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It is distributed in association with [Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership](#)

[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: Bolsterstone, Wind Hill, Underbank Circular

- Length – 7.0 miles
- Grade - Well defined paths. Can get muddy in places in wet weather. Some stiles and rough ground
- Start - [Bolsterstone village](#), near Stocksbridge or Yorkshire Water Underbank Reservoir Car Park, Oaks Lane, Stocksbridge S36 4GH and start at (11)
- Grid reference - SK 271 967 / SK 246 991
- Parking - on the road or in the car park
- Public transport – leave the 57/57a routes at Hollin Busk Road, and start at (21) or leave them at the terminus and start at (12)
- Refreshments – [Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre](#), [The Castle Inn, Bolsterstone](#)
- Public Toilets – in Bolsterstone

Description

The route commences in Bolsterstone, slowly ascending to a trig point (359 m). We then continue past quiet woodland which contains ancient earthworks and the remains of mill stone production, before descending towards Underbank reservoir. We then walk alongside the reservoir before ascending through ancient woodlands, then across fields before returning to Bolsterstone.



The Canyards and Broomhead Moor, as seen from (5)

Route Instructions

1. From Bolsterstone, take Heads Lane, the right turn in front of the Village Hall (1).

Just before Waldershaigh Farm, on your left, you will pass Waldershaigh. This building was built by John Brearley for Charles Macro Wilson in the 1860's. After his brother's death, Reverend William Reginald Wilson took occupation. It later became the property of the Bruce family.

2. Continue to the end of Heads Lane at Hunger Hill Farm. On your right is a stile, one side of which is made from the remains of an old telegraph pole. The cast iron identification number (97126) is still visible.



3. Then, at Hunger Hill, passing through the gate, continue along the track (3).

Some of the bricks on this track have distinctive makers insignia or names. This example is from Stein, [a company originally based in Stirlingshire, Scotland.](#)



4. A trig point is now visible in the distance, ahead of you. Go through the gate way. The footpath swings off to the right and follows the field boundary. Proceed, across the field, to the trig point (4).



The brass plaque commemorates Michael Jeffrey who died, aged 29, while taking part in the 2006 Great North Run.

This area was part of the old salt route from Cheshire to Bawtry, and then on by boat to the rest of the country.

Views to the east include Emley Moor transmitting station and Royd Moor Wind farm. The 1,084 feet (330 m) tall concrete tower at Emley is the tallest freestanding structure in the UK. It is also a Grade II listed building. The Royd Moor Wind Farm consists of thirteen 500 kW turbines. Completed in 1993, at a cost of £6.3 M, the turbines are 35 m tall and have a rotor diameter of 37 m.

To the west, you can see a large linear earthwork above the track on Broomhead Moor. Below the track there is a neolithic stone circle and burial cairns.

5. From the trig point, **EITHER:**

5a. go through a gap in the wall. Keep the old wall on your left until you re-join the path (10).

OR:

- 5b. You may wish to explore the woods (5a). Then, return to the path and continue.

These woods are unusually quiet, sometimes completely silent and are known locally as 'spooky wood.' They were featured in the January 2020 issue of the 'Fortean Times' as woods where supernatural occurrences supposedly occur. There are also part-finished remains of millstones that were manufactured from the grit stone outcrop. One set is over a metre in diameter.

6. Turn left at the gate. Cross Long Lane and take the signed footpath along the ridge (6), with the stone wall on your right.
7. Follow the path as it swings round to the right. The path continues down the hill along the top of the rock outcrop. When the path opens out, via a gate, into a field continue down the field (7).
8. Pass through a gateway in the stone wall (8) and into the next field. The path drops down towards the trees, passing through a wooden gate into the woods at the bottom of the fields.
9. Continue down the track until it opens out onto Oaks Lane. Turn right and then then, after 100 m, go left into the Underbank car park. Continue and pass Underbank Outdoor Activity Centre on your left.
10. When you reach Underbank Reservoir, turn right along the bank, and follow the path. At the end of the reservoir, continue passing an interpretation board on your right. Cross the bridge over the spillway and following the path, go over the dam wall (11). At the end of the wall, turn right, along the old road.

This road was the main route out of Stocksbridge until early 1988 when the by-pass opened. The by-pass is a remnant of the 1980's M67 scheme which planned to connect Manchester and Sheffield via a new motorway. Only 5 miles of the M67 were built. This heads east from the M60 passing through Denton and Hyde before ending near Mottram.

The by-pass was built "on the cheap" in comparison to the full motorway originally proposed. The original scheme consisted of a dual carriageway with a central crash barrier. This was downgraded into a single carriageway with blind crests and no crash barriers, aided by the occasional crawler lane. Two of the four major junctions are, "grade separated" (have flyovers or underpasses), so it is easy to see how this could have been originally meant as a motorway.



11. Take the short footpath on your left (12) up to Manchester Road (B6088). Cross Underbank Road. Passing the Silver Fox on your right and Crown Cars on your left, follow the road for 300 m, away from the reservoir.
12. Immediately after crossing Newton Avenue take the footpath up the track on the right by the post box (13).

If you continue along Manchester Road for ~400 m, just in front of the fire station, you will reach a milestone from the Wadsley, Langsett and Sheffield Road. As recent as the late 19th. Century, this area, and the whole of the western part of Bolsterstone Parish were still identified as the District of Green, after Green Farm at its centre. The fire station was formally opened in 1971.

13. Go up the track until it opens out onto Ridal Croft. Turn right up the road onto Ridal Avenue. Cross the road and go right for 100 m.

14. Take the tarmac path on the left into New Hall Wood (15) and follow the path up through the woods. After 750 m, the path opens out into Oxley Park.

To your left is [Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre](#). The building was originally opened by Walter Winterbottom CBE Director of the Sports Council, on 12th. October 1973. As a result of Local Government spending cuts and following considerable local protest it was 'mothballed' in early May 2013. Within two months Sheffield City Council and 4SLC had reached an outline agreement regarding the future running of the centre. It reopened in late September 2013, the swimming pool reopening in 2016. The new café opened in 2020.



Ahead of you is a commemorative plaque mounted on a large piece of rock: 'This 34½ acres of land were presented by Mr. Thomas Oxley to the inhabitants of Stocksbridge for the purpose of a public park or recreation ground. The cost of laying out and the maintenance thereof being borne by Messrs Samuel Fox & Co.Ltd.' Thomas, a local fruit farmer, presented this land in 1921.

15. 50 m before the plaque, turn right and go up the hill to the stone gateway at the top of the grassy area (16).



16. Follow the path, with the wall on your left and the fence on your right, up to the gate at [Greave House farm](#). Go right up the lane past the farm entrance. The farm may have produce for sale (17).
17. At the right turn in the lane go over the stone stile (18) to the left of the gate and into the field. Turn left and follow the path along by the wall.
18. Cross four fields then cross Whitwell Lane (19) and continue along the marked footpath across another two fields.
19. Cross the stone stile (20) and going left, then right progress to progress to the end of Maple Grove. Turn right onto Cedar Road, then left following a marked footpath. This brings you out onto Pennine View. Turn left. At the end of the road, go left onto Coal Pit Lane and then right onto Hollin Busk Lane.
20. After 100 m, take the footpath on your right between houses and then up across fields. Passing Stocksbridge Rugby Club on your right, you will pass through a series of five gates before you arrive in Bolsterstone (21).

[The Rugby Club](#) was formed in 1962 as a section of Stocksbridge Works Social Services. These pitches were officially opened in 2009.

As you cross the fields, away to your left, it is possible to see the remains of the [Hollin Busk Colliery and Clay Mine](#). Here fireclay and ganister, used for lining furnaces, was mined. This is the only fireclay shaft to survive in the Deepcar area. It reached coal at 108' and pot clay at 261'. The pit was last used in 1941 and finally abandoned in 1946. The shaft now has a concrete cap.





Bolsterstone

originated as an Angle-Saxon settlement. The name may be a corruption of Walder, a local Saxon Chief. Alternatively, it may be derived from the existence of two huge stones now situated in the churchyard, generally known as 'bolster stones.' They were brought into the churchyard for safekeeping in the C19th.

Archaeological records state that the twin mortise holes in the upper stone may have supported twin Anglo Saxon crosses. Local legend gives the stones as either the base of a gibbet or part of the structure for some other means of execution.

St.Mary's church was built 1872-79. The lych gate was erected to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897 with the present gates commemorating the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 1977.

The [Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir](#) has long been associated with its "headquarters" in 'The Castle Inn' next door to the Church. It still rehearses in Bolsterstone Village Hall, which was the Village School until 1993.

In 2014, the [Castle Inn](#) was the first pub in Sheffield to gain Asset of Community Value (ACV) status from Sheffield City Council. This was again achieved in 2019.





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



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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