



WALKERS ARE WELCOME



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Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk

Medium Walk: Stainborough/Worsbrough circular

- Length – 7.6 miles
- Grade - Mostly well-defined paths, [Trans-Pennine Trail](#) (TPT), stiles and steady ascents
- Start – TPT Kendal Green Crossing Car Park near Wigfield Farm (1), Gilroyd Lane Car Park (2) or Worsbrough Mill Car Park (18)
- Grid Reference - SE 344 038, SE 325 042 or SE 349 034
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking – TPT Kendal Green Crossing Car Park near Wigfield Farm (1), Gilroyd Lane Car Park (2) or Worsbrough Mill Car Park (18) There is a charge for the Worsbrough Mill car park, but no charge for the TPT or Gilroyd Lane car parks
- Public transport – Bus 66 to Worsbrough Mill (15). Bus routes 14, 21, 23, 23A and 24 pass through Stainborough (2)
- Refreshments – Millers Tea Rooms ([Worsbrough Mill](#)), [Strafford Arms](#) (Stainborough), [Wigfield Farm](#)
- Public Toilets –Worsbrough Mill, Wigfield Farm

Description - This is a walk mostly along defined paths and former railway tracks. Some sections can be boggy. There are short sections close to the M1 motorway. You will pass close to a number of interesting and historical sites: [Wentworth Castle Gardens](#) (National Trust in partnership with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Northern College), the Duke of Argyle's Monument, the Rotunda, Queen Anne Monument, Rockley Engine House and Forge, Rockley Old Hall, Worsbrough Mill and Wigfield Farm. Stainborough Park has both Red and Fallow Deer. The deer give birth in June/July. The rut starts in October and the stags can become protective of their herds at both these times.



Wentworth Castle seen from the Great South Avenue (4)

Route Instructions

1. Turn right onto the TPT. You will follow the TPT for about 2 km. It is possible to see Wentworth Castle away to your left, on the other side of the M1 motorway

The TPT was once 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. 200 m after crossing the M1, you will pass under a bridge. After another 300 m, take the next left (2). This reaches a T-junction with Gilroyd Lane. Turn right, into the village of Stainborough, then cross Lowe Lane, onto Park Drive. Continue down Park Drive passing the [Strafford Arms](#) on your right
3. Pass through the Strafford Gate, and through another gate before ascending to cross Serpentine Bridge (3a). Follow the drive from this elegant Palladian bridge into Stainborough Park towards Wentworth Castle (3b)

Dating from 1768, the arched gateway, Strafford Gate, is the eastern entrance to the park. It was dismantled in 2006 and moved 20 m, to allow a new access road to be built.

4. Follow the path as it slowly ascends towards the house. When you reach the fence, turn left, following the 'Parkland Trail,' take the right fork up the hill, keeping the fence on your right (4)
5. Leave the deer enclosure via another high metal gate and turn left onto the Great South Avenue

The Great South Avenue is a double avenue consisting mainly of Oak trees. It leads away from the South Lawn and Palladian wing of Wentworth Castle. Wentworth Castle Gardens & Stainborough Park is the only Grade One Listed landscape in South Yorkshire. It contains a collection of 26 listed buildings and monuments. The gardens include the National Plant Collections of camellias, magnolias and rhododendrons.

At the end of the Avenue, you may wish to divert to your right to the Duke of Argyll Monument. A statue of Minerva, the Goddess of Wisdom, sits on top of a Corinthian column dedicated to the father in law of William Wentworth:

TO THE MEMORY
OF HIS GRACE
JOHN DUKE OF ARGYLE
AND GREENWICH
Who died October 4th. 1745
This Collumn was Dedicated in 1744.

6. At the end of the Avenue, pass through the gate and follow the path to your left. Pass through two more gates (6)
7. Continue following the path. After about 300 m, turn right to visit the Rotunda (Grid Reference: SE 327 027)

Built between 1742 and 1746 and restored in 2008, the Rotunda is said to be based on the Temple of Vesta in Rome.



8. Then pass through the metal gate at the far side of the Rotunda (8) and follow the wide path. About 50 m after the end of the Deer Park fencing, take an acute signed right turn into the woods
9. If you wish to visit the obelisk, do not turn right. Instead, continue, then divert to your right to visit the obelisk (9). (SE 332 029). Retrace your steps and turn left, back along your original direction turning left to rejoin our route at (7)

The obelisk was built in 1734 to commemorate Thomas Wentworth's patron Queen Anne, who died in 1714.

10. Take the turn immediately on your left (10). Continue through the woods. When you reach a gate, continue through the gate, turning right and keeping the wall on your right
11. Cross over the next stile then over the stone stile (11a). After crossing a field, cross another stile (11b) and continue into the woods. You will pass a half-hidden stone structure on your left. At the next stile, turn sharp left down a wide track. (Grid Reference: SE 327 020)



12. Continue through the campsite, and cross Rockley Dike using the bridge. You will pass two mill ponds on your left before reaching the road. Turn left, then cross the road.. Rockley Engine House is in front of you (left: SE 337 021)

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.

13. 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 (13)

Built c1700, Rockley Furnace was part of a Yorkshire trade syndicate centered 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 eighteenth century, using ores mined in the same valley and charcoal from the surrounding woodlands. Archaeological excavations took place between 1978 and 1982. These have shown 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 such as Wortley Top Forge, to be converted into bar iron.

A pit was dug through these pig-beds, and this was lined with stone. In this pit, moulds of clay or loam would be placed, for casting objects such as cylinders, pipes or guns. This change could have taken place about 1790. The furnace cannot have been used in this way for long, for it is not mentioned in lists of furnaces of the period.



- Retrace your steps to the road and turn right. After about 500 m, turn right onto Old Hall Road (14). Pass over the M1 motorway and continue into the grounds of Rockley Old Hall. Turn left at the first buildings, numbers 1 and 8

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 currently a series of private residences, having previously functioned as an orphanage.

- Then follow the marked footpath along the farm track heading north into the fields. After one field, turn right along the track
- You will reach a crossroads, go straight ahead, signed, 'Mill, Museum, Shops and Toilets' (16)
- After about 200 m, turn left (17). You will pass Worsbrough reservoir on your left. Continue along the banks of the reservoir. You will reach Worsbrough Mill

You may wish to divert into Worsbrough Mill, a 17th century working water mill. 19th century parts now house a recently 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.

The 60 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.

- Just before the mill buildings turn left, cross the footbridge over the mill stream. Go up onto the reservoir dam. Cross the dam over the spillways

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.

- At the end of the bridge, turn left following the reservoir banks. Ignore the signs for the TPT. After about 250 m, take the signed sharp right turn to pick up the TPT. Go left on the TPT, heading west to return to your 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.



The Obelisk (9) was built to commemorate Thomas Wentworth's patron Queen Anne, who died in 1714:

'Obelisk was erected by her faithfull Minister WENTWORTH EARL OF STRAFFORD, Viscount WENTWORTH of WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE and of STAINBOROUGH, Baron of RABY, NEWMARSH and OVERSLEY and Knight of the Order of the Garter 1734'



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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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