
Thurgoland Boundary Walk

The following is taken from the leaflet produced by Thurgoland Parish council.

The official, printed version may still be available from Barnsley MBC, Telephone 01226 773555, email:publicrightsofway@barnsley.gov.uk

The Walk

The Thurgoland Boundary Walk is a 9 mile circular route offering a unique chance to experience the diverse nature of part of the Barnsley Borough.

A mixture of tranquil open fields and dense woodland are inter linked with disused railways and winding country lanes to provide a varied and interesting route around the boundary of the South Yorkshire village of Thurgoland. The route passes alongside the other Villages of Silkstone Common, Oxspring and Crane Moor.

If this is not enough, there is also the spectacular view of the River Don valley floor to the south where the meandering river is visible at certain locations and should not be missed.

The walk is mainly on public footpaths available for walkers only. The stretch along the Trans Pennine Trail is accessible to cyclists, horsriders, pushchair and wheelchair users. Allow yourself ample time to enjoy the walk at a relaxed pace. The paths are generally good surfaces but some areas may be wet after rain or in winter (walking boots are recommended). The route is hilly but has a good mixture of hard surfaces, pasture, woodland and short sections of road (take care when crossing the busy main roads).

The Trans Pennine Trail

The Trans Pennine Trail is a coast to coast route for walkers, cyclists, horsriders and people using pushchairs and wheelchairs. The Trail takes a fascinating journey through the industrial and countryside heritage of the North of England.

For further information on the Trans Pennine Trail telephone 01226772574, email:transpenninetrail@barnsley.gov.uk. or visit www.transpenninetrail.org.uk

The Boundary Walk follows the Dove Valley section of the Trail for a short distance at Silkstone Common, partly on the former trackbed of the Worsbrough Bank Railway. Similarly both east and west of Huthwaite Common the route passes beneath the Upper Don Trail. This section of the Trail is constructed on the former Woodhead Railway engineered by Joseph Locke which opened in 1845 and operated until 1981.

Wortley Top Forge

Wortley Top Forge is the only survivor of a group of water-powered industries that utilised the natural water supply of the upper reaches of the River Don. The Forge is thought to have begun life during the Roman occupation of Britain, but the first clear reference to it being a Foundry came in a lease dated 1658. The final rolling of the Top Forge took place in 1929. In 1952 the Forge Hammers and building became a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and by 1995 the Top Forge was opened as a museum, conveying how the iron works operated and the living conditions of its workers during the early 18th Century. The Forge is steeped in local history and is well worth a visit.

For further information regarding opening times telephone 0114 2817991 or visit www.topforge.co.uk

Further information

The nearest train station to the route is at Silkstone Common. Penistone Station is easily accessible via the Upper Don Trail. You can make your travel arrangements by ringing the South Yorkshire Traveline : 01709 515 151

There are a number of Public Houses on or near the route. Those listed below are where the proprietor has agreed to let you park in their car parks. If you are part of a larger walking group please contact them prior to your walk.

Bridge Inn, Forge Lane, Telephone 0114 2882016

The Monkey, Hollin Moor Lane, Telephone 0114 2883594

Green Dragon, Halifax Road, Telephone 0114 2882297

Horse and Jockey, Roper Lane, Telephone 0114 2882354

Waggon & Horses, Sheffield Road, Telephone 01226 763259

Travellers Inn, Maggot Lane, Telephone 01226 762518

If you have any comments on the Thurgoland Boundary Walk, encounter any difficulties en route, or would like information on other walks or cycle routes in Barnsley contact : Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Public Rights of Way Highways and Engineering, P.O. BOX 601 S709FA. Telephone 01226 773555 or email:publicrightsofway@barnsley.gov.uk



Romtickle Viaduct



Brown Hare

Immediately before crossing over the railway bridges turn right and follow the TPT through woodland to Silkstone Common.

SILKSTONE COMMON

Leave the Dove Valley Trail at Moor End Lane, pass under the bridge and by Nabbs Wood. At Dodworth Moor End house turn right to cross the field to Berry Moor House.

1 The Huskar pit was joined to Moored Pit, for ventilation purposes, and was owned by Mr R C Clarke of Noblethorpe. This is how events unfolded on that day, the 4th July 1838. The day was hot and sunny, a violent thunderstorm raged from about 2pm to 4pm. Hailstones and about two and a half inches of rain fell. The rain had put out the boiler fire and the engine used to take the workers back to the surface could not be used. A message was sent down to the workers to make their way to the pit bottom. Most of the children decided to wait until the engine was working again. Forty of them decided to make their way out of the pit after spending nine hours underground. At the bottom of the drift there was an air door and the children went through this. As they made their way up the drift, a stream, which had swollen into a rushing torrent washed them of their feet and down to the door which they had just passed. Water rose against the door. Some of the older children managed to escape along a slit which lead to the Moored Pit but twenty six were drowned.

Descend into Partridge Dale, then climb up through Tom Royd Wood to Eastfield.



Huskar Pit Memorial in Nabbs Wood

2 In the late hours of January 23rd 1851 George Firth, a forty three year old coal merchant from Partridge Dale was making his way home from the pub through Tom Royd Wood when he was shot from behind, only 200 yards from where he lived. Suspicion fell on his brother who was arrested, but later the charges were dropped due to a lack of evidence. It is still unknown to this day who ended the poor mans life so abruptly and without any apparent motive.

Turn left along the road then right into the field, cross the field to the track by Long Wood. Across fields again then turn right to Crane Moor.

Cross Hand Lane into Crane Moor Road, turn left next to the chapel, enter the edge of Aytun Wood. Climb up the fields and turn right to Clappers, then leave the track and climb the field then obliquely through the wood to the road.



Skylark

Continue to the T-junction turn left for 100 yards and cross the main A629 with great care.

Take the path steeply downhill through sheep pasture to the underpass beneath the Upper Don Trail. Continue downhill to follow the riverbank to Cote Lane. Go across and into Old Mill Lane.



Huthwaite from Crane Moor

Turn right up Bower Hill and carefully cross the busy A629 at Four Lane Ends. A short distance along Coates Lane turn left onto Blacker Green Lane (track). Keep left leaving Far Coates Farm.

Trans Pennine Trail (West) and Penistone approx 1 mile

At Thurgoland Bridge cross to follow the riverside path to Bower Hill, Ospring.

Cross the field beside the river, then pass behind Cheese Bottom Farm along the wooded bank to join the access road to Thurgoland Bridge.



Stone in the Wall of Romtickle Viaduct

5 William Crawshaw was a navy employed in the construction of the Sheffield, Ashton-under-Lyne and Manchester Railway. Tragically, whilst building the viaduct in 1844, a stone fell on him and claimed the poor mans life. His work mates later built the stone block into the structure. The stone block is still visible today if you search hard enough for it!

Follow Old Mill Lane for 1 1/4 miles then leave it by the footpath heading beneath the impressive Romtickle viaduct.

4 Black Moor Common is one of the largest areas of western gorse and heath in the Borough and it is a rare and vulnerable site. A mosaic of habitats can be found, ranging from woodland in the west to heathland on the southern slopes down to the river.

3 The former Wire Works was built during the mid 18th Century, but possibly has earlier origins. A watermill originally marked the site on a map of 1775 and by 1815 the buildings had appeared being marked as 'The New Wire Mill' and 'New Mill'.



Kingfisher

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Thurgoland C.P.

