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Bradfield Walkers are Welcome

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

Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome

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

Medium Walk: Redmires and Rivelin

- Length – 5.5 miles (8.6 km)
- Grade – A mixture of roads, surfaced tracks, unsurfaced paths and moorland. The initial part of route is steep and uneven. The following sections are fairly level before a moorland section is followed by a riverbank. The latter has copious tree roots. Much of the terrain is uneven. Some parts are dangerous in inclement weather.
- Start – Yorkshire Water car park at Rivelin Dams. This has a height limit of 1.9 m (6' 2") and closes at 18:00.
- Grid Reference – SK 277 866
- Parking – free, in the YW Rivelin Lower car park (S6 6GH) or the adjacent road
- Public transport – There are bus stops along the A57. The 51 route terminates at Lodge Moor, close to (5).
- Refreshments – [The Three Merry Lads](#) and [The Sportsman](#) are on Redmires Road
- Public Toilets – none on the route

Description

This circular walk starts at Rivelin Dams and takes you via Wyming Brook Nature Reserve to Redmires Reservoirs and then back again via the scenic route. This journey encompasses a varied mixture of stunning scenery, including fields, moorland, woodland and riverside paths.



The Head Stone (12)

Upper and Lower Rivelin Dams are storage reservoirs providing drinking water as well as compensation water for the River Rivelin. Construction was completed in 1848. The larger Lower Reservoir has a tarmac road giving access to a small car park at the southern end of the dam wall. It has a capacity of 175 million gallons with a surface area of 12 hectares. The dam height is 20 m and its length approximately 300 m. The Upper Reservoir has a capacity of 48.4 million gallons and a surface area of 4 hectares. The dam height is 12 m with an approximate length of 220 m. Access to the Upper Reservoir and the woodland around it is by permit, allowing access only to YW vehicles.

The dams are fed by streams from Hallam Moors. In order to provide compensation water to the River Rivelin a tunnel was built (1909) to take water from the River Derwent at Ladybower Reservoir to the Lower Rivelin Reservoir through a tunnel emerging into a grass covered underground tank at the bottom end of Wyming Brook. A former reservoir keeper's house stands at the northern end of the Lower Reservoir dam wall.

Route Instructions

1. Leave the car park and turn left along the road. After passing through a gate (1), this becomes a stoned track.
2. After about 250 m, turn left onto a signed path via a kissing gate set into the wall (2).
3. Head right to follow the path up some steps and into the woods, with Wyming Brook always close by. The steep, and occasionally slippery, riverside path climbs for 800 m before crossing a bridge and entering a glade.

Wyming Brook rises in Redmires Reservoirs, then flows north-east down steep terrain into an underground chamber before entering the lower Rivelin Dam. This wooded ravine is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Nature Reserve, preserved by the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust.

In medieval times the area around Wyming Brook and the adjoining Rivelin Valley was part of Rivelin Chase, a private hunting forest for the region's nobility. It now provides a home and safe haven for a wide variety of wildlife, including crossbills, dippers, redstarts, pied flycatchers and wood warblers, as well as the lutestring and northern spinach moths. Many other birds have been reported.

4. As you reach some stepping stones across the river, do not cross but instead turn left, up the steps (4) (signed: Redmires Road).
5. Turn left along Long Causeway and then right onto Soughley Lane. 25 m after passing a farm entrance on the right, turn right through a wooden gate which is adjacent to a stone stile onto a walled path (5).
6. Pass through two small gates and continue forward to the stone stile in the wall, which leads to a slightly raised path through the wood.



7. Go over some stone steps in the next wall onto an enclosed path, turning right down the slope and over a footbridge.
8. Turn right along the surfaced road passing between two buildings and over a bridge. Turn sharp left, passing a metal barrier (8) and continue up the tarmac access road for 100 m.
9. Turn right onto a marked footpath. This path runs alongside and then, through the wood, up to Redmires Road.
10. Turn left along the road (take care as there is no pavement) until you reach a waymarked public footpath on the right (10).



On your left, opposite the compound, is a stone sign situated by the roadside wall between Middle and Upper Redmires Reservoirs. This marks the site of the Grouse and Trout pub. The sign features a grouse and three trout, plus the Latin inscription: 'Ich Dien Dinner' ('I serve dinner'). Established, as a beerhouse, in 1828, the pub became a temperance house c1910. It closed in 1913 and was demolished in 1934. It was used by Irish navvies working on the construction of the three Redmires Reservoirs.



Built by the Sheffield Water Works, the three Redmires Reservoirs: Upper, Middle and Lower were the first reservoirs to be built in the area. Following the devastating Sheffield cholera epidemic of 1832, they were constructed between 1833 and 1854 to provide clean drinking water for the growing population of Sheffield. An open water course led to the Hadfield Dam in Crookes and then on to Barker's Pool in Sheffield centre.

Despite their proximity to a large city, the reservoirs are situated in stunning open moorland. The surrounding landscape to the south is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated for the large variety of birds, reptiles and mammals which the landscape supports. They are fed from the Hallam Moors by various small streams including Fairthorn Clough and are visited

by thousands of wildfowl and waders each year providing a habitat for mallard, Canada geese and wading birds.

Adjacent to Middle Reservoir is [Hammond's Field Nature Reserve](#), one of the few remaining areas of unimproved farmland around the moorland fringes. It is managed by The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield and Rotherham. The nature reserve forms part of the South Pennine Moors Special Protected Area.



11. Go through the pedestrian gate and passing the drain hole on your left (11), follow the path along the conduit (Oaking Clough Catchwater) for about a mile, until you reach a crossroads junction with another footpath which crosses the conduit via a bridge on your left.

12. Turn right and over a stile (12) to follow the path heading north over the moor,

13. when you reach a junction of paths where the main road has just come into view along the valley, go straight on (13). Descend into the valley, through a wooden kissing gate and to the bridge over the stream (Hollow Meadows Bridge).

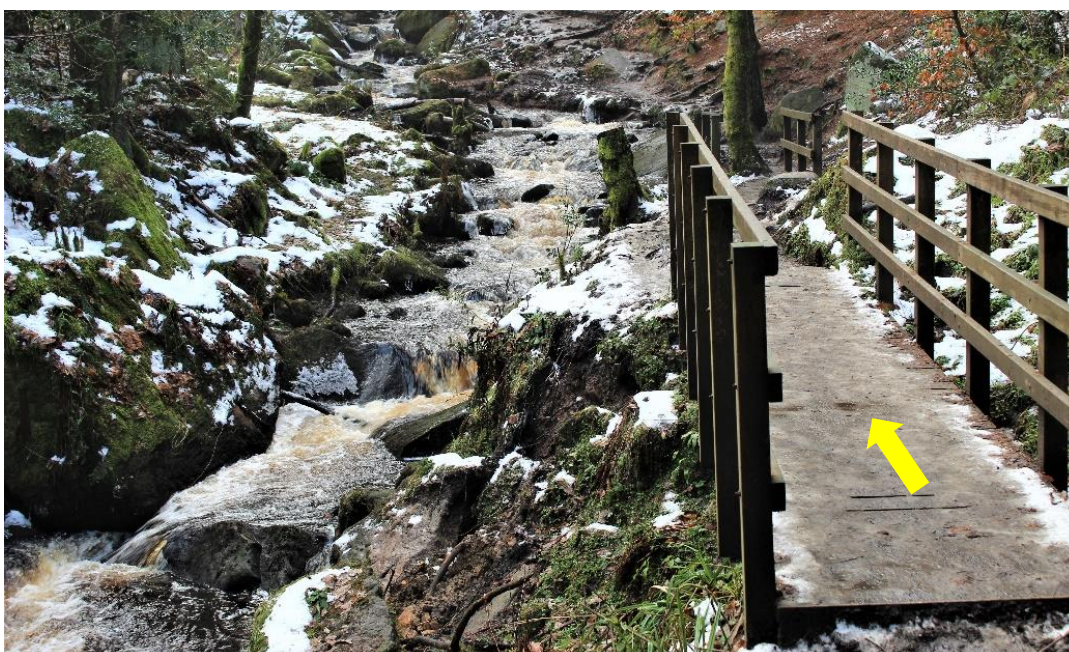
As you traverse the moor, you pass, on your left, a large standing stone in the middle of the moors: the Head Stone. Its purpose is not known but it may mark the head of the Rivelin Valley. It has previously been known as Stump Jack, the Cock Crowing Stone as it was said to spin round three times when a cock crowed.

14. Cross the bridge (14) and continue for a few metres, before turning right to a signed path (Rivelin Dams) through the woods. Follow this path, with the river to your right, until you reach a stone bridge.

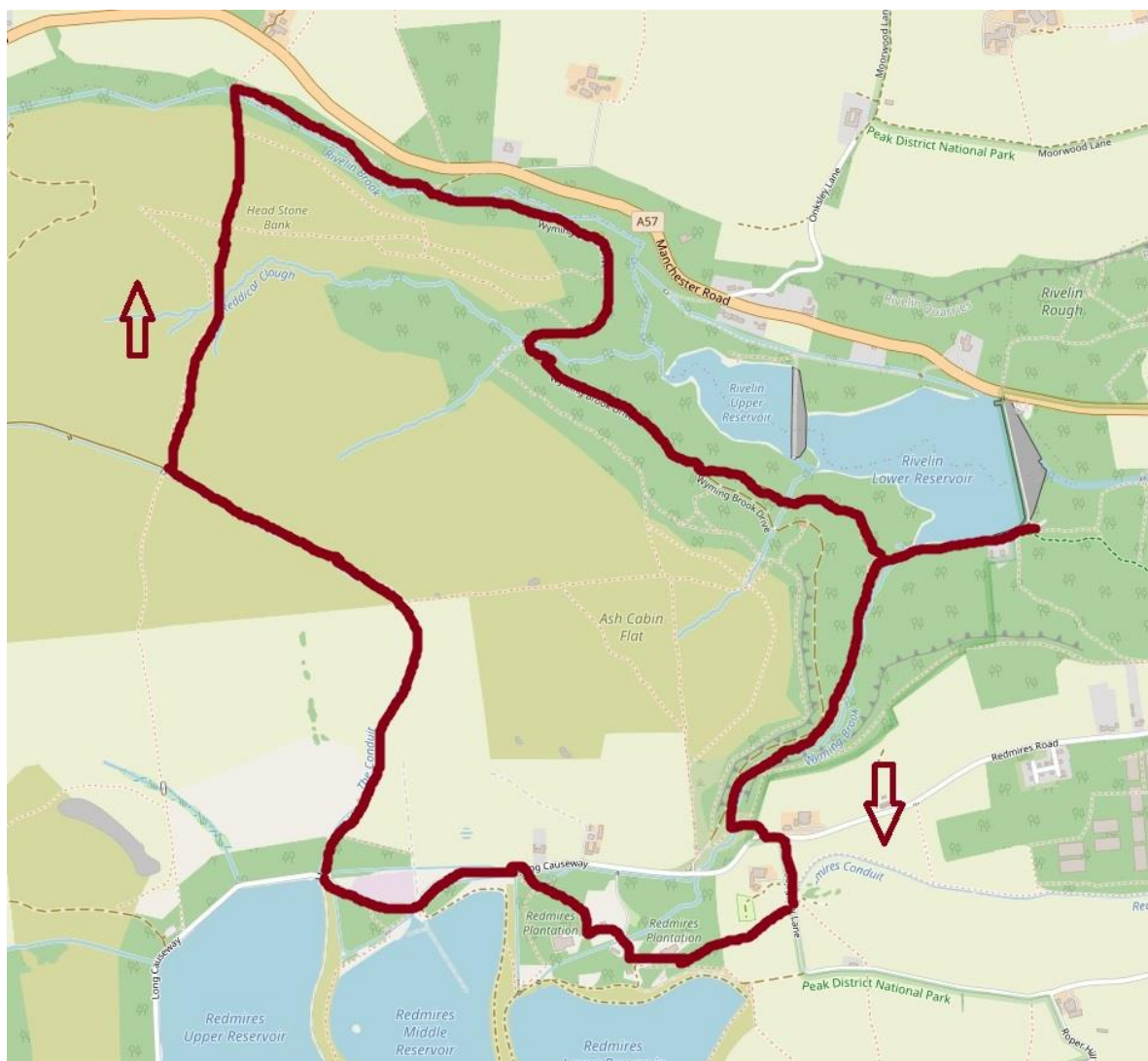
15. Turn right to cross the bridge onto a stoned lane: Wyming Brook Drive. Follow the lane, ignoring a couple of paths off into the woods on your right.

Wyming Brook Drive is a former carriage drive constructed by Sheffield City Council after it had bought the woodland in 1908. This impressive landscape feature was designed to open-up the area for visitors, creating an out-of-town amenity. Providing access for forestry and water board vehicles, it runs from the top of Wyming Brook to the A57 Manchester Road emerging opposite Swinglee Farm.

16. After 1 km, where the lane divides, take the left fork (signed as Rivelin Dams), and gently descend back to the car park.



Wyming Brook in full flow (3)



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