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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.'

Medium Walk: Stocksbridge Heritage Walk

- Length – 10 miles (16 km). This figure-of-eight walk could be followed in two sections: (1) => (9): (9) => (30). 3.5: 6.5 miles
- Grade - Well defined paths. Some rough ground and stiles. Steady climbs. Some rocky footing. Parts can be muddy and slippery in wet weather.
- Start – Stocksbridge Town Hall
- Grid Reference – SK 273 983
- Maps – OL1 Dark Peak, OS Explorer 278
- Parking – street parking in the centre of Stocksbridge and on many parts of the route
- Public transport – 23, 24, 57, 57a and 201 bus routes
- Refreshments – [Fox Valley](#), Stocksbridge town centre, [King and Miller](#) and [Royal Oak](#) in Deepcar
- Public Toilets – none on this route

Description - This very varied walk includes both wooded, moorland and urban sections. These include bridleways and a section above the steelworks. There are excellent views across the Upper Don Valley.



A goods train crosses the River Don (3)

Start:

1. Starting opposite Stocksbridge Town Hall, walk along Manchester Road towards Deepcar. When you reach Nanny Hill, take the right, through iron gates, into Stocksbridge Clocktower Memorial Gardens (1923) (1)
2. When you leave the gardens, cross Manchester Road, and continue to walk towards Deepcar. Fox Valley and the river Don is on your left. 150 m after Abbey Vets, take the marked footpath on your left (2) down steps toward the rail line.

This line was originally privately built in 1877 to link with the national rail network for the transport of steel and other goods.

EITHER:

- 3a. Cross over the rail tracks: this may not be possible if the flood gates are closed. Cross the river and forking right, ascend heading into the wood.
- 3b. Head up through the meadow to Ellen Cliff House. Turn right onto the track and follow the Steel Valley Walk through Ellen Cliff Wood on to Wortley Road, Deepcar.

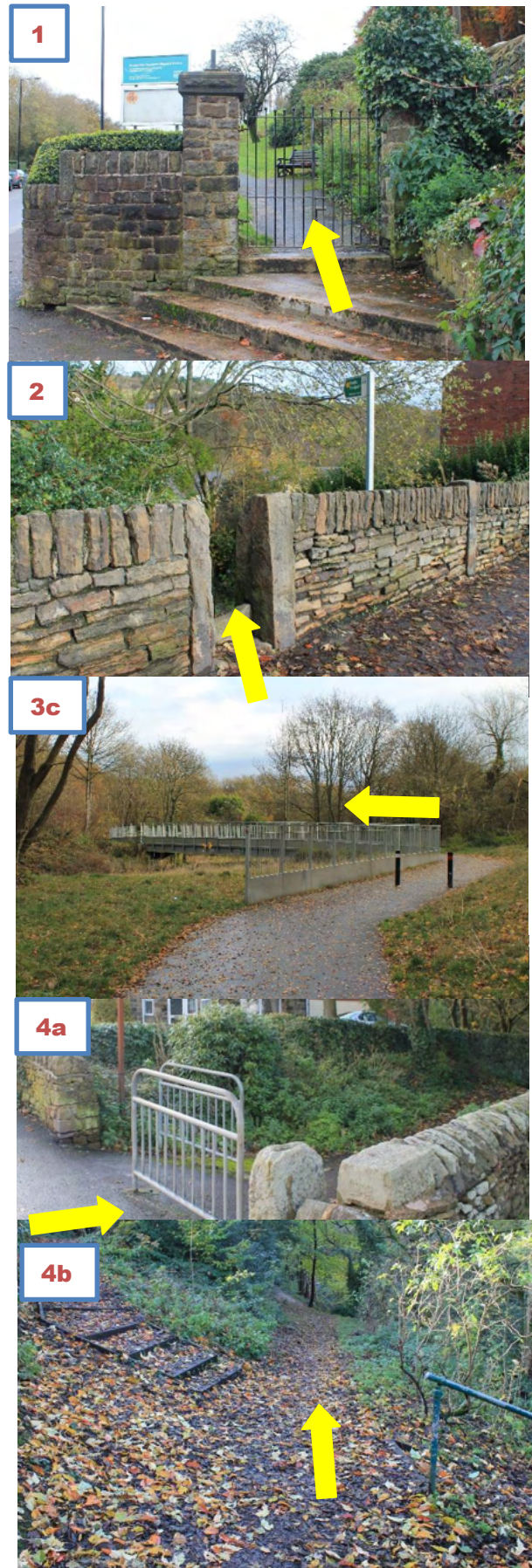
Ellen Cliff House is one of the first and oldest farms on this side of the valley. In Ellen Cliff Wood, look for mature oak, beech, and sycamore trees and watch out for the impressive display of bluebells on the western side of the woods in spring.

OR:

- 3c. Turn right parallel to the rail line and, crossing the river, follow the bridleway to Wortley Road (3c).

THEN:

4. Turn right, then right onto Manchester Road. Turn left up Carr Road. Go up the steep hill. 50 m before St. Margaret Avenue, take the marked footpath on your right (4a). After 20 m, as you enter Fox Glen Wood, take the central path (4b).
5. Cross the stream via the footbridge and continue ascending parallel to the stream. Take the first right (5) and emerge onto Broomfield Lane.
6. At the end of the road, turn left onto Bracken Moor Lane. This becomes Coal Pit Lane. Just before reaching the junction of Spink Hall Lane/ Coal Pit Lane, take the Public Footpath on the right (6).



7. Follow the path, past, on the right, [Stocksbridge Park Steels Football Club](#), and to the left, allotments, to the end of Stanley Road. Cross Victoria Road.

[Stocksbridge Park Steels](#) was created in 1986 with the merger of Stocksbridge Works F.C. and another Stocksbridge Club Oxley Park Sports F.C. Stocksbridge Works had the ground and one team. Oxley Park had three teams and no ground. In the early years, the Club ploughed all its resources into the Bracken Moor Stadium so as to meet ground grading criteria and enable the Club to rise through the non-league pyramid system. Their most famous ex-player is Leicester City and England striker Jamie Vardy who spent seven seasons at Stocksbridge, making his first-team debut in 2007. He moved to AFC Halifax in 2010 followed by a further move to Fleetwood Town. Vardy won promotion with all three clubs and eventually became the country's most expensive non-league player when he joined Leicester City for £1 million in 2012. Jamie has played for England 26 times, scoring seven international goals. The main stand at Bracken Moor is now 'The Jamie Vardy Stand.'

8. Continue down the Public Footpath to the left of Brook Croft. Take the second path on the right opposite the Public Footpath sign (8a), passing a bench on your right. Follow the path through woods, over the bridge, then up steps to Stocksbridge Cemetery (opened 1944) (8b).
9. Turn left to the clock tower. Then left onto Nanny Hill and left onto Manchester Road. Pass the Town Hall.

Opened in 1994, on the opposite side of the road is the first UK [Lidl store](#). There are now over 700. Just beyond Lidl is [the Palace Cinema](#). Opened in May 1921, this seated 1000, including 300 in the circle. It closed on 23rd July 1966, becoming a Bingo Hall.

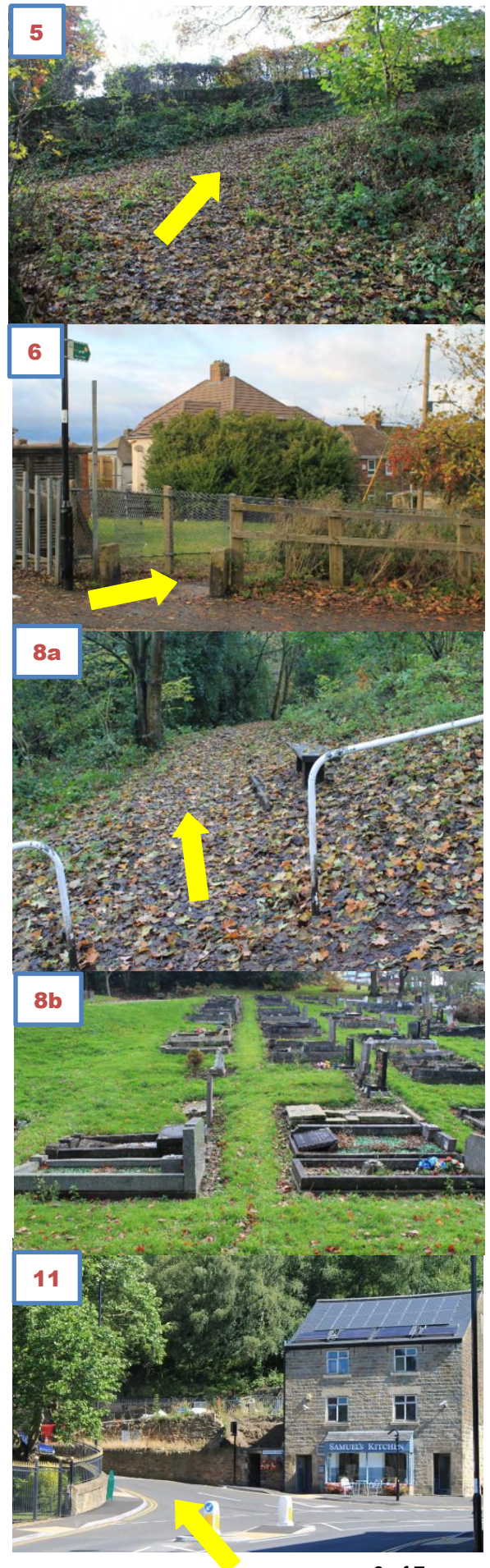
10. Take the next right down Hunshelf Road, follow it past, on your left, the Steel Works offices and on your right, Fox Valley.

Samuel Fox arrived in Stocksbridge in 1842, starting a wire drawing works in a disused mill. The Paragon Umbrella made Sam his fortune and was the first modern umbrella. This paid for the development of other products and processes including steel for the railways. Stocksbridge grew as people moved here for work at the steel works and other industries.

Work started on the [Fox Valley scheme](#) in February 2014. It is a £42 million mixed use scheme on a former steelworks site. The retail development was opened by Joanna Lumley in June 2016.

Stocks Bridge was first recorded on a map in 1772, referring to a wooden footbridge, constructed in 1716 by John Stocks, at the road junction outside Samuel's Kitchen. It was destroyed by flooding on several occasions and was replaced by a stone bridge in 1812 in order to cope with heavier traffic.

11. Passing Samuel's Kitchen (11) on your right, turn left and go up Hunshelf Road.



12. After 50 m, take the marked Public Footpath on your right up the steps (12a). Take a right onto the Hunshelf Park then take the first left (12b) (Public Footpath sign) and ascend, up steps to enter The Steel Valley Walk.

The Steel Valley Walk was officially opened in 1990 and was part of the original [Steel Valley Project](#). This has won several environmental awards. In the summer, look out for fruit trees, planted along the route.

13. At the entrance to the Steel Valley Walk there is a fork in the path. Take a left along the lower path. Alternatively, for views over the town, take the path on the right, up the steps, and to the left to re-join the lower path. Follow the path towards Pea Royd Lane.

14. At Pea Royd Lane, cross over the road, head down hill and go through the metal gate on right (14). Follow the path round and you will reach a view point with toposcope.

This was created, in 2009, 'to celebrate twenty years of Steel Valley Walks' and provides annotated views over Deepcar and Stocksbridge ('Steel Valley Panorama'). Pea Royd Hill was once a stone quarry; it now provides a picnic spot and viewpoint of a panorama over the valley.

15. Retrace your steps to re-join our route. Continue along the path from Pea Royd Lane. When you reach the bench at the bottom of the steps, continue, up the steps (15).

16. At the end of this path, turn right onto a bridleway. This was completed in 2015 and takes a route above the steelworks for ~ 1 km.

Away to your right is the Stocksbridge by-pass. This is a remnant of the 1980s M67 scheme which planned to connect Manchester and Sheffield via a new motorway. It was built 'on the cheap' in comparison to the full motorway originally proposed. The scheme consisted of a dual carriageway with crash barrier in the middle. However, 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 motorway.

17. At the end of the bridleway, take a left onto Underbank Lane, cross over Manchester Road, and look out for the tarmac path on the verge of the road. Follow the Public Footpath sign along the disused tarmac road towards Underbank Reservoir.

This road was the main route out of Stocksbridge until February 1988 when the by-pass opened.

Underbank Reservoir (2955 million litres, built in 1907) supplies compensation water to the Little Don River. This was used for cooling purposes at Stocksbridge steels.



18. Take a left path by Yorkshire Water signs (18), over the dam of the reservoir. Follow this path over the bridge and around the reservoir edge towards [Underbank Outdoor Activity Centre](#).
19. At Underbank Outdoor Activity Centre, turning left, follow the path to the road. Then left onto Oaks Lane. After ~250 m, take the marked track on the right up to Windhill Farm (19).
20. Pass through the farm yard (20), passing the remains of a cruck barn on your right. Pass through a wooden gate, then climb the two stiles to the left of a metal gate onto Access Land. Continue keeping the fence and dry stone wall on your left.
21. Pass through a wooden kissing gate and continue. Just before reaching the stile and the field, pass through a wooden kissing gate and continue keeping the fence on your left. After the next kissing gate, take a left onto Peg Folly Lane. Do not take the sharp left parallel to the field boundary (21).
22. At the end of Pegg Folly Lane, turn right onto Machin Lane/New Hall Lane (22).



You will pass a guide-stoop (Guide-stone). These were set up in the late 17th.Century following a 1697/8 Act of Parliament. This stone has Penistone, Bolsterstone and Uden carved into it. The convention was that the traveller turned right at the inscription to follow the required route.

23. Continue along Machin Lane past Green Farm. Just past New Hall House (on right) take the signed footpath over the stone stile into the field on your left (23).
24. Turn right in the field, over the stile, then then the path up the field, keeping the wall to your left. Pass over the high stone stile into the lane by [Greave House Farm](#) (24).
25. Turn left, passing the farm on your right. Take the marked path on the left. Enter Oxley Park and head down the field to the tarmac path (25).



The Sports Centre, ahead of you, was 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 as [Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre](#).

On your right, there 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 when it became known as Oxley Park.

26. Take a left and continue on the tarmac path through the New Hall Woods out onto Ridal Avenue.
27. Turn right along Ridal Avenue, at the junction cross over to Smith Road. Go to Coronation Road, turn right onto Public Footpath (27) (Viola Bank). Walk up the tarmac footpath and turn left onto Alpine Road, passing Pothouse Wood on your right.
28. Cross Pothouse Lane and continue on Linden Crescent. At the end of Linden Crescent, turn left and then right onto Shay Rd. At the end of Shay Road, turn right and take an immediate left onto a marked footpath. Turn left along Stanley Road to its end.
29. Cross over Victoria Road and follow instructions (8) and (9) to head back to Manchester Road.

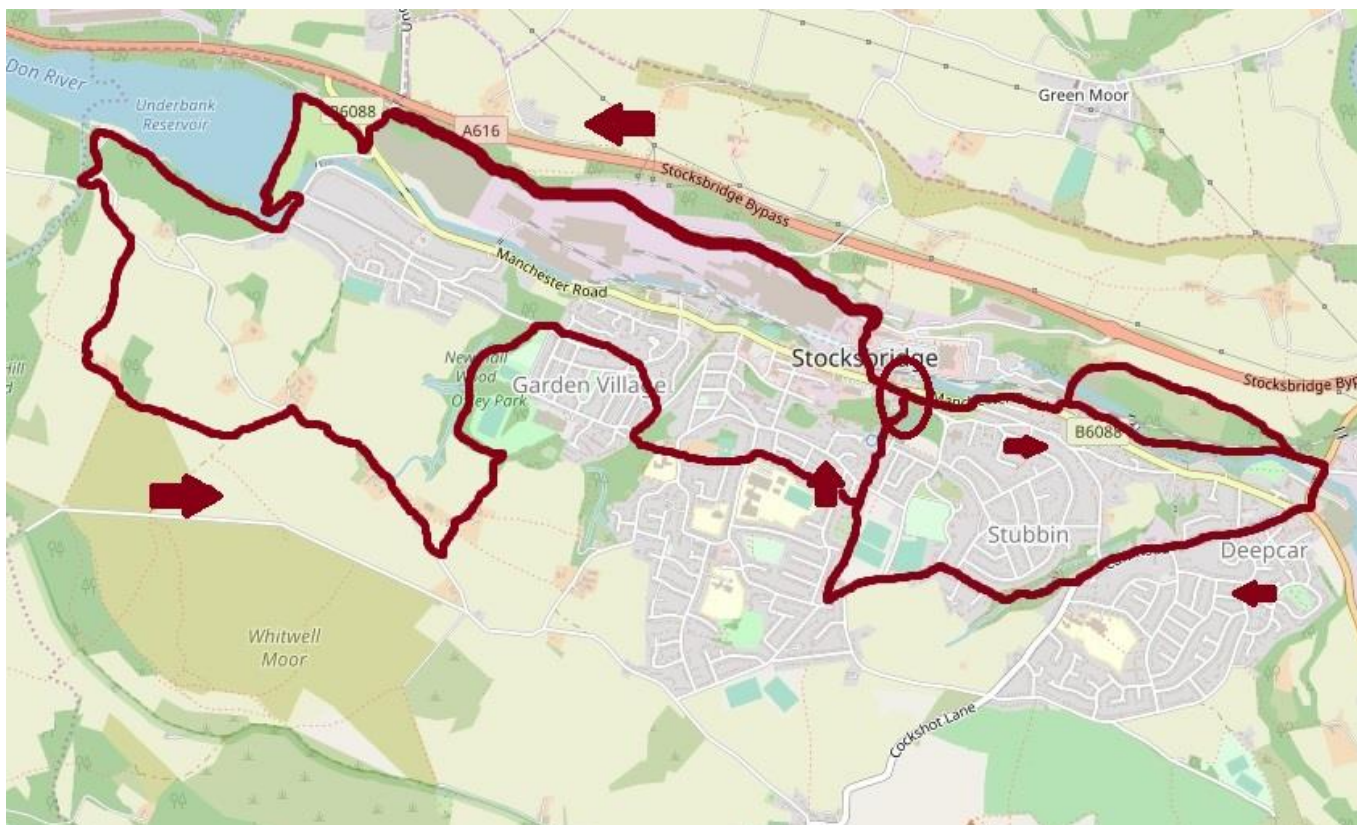


The [Steel Valley Project](#) has been enhancing Bradfield, Stocksbridge and the Upper Don area since 1988.

A registered charity, the organisation works towards the following objectives:

- *Manage habitats for the benefit of wildlife, people, heritage, and landscape.*
- *Encourage access to open green space/wider countryside.*
- *Deliver environmental/education/interpretation to local schools and the wider population.*
- *Provide support, advice, training & supervision to volunteers, trainees & community groups in countryside management/conservation skills by working on local environmental projects.*





stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk/



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This walk is based on one of a series of walks originally developed by the [Stone to Steel Project](#)

**This walk leaflet was created with thanks to
National Lottery players and the Heritage Fund**

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Layout and Photos: Dave Pickersgill

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