



This document was produced by and is copyright to the [Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome](#) group.  
[Walkers are Welcome UK](#) is a nationwide network which aims to encourage towns and villages to be 'welcoming to walkers.'

**Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome**  
[stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk/](http://stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk/)



## Medium Walk: Parkwood Springs Walk

- Length – 4 miles (6.4 km)
- Grade – mostly well-defined paths. Some rough ground. No stiles. Steady climbs. Some rocky footing. Parts can be muddy and slippery in wet weather. Some road walking.
- Start – Shirecliffe Road/Cooks Wood Road entrance to Parkwood Springs. S3 9AA
- Grid Reference – SK 352 896
- Parking – the car park is open at weekends, pull-in and street parking at other times.
- Maps – OS Explorer map: 278: Sheffield & Barnsley
- Public transport – several bus routes pass the start point, including the 32. The 83a stops on Shirecliffe Road near the junction with Firshill Crescent, 400 m north of the start point. The 7, 8 and 8a travel along Neepsend Lane, 350 m from (6).
- Refreshments – none on this route. However, various cafes and pubs are nearby. These include: the [Cutlery Works](#), the [Gardeners Rest](#) and the [New Barrack Tavern](#).
- Public Toilets – none on this route

**Description** - Parkwood Springs is a natural 'wild' space close to the centre of Sheffield. There is woodland and heath, open parkland, and a range of natural habitats where wild lupins bloom, kestrels hover, and deer have been seen. There are spectacular views over the city centre, the suburbs and the distant moors of the Peak District. The word 'spring' in 'Parkwood Springs' has nothing to do with water but lots to do with the old woodlands. You also pass alongside the River Don and visit Wardsend, an abandoned Victorian cemetery. More information is available from the [Friends of Parkwood Springs](#) and the [Friends of Wardsend Cemetery](#).



The view from the top of the Ski Slope (3/4)



## Route Instructions

1. From the Shirecliffe Road/Cooks Wood Road entrance next to the pull-in, take the path to the left (1a). On your left, you pass a car park. From the metal gate onto the football pitches walk diagonally across to the left hand opposite corner, over the helicopter landing pad. There is a large telecommunications mast to your right. Then go down the steps through the trees (1b).

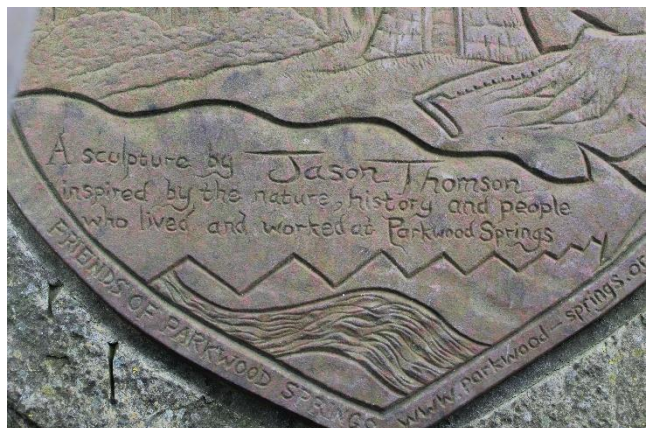
*The car park was the site of Shirecliffe Hall. The name derives from Scir-cliff - meaning 'a bright steep hillside'. 'Shiercliffe,' 'Shirecliffe' or 'Shirtcliffe' was the ancient estate of the De Mountenay family, descendants of Sir Robert de Mounteney, grandson of Maud de Lovetot, in the time of Henry III. Their seat was Shirecliffe Hall, demolished in the early C18th. The replacement was demolished in the 1960s.*

*At the road entrance to the car park is the 'Spirit of Parkwood' sculpture (Jason Turpin-Thomson, 2011), This represents the site history, people who lived and worked at Parkwood and the future of the area as a Country Park. A metal interpretation panel is on the large rock under trees adjacent to Cooks Wood Road.*

2. At the bottom of the steps, bear right, cross the path and ascend to a wooden bench surrounded by heather at the top of the lowland heath. Having enjoyed the views across Sheffield, retrace your steps and take the first right, downhill. urn to the bottom of the steps and turn right downhill. At the cross-roads, turn right, then left, descending to the Rutland Road entrance.



*10 m to the left of this entrance is the 'Boy and the Bird' statue (Jason Turpin-Thomson, 2008). Jason worked with Sheffield Council and local children to develop a sculpture in cast iron, which rusts to a distinctive colour. The bird of prey looks like a kestrel. It perches on a tree root harking back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the sculpture would have been in what was then called 'Cook's Wood'.*



3. Retrace your steps and, after 150 m, bear left (3a). Bear right at the next junction (3b), slowly ascending. After 50 m, take the left, keeping the fence on your left.



On your left are the remains of Sheffield Ski Village. Established in 1988, this included eight ski runs, ski lodge, retail shops and restaurants. It closed in April 2012 after the main building was destroyed by fire. In November 2017 it was announced that developers wanted to rebuild, and develop, into a £22.5 million extreme sports centre.

4. When you reach the wider path, (4), take the path immediately to its left (SK 350 893), descending through woodland, keeping the ex-landfill site, behind the fence, to your right.

The Viridor Landfill site in the middle of Parkwood Springs closed to new tipping in 2016. Restoration is in hand.

5. Pass through the squeeze stile (5a), then between two concrete walls before crossing over the railway line using a metal footbridge (5b)

Nearby are the remains of Neepsend Railway Station. This opened on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1888 and closed 52 years later, on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1940. Built by the Sheffield, Ashton-Under-Lyne and Manchester Railway, the Sheffield to Manchester Railway opened in 1845. From Sheffield, there were stations at Neepsend, Wadsley Bridge, Oughty Bridge, Deepcar and Wortley before the line reached Penistone

After a series of mergers, ownership passed to The London and North Eastern Railway (LNER) in 1923. In 1948, after nationalisation, British Rail took over the line. In 1938, work started on electrifying the railway between Sheffield Victoria and Manchester Piccadilly. In 1954, after an interruption because of WW2, upgrade and electrification was completed. The original plan was to electrify the lines through the existing tunnels at Woodhead. However, the state of the tunnels led to a new double-track tunnel being constructed. This was the last major piece of work to be authorised for Britain's first 'all-electric main line.' After 1959, services ran non-stop from Penistone to Sheffield. In 1970, passenger services between Sheffield Victoria and Manchester ceased. Then, in 1981, the Woodhead line closed. The line through Neepsend is still used for goods traffic which utilises the spur to Stocksbridge.

6. Turn right onto Parkwood Road, the left (Hoyland Road), then right onto Sandbed Road, then right onto Club Mill Road.



On Hoyland Road there are former coal drops. Between the 'black brick' pillars there were 'wooden planked' walls, behind which coal was deposited from coal wagons on a siding from the railway, level with the top of the structure. Lower down there were chutes which could be opened, through which the coal would be gravity deposited into waiting lorries. The lower parts of the 'red brick' walls are original.



7. The River Don is on your left. You will pass industrial units (7) before passing through two squeeze stiles.

*Club Mill Road is used by new age travellers who were evicted from sites on the land which is proposed to be developed into the new extreme sports centre.*



*The 1945 Foundation Stone at Chapmans was laid by Lady Riverdale, wife of the steel manufacturer, Arthur Balfour, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Riverdale (1873/1957). Lord Riverdale married Frances Josephine, daughter of Charles Henry Bingham, in 1899. Lady Riverdale died in 1960.*



8. 1 km after entering Club Mill Road, you will reach a marked footpath on your right to Wardsend Cemetery. Passing the grave of Colour Sargeant William Newell on your right, continue into the cemetery. Pass the obelisk on your right, then take a right turn onto a path which ascends towards the railway line.

*Wardsend Cemetery is an abandoned Victorian cemetery, opened in 1857, consecrated by the Archbishop of York in 1859 and closed to legal burial in 1968. The obelisk monument commemorates the soldiers of 6<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Foot, Victorian Army, who died whilst at the nearby Hillsborough Barracks, 1866 to 1869. By the turn of the century, some 20,000 interments had taken place and in 1901, a further two acres of land on the other side of the railway were added. Wardsend is thought to be the only cemetery in England which has a functioning railway running through it.*

9. Go over the railway bridge and take the central path (9) continuing to ascend as the path curves to the right. You will pass more gravestones. After 150 m, the path turns sharply to the left ascending away from the railway line.
10. Follow the main path. When you reach the exit onto Penrith Road, turn right (10a) and then bear left across a section of grassy scrubland. After 35 m, fork (10b) left towards trees.
11. You pass the Veolia Longley Avenue Household Waste Recycling Centre on your left before taking the right fork up a hill (11).







12. Passing a series of six gas exit pipes (12a), continue keeping the landfill site on your right, heading towards the telecommunications mast (12b). After passing the Standish Way entrance on your left reach the top of the hill where there are two football pitches to your left.



*At this point is a single metal pole. This was built in the mid-1990's under the instigation of Paul Hobson, the Environmental Science Lecturer at nearby Parkwood College. An anemometer at the top of the pole measured windspeed and direction while instrumentation in the box at the bottom of the pole gathered the data. Subsequent analysis indicated that the wind speed and direction were not suitable for the erection of wind turbines. Closed in 1998, the College was demolished in 2000 and replaced by housing. Originally opened in 1971, before 1988, it was named Shirecliffe College.*

13. Follow the path to the right of the hedge, passing the remains of a WW2 anti-aircraft battery on your left and a viewpoint on your right (13). Take the next left, passing the telecommunications mast on your left. Turn left at the next cross-roads and return to your start point passing Little Pear Tree Field Nature Reserve on your left.

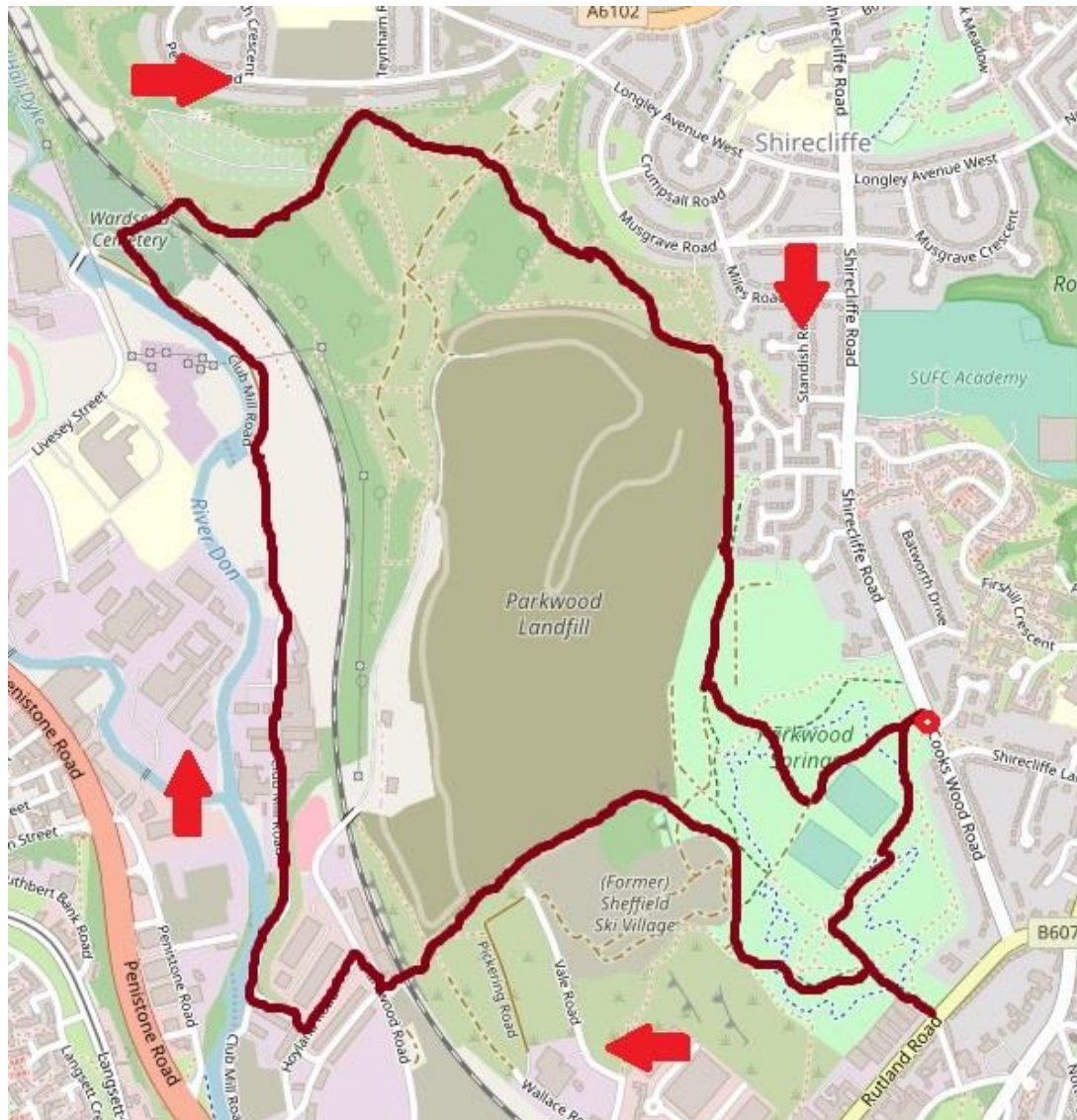
*Initially the anti-aircraft guns were Ack-ack guns: artillery designed to shoot upward at airplanes. Later in the war, the battery was upgraded to a Z battery, using the lighter Rocket projectors which could fire up to 36 rockets at a time in a "ripple" firing sequence.*



*The viewpoint was built as part of the Millennium celebrations in the year, 2000. It represents a bird of prey, wings outstretched, claws*

**This walk is sponsored by the  
Friendship Hotel, Stocksbridge**





[stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk/](http://stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk/)



Please utilise the 'contact' link on our website if you wish to suggest any amendments to these instructions

Except where expressly stated to the contrary, copyright in the text, graphics and information contained in this web site (including downloads) is owned by Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome. You may print, or download to a personal computer, extracts for personal use.

Permanent copying and/or storage of whole or part of this web site or the information contained therein or reproduction or incorporation of any part of it in any other work or publication whether paper or electronic media or any other form is expressly prohibited unless agreed otherwise.

Material available from our website, including downloadable .pdf files, is provided for information purposes only. Whilst every care is taken in compiling information we do not make any warranties or representations as to its accuracy or reliability. We may make changes to this material at any time without notice. Certain information on the website may contain typographical or other errors or be out of date, and we make no commitment to update such information. We and any third parties referred to on the website assume no responsibility for how you use the information provided through the website.

Layout, Photos and Text: Dave Pickersgill

Thanks to the [Friends of Parkwood Springs](#) for assistance

© [OpenStreetMap contributors](#)

