

## Points of Interest

### Silkstone Waggonway

A linear walk passing behind Silkstone Common Train Station. The Silkstone Waggonway is a recreational and Industrial History Trail, from Moorend in the Dove Valley to the site of the canal basin at Barnby Bridge, Cawthorne. The trail follows the route of a horse drawn railway (waggonway), built in 1809 (extended from Silkstone to Silkstone Common in 1830) to transport coal mined in the area to the canal.

### Willow Bridge, Oxspring

The iconic Willow Bridge is a grade II listed footbridge. Crossing the river Don at the bottom of Willow Lane, originally part of an old Pack Horse route from Bradfield via the Ewden Valley to Bolsterstone then on to Stocksbridge, up Underbank Lane to Dyson Cote, finally on to Wakefield via this bridge.

### The River Don

Rising in the Pennines, west of Dunford Bridge, the river flows eastwards for 69 miles, through the Don Valley, via Penistone, Sheffield, Rotherham, Mexborough, Conisbrough, Doncaster and Stainforth. The middle section of the river contains many weirs, which were built to supply mills, foundries and factories with water power.

### Penistone Viaduct Collapse 1916

On 2nd February 1916, two arches of the Penistone viaduct near to the station at Sheffield Road collapsed when heavy rain weakened the foundations. A Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway freight locomotive crossing the viaduct derailed and plunged into the River Don below. The driver and fireman jumped clear and survived.

## Overview of Walk

The railway climbs up to and through Oxspring Tunnel into the Don Valley. Our route generally follows the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT), initially picking up the course of the former Worsborough Branch Line and, from Oxspring, that of the Penistone Line's Don Valley route from Sheffield to Penistone.

### Amenities

#### Station Inn, Silkstone Common

Existing before the railway actually came to the village and originally called the Junction. Just off the platform, this popular village community pub offers a warm welcome. Food available, check opening times & availability.

#### Cafe 121 (Don Street, Springvale)

A slight detour from the Trans Pennine Trail, pass under the railway bridge onto Sheffield Road.

### Refreshments in Penistone

Cafe's include Julies (next to the TPT, Generations, ArtHouse, Cafe Creme, The Loft ... & more. Pubs in the town centre include The Old Crown & The Spread Eagle.

*\* 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



# Silkstone Common to Penistone

Walk 8 - 3.8 miles/6.1 km

Huddersfield  
Lockwood  
Berry Brow  
Horley  
Brockholes  
Stocks Moor  
Shepley  
Denby Dale  
Penistone  
Silkstone Common  
Dodworth  
Barnsley  
Wombwell  
Elsscar  
Chapelton  
Meadowhall  
Sheffield



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## Route Guidance

**1** Leave Silkstone Common railway station platform by descending the steps to the road (Knabbs Lane B6449).

Turn right along Knabbs Lane. Note the Silkstone Waggonway Mural on your right.

**2** Pass Black Horse Drive on your left to find a wooden gate on your right which gives access to the Trans Pennine Trail (public footpath and public bridleway/TPT signs). The trail follows the edge of the former Worsbrough Branch Line railway formation. Down in the cutting to your right is a blocked up tunnel (Silkstone Tunnels) above which an underground fire from the coal formations raged for a number of years, destroying some of the tunnel. The tunnels were the route of the formerly electrified Worsbrough Branch between Wombwell and West Silkstone Junction, closed in 1981. On your left is Knabbe's Hall Farm, an impressive old building.

**3** At the railway overbridges the trail swings left to leave the railway formation (public bridleway/TPT sign) and join the lane up to farm buildings at Far Coates. Beyond Far Coates the lane passes a duck pond (glimpsed through trees).

Turn left at a lane junction (public bridleway/TPT sign).

**4** A few yards further on you will see a stone stile in the wall on your right giving access to a field (public footpath sign). Go over the stile and aim for a power line pole with transformer attached, beyond which are farm buildings (Wraith House).

On reaching the power line pole turn right to keep the hedge on your left and walk along the line of the hedge to find a wooden stile in the hedge to your left (TPT marker on distant side of stile only!) Over the stile, keep ahead to another wooden stile (TPT marker).

**5** Over this stile and into a field and round the field perimeter anti-clockwise (this field can be boggy) to find a stone stile and steps to access the A629 (public footpath sign).

Cross the road turn right and follow the red tarmac 200 yards, turn left down the lane leading to Willow Lane Farm, (public bridleway/TPT sign).

**6** The bridle path turns left before the farmhouse. Keep right at a path junction (blue arrow on wooden post) to go downhill under a tunnel of trees.

**7** Emerging, bear right then shortly left, descending to Willow Bridge a delightful old packhorse bridge over the River Don. Built in the late 1730's and once part of a very important trade route from Derbyshire to the textile towns of the West Riding. A comfortable seat awaits you on the riverbank.

Some 50 yards beyond the bridge, turn sharp right up stone steps and over a wooden stile (yellow arrow) to climb the steep field beyond. Pass to the left of the house at the top to emerge in Sheffield Road, Oxspring, B6462.

**8** Turn left and immediately cross the road to turn right into the Willows (public bridleway and TPT signs).

At the junction of the Willows and Psalter's Drive take the public bridleway on the right, known as Back Lane (public bridleway sign), leading to a railway overbridge.

**9** Turn right before the overbridge and descend to the former railway trackbed.

Turn right towards Penistone on the upper Don section of the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT).

**10** In half a mile, at the former Barnsley Junction, you renew acquaintance with the Penistone Line and walk beside it separated by a fence for some distance, Penistone Station is accessed through a gap in the fence to your right.

