



WALKERS ARE WELCOME



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Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk

Short Walk 2: A walk around Wharncliffe Woods from Deepcar

- Length – 2.3 or 2.7 miles
- Grade - Total ascent ~130 m. Well defined paths and forest tracks. Both steep and steady climbs. Some rocky footing. Parts can be muddy and slippery in wet weather, especially the riverside path. The latter is narrow in parts with tree trunks to negotiate
- Start - Station Road, Deepcar, just beyond the 'Lowoods Workmen's Club' S36 2SQ
- Grid Reference - SK 292 980
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking - Station Road, Deepcar, park just over the bridge beyond the 'Lowoods Workmen's Club'.
- Public transport - bus to Carr Road, Manchester Road
23, 23A, 24, 25, 25A, 25B, 57, 201, SL1 and SL1a bus routes
- Refreshments – none on the route
- Public Toilets – none on the route

Description

Wharncliffe Woods and Wharncliffe Craggs cover a large area. There is plenty of wildlife, including tree pipits, nightjars, newts, and dragonflies. There are a number of forest tracks and paths that crisscross the woods. Many are not marked on maps. Once you are familiar with the overall layout of the woods, you may wish to wander off up paths and see where they take you.

There is a choice of a shorter or longer version of this walk. Both start by following the River Don and then climbing up through the woods. The path emerges at the high point of the crags. This provides views across the Don Valley and over Deepcar, past Stocksbridge to the Pennines and, in the far distance, the Woodhead Pass. You then return through the woods.



Route Instructions

1. Go through the gate on the opposite bank of the river to the Lowoods Workmen's Club. There is a 'public footpath' sign to the right of the gate, but it is almost hidden by a tree (photo 1)
2. Follow the left path along the river

At times of inclement weather, the river path can become very slippery. If this is the case, do not turn left. Instead go straight up the hill, turn left at the top and continue under a railway



bridge. When you reach a second railway bridge, you can rejoin our route at (5).

3. Continue along the river under the railway bridge and continue some way to the footbridge (3)

There are often dippers on this stretch of river. They are easy to spot. They are black with a white throat and breast. When perched on rocks they habitually bob up and down and frequently cock their tail. The footbridge was rebuilt in 2014.

4. At the bridge turn right and climb the steep bank. There are the remnants of steps on the right side, but they have mostly washed away. At the top of the bank the path opens out to a broad track. Turn left to go under the railway bridge

This was once the Woodhead railway route (Sheffield to Manchester). 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.

5. Follow the path up the hill and past the small pond on the right. The path which we need to take turns left soon after the pond

At this point, a broad set of paths go straight on. We will come down those paths on our return journey

6. After ~100 m, the path joins the main track through the woods. Turn left onto the main track and then after ~30 m cut back right onto the track up the hill, passing between the old stone gateposts (6). At certain times of years, these gate posts may be partially obscured by vegetation
7. Follow the track up the hill. After a few hundred metres you will pass a track off to the right to the large pond. Do not take this path, carry on up the hill on the original track (7)
8. After 400 m there is a path off to the right, down into the woods (8)

Shorter route

- 9a. Follow the path down bearing right. The path then passes through a wooden gate and then climbs across open ground

This area has been fenced off and has sheep grazing to manage the flora in order encourage bio diversity.

- 10a. The path rises across the rocky heather and emerges through another gate at the crags. After 10 m, turn right onto the path that follows the cliff edge



Longer Route

- 9b. Continue up the main path for another 400 m. At the gateway and large rocks take the path to the right into the woods (9b). The open grassland of Wharncliffe Chase is over the wall on your left
- 10b. Follow the path through the woods, crossing two wooden bridges. Just after the second bridge, take the left path by the pine tree and continue onto the crags. Turn right, go through the gate (10b) and follow the path along the crags. You will reach a memorial bench and a gate on your right. This point marks the end of the shorter route

Both Routes

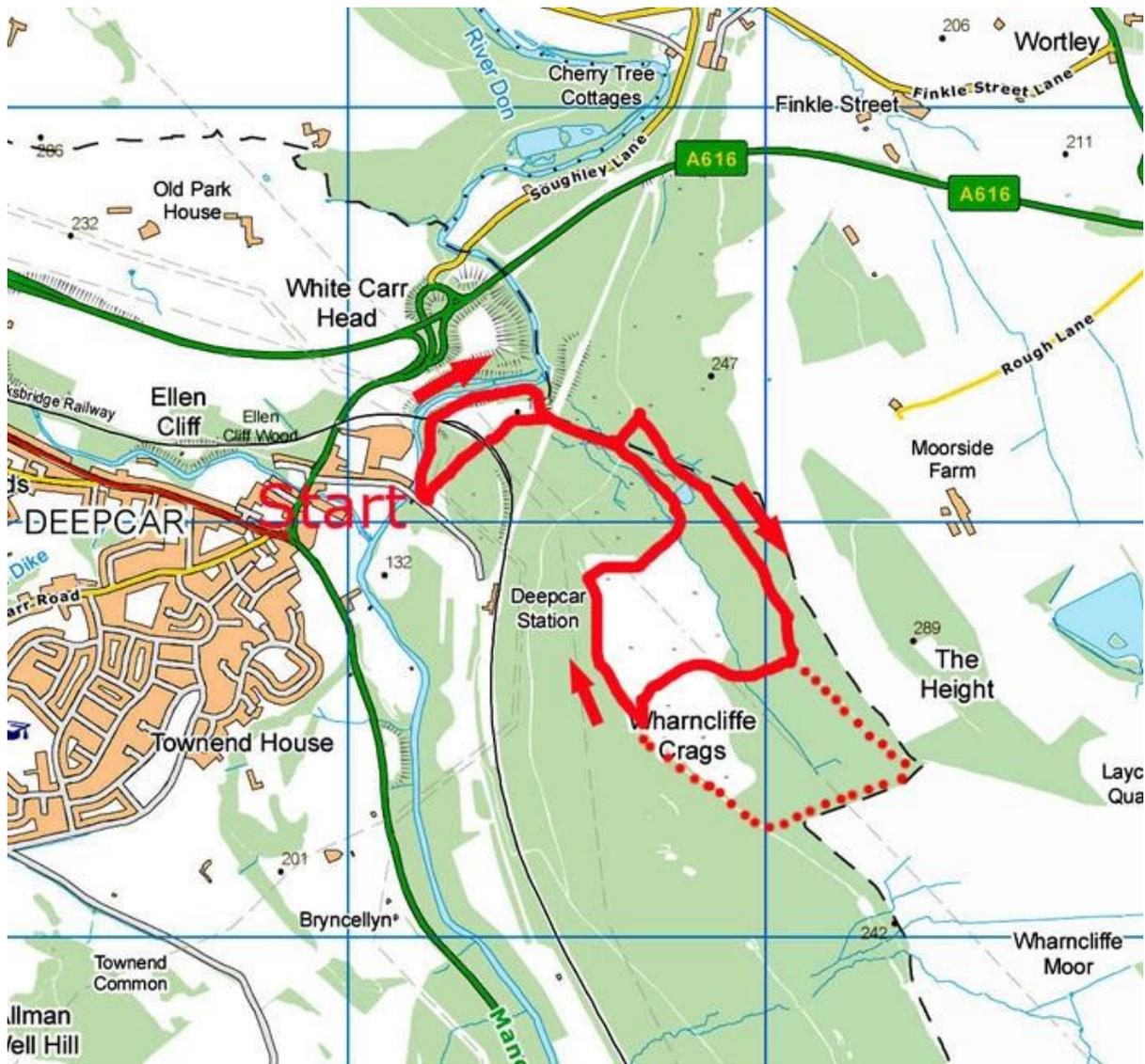
To your left is Oughtibridge and the Ewden Valley, to the right is Deepcar and Stocksbridge, with Langsett in the far distance.

Wharncliffe 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 railway station.

11. Follow the path along the crags. The path swings to the right past a power pylon and on to another gate. Go through the gate and follow the path to the large pond. This pond contains newts and is a good location for dragonflies and damselflies
12. Take the path down the steps at the left end of the dam wall (12). Take the path down through the wood. Cross the main track down to the track
13. Go past the small pond, on your left, and under the railway bridge. If you want to go back by the river then retrace your steps down the bank to the right. Alternatively carry straight on from the railway bridge along the wide path
14. This takes you under a second, longer railway bridge, the 1870s branch line which was originally built to serve Stocksbridge Steels (14). Continue along the track
15. There are two options. As the track starts to bend to the left there is a path off to the right (15). This path then ends with a very steep descent to Station Road. To avoid this descent don't take the path to the right, instead stay on the track and follow it round to the left, continuing until it joins Station Road. Then turn right to return to your starting point



The Lowoods Club dates from the time of Deepcar-based, J.Grayson Lowoods & Company Limited, who made refractory bricks (used to line furnaces) and other products in the nineteenth century.



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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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