission and managed by a partnership with Wharnccliffe Heathlands Trust. It is managed to improve the condition of the existing heathland and to expand the area of heath. Grazing, using traditional native breeds of sheep and cattle, is required in order to control the growth of trees and bracken.



Wildlife includes Grass Snakes, Viviparous Lizards, Linnets and Tree Pipits, while Nightjar can be heard at dusk in the summer.

27. At the pond go right across the dam wall to the forest track
28. Turn left and slowly descend along the track
29. Just after passing between two stone gates posts, at the junction with the main forest road continue in the same direction
30. Continue along the road as it drops down and passes under the A616, the Stocksbridge by-pass (30)
31. Immediately after emerging from the tunnel go through the stile on your left (31) and continue along the 'Upper Don Trail,' part of the Trans Pennine Trail. Just after passing Mallard House Riding Stables on your right, you will pass the, long closed, Wortley Station

The old station buildings include the insignia of the long-defunct, Manchester, Sheffield and Lincoln Railway Company. Wortley Station was in use for 110 years, from 1845 until 1955.

On your right you will also pass one of 1000 mileposts which commemorate the creation of the [National Cycle Network](#).

32. Just after the road bridge, take the path to the left off the TPT (32) and drop down to the road
33. Cross the road and go down the road opposite
34. After 20 m take the footpath on the right over the stile and down into the field.
35. Go across the field, aiming for the lowest point down on the left
36. Go over the wooden stile, cross the lane and then through the gate opposite (36)
37. Go down to the path to the bridge and stepping stones (37)



37



30



31



32



36



This is an ancient crossing point. Originally called the "Wortley Leppings", the old wooden bridge has long been replaced. "The Leppings" are passable with care. When the river is low it is possible to see the paved surface of the ford

38. From the crossing, turn right, then take the main path, on your left, up into the woods. Do not take the path up to the right, instead continue passing the Tin Mill ponds on your left

These were associated with the Wortley Tin Mill which opened in 1743, closing in 1860. You will pass the ruins of the wire mill, a rolling mill and three workshops.

39. At a point approximately level with the end on the ponds take the path which forks off on the right through the woods and up the hill (39)
40. After a short distance the path joins a larger path. Keep following the path up the hill towards Hunshelf Bank
41. After ~600 m, go right and keep following the path upwards. The path climbs up through the woods and after a steep section emerges out on to another path
42. Go left up the steps. You emerge on a tarmacked lane. Turn left, cross the stile and continue straight into the field. Take the stile on your left (42)
43. Go right and follow the wall down towards the farm buildings
44. Go through the two gates into the farm yard
45. Pass the barn on your right. The path goes up on the right after the barn but before the farm house
46. Go up the path through the wooden gate, onto the farm track and up to the next group of farm buildings
47. Pass to the right of the farm buildings, through the two metal gates, then take the lane to the left of the barn (47)
48. Go through the third metal gate and along the path that runs across Hunshelf Bank. The Stocksbridge by-pass is away to your left
49. Continue along the lane. Pass through one gate and then pass both Wellhouse Farm and Cottage before you emerge onto Pea Royd Lane
50. Turn right and go up Pea Royd Lane for 100 m



Route Variation – the Viewpoint – at (50), instead of turning right, turn left and take the footpath on your right just after you cross the by-pass. Follow the path round and you will reach a view point (created 2009), with 'Steel Valley Panorama.' This was created 'to celebrate twenty years of Steel Valley Walks' and provides annotated views over Deepcar and Stocksbridge. Retrace your steps to re-join our route.

51. Take the signed lane on the left across towards Edgecliffe Farm (51)
52. Pass to the right of the farm buildings and go up the path through the gate. Follow the track up to the top of the hill
53. After 50 m take the next track down the hill towards Cote House Farm. After passing the quarry on your right, veer off the track to your right and go across the hill to the stone stile opposite. This stile is difficult to see from a distance as it is half-hidden by a large holly bush (53)
54. Cross the stile and follow the path, watching for some large rabbit holes, out onto the lane that leads to Briery Busk Farm
55. Go up the drive to the right of the farm building. Pass through the gates and out onto the path that leads out towards the crest of the hill
56. Cross the wooden stile, then go down the hill aiming for the gateway in the stone wall. Climb the stone stile which is just to the right of the gateway (56). Turn left onto Mucky Lane. Go downhill to the T-junction
57. Turn right at the T-junction and proceed along the road passing Carr Head Farm on your right, and onto the main road, Underbank Lane, emerging opposite Underbank Hall

This is a busy road with no pavement. Take care

58. Turn left and go down the road, passing under the A616 (58), the Stocksbridge bypass and down to the junction with Manchester Road.
59. Cross Manchester Road, and following the public footpath, walk up the old road, through the metal gates and up to the dam wall

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

It was built "on the cheap" in comparison to the full motorway originally proposed. The scheme consisted of a dual carriageway with crash barrier in the middle. However, this was downgraded into a single carriageway with blind crests and no crash barriers, aided by the occasional crawler lane. Two of the four major junctions are, "grade separated" (have flyovers or underpasses), so it's easy to see how this could have been originally meant as motorway.

60. Turning right, take the path across the top of the dam (60), then cut back, to your left, down to the bridge over the spillway



61. Turn right and follow the path alongside the Reservoir (61) as far as '[Underbank Outdoor Activity Centre](#)'
62. Turn left just before the building, passing the climbing wall on your right. Go through the gate, and, passing through the car park, go up the access lane to the road
63. Go right onto the road (Oakes Lane) and then after ~100 m take the marked public footpath through the gateway (63) up the hill into the woods
64. Follow the path through the woods and over a stile into a field. Cross two fields. Passing between stone gateposts, continue ascending across a third field
65. Climb the stile (65) and continue along the ridge with the fence and wall to your left

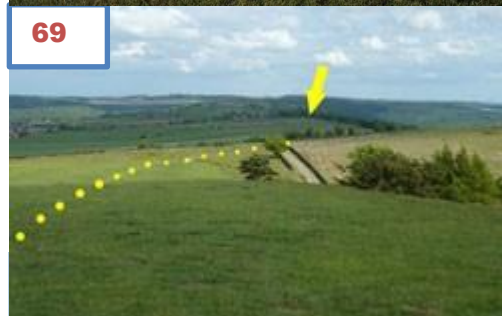
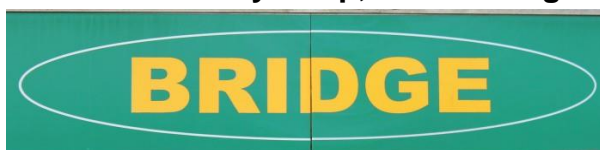
Views to right include [Emley Moor transmitting station](#) and [Royd Moor Wind farm](#). The 1,084 feet (330 m) tall concrete tower at Emley is the tallest freestanding structure in the UK. It is also a Grade II listed building. The [Royd Moor Wind Farm](#) consists of thirteen 500 kW turbines. Completed in 1993, at a cost of £6.3 M, the turbines are 35 m tall and have a rotor diameter of 37 m.

66. Follow the path as it swings left and eventually reaches Long Lane. There is an Interpretation Sign on your left
67. Cross Long Lane and go through the gate (67) onto the wide path which runs across Whitwell Moor, with the woods to your right
68. Follow the path until the hard surface runs out. About 20 m after this point, pass through the gap in the wall on your right and go left to the trig point (68)

The brass plaque on the trig point commemorates Michael Jeffrey who died, aged 29, while taking part in the Great North Run in 2006.

69. From the trig point drop down the hill (69), pass between the gateposts, and pick up the lane towards Bolsterstone
70. Go through the gate at Hunger Hill Farm (70). Continue along Heads Lane until you reach your start point in Bolsterstone

This walk is sponsored by the Bridge Community Shop, Stocksbridge





Bolsterstone

originated as an Angle-Saxon settlement. The name may be a corruption of Walder, a local Saxon Chief. Alternatively, it may be derived from the existence of two huge stones now situated in the churchyard, generally known as 'bolster stones.' They were brought into the churchyard for safekeeping in the 19th.Century.

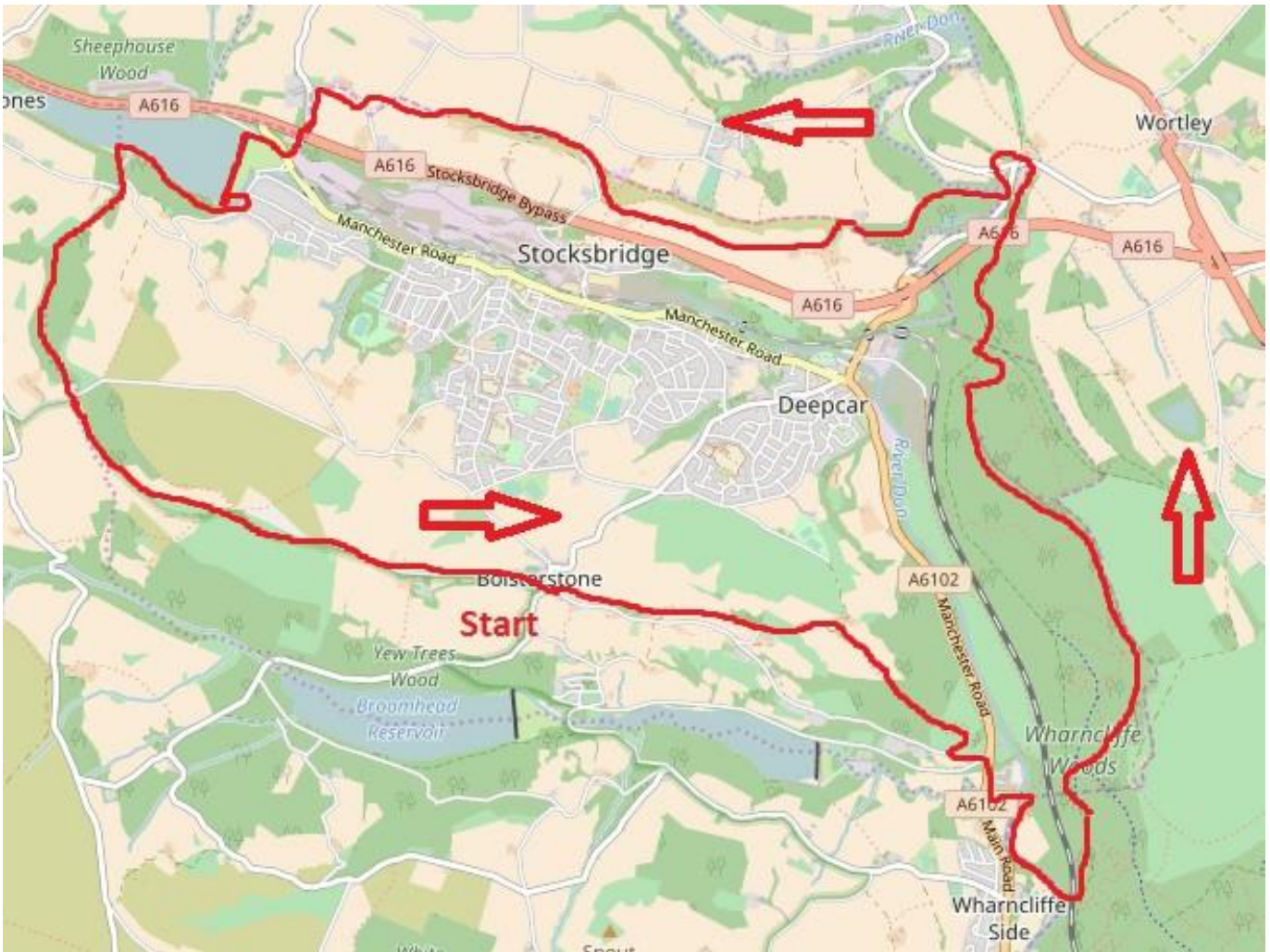
Archaeological records state that the twin mortise holes in the upper stone may have supported twin Anglo Saxon crosses. Local legend gives the stones as either the base of a gibbet or part of the structure for some other means of execution.

St.Mary's church was built 1972-79. The Lych Gate was erected to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897 with the present gates commemorating the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 1977.

The [Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir](#) has long been associated with its "headquarters" in 'The Castle Inn' next door to the Church. It still rehearses in Bolsterstone Village Hall, which was the Village School until 1993.

In 2014, the [Castle Inn](#) was the first pub in Sheffield to gain Asset of Community Value (ACV) status from Sheffield City Council. This was again achieved in 2019.





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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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