



Stocksbridge Le Tour à pied



Discover the river, woodland and open moors in Bolsterstone, Deepcar, Langsett and Stocksbridge

Stocksbridge Le Tour à pied

Description

The route is approximately parallel to that taken by the Tour de France ('Le Tour') as it skirts Stocksbridge on Sunday 6 July 2014.

We start at Langsett before following the line of an ex-railway. We then go through Midhopstones, ascend to both Barnside and Broomhead Moors and skirt the Canyards before leaving the route of 'Le Tour' at High Bradfield.

Points of interest include an ex-railway track, a Potter's Well, medieval churches, a turnpike road, WW2 training areas, shooting butts, a stone circle, the site of a 1932 mass trespass, boundary stones, an SSI and milestones.

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Garlic House Farm, as seen from 16



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'Stocksbridge, Le Tour à pied'

- **Length** - 14.5 miles, 23 km
- **Grade** - Mostly well-defined paths. Some moorland, rough ground and stiles. Can be muddy in places.
- **Start** - Langsett Barn Car Park. Parking is free. It does get busy, so if it is full use the lay-by, 200 m up the hill.
- **Public transport** - Bus 23 and 23A from Barnsley and Stocksbridge/Deepcar stops at the Waggon and Horses Inn, Langsett. National Express route 350 (Liverpool to Cambridge) also stops at this point. The 61 and 62 buses from Hillsborough visit our finish point at High Bradfield.
- **Grid reference** - SE 210 004
- **Map** - OS110
- **Refreshments:**
 - 'Bank View Café (aka Langsett Café)' and the 'Waggon and Horses Inn' at Langsett
 - 'Ye Olde Mustard Pot Inn' at Midhopestones
 - 'The Old Horns Inn' at High Bradfield
- **Public toilets** - Langsett Barn car park.
- **Mobile phone coverage** - mostly good. Intermittent signals can be received on higher ground.

Some of this route (24-34) is on Broomhead Moor, access land which is used for grouse shooting. The land owner can close the area for short periods. This is usually in the shooting and nesting seasons. There may also be restrictions on taking dogs onto grouse moor access land. More information is available on the Natural England website. If this is the case, take an alternative route through Broomhead Park and via the road (see map) before re-joining our route at 38. Barnside Moor (11-16) is also occasionally closed.

Great care has been taken to ensure that this information is accurate. However, we accept no liability for any claim, loss, damage or injury (howsoever arising) incurred by those using this information

Information has been obtained from a variety of sources. These include the Bradfield Archivist (Malcolm Nunn); Bradfield Walkers are Welcome, Local Libraries, Stocksbridge and District History Society and The Bradfield Archives.

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Route Instructions

1. Start from **Langsett Barn** car park. Cross the main road (the busy A616). Turn right, then left into the Bank View Café car park. Take the path in the far corner through the kissing gate, right over the stile, then diagonally across the field, over the stile and turn right.
2. The path down through these fields is not immediately obvious, however as you progress down the hill you will find well-made metal stiles, one of which is no longer in a fence! (2).
3. At the bottom of the final field cross the wooden stile and turn left over the bridge (3).

This is the **old railway track** which was originally built to supply materials during the construction of **Langsett Reservoir**. When the line was in use, an unusual 'coffee-pot' style locomotive called 'The Don' was used. This was nicknamed 'Coughin' Sally' from the sound it made.

4. Keeping the A616 on your right, follow the track until you can see the village of **Midhopestones** away to your right. Ahead you will see the bridge which passes over **Mortimer Road**. About 100 m (metres) before the bridge, take the path off to your left (4a). This descends to Mortimer Road, turn right (4b) and pass under the bridge (4c).

On your right, at the crossroads with the main road, is a large building. This was originally *The Rose and Crown* public house. It was built by William Payne (1760-1831) when he was Lord of the Manor of Langsett. It closed as a half-way house in 1876 and has since been converted into private dwellings. The year, '1811' is marked on the rear.

5. Cross the A616 and follow the road into the village.

On your left you will pass the remains of **'The Potters' Well** Midhopestones.' Originally harnessed in 1720, until 1919, this was the only water source for Midhopestones. The residents did not receive piped water until the mid-1930s.

6. Go up the hill and turn right at **'Ye Olde Mustard Pot'** onto Chapel Lane, passing the old school which is on the opposite corner on your left. Follow the lane as it swings left.



St James' Church



Instead of continuing up the hill, spend some time in and around **St James' Church**, a Grade II listed building. Foundations were laid around 1360 by the Barnby family of Cawthorne. The church was built as a Chapel of ease for the main church of Ecclesfield, St Marys'. The Barnbys' used St James' as their private chapel until 1622. They were forced to sell the manor because of financial hardship brought on by fines levied after the English Reformation for

hearing Mass and not attending the state church. It was owned by Puritans between 1622 and 1690, falling into disrepair.

The church was restored in 1705 by Godfrey Bosville. He had his coat of arms along with his and his wife Bridget's initials carved above the porch door as a sign that he regarded the church as his personal family chapel. Until 1847 services at St James' were performed by clergy from St Mary's Church, Bolsterstone where records were kept. 1978 renovations included lowering the pulpit, replacing brass candlesticks and cross with wrought iron and the removal of the front box pews. The oak was used to make inner doors and a desk and chair for the priest.

7. When Chapel Lane swings right, take the sunken path (Stony Croft Lane), on your left, up the hill, by the side of the farm (7).
8. Follow the path as it climbs the hill. The path occasionally turns and opens up at field boundaries. The path is marked with arrows and/or stiles/gates.
9. At the top the path goes through a large gate, with open moor ahead. Veer left and drop to the road (about 50 m). Turn right, back onto Mortimer Road.



Mortimer Road, also known as the Strines Road, was a turnpike road constructed by a 1771 Act of Parliament, following the line of an ancient packhorse route known as Halifax Gate which ran between North Derbyshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire. It was built at the instigation of Hans Winthrop Mortimer, Lord of the Manor of Bamford, and completed around 1777. Mortimer wished to link Grindleford with the market town of Penistone to increase trade in wool and agricultural produce. Mortimer Road linked at Penistone with the Doncaster/Barnsley/Woodhead/Manchester road, turnpiked in 1740 and the Sheffield/Huddersfield/Halifax road, turnpiked in 1777. At Grindleford it linked with the Sheffield/Ringinglow/Fox House/Buxton road.

10. Continue along Mortimer Road (about 300 m), then turn right (Gill Royd Lane) towards Langsett.
11. After about 600 m, cross the tall wooden ladder stile on the left (11). **Pike Lowe** is the high ground up to the right, with the large cairn on the summit.
12. Follow the large earthwork ditch up the hill. Keep the ditch on your right.



13. Continue to the fence that runs across the line of the wall. Turn left and follow the fence round to the metal gate.
14. When you reach the track which runs parallel to Gill Royd Lane, turn left.
15. Keep following this track. On your left, you will reach the remains of a series of three World War 2 structures (15).

*During the Second World War, this area was used by Canadian Servicemen as a training area in preparation for D-day in 1944. The brick outlines are the remnants of winch houses which were used to move targets across these **shooting ranges**. The targets, known as hornets, resembled tanks and were made from wood and canvas.*

*Views from the moors include **Emley Moor transmitting station** and **Royd Moor Wind farm**. The 330 m tall Grade II listed, concrete tower at Emley is the tallest freestanding structure in the UK.*

16. When you reach Mortimer Road, turn right. After about 50 m, as the road bends to the right, cross the stone stile over the wall and take the footpath keeping the wall on your left. The white painted **trig point** can be seen ahead on higher ground and slightly to your left.
17. Cross two fields, each with a stone stile at the end (17).
18. After about 100 m, follow the wall, turning left. Cross the high stile into the next field. Cross this field, rising slightly as you approach some woodland.
19. Pass through the wooden gate (19a), then turn right, passing between two stone walls. Continue past a gate on your right onto a farm track which leads away from the farm buildings (19b).
20. When you reach a wall, ignore the footpath sign and turn right, downhill (20).

*From the **trig point** you can see a large linear earthwork above the track on Broomhead Moor. The brass plaque commemorates Michael Jeffrey who died aged 29, while taking part in the 2006 Great North Run.*

21. When you reach the woods, the path passes through a stone gateway and bends to the right as you continue to descend.



1 Langsett barn

2 Langsett reservoir

3 Ex-railway track

4 The Potter's Well

5 Midhopstones village

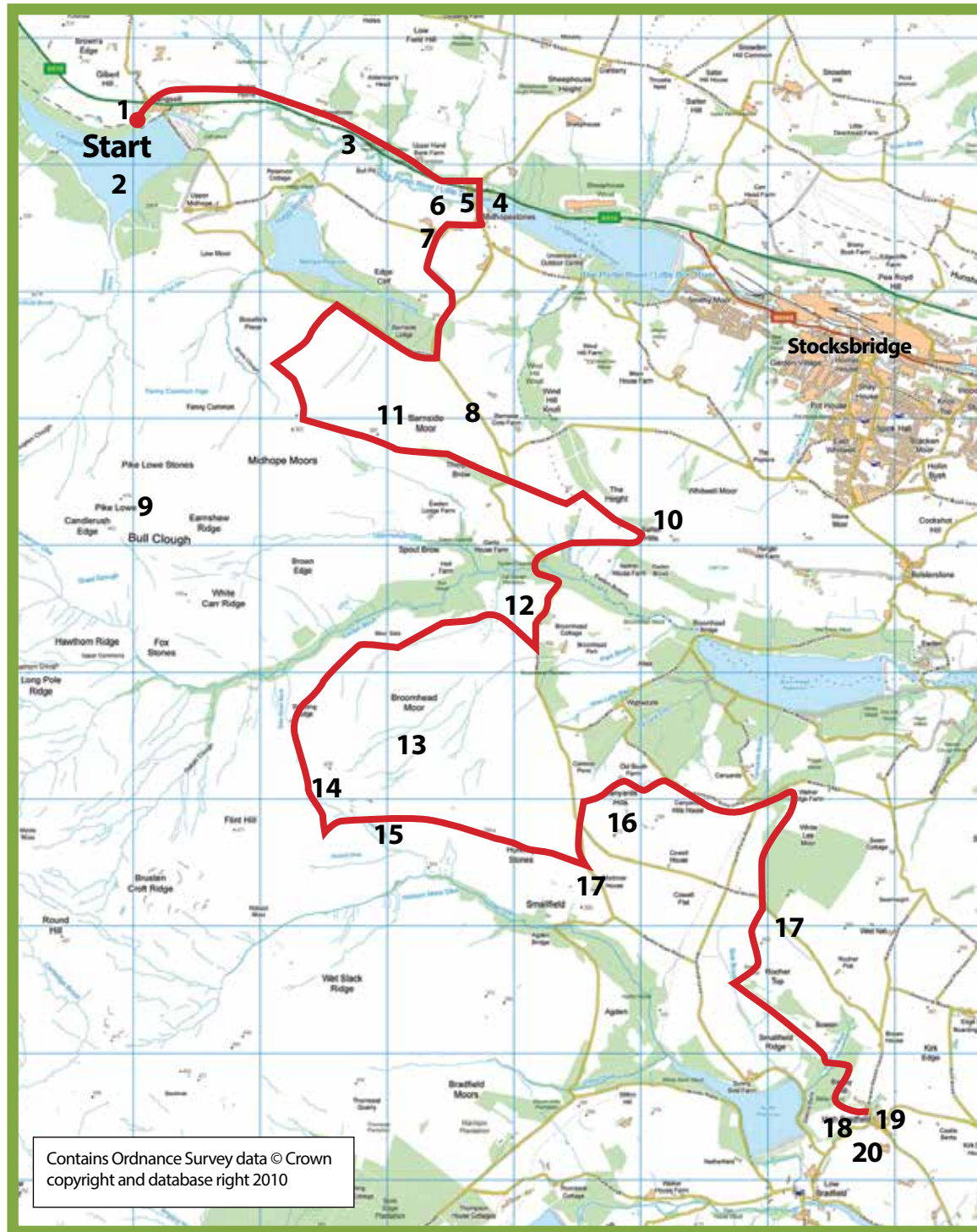
6 Ye Olde Mustard Pot Inn

7 St James' Church

8 Mortimer Road

9 Pike Low

10 Trig Point



11 Barnside Moors WW2 training areas

12 Ewden Beck stone circle

13 Broomhead moors

14 Shooting butts

15 Dukes Road

16 The Canyards SS1

17 Milestones

18 High Bradfield

19 St Nicholas' Church

20 Old Horns Inn

22. Keep following the marker signs. You will pass two small stretches where work to alleviate erosion has taken place (22a). You will then pass through two woods and across two, possibly boggy, fields before reaching a stone stile and metal gate (22b).



23. Pass through the gate and across the next field. Rejoin Mortimer Road, turning left. Follow Mortimer Road down, across the bridge and then up, as it crosses Ewden Beck.



This section of road has a 1:4 descent, slippery surfaces, a sharp camber and a hairpin bend before a steep climb.

24. About 700 m after you joined the road, go through the gate on your right onto Broomhead Moor (24). Take the farm track ahead of you (NW direction).



25. Follow the track as it dips down to cross a stream.

26. To visit the stone circle take the path to the right of the footpath marker post (26). There is a well-defined path to the left of the sign, don't take that one.



Ewden Beck stone circle is marked on the map as 'enclosure'. It is located on a flat shelf just above the valley, surrounded by a bank and ditch. There are eight or nine stones (five are still standing) in a ring, (16 x 14.5) m, set into the inner edge of an earthen bank. The stones vary in height between about 0.35 and 0.75 m.

The bank is approximately 20 m in diameter and 2 to 3 m wide. There are two cairns within the circle and two entrances, (NNW and SSE), both edged with stones.

27. Having visited this ancient site return to the farm track.

28. Continue along the farm track (28), passing through a gate and twisting up the hill. Ewden Beck is in the valley away to your right.



29. Continue until you reach the shooting lodge (29).

In the early part of the last century, **Broomhead Moor** usually yielded the largest 'one day' bag of the season and had more grouse to the acre than any moor in Great Britain. The shooting lodge has the initials 'RW' above the door, referring to the Rimington Wilson family who resided at the nearby Broomhead Hall. The record 'bag' for one day was 1421.



30. Go past the lodge and swing left, up onto the Moor. This track continues past the lodge for about 500 m providing vehicular access to the grouse butts situated on the higher ground.



31. When you reach the last of the grouse butts the farm track ends. There is a stream ahead of you which runs from right to left.

The next section is tricky and requires care

32. Your route to the track across the moor (the **Dukes Road**) is to follow the line of this stream (Rushy Dike) to your half-left until it meets the path. Initially (about 40 m) walk on the left side of the stream (32), then, continue to the right of the stream keeping roughly parallel to the stream.



33. When you reach the track, turn left in an easterly direction. The path broadens out to become a wide track (33).



This track is known as '**Dukes Road**.' The Duke in question was the Duke of Norfolk, Lord of the Manor of Sheffield, who had extensive shooting interests in the area. It was constructed for the use of his grouse-shooting guests, although it probably followed an earlier ancient route over the moors.

G H B Ward, the well-known Sheffield Rambler, once described the walk over the Dukes Road as the 'wildest Yorkshire moorland walk south of Wharfedale.'

Taking place five months after the better known Kinder Scout trespass, this was the scene of a second, mass trespass in September 1932, when 200 rambles walked from Bradfield to Abbey Brook in protest against the lack of public access to the moors. Since the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, there has been open access to much of the moor.

34. Follow the track back to Mortimer Road. Then turn left.

In the green fenced enclosure on your left is Broomhead Moor Fundamental Benchmark Ordnance Survey OS pillar (34). This marks 'height above datum.'

35. Go 100 m along the road until you reach the junction of Mortimer and Penistone Road (35).



At this junction is an old **milestone**. This is likely to have existed before the construction of Mortimer Road as it is dated 1740. It shows directions and distances to Penistone, Sheffield, Hope and Bradfield.

36. From the milestone go across the road to the bridleway (10) which passes through the metal gate on the right (36).



37. Go down the hill, join the path, and turning left continue between high stone walls. Follow the track, passing through a gate into the farm yard (Old Booth Farm) and continuing along the farm drive to its junction with the road (Canyards Hills Lane).

This route takes you through 'The Canyards', a 64.1 hectare (158.4 acre) biological and geological site of Special Scientific Interest which was notified in 1990.

This site possesses the most impressive examples in England and Wales of 'ridge-and-trough' or 'tumbled ground'.

38. Turn right and continue along the road past lanes on either side of you. The road starts to rise steeply. About two thirds of the way up the hill, take the footpath (157) up on the banking off to the right. Follow the path up the hill and over White Lee Moor.
39. Keep on the path until you pass through the slit stile onto Penistone Road. Beware of traffic.
40. The route will continue over the ladder stile opposite after a short diversion to see a second milestone. Turn left and go up the hill for about 100 m (40).
41. Return to the ladder stile (41) and cross into the field. The path is not clear from the ladder stile. Head off at a right angle from the road, towards the crest of the hill.
42. After about 100 m, you pass a marker post. Continue following the marker posts along the edge of the hill. At the fourth marker post you reach a wooden bench.



There are excellent views to the SW of Boots Folly and both Dale Dyke and Strines Reservoirs. On the night of 11 March 1864, assisted by a strong south-western gale, the newly built Dale Dyke Dam collapsed while it was being filled for the first time. An estimated 3 million m³ of water swept down the Loxley Valley. The flood continued into Sheffield centre, then to Attercliffe and Rotherham. Some 238 people and 700 animals were killed; 130 buildings were destroyed and 500 partially damaged; 15 bridges were swept away and six others badly damaged.

Boots Folly (aka Strines or Sugworth Tower) was built in 1927 by Charles Boot using leftover stone from the construction of Bents Hall. It served no real purpose other than to provide work for his workers during the Depression.

43. Take the footpath that drops steeply down the hill (43), aiming for the wooden gate at the bottom left of the field.
44. Turn left and go along the track in front of the ruined farm buildings and into the fields, following the path as it runs above the line of hawthorn bushes. You will pass 'Peak and Northern Footpath Society' sign 401 on your right. After a further 150 m, at sign 400, pass the ladder stile (44a). Continuing in the same direction, cross the next field then go over the stone stile (44b).
45. Continue in the same direction until you reach the wall and gateway. Drop down to the right (45) and join the forest track, turning left onto the track.
46. Follow the track round, crossing the stream. Go through the wooden gate and up the hill (Oaking Bank). Follow the path up the hill and as it turns right through a stone gateway and back through the churchyard to finish outside 'The Old Horns Inn' in High Bradfield.



***St Nicholas** is a Gothic Perpendicular style church dating from the 1480s. It incorporates elements of an earlier church that may have been built in the 12th Century and is also believed to stand on the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon place of worship.*