

wooded, bridleway route, until it emerges between houses onto Denby Lane (B6115), in the centre of Upper Denby.

Cross over to reach the pavement on the opposite side of Denby Lane and turn right, walking ahead as far as the Bank Lane/Gunthwaite Lane cross roads.

The small and very attractive upland village of Upper Denby (or just plain Denby) is a very ancient settlement, now mostly designated a conservation area. Denby is worth exploring if you have time, as it contains many interesting and attractive old stone built houses and cottages, together with a church (St John the Evangelist) and adjacent school, a public house (The George) and cricket club. The original occupants are thought to have been Danish farmers (the name means 'Danish Village') but, although agriculture is still an important part of the local economy, the village now accommodates a fair number of 'comers in' who are attracted by the pleasant and peaceful nature of the area.

Turn left at the crossroads onto Bank Lane and continue straight ahead until the end of the village is reached. Here the metalled road becomes an unsurfaced track (public bridleway) descending towards the larger village of Denby Dale. Continue ahead, taking care not to deviate onto any of the tracks, driveways and paths which diverge to left and right from the main bridleway route. Part of the bridleway is quite steep, with stone cobbled surface underfoot. At the bottom of the cobbled section the bridleway bears to the left and becomes less steep.

Just past the end of the steep, cobbled, section a number of stone steps rise to a gap stile in the right-hand boundary wall. Leave the bridleway here and follow a public footpath downhill, beneath the Penistone Line railway embankment and onwards between modern detached houses and Broombank, to finally reach the main A635 Barnsley – Holmfirth – Manchester Road.

Cross onto the opposite pavement of the A635 and turn left, walking for a short distance in the direction of the spectacular, stone built, Denby Dale Railway Viaduct. Just past the broad driveway of a care home, turn right through a gap stile in the low stone boundary wall onto a cross-field public footpath which goes downhill past Denby Dale's modern Holy Trinity Church and finally walk down Trinity Drive, a cul-de-sac road which ends at a minor road junction. Nearby is Springfield Mill, a retail complex having amongst other attractions a cafe and WC. Cross the road here and continue straight ahead, uphill, on the left-hand pavement of Norman Road, to reach the main A636 Wakefield – Holmfirth road.

Denby Dale is now a sizeable commercial and residential village, having good communications with various major towns and cities in South and West Yorkshire. However, 200 years ago Denby Dike (as it was then known) was a very sparsely populated small village in the Dearne Valley. During the 19th century the village expanded beyond all recognition, with the advent of turnpike roads, the railway and several large textile mills (only one of which remains in production). The stone railway viaduct, a notable feat of engineering in its day, remains a prominent landmark. The village, which has numerous shops, restaurants and other facilities, is also renowned as the home of the Denby Dale Pie (the largest meat and potato pie in the world). Ever larger specimens of the Pie are periodically baked and consumed with great ceremony, in celebration of particular events (e.g. the Millennium Pie to celebrate the year 2000).

On reaching the A636 (where various shops and other facilities may be of interest) turn left and walk along the pavement for a short distance, until almost opposite a prominent public house on the other side of the road (The Dalesman).

Cross the main road here and walk up the public footpath (Wood Lane) which runs at the rear of the public house, to reach Denby Dale Bus Interchange, beyond which is Denby Dale Railway Station (the end of our walk).

This trail was devised by Paul and Margaret Clarke.

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Denby Church

The Pen-Den Trail



Penistone viaduct

Penistone and Denby Dale stations are on the Penistone Line, along which trains run from Huddersfield to Barnsley, Meadowhall and Sheffield. Trains run hourly Monday to Saturday, with 8 trains each way on a Sunday.

It is possible to terminate the walk at Upper Denby and return to Penistone via bus services 301 or 29 (between them 9 buses per day, 6 on a Sunday).

NB Bus and train details were correct as of May 2010. Please check at www.wymetro.com from where timetables are available.

Look out for the Pen-Den Trail waymarkers to help guide you around the trail.



see: <http://www.denbydale-walkersarewelcome.org.uk>

Walking in the East Peak



Walking in and around Denby Dale

The Pen-Den Trail



Penistone viaduct

A 5½ mile scenic walk linking Penistone and Denby Dale railway stations. Stout footwear is advisable.

The Pen-Den Trail

Walk along the frontage of the stone-built former station buildings and turn left at the end of this block, where a footpath leads to the Trans Pennine Trail.

The Trans Pennine Trail (also referred to as the Upper Don Trail) began life as the track bed of the main Sheffield to Manchester railway. Now part of a nationwide network of safe multi-user routes for horse riders, cyclists and walkers, the Trail has direction signs and useful information boards at frequent intervals.

Turn right and follow the broad Trail for almost one mile. Signposts along the Trail clearly indicate possible diversion routes to Penistone town centre and other points of interest.

Penistone's historic Town Centre is worth a visit. In addition to public toilets (near bus stops, facing the tower of St Mary's Parish Church) there are shops, cafes, etc. and a weekly Market on Thursdays.

Beyond the built up area of Penistone, the Trail soon enters a former railway cutting, where a bridge passes overhead. Approximately 300 yards beyond the bridge the Trail is crossed by a public footpath. Leave the Trail here, turning right onto the footpath (signed to Thurlstone), which goes downhill for a short distance to reach Stottercliffe Road and then the main A628 Barnsley – Manchester Road.

Cross the A628 and turn left on reaching the opposite pavement, walking in the direction of a right-hand bend in the road, around which is a bridge over the River Don.

At the far side of the bridge turn right onto Hoyle Mill Lane and follow this road to the point (just past houses) where a stone stile in the left-hand boundary wall gives access to a field.

Cross the stile and follow a grassy field path, bearing diagonally right, as far as a gate in the far corner. Go through the gate and continue ahead along a well used path in the direction of Thurlstone village. The path finally reaches Town Gate (the village main street).

Thurlstone, notable for its old, attractive and very interesting gritstone buildings, was originally a small farming community. Some industries developed using water power from the River Don (corn milling, wire drawing and various wool/cloth processes). Nowadays, it serves mostly as a dormitory for the urban areas of South and West Yorkshire.

Turning right along Town Gate follow the road around a left-hand bend (do not go straight ahead onto the minor road,



Matthew Gap, at this point) and then continue generally uphill through the village. When the road name changes to Ingbirchworth Road continue ahead (road soon signed as a cul-de-sac).

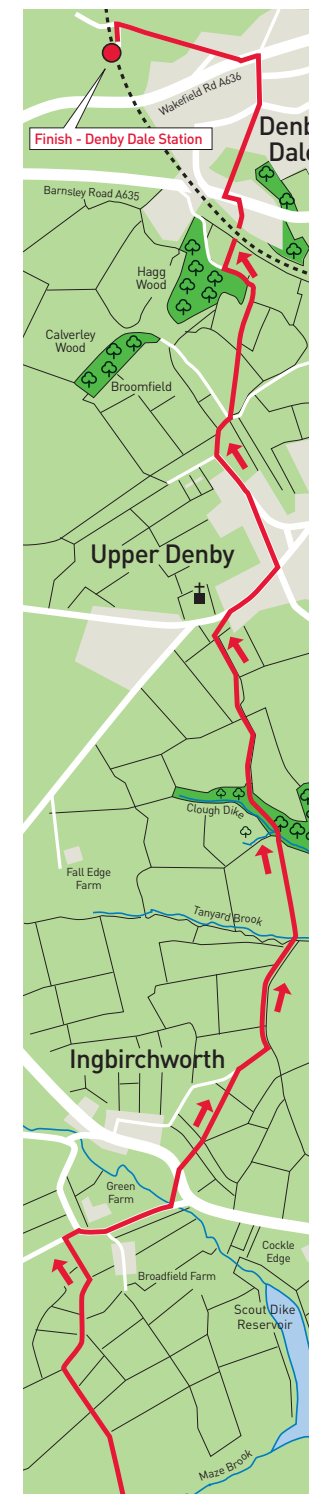
Just past a modern housing development the road goes around a sharp left/right bend near large houses and its name changes to Folly Lane. Continue along rural Folly Lane, which is now fairly level for approx. half a mile, and enjoy wide views in all directions.

Looking backwards, Penistone is clearly visible (with its dominant church). Ahead, in the distance, is Emley Moor Communications Mast (at 1,084ft claimed to be the tallest freestanding structure in the UK). On the hill to the left is Royd Moor windfarm (13 turbines) and on the right it is possible to see for many miles over fields/reservoirs at a lower level, in the direction of Barnsley.

Folly Lane shortly becomes an unmetalled public bridleway. It is quite steep in one place as it dips down and up through a narrow valley beneath the grassy embankment of Royd Moor Reservoir. Beyond this steeper section, continue ahead along the bridleway, which is again a fairly level route between stone walls and fences.

The final section of the bridleway, as it approaches the outskirts of historic Ingbirchworth village, has stone flag paving underfoot in some places. Just after a sharp right-hand bend, the stone flagged bridleway veers off to the left (be careful not to follow the farm access track which goes straight ahead at this point).

The route meets another bridleway, just past the access gate of the caravan site at Ingfield Farm. Turn right at this junction and walk in the direction of the metalled minor road, bearing right along the road past a number of interesting old stone built farm and domestic buildings.



Just before the point where the minor road rises slightly towards a stone bridge over a stream, turn left through an open gateway which gives access to a grassed recreation area beside the stream (picnic benches make this a good place for a tea break). Cross the narrow bridge over the stream and walk ahead up the grassy bank to reach the main A629 Rotherham/Huddersfield road through Ingbirchworth.

Almost directly opposite this point, on the other side of the A629, follow the public footpath which leaves the main road between domestic buildings. The route of the public footpath, beyond the first rather tortuous built-up section is mostly across open fields. The path is reasonably clear on the ground but it passes over several slightly awkward stiles within a short distance – which might slow the progress of larger groups and/or those with restricted mobility. (Various slightly longer alternative routes are possible, avoiding these stiles, using nearby bridleways which also leave the main road in Ingbirchworth and later connect with this route – please refer to OS map).

After crossing a number of fields, the path meets a wide track (a public bridleway) via a stile in the timber boundary fence. Turn right here and walk ahead for a short distance to a point where the route being followed meets another track (also a public bridleway) at a T-junction.

Turn sharp left here and continue ahead for approx. 1 mile along the attractive, partly