

Clay quarrying activity also took place at Upper Denby on land that is now the South Croft housing estate.

The track bears right, but almost immediately take the path to your left along a field edge and over several stiles. There are wonderful views from here, down the Dearne valley, north to the Ovenden wind turbines and beyond to the Pennines, and west to the Peak District moors. At the next path junction go right over the stile into Denby Delf. The path descends quite steeply through the heathland to another field edge and on to a stile at a crossing of paths. Turn left onto the track around Toby Spout at the outfall of Square Wood Reservoir.

It was here that the disastrous Denby Dale Pie of August 1887 was buried. This pie had been baked to celebrate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. However not all the meat had been cooked thoroughly and it was described as somewhat 'gamey' before it was declared unfit to eat and was taken in solemn procession for burial.

Cross the next stile and continue to Wood Farm.

Beyond the buildings turn left through a kissing gate into an area of wood pasture. Shortly before the wood end turn right down hill on a path marked the Dearne Way. Cross the stone stile and descend the field obliquely to a further stile and steps down to Carr Bridge over the infant River Dearne and into woodland.

These are the Upper Dearne Woodlands, owned by the Wavin group and managed in partnership with the Upper Dearne Woodlands Conservation Group.

Our way bears left by an attractive pond and a memorial bench. Continue up and straight ahead through the northern arm of the woods to a footbridge and ford. Cross and continue left on the right hand bank of the stream, until you reach a narrow path to the right alongside the garden boundary wall of the Old Rectory. Follow this path to the A635 road.

Cross with care, turn right then immediately left into a shady footpath. At its end bear slightly right then left into a footpath past housing and into the graveyard of St. Nicholas Church, Upper Cumberworth.

Recorded as "Cumberworde" in the Domesday Book, this site may be even older than Denby as the name means "enclosure of the Britons". The village centre is a Conservation Area, with the fine church and the school both being listed buildings of architectural interest. Notice the village stocks, near the entrance to the church.



Cumberworth Village Stocks

Pass the stocks and leave the churchyard with care as the road here has blind bends.

Turn right away from the church and continue along the road. Almost at the end of the village turn right into a footpath between houses. Our way bears leftward through an incomplete field boundary to old and partly redundant stiles to reach the access road to the recycling site. Cross the access road and the stile, bear sharp left to the left hand corner of the field to reach a narrow and sometimes overgrown path alongside the former Bromleys landfill site.

The landfill site utilised the former Naylor Bros clay pits and the scars of previous exploitation and current incomplete restoration are clearly visible.

Turn left into a pasture field and continue to a stile leading into the Wood Lane track. This quickly leads to the bridge over the railway and Denby Dale station where the walk began.

This trail was devised by the Denby Dale Walkers and Welcome Group.

The leaflet was financed by the East Peak Innovation Partnership (EPIP) via the Rural Development Programme for England, jointly funded by DEFRA and the EU and managed by Yorkshire Forward and with a grant from Denby Dale Parish Council.

Denby & Cumberworth Circular Trail



Upper Dearne Woodlands in May

Trains to Denby Dale from Huddersfield, Penistone, Barnsley and Sheffield run hourly Monday to Saturday with 8 trains each way on Sundays.

There are hourly buses from Wakefield and Holmfirth (daily: Services 435/436) Services 82/83/84 serve Denby Dale from Huddersfield via different villages. All services Huddersfield Bus Company.

N.B. Public transport details were correct as of January 2013. Please check at www.wymetro.com from where timetables are available.

Look out for the Denby & Cumberworth Circular 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

Denby & Cumberworth Circular Trail



Upper Dearne Woodlands

The Denby and Cumberworth Circular Trail is 7 miles long. Stout footwear is advisable.

Denby & Cumberworth Circular Trail

Starting-point: Denby Dale railway station

The railway came to Denby Dale in 1850. Its arrival meant that existing small businesses were able to export further afield and thus they and the village began to expand rapidly. Originally the viaduct spanning the Dearne valley was a timber structure but this became increasingly unsound. The stone viaduct built to replace it was officially opened in 1880 and was built by Naylor Bros. Naylor Bros stayed in Denby Dale and began the manufacture of clay pipes utilising deposits at the nearby Bromleys clay pits. The firm operated in Denby Dale until 1993 when production was transferred to Cawthorne. The site occupied by the offices, kilns, storage areas is now the Bromley Park housing estate. The firm's name however remains in Naylor Myers, the building supplies merchant located in the station yard.

Cross the Interchange bus turning circle to the footpath, Wood Lane, and follow this down past East Hill Wood to the main A636 road.

The interesting gate on the left mid way down Wood Lane led into the garden of "Woodbine", the impressive, though sadly no more, residence of George William Naylor. Behind the boundary wall to the right is the site of the former Kitson Works, also manufacturers of clay pipes and other earthenware, and now occupied by the Denby Dale Industrial Park. To the right is The Dale Inn. It was previously the Prospect Hotel where any traveller could request a bed for the night for the price of 1 shilling.

Turn left through the village centre. At the White Hart PH, turn left up Cumberworth Lane and beyond the Methodist Church cross the road into a gated track leading past Leak Hall Farm.

In Old English 'leak' meant a brook. The former farmhouse is a listed building with an outstanding fireplace. It was here that John Firth, who brought Quakerism to the area, was born in 1597.

Through the next gate turn right to the end of Leak Hall Lane then immediately left into the footpath leading past Wither Wood.

Wither Wood is a delightful area of semi-natural ancient woodland bought by the Woodland Trust with substantial support from the local community. It is open for all to explore and enjoy.

The footpath eventually meets a track close to the entrance to Gilthwaites School. Turn left into the Gilthwaites Lane bridleway and continue past Gilthwaites Farm.

Gilthwaites, or Gilfites, 'a clearing belonging to Gil', is Old Norse and the name is from Norwegian mythology. The recently converted building between the the former farmhouse and the school was originally a loom shed; the farm was also a site for cloth production.

Follow the lane over the brow of the hill and down to join the Kirktees Way over Thorpe Dike. Next bear right, still on the Kirktees Way, to the Cross Lane recreation ground, on the outskirts of Skelmanthorpe.

Go obliquely left to the far corner of the sports field then turn right down a wooded path. Follow this path down and again over Thorpe Dike and onto the old drovers' flagged way.

Thorpe is an Old English word for village or hamlet. It is likely that this refers to the old village of Skelmanthorpe which was probably abandoned at the advent of the Black Death plague in the 13th century. **Continue on the main path and over several stiles.**

On your left is the new landscape of the restored areas of Hen Perch clay quarry operated by the Wavin group (formerly Hepworths). Hepworths also had clay pits at nearby Lower Cumberworth where the Cumberworth Brick and Tile Company manufactured. Their main centre for manufacture and distribution is now at Crow Edge.

The path eventually turns left, then narrowly down between gardens to meet the A636 road.

Cross carefully and into the footpath opposite leading down to a footbridge over the River Dearne. Turn left, then right almost immediately uphill on Stubbin Lane. At the next path junction turn right and follow the track round to the road, Hollin Edge. Continue right, along the road to Cuckstool Road, and eventually to its junction with Miller Hill. Turn right and downhill then left at the small grass triangle into Dearnside Road. Take the next left residential road, Inkerman Way, and bear right to beyond the green space. To the left a public footpath leaves the estate between timber fences and leads to the buildings of Inkerman Court and the A635 Barnsley Road.

The original building dates from the time of the Cnmean War; the name is from a battle in the same. A substantial three-storey mill was built here in 1868.

Cross the road with care and continue under the railway line. Continue uphill with a wooded stream on your right to a path junction. Continue right, along the field edge and through a pleasing old gated stile, to a junction of five paths.



Continue straight on and across the end of the metalled Bank Lane keeping the houses of Upper Denby on your left and the fields beyond stone walls on your right.

Upper Denby, recorded as "Denebi" in the Domesday Book means 'farmstead of the Danes' and was founded soon after the Danes had conquered York in AD 862. It is the only Yorkshire village that the Domesday Book ascribes as having a 'cattle-house'.