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Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk

Medium Walk: Across Wharncliffe Chase and through Wharncliffe Woods

- Length - 7.5 miles
- Grade - Well defined paths and forest tracks. Steady climbs. Can be muddy in wet weather, one short very boggy section.
- Start - Station Road, Deepcar. just beyond the Lowood 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, 57, 201, SL1 and SL1A routes
- Refreshments – None on the route
- Public Toilets – None on the route



Description

This is a long walk onto the access land of Wharncliffe Chase. At 1000' above sea level the Chase affords panoramic views over Deepcar, Stocksbridge and beyond. The paths are well marked and are mostly well made. There is a 30 foot boggy section at the bottom of the chase which can be difficult in wet weather.

During April/May, the central section of Wharncliffe Chase is often closed to the public due to lambing. We suggest taking an alternative route after (11), heading diagonally down the chase and meeting up with Wharncliffe Crags before heading northwards and back to Deepcar.



Wharncliffe Chase (7)

Route Instructions

1. Go through the gate which is adjacent to the road bridge over the River Don and go up the steep bank. There is a 'public footpath' sign to the right of the gate, but this is almost hidden by a tree (1)



- Go along the path to the main track, then turn left.

About 10,000 years ago, this area was the site of a Mesolithic camp.

- Go under the railway bridge then continue along under the second railway bridge.

The first bridge is the line from Sheffield to Stocksbridge, the second was the line to Wortley and Penistone

- Continue upwards passing the small pond on your right. Take the left fork in the path and continue upwards 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 (5)

- Go up the track, passing the large pond on the right. Bluebells will be in bloom in May/June

- Continue all the way to the top of the woods, passing between the two large wooden gateposts. The open ground of Wharncliffe Chase is on your right

- Take the path up the hill with the wall and the Chase on your right. Continue up towards the crest of the hill

- Go through the gateway on your right just before the crest and out on to the Chase (9)

- Take the path that rises up to the left, aiming for the communications mast (10), passing over the stile which is on your route

- At the information sign, just after the Office of ['Wortley Sporting Clays'](#), take the track down across the Chase. If the central part of the Chase is closed to the public, take an alternative route

- Follow the track across the Chase towards the copse on the right. Deepcar and Stocksbridge are visible away to your right

- When the track turns sharp right at the end of the copse leave the track and go straight on up the path over the crest (13). At this point, the path is parallel to the line of electricity pylons on your right

- Continue in a southerly direction, passing a small pond on the right. A ruin is on your left. Sheffield city centre is visible in the distance

- Walk under the electricity cables, then pass over the stile to the right of the gate and continue down the hill

- As the path swings round to the right take the path off to the left in the direction of the city



- Continue down to the ladder stile at the bottom of the Chase (17). The section just before the stile can be extremely boggy

Wharnccliffe Chase is an area of rough sheep pasture (formerly a deer park) with areas of birch scrub, stands of mature trees and large areas of bracken that is bordered on its western and southern sides by Wharnccliffe Wood. In the Middle Ages, it was part of a royal hunting park. More recently the chase was mined for Ganister, a hard, fine-grained quartzose sandstone, or orthoquartzite, used in the manufacture of silica brick used to line furnaces for the steel industry. In the past, there has also been small scale coal mining.

- Having crossed the ladder stile take the forest road directly ahead
- After about 3/4 mile (1.2 km) a road joins from the right. Continue straight on. Shortly after a road goes off to the left. Take the right fork at this point (19). The road drops down and swings round to the right
- A couple of paths and tracks join from the left. Keep on the main path for the next 3 miles (5 km), following Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) signs to Wortley. Most of the route is relatively easy walking. However, there may be muddy and/or steep stretches. You are walking roughly parallel to Wharnccliffe Craggs (up on your right) and, on your left, the railway to Deepcar and Stocksbridge, and, further away, the A616
- The road goes underneath a second major set of electricity power cables, and then drops down
- Retrace your steps by taking the path on the left. Retrace your steps past the small pond and through the railway bridges (22) following the path on the right down the steep bank back to Station Road, (see 1-4)



Deepcar Railway Station – soon after (21), there is a steep path down to the left. This takes you under a railway bridge before you emerge at the southern end of the Morehall landfill site. Proceed through the site, emerging onto Station Road adjacent to Deepcar station. This opened in July 1845 with two platforms. The main station building was on the Manchester-bound side and is now a private house. In the 1870s a branch line was built to serve Stocksbridge steels. This line is still open, trains usually running at night. The station closed to passenger traffic in June 1959.

**This walk is sponsored by
Regatta, Fox Valley, Stocksbridge**





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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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