



# WALKERS ARE WELCOME



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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

<https://stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk/>

### Short walk: Langsett WW2 Target Winch Houses

- Length – 3.0 miles (5 km)
- Grade – Mostly well-defined paths. Some rough ground and rocky footing. Steady climbs, plus one steep descent and ascent. Parts can be muddy and slippery in wet weather
- Start – This extension walk starts at the southern-most point of Langsett Reservoir, on Thickwoods Lane. If you only wish to walk the extension, start at the junction of Back Lane and Low Moor Lane to the west of Upper Midhope (see map and (6) on Langsett 5/6 mile walk)
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278/288

**Description** - This walk is an extension of our walk around Langsett Reservoir ((7) on the 5/6 mile walk). Initially sheltered by trees, you progress onto moorland, passing the remains of two World War Two (WW2) target winch houses before returning to the start point.



The remains of a WW2 target training winch house. Langsett Reservoir is in the distance (4).

*This is made of bricks produced by the Barnsley Metallic Brickworks. The works, on Summer Lane, were founded by John William Bottomley in 1904. Bottomley was responsible for many improvements and patents in clay-working machinery. He died in 1929 and the company was dissolved in 1936.*



## Start:

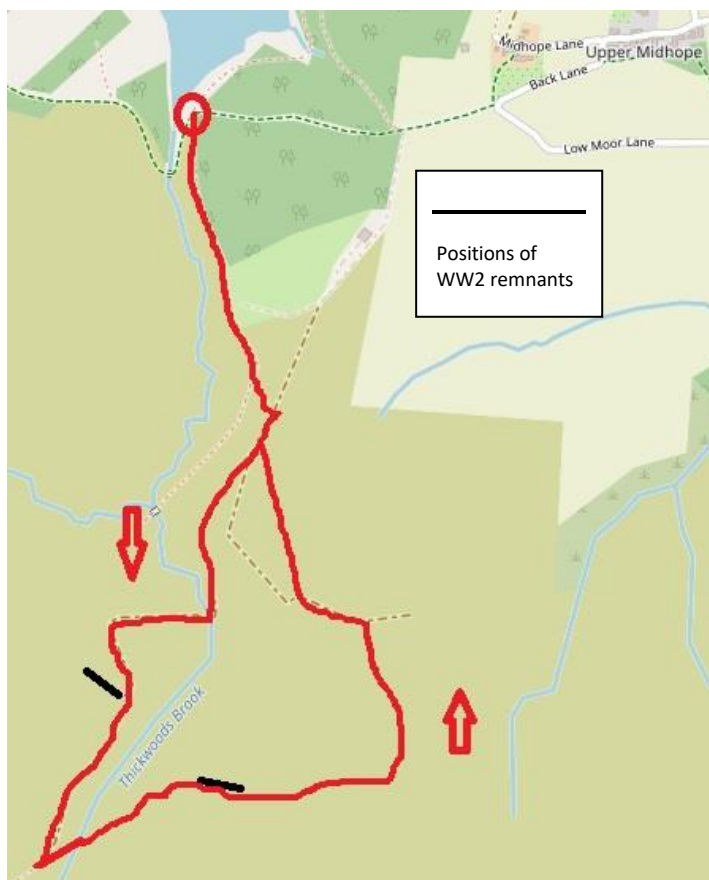
1. Heading south, pass through the small gate and follow the marked path parallel to the trees (1).
  2. At the end of the trees, the path continues (2).
- Mind the steep drop to your right**
3. At the end of the fence, the path crosses moorland until, at a post, you reach a track. Turn right.
  4. When you reach a crossroads, take the track to the right (4a). This descends to cross a concrete bridge (4b) over Thickwoods Brook before ascending to the first of two WW2 winch houses.
  5. Continue along the track until you reach the shooting lodge. Take the (marked) sharp left onto a footpath. This descends steeply (5) to cross Thickwoods Brook before ascending to moorland.
- Take care when descending and ascending.  
This path can be very slippery.**
6. As you reach moorland, the second target is ahead (NW) and can be easily seen (6). From the second target, continue away from Thickwoods Brook.
  7. You will reach a track running left to right. Turn left.
  8. This track meets a wider track. Turn left (8).
  9. You then reach the original crossroads at which you originally turned right. Turn right (9) and after 50 m, follow the signed path to the left.
  10. Follow your original route to the start point.







*During WW2, the Langsett area was used as a training area in preparation for the 1944 Normandy landings. In addition to a training range for tanks, armoured cars and artillery guns, it was also a test range for experimental shells. The brick outlines are the remnants of winch houses which were used to move targets across the shooting ranges. The targets, known as hornets, resembled tanks and were made from wood and canvas.*



Layout, text and photos: Dave Pickersgill

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