

## Points of Interest

### Monk Bretton Priory

The monastery of St Mary Magdalen at Monk Bretton was founded in 1154 as a house of the Cluniac order. After more than a century of troubles, the priory became an independent Benedictine monastery in 1281. Following the Dissolution in the 16th Century part of the priory was altered to form a residence. The ruins are now in the care of English Heritage.

### Dearne Valley Park

This wildlife haven is less than a mile from Barnsley Town Centre and extends for two miles along the River Dearne from Hoyle Mill on the A61 to the TPT viaduct at Lundwood. At the centre of the Park is the River Dearne, now one of the best places to see kingfishers in the Valley.

### Dearne & Dove Canal Junction

Just after point 10 on our route, it is worth a short detour to the right to see the remains of the great aqueduct which carried the Barnsley Canal across the Dearne Valley on its way towards Wakefield. It now carries a footbridge.

### Barnsley Canal

The Barnsley to Wakefield section opened in 1799 and remained in use until 1953 when the company decided that it would be cheaper to compensate the canal's users than to constantly repair it (there were several spectacular breaches, mainly caused by subsidence from local mining).

### Barnsley Interchange

Opened in 2007 as a combined Bus & Train interchange. There were two stations in Barnsley originally - The Court House Station has long been a pub and was at one time run by comedian & BBC Radio Sheffield presenter Toby Foster who established it as a fine venue for stand up comedy.

## Overview of Walk

A large part of this section follows the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT). Monk Bretton Priory is worth a visit and Dearne Valley Park is a green corridor into the heart of Barnsley containing industrial archaeology such as the pillars of the Barnsley Canal Aqueduct and the junction of the Dearne & Dove Barnsley Canals.

Along the route is a varied landscape, from ancient woods & open farmland to old railway structures. Dearne Valley Park is an old industrial site, landscaped into a town centre leisure facility.

### Amenities

**Barley Sheaf**, Wombwell. This local pub stands at the highest point of Wombwell overlooking Wombwell Wood & Dearne Valley.

**Ash Inn**, Wombwell Lane, traditional, home cooked food.

**The Mill of The Black Monks**, (slight detour from route).

A family run Gastro pub, housed in a stunning medieval watermill built in 1150AD, adjacent to Monk Bretton Priory.

**Barnsley Peel Retail Park** has a Starbucks & Subway.

**Barnsley Interchange** has a cafe, many new restaurants, cafe's and pubs in the recently re-developed town centre.

*\* Please check for opening times and availability prior to your visit. Information correct at time of print.*

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The train operator for the Penistone Line is Northern.



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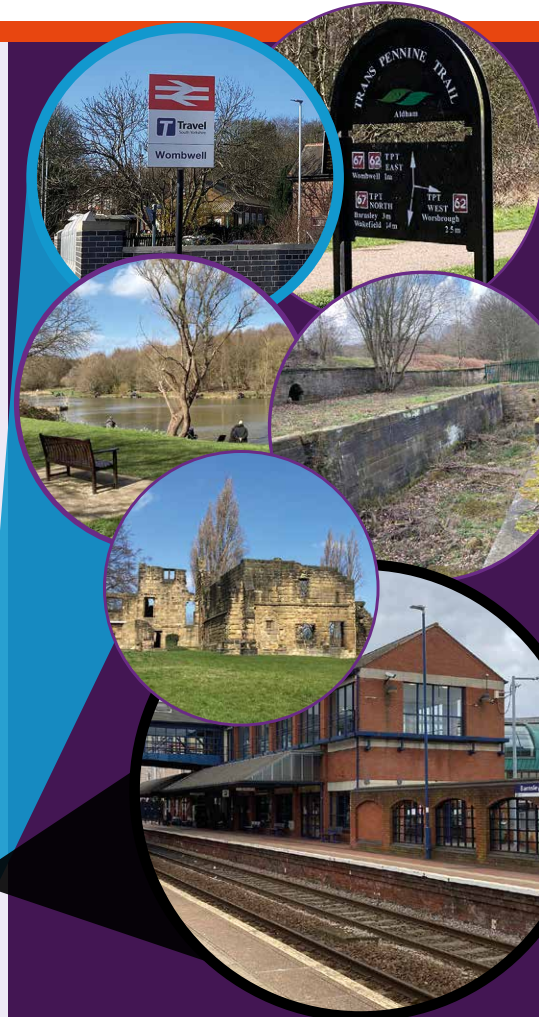


THE PENISTONE LINE TRAIL



# Wombwell to Barnsley

Walk 5 - 5.8 miles/9.3 km



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## Route Guidance

- 1** Walk to the rear of the car park at Wombwell Train Station onto an unmarked track running parallel with the railway line, passing Wombwell Community Gardens to the left, houses to your right.
- 2** When you reach the barrier at Pit Lane, turn right. After about 100 metres, take the footpath going left. Follow the footpath with a fence to the left. Eventually meeting a junction of paths in the woods, turn left downhill through woodland with fields to the left.
- 3** Emerge onto Smithley Lane and cross the road, pass through a substantial barrier onto the Dove Valley Trail. Keep straight on until the path merges to take the surfaced track on the left; this is also the TPT. Walk over two bridges on this surfaced track.
- 4** At the TPT sign, turn sharp left following signs for Route 67 TPT North to Barnsley, 3 miles. The River Dove will soon be to your right and crossed shortly. Soon after you will see the sign for the Ash Inn to your left.
- 5** Keep on this track which is the bed of the disused railway, passing over bridges. Continue as the path winds its way, you will see a number of displays demonstrating the history of the local area - Stairfoot. Interesting reading, take a few minutes. Continue along this wide pathway through Stairfoot Station Heritage Park. A McDonald's restaurant will come into sight on the left. Cross the next bridge over the A635 (Doncaster Road), immediately after turn right (sort of second right) down two sets of steps, to a road.
- 6** Cross to an open green space opposite where you will see the TPT North sign again. Follow the surfaced footpath through this area.
- 7** Take the track going left. This leads over a disused rail viaduct, with views of the Dearne Valley to left and right. After crossing the River Dearne, take steps down to the left into Dearne Valley Park. Monk Bretton Priory ruins are to the right.
- 8** Cross the park to the far left corner near the river. Cross the road via the central reservation and continue straight on with the River Dearne now to your left.
- 9** At the next road (Pontefract Road), go left over the river bridge and turn right to re-enter the park. Walk along a tarmac path, passing through a car park with a recreation area to your right. Head down the ramp to cross the river Dearne on the narrow footpath, walk along, keeping the lake on your right.
- 10** Shortly before the end of the lake bear left and cross a metal footbridge, take the steeper pathway to the left going uphill. At the top turn acute right, this leads to the canal towpath of the Dearne and Dove Canal. Continue to its junction with The Barnsley Canal. You will notice the remains of the toll keepers house on your right. Carry along the towpath, through a car park to the road.
- 11** At the main road, turn left towards the crossings at an intersection of busy roads, turn right to cross over keeping the superstore on your right. Turn immediately left and go over the next crossing, then turn right.
- 12** Crossing Redfearn St entrance to continue uphill, keeping left up Eldon Street North, with the large grey building on the corner ahead of you to the right.
- 13** Continue up this road to reach Barnsley Interchange at the top of the hill.

