



# WALKERS ARE WELCOME

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## Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

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

### Medium Walk: A walk from Bolsterstone along the Ewden Valley passing Morehall and Broomhead Reservoirs

- Length – 6.5 miles
- Grade – Well defined paths. Stiles and some rough ground, steep in sections. Both the private road by More Hall and the dam wall have good tarmac surfaces suitable for wheelchair users and buggies. The paths by the side of the reservoirs are uneven and can be very muddy.
- Start - [Bolsterstone village](#), near Stocksbridge
- Grid reference - SK 271 967
- Parking - on the road
- Public transport – the 57 and 57a services use the A6102 between Deepcar and Wharnccliffe Side. Hence, it is possible to join our route at (13). Alternatively, you could leave the routes at the top of Cedar Road, 0.5 miles from the start
- Refreshments – [The Castle Inn, Bolsterstone](#)
- Public Toilets – in Bolsterstone



#### Description

From the village of Bolsterstone the route goes along high ground above Ewden Valley before dropping down to the Eastern end of the valley, past the sculpture of [the Wantley Dragon](#) (see photo). We then follow the southern sides of both Morehall and Broomhead reservoirs on [Yorkshire Water](#) paths before climbing back to Bolsterstone.



Work started on the reservoirs in 1913. They were opened in 1929 after delays caused by WW1. It was not until 1933 that leaks in Broomhead were sealed. Ewden Village was built to house labourers and their families. The huts were erected by Walkers, Sheffield timber merchants; each had electric light and hot and cold running water in well fitted bathrooms. There was a Mission Hall, canteen, recreation hall and a general store, run by Stocksbridge Co-op.

Due to the need to move construction materials to the site and take spoil away, the Ewden Railway Company was formed. The connection from the Great Central line to the "Ewden Sidings" started close to the Wharnccliffe Wood signal box with a spur off the main line into a long curve and a 1 in 26 slope. After crossing the River Don and the main road, using girder bridges, the track then ran along the valley and into the sidings. An 1870, ex-Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway saloon car was utilised for passenger transport.

The run-off at the Eastern end of Broomhead reservoir (20)

## Route Instructions

1. From [St.Mary's Church](#) head south, away from the Castle Inn to the junction with More Hall Lane (aka Sunny Bank Road). At the junction, there is a stone stile on the left (1). This leads to a path that follows the high ground across the field away from the village
2. The path continues over another three stone stiles and a wall until it reaches Cote House Farm. The path goes around the rear of the property and over a wooden stile, with a swing gate (2). Turn right and follow the fence until it meets the stone wall. Then keeping the wall on your right, resume your original direction of travel past another stile and across the fields
3. The path continues on the same level through two fields. It then swings slightly to the left as it proceeds to the gate at the far end of the second field (3)
4. The gate leads onto a wide track with woodland rising up on the left. Follow this track until, at a junction, you reach a tarmacked road
5. Take the left turn up the rough track which rises steeply from the junction
6. Follow the track round to the area above the farm
7. Go straight on and then drop down as the track continues along the higher ground
8. Follow the track as it starts to descend, passing through two metal gates
9. The footpath forks off to the right, downhill. Then left, then right through another gate (9) before continuing along a path with stone walls on both sides
10. Continue through another gate downhill through the woods. You will pass a left fork which is signed 'Ministry of Defence Authorised Firing Range.'
11. At the end of the descent through the woods you reach the Wantley Dragon sculpture (11)

The [Wantley Dragon](#) was reputed to live near Wharnccliffe Chase. His slaying by More of More Hall prompted a 1685 satirical ballad. The story tells the tale of how More slays a troublesome dragon which lives on Wharnccliffe crags. The legend was mentioned by Sir Walter Scott in the opening chapter of *Ivanhoe*, "Here haunted of yore the fabulous Dragon of Wantley".

In 2009, professional dry stone waller, John Alston, recycled an existing old wall into a dry stone version of the dragon. The huge head, 1.6 m, in length and weighing a tonne was chainsaw-sculpted by Mark Bell using elm from a Woodland Trust site at Beverley.





12. Continue along the main path as it drops down onto another track and then onto More Hall Lane

13. Turn left and go down More Hall Lane for ~400 m.

**BE CAREFUL – THIS ROAD CAN BE DANGEROUS**

The main road ahead of you is the A6102. Cut back sharp right through the large gateway (13) onto Yorkshire Water property

14. Continue up the road to the dam wall (~750 m). Turning left, go through the metal gate (14) and cross the dam wall, keeping Morehall reservoir on your right

15. At the end of the dam wall, turn right and follow the path by the side of the reservoir until it opens out onto New Mill Bank

16. When you reach New Mill Bank, turn left for 100 m, then take the bridleway on your right into 'Horse Wood' (16)

17. After a gentle ascent, continue to follow this path along the Southern side of Broomhead reservoir

18. When the path meets New Road go through the gap in the fence on your right (18) and, turning left, continue along the permissive path towards the top of the reservoir

19. At the western end of the reservoir the path opens onto Yew Trees Lane. Do not exit at this point, but continue to follow the path through the woods on the shore of the reservoir

20. When you re-join the road, turn right. This is a main road and traffic can be moving quickly. Cross the road bridge which is 10 m in front of you

21. Take the signed footpath to the left about 25 m after the bridge, into Yew Trees Lane Wood (21). Initially this path runs parallel to the river, but soon turns right away from the river

22. Follow the path as it climbs up towards the woods. The path runs parallel to the road, passing between a dry-stone wall and a fence. When you reach the woods, follow the path which initially runs parallel to the wire mesh fence. This slowly rises up through the woods

23. After ~ 200 m, the path veers to the left and continues to ascend through the wood, gradually becoming steeper

24. At the top of the woods go over the wooden stile into the field. Cross the field to the wall opposite the stile and then follow the wall up the hill, passing over a stone stile, to the farm buildings (24)



25. Go up through the farm yard and through the small gate on your right
26. Then take the path up the bank on the left up to Heads Lane
27. Turn right onto Heads Lane (27) and follow the lane back to Bolsterstone, passing the church on your left

*On your right, 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.*

*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 19<sup>th</sup>. Century. 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.*

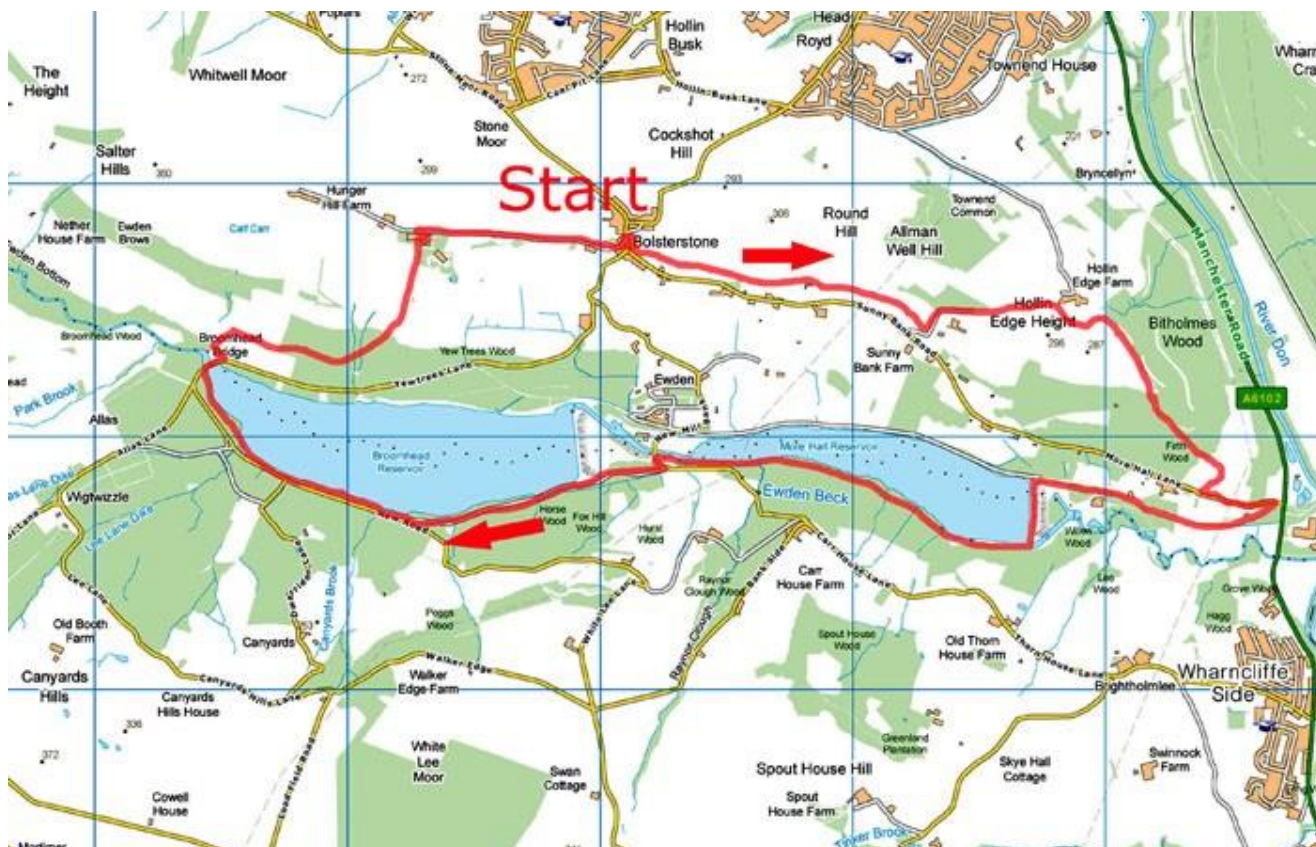


*St.Mary's church was built 1872-79. The Lych Gate was erected to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria (1897) with the present gates commemorating the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II (1977).*

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







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