

Points of Interest

The Fleets

Fleets Dam is a day ticket stillwater fishery. Also a great spot for bird watching. With reeds around the edges of the water, this is now a beautiful legacy of the industrial history of the area. This artificial lake, adjacent to the River Dearne, supplied water to the nearby Star Paper Mills.

Derelict Barnsley Canal

Built in the 1790s, to provide a transport link from coal reserves at Barnsley to a wider market. The Barnsley Canal was approved by Parliament in 1793. The section between Barnsley and the Aire & Calder Navigation near Wakefield opened in 1799, with the section from Barnsley to Barnby Basin opening 3 years later - a broad canal with 20 locks. Water at the Barnby end had to be back-pumped up the flight, as the company was not allowed to take water from the Dearne at Barnby. The main level was supplied from Wintersetts & Cold Hiendley Reservoirs. Suffering constant subsidence problems due to mining, with the banks needing to be built up. A huge breach at Littleworth in 1946 directly led to the canal's closure in 1953.

Wilthorpe Park

A stunning little urban park with playgrounds, landscaped flower beds and unusual trees.

Dodworth Colliery

Closed in 1984, Dodworth Colliery chimney, winding gear and spoil heap dominated the landscape until the 90's when the industrial estate was built, this being gradually expanded once the bypass was built.

Overview of Walk

This section uses a remaining part of the Barnsley Canal towpath to leave the town centre. Built in the late 1790's to enable the rich coal reserves of the area to be exploited cheaply. The canal ran north to join the Aire & Calder Navigation near Wakefield. The irony is that coal also killed the canal because of mining subsidence.

The industrial estate at Dodworth which the trail skirts, is on the site of the former Dodworth Colliery.

Barnsley and the wider Dearne Valley's industrial past is strongly linked to coal mining but glass making was once a very important industry. Coal-fired glassmaking furnaces date from the year 1615, when wood was forbidden in order to protect the forests. In the 17th century there were five coal-fired glass works within the current Borough of Barnsley. These works gained a national and global reputation for their products, which were exported around the world. A 'New English Glassworks' was set up at Gawber Hall around 1735 and made there until 1821.

Amenities

Barnsley - Barnsley Interchange - Cafe Creme & toilets. McDonald's & ASDA - toilets & cafe's.

Higham - Engineers Arms.

Dodworth - Dodworth Tap (a short detour at the end).

** 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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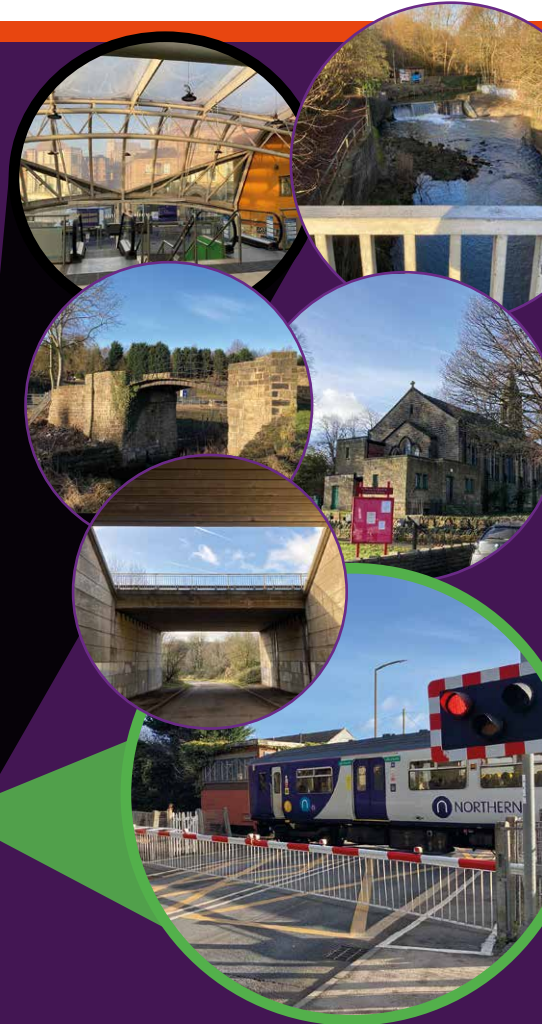


THE PENISTONE LINE TRAIL



Barnsley to Dodworth

Walk 6 - 5.8 miles/9.4 km



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Route Guidance

1 Leave Barnsley Interchange via the bus station exit, down the steps or escalator, leaving via the automatic doors. Turn right onto Eldon Street, walk down hill. At a main junction, with Old Mill Lane, cross these two roads, head towards McDonalds and ASDA. Walk past the bus stops, as far as the bridge over the river Dearne.

2 Turn sharp left, down the steps and walk along the riverside until the path junctions, turn left here and walk along the headwall of the dam.

At the end of the headwall of the dam turn right, continue along the dam side. At the end of the dam take a wide limestone surfaced track up to the road, cross this road and turn left, walking slightly uphill.

3 Turn right opposite Barnsley College building, underneath a goal post into a car park. You are heading towards Barnsley canal. Walk along the towpath of the derelict canal until you see an old hump back bridge and community farm on the left.

Turn left and cross over the bridge, head straight forward, passing a small fishing pond on the left. Go underneath the railway bridge and turn right into Wilthorpe Park. Head uphill through the park until you reach a main road - Wilthorpe Road the A635 out of Barnsley.

4 Turn right, taking care, cross this busy road, pass Tesco Express on your left. Continue straight ahead crossing a road at traffic lights. You will notice a vets surgery on your right. Soon you will pass Barnsley Business & Innovation Centre on your left. Continue and pass a bus stop then turn left up Wilthorpe Lane - cross the road to continue on a footpath that leads up between houses towards the playing fields ahead.

5 Continue up the footpath with the playing fields on the right at the top. When you reach the main road, turn right, (note the board with Industrial Heritage information on the corner), cross Redbrook Road, turn left into Beever Lane.

6 At the top of Beever Lane turn right onto Church Lane and pass St Thomas' Church, walk to the last house on the right and turn right over a stile, walk diagonally across the field heading downhill, go through the gap in the hedge into scrub land, crossing the stream by a wooden walkway up the bank and over a stile. Turn left here (away from the farmstead). Head uphill with the hedge to your right through a large field. At the top, turn right

into another large field, hedgerow on your right and houses over to your left. Shortly after a gap in the hedgerow turn left at a clear narrow path, towards a gap in the houses. Take this path. The path goes through the estate, straight across the first estate road, at the second estate road turn right, walk circa 25 paces and the footpath continues on the left.

7 Take this short path to Higham Common Road, turn left and cross over to The Engineers pub. Turn right, then immediately left down Pog Well Lane (Elmhirst Lane further along). Passing Higham Cricket Club on the corner, head downhill, underneath the M1 motorway into the hollow.

8 Pass the sign for Woodvale and opposite the house, turn sharp left up a good track. Continue steadily up this straight

incline. After the summit drop a short distance before turning left. There is a bench on your left. Follow this track left with trees masking industrial units on your right. Take the path following the small stream which swings right at the foot of Dodworth pit heap. Follow this path with trees either side.

9 Emerge onto a main road (Whinby Road), cross with care and take the footpath opposite slightly to your left.

10 Follow this path with the railway line on your left. Continue until you emerge at a road. The level crossing is immediately on your left. Cross this, turn right and enter Dodworth Train Station.

