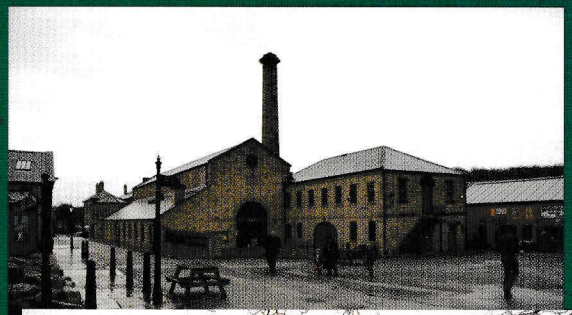
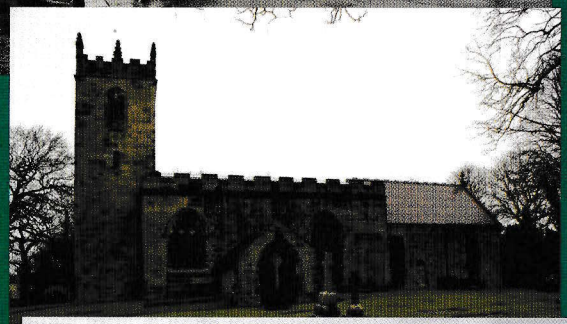
Waymarked Walks 7 & 8

ELSECAR to WHARNCLIFFE WOOD

Barnsley Boundary Walk







BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

BARNSLEY BOUNDARY WALK

The Barnsley Boundary Walk is made up of twelve short walks joined to form a continuous route some 73 miles (117 km) in length, mainly through the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley, but also in parts of Kirklees, Wakefield, Doncaster, and Sheffield.

You can join the route at any point and enjoy one or more sections to suit your time and energies, and travel arrangements.

This leaflet is one of a series of six designed not only to show you the route but also to point out and explain many of the interesting facts and features to be discovered along this very popular walking way.

The walk roughly follows the boundary of the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley through a great variety of landscapes from the moorland of Dunford, the wooded environs of Wharncliffe, the historic parks at Cannon Hall, Bretton and Wortley, and the wetlands of the Lower Dearne. Landscapes rich in social, economic and natural history.

As you enjoy the Boundary Walk please respect the interests of those who live and work in the countryside.

Further Information

If you have any comments on the Boundary Walk, encounter any difficulties en route, or would like information on other walks and rides in Barnsley, including the Trans Pennine Trail, please contact: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Environmental Services, Public Rights of Way, PO Box 601, Barnsley, S70 9FA. Tel: (01226) 772142. E-mail: publicrightsofway@barnsley.gov.uk.

For details about the Trans Pennine Trail contact The TPT Office c/o Barnlsey Council, PO Box 597, Barnsley, S70 9EW. Tel: (01226)772574.

Acknowledgements

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Waymarked Walk No. 7

ELSECAR to TANKERSLEY

Starting Point
Elsecar Heritage Centre.

Distance
3 miles (4.8 km).

Time
Allow yourself up to two hours for exploring at a leisurely pace.

Footwear
Some sections can have wet, muddy or uneven ground. Choose appropriate footwear.

Waymarks
The route is waymarked with a distinctive **B** circled with arrows.

How to get there
The villages around the route are served by bus services and some railway stations. Nearby bus stops are shown.

You can make your own travel arrangements using the South Yorkshire Travel Line; Tel: (01709) 515151.

If you do use a car please use the car parks where these exist, and be considerate of others when parking elsewhere.

Additional Information

The route is covered by OS Explorer Maps No's:-
OL1 The Peak District, Dark Peak and map 278 Sheffield and Barnsley

Wood and Charcoal, Iron and Coal ...

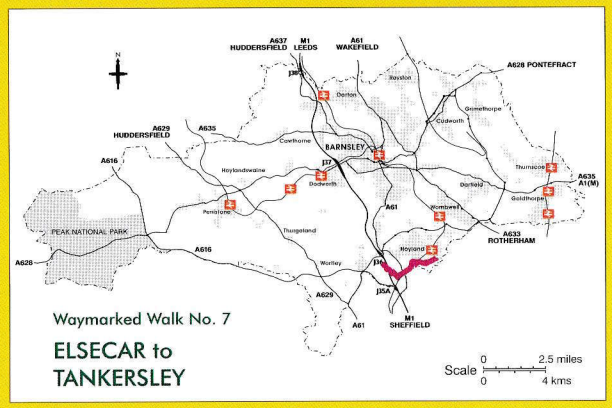
Tankersley was an early centre of iron production exploiting local ore often won from bell pits.

The early furnaces were fired using charcoal and the link between woodland and industry was forged. Coppice management of the local woodlands secured the necessary supply of charcoal. This continuing need secured the presence of areas of ancient woodland such as Skiers Spring in the landscape. In addition when ironstone mining ceased the pocked ground was unsuitable for agricultural use and often reverted to woodland as happened at Bell Ground Wood.

The use of coal as a successor to charcoal meant coppice management was abandoned and generally mineral exploitation intensified. The 'revolutionary' industrial processes became centred on Elsecar where the Earls Fitzwilliam of Wentworth Woodhouse developed their mining and engineering enterprises.

Elsecar Heritage Centre





5 Cross Stead Lane and continue on to meet the A6135 Sheffield Road opposite Parkside. Here turn right along the road then left on the path to Bell Ground Wood.

6 Tankersley Bell Ground has seen much mining activity through the years. You can still see where the bell pits were by the hollows and mounds on the ground. Cross through the wood to join Black Lane.

7 Tankersley Old Hall dates back to the 16th Century but was already a ruin by 1750. In the 1969 movie 'Kes', based on the book by local novelist Barry Hines, Billy Casper finds a Kestrel's nest in the ruins. The site is in private ownership.

Beyond Old Hall Farm follow the track under the M1 Motorway and north towards St.Peter's Church at Tankersley.

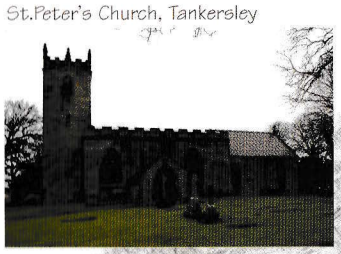


8 A church at Tankersley is recorded in the Doomsday Book of 1086, and the oldest parts of the present church, St.Peter's, date from the 12th. Century. This is the end of this section of the Barnsley Boundary walk, but please take a wander around the churchyard which tells the story of the mining industry in Tankersley.

2 From Forge Lane, adjacent the Heritage Centre's main car park, turn left into Wentworth Road and immediately right to join the footpath that takes you through Elsecar Park.

After 700 yds you will reach Skiers Hall which has existed from at least the 13th Century until it was demolished in 1951. The hamlet still carries its name. Continue westwards along the path towards Alderthwaite Farm.

3 After Alderthwaite Farm, carefully cross Broadcarr Road and cross over the railway bridge over the Leeds to Sheffield line. Follow the path north for 50 yds then turn left into Skiers Spring Wood.


St.Peter's Church, Tankersley

HOYLAND COMMON

HOYLAND

ELSECAR

Trans Pennine trail

Elsecar Canal

Water Vole

M1 Jct 36

Timberland Trail

A6135 Sheffield Road

Glebe Farm

M1 Motorway

Springwood Farm

Skiers Hall

Alderthwaite Farm

Elsecar Park

Elsecar Reservoir

PH

PH

Newcomen Engine

Elsecar Heritage Centre

Skiers Spring Wood

Parkside

Bull Wood

Black Lane

Bell Ground

Burying Lane

sley Park Course

Old Hall Farm

Tankersley Old Hall (remains of)

Timberland Trail

To Chapeltown

Bypass

0 mile 0.5
Scale
0 km 0.8

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1 Elsecar was a coal and ironstone mining community developed in the 1700 and 1800s by the Earls Fitzwilliam of nearby Wentworth Woodhouse.

The Elsecar Heritage Centre is situated on the site of the original Elsecar Colliery Industrial Workshops. There is a Living History Centre, Craft Shops and Tearooms. To the north of the Heritage Centre is the Elsecar Newcomen Beam Engine which is an Ancient Monument. It is the only one in the world still on its original site and was built by John Bargh of Chesterfield in 1795 at a cost of £167.19s.3¾d. It was used to pump water out of Elsecar New Colliery which opened in the same year.

You can travel the mile between the station at Elsecar Heritage Centre and the Hemingfield Basin on the Dearne and Dove Canal by steam train.

The station was built for Earl Fitzwilliam in 1870 and was used by the Earl and his guests to travel to the races at Doncaster. The Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, was a frequent visitor.

4 Skiers Spring Wood is an Ancient Woodland, a term meaning it has been in continuous existence since at least 1600. After leaving the wood, continue along the path south of Springwood Farm.

Waymarked Walk No. 8

TANKERSLEY to WHARNCLIFFE

Starting Point
'Park and Stride' car park, Tankersley.

Distance
5.1 miles (8.2 km).

Time
Allow yourself up to three hours for exploring at a leisurely pace.

Footwear
Some sections can have wet, muddy or uneven ground. Choose footwear accordingly.

Waymarks
The route is waymarked with a distinctive **B** circled with arrows.

How to get there
The villages around the route are served by bus services and some railway stations. Nearby bus stops are shown.

You can make your own travel arrangements using the South Yorkshire Travel Line; Tel: (01709) 515151.

If you do use a car please use the car parks where these exist, and be considerate of others when parking elsewhere.

Additional Information

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OL1 The Peak District, Dark Peak and map 278 Sheffield and Barnsley

Onward and Upward ...

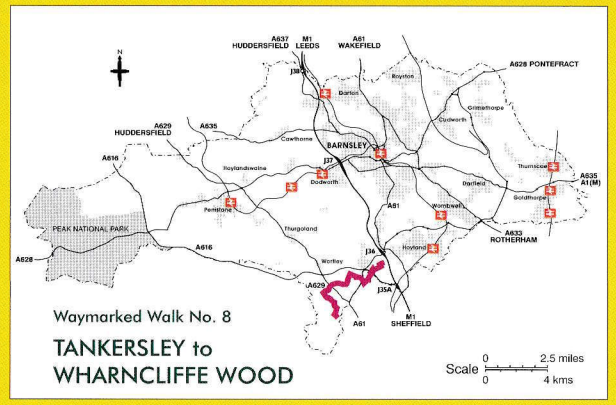
Beyond Tankersley the landscape of the walk gradually changes as we proceed via Tankersley Park Golf Course and Westwood Country Park, both transformed from former derelict industrial sites, to the rolling, wooded agricultural land around Howbrook.

From here we climb to the elevated Wharncliffe Chase, an extensive area of medieval wood pasture formerly managed as a Deer Park by the Earls of Wharncliffe. The site still contained a herd of red deer up to 1945. It remains a distinctive landscape important for nature conservation.

Here you can sense the influence of nearby Peak District gritstone moorlands to which subsequent sections of the walk proceed.

Wharncliffe Chase





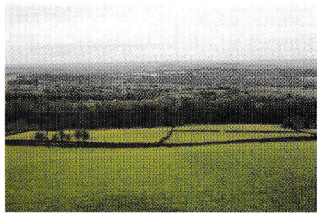
7 Carefully cross the road onto the track and bear left after 100 yds to follow field edge paths to Bank Lane, close to Cundy Houses.

8 Turn left onto the lane then right after 50 yds diagonally downhill to Smithy Fold.

Continue onward past the buildings then left and immediately right over the stile and across fields bearing left towards Hazelshaw Farm.

9 Turn right along Tree Lane then after 100 yds half left and uphill across one and a half field lengths. After 300 yds turn right and uphill to meet Woodhead Road, at Wharncliffe Chase. Here turn left along the road to Stansfield Ash Farm where our walk ends.

10 A popular car park off Woodhead Road serves Wharncliffe, Wheata and Greno Woods. You can follow the main track westward (marked Trans Pennine Trail) to join the Barnsley Boundary Walk at Stead Spring.



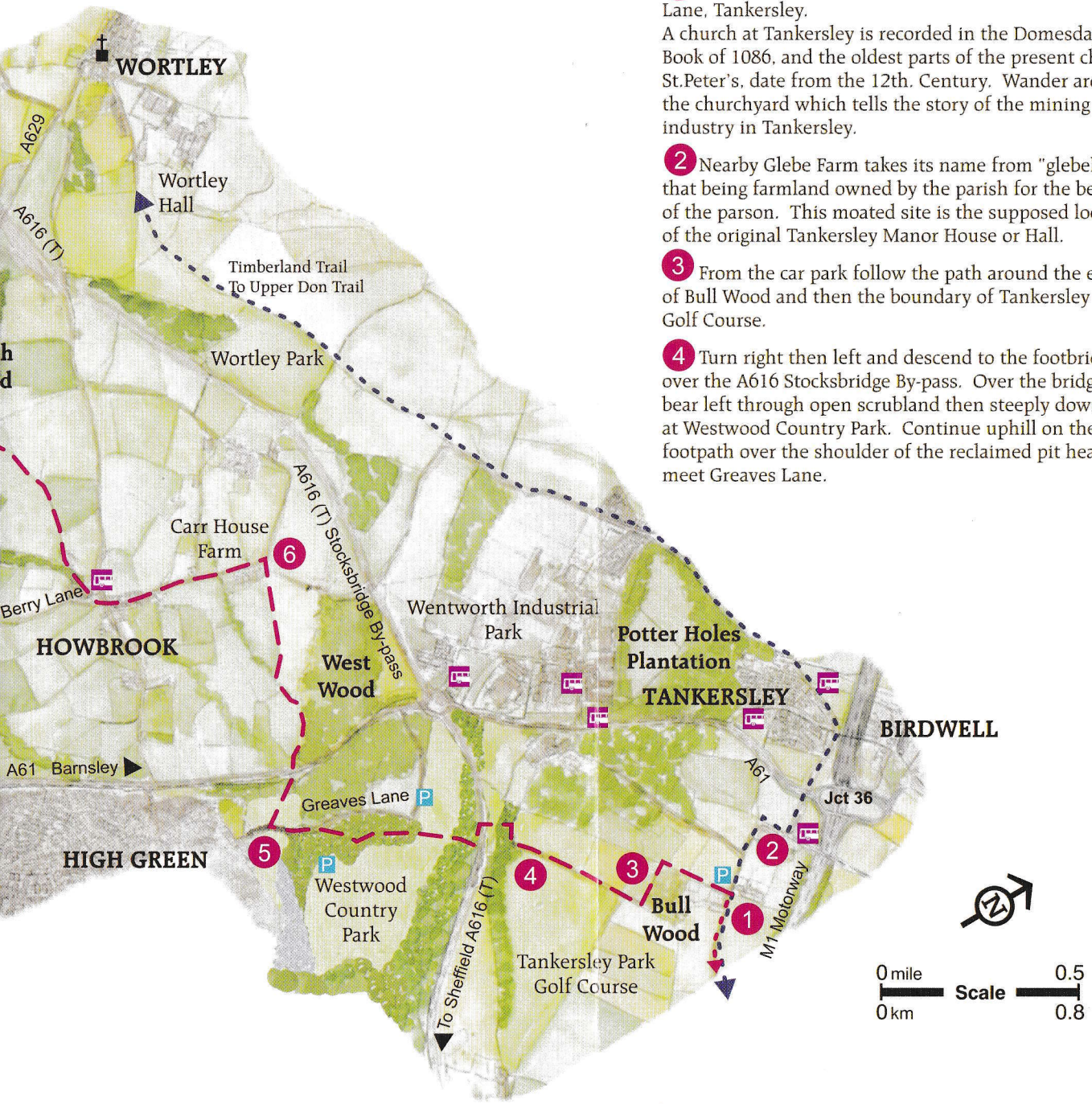
Hazelshaw Farm/ Woodhead Road

5 Turn left and after 220 yds, right across a meadow into woodland to meet the A61 Sheffield to Barnsley road. Carefully cross the busy road, then down a flight of steps and follow the wood edge, then by field paths to Carr House Farm.

6 Turn left and downhill along Bromley Carr Road to the village of Howbrook. Cross over Hollin Berry Lane to join Berry Lane. After 60 yds turn right and follow the track through farm buildings and by field paths downhill and up by the wood edge to the A629 road.

Pheasant

Berry Lane, Howbrook



1 Our walk starts opposite St.Peter's Church at Black Lane, Tankersley.
A church at Tankersley is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, and the oldest parts of the present church St.Peter's, date from the 12th. Century. Wander around the churchyard which tells the story of the mining industry in Tankersley.

2 Nearby Glebe Farm takes its name from "glebeland", that being farmland owned by the parish for the benefit of the parson. This moated site is the supposed location of the original Tankersley Manor House or Hall.

3 From the car park follow the path around the edge of Bull Wood and then the boundary of Tankersley Park Golf Course.

4 Turn right then left and descend to the footbridge over the A616 Stocksbridge By-pass. Over the bridge bear left through open scrubland then steeply downhill at Westwood Country Park. Continue uphill on the footpath over the shoulder of the reclaimed pit heap to meet Greaves Lane.

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