

The small and very attractive upland village of Upper Denby (or just plain Denby) is a very ancient settlement, now mostly designated a conservation area. Denby is worth exploring if you have time, as it contains many interesting and attractive old stone built houses and cottages, together with a church (St John the Evangelist) and adjacent school, a public house (The George) and cricket club. The original occupants are thought to have been Danish farmers (the name means 'Danish Village') but, although agriculture is still an important part of the local economy, the village now accommodates a fair number of 'comers in' who are attracted by the pleasant and peaceful nature of the area.

Turn left at the crossroads onto Bank Lane and continue straight ahead until the end of the village is reached. Here the metalled road becomes an unsurfaced track (public bridleway) descending towards the larger village of Denby Dale. Continue ahead, taking care not to deviate onto any of the tracks, driveways and paths which diverge to left and right from the main bridleway route. Part of the bridleway is quite steep, with stone cobbled surface underfoot. At the bottom of the cobbled section the bridleway bears to the left and becomes less steep.

Just past the end of the steep, cobbled, section a number of stone steps rise to a gap stile in the right-hand boundary wall. Leave the bridleway here and follow a public footpath downhill, beneath the Penistone Line railway embankment and onwards between modern detached houses and Broombank, to finally reach the main A635 Barnsley Road.

Cross onto the opposite pavement and turn left, walking for a short distance in the direction of the spectacular, stone built, Denby Dale Railway Viaduct. Just past the broad driveway of a care home, turn right through a gap stile in the low stone boundary wall onto a cross-field public footpath which goes downhill past what was once Holy Trinity Church and finally walk down Trinity Drive, a cul-de-sac road which ends at a minor road junction. Nearby is Springfield Mill, a retail complex having amongst other attractions a cafe and WC. Cross the road here and continue straight ahead, uphill, on the left-hand pavement of Norman Road, to reach the A636 Wakefield Road

Denby Dale is now a sizeable commercial and residential village, having good communications with various major towns and cities in South and West Yorkshire. However, 200 years ago Denby Dike (as it was then known) was a very sparsely populated small village in the Dearne Valley. During the 19th century the village expanded beyond all recognition, with the advent of turnpike roads, the railway and several large textile mills (only one of which remains in production).

The stone railway viaduct, a notable feat of engineering in its day, remains a prominent landmark. The village, which has numerous shops, restaurants and other facilities, is also renowned as the home of the Denby Dale Pie (the largest meat and potato pie in the world).



Denby Church

Ever larger specimens of the Pie are periodically baked and consumed with great ceremony, in celebration of particular events (e.g. the Millennium Pie to celebrate the year 2000).

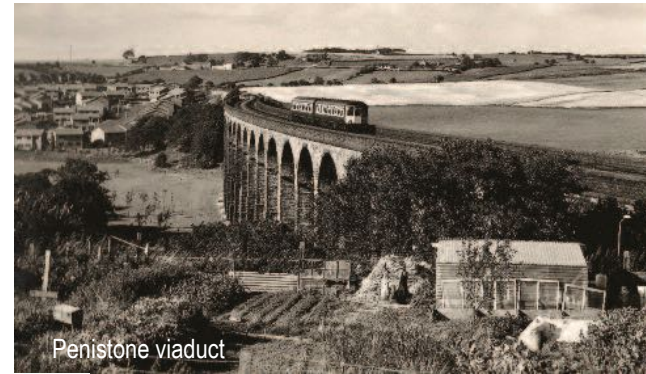
On reaching the A636 turn left and walk along the pavement for a short distance. Cross the main road here and walk up the public footpath (Wood Lane) to reach Denby Dale Bus Interchange and Denby Dale Railway Station (the end of our walk).

This trail was devised by Paul and Margaret Clarke, updated December 2023. 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.

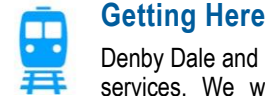


River Dearne and old stone footbridge below viaduct

The Pen Den Trail



Penistone viaduct

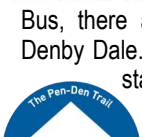


Getting Here

Denby Dale and Penistone are well served by Train and Bus services. We would encourage you to travel by public transport so as to minimise your environmental impact



Train, The Sheffield to Huddersfield line stops at Denby Dale & Penistone as well as many other stations along the line.



Bus, there are several routes that pass through Denby Dale. There is a bus terminal at the railway station.



Look out for the Pen-Den Trail waymarkers to help guide you around the trail.

Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome

Please check out our website for further information. We are supported by Denby Dale Parish Council.



Walking in the East Peak



Walking in and around Denby Dale

The Pen-Den Trail



A 5½ mile scenic walk linking Penistone and Denby Dale railway stations. Stout footwear is advisable.



The Pen Den Trail

The Trans Pennine Trail (also referred to as the Upper Don Trail) began life as the track bed of the main Sheffield to Manchester railway. Now part of a nationwide network of safe multi-user routes for horse riders, cyclists and walkers, the Trail has direction signs and useful information boards at frequent intervals.

The name of Penistone comes from the celtic name for a hill, 'Pen' and 'Stune' for a settlement. The historic Town Centre is worth a visit. In addition to public toilets (near bus stops, facing the tower of St Mary's Parish Church) there are shops, cafes, etc. and a weekly Market on Thursdays.



Start: Penistone railway station



Start from the platform of the station, either 1 or 2 and walk towards to pedestrian crossing and leave the station via the footpath which leads past the Nigel Tyas sculpture and then to the Trans Pennine Trail, TPT.

Turn right and follow the broad Trail for almost one mile. Signposts along the TPT clearly indicate possible diversion routes to Penistone town centre and other points of interest.

Beyond the built up area of Penistone, the TPT soon enters a former railway cutting, where a bridge passes overhead. Approximately 300 yards beyond the bridge the TPT is crossed by a public footpath. Leave the TPT here, turning right onto the footpath (signed to Thurlstone), which goes downhill for a short distance to reach Stottercliffe Road and then to the A628 Manchester Road.

Cross the A628 and turn left on reaching the opposite pavement, walking in the direction of a right-hand bend in the road, around which is a bridge over the River Don.

At the far side of the bridge turn right onto Hoyle Mill Lane and follow this road to the point (just past houses) where a stone stile in the left-hand boundary wall gives access to a field. Cross the stile and follow a grassy field path, bearing diagonally right, as far as a gate in the far corner.

Go through the gate and continue ahead along a well used path in the direction of Thurlstone village. The path finally reaches Town



Gate (the village main street).

Thurlstone, notable for its old, attractive and very interesting gritstone buildings, was originally a small farming community. Some industries developed using water power from the River Don (corn milling, wire drawing and various wool/cloth processes). Nowadays, it serves mostly as a dormitory for the urban areas of South and West Yorkshire.

Turning right along Town Gate follow the road around a left-hand bend (do not go straight ahead onto the minor road, Matthew Gap, at this point) and then continue generally uphill through the village. When the road name changes to Ingbirchworth Road continue ahead (road soon signed as a cul-de-sac).

Just past a modern housing development the road goes around a sharp left/right bend near large houses and its name changes to Folly Lane. Continue along rural Folly Lane, which is now fairly

level for approx. half a mile, and enjoy wide views in all directions.

Looking backwards, Penistone is clearly visible (with its dominant church). Ahead, in the distance, is Emsley Moor Communications Mast (at 1,084ft claimed to be the tallest freestanding structure in the UK). On the hill to the left is Royd Moor windfarm (13 turbines) and on the right it is possible to see for many miles over fields/reservoirs at a lower level, in the direction of Barnsley.

Folly Lane shortly becomes an unmetalled public bridleway. It is quite steep in one place as it dips down and up through a narrow valley beneath the grassy embankment of Royd Moor Reservoir. Beyond this steeper section, continue ahead along the bridleway, which is again a fairly level route between stone walls and fences.

The final section of the bridleway, as it approaches the outskirts of historic Ingbirchworth village, has stone flag paving underfoot in some places. Just after a sharp right-hand bend, the stone flagged

bridleway veers off to the left (be careful not to follow the farm access track which goes straight ahead at this point).

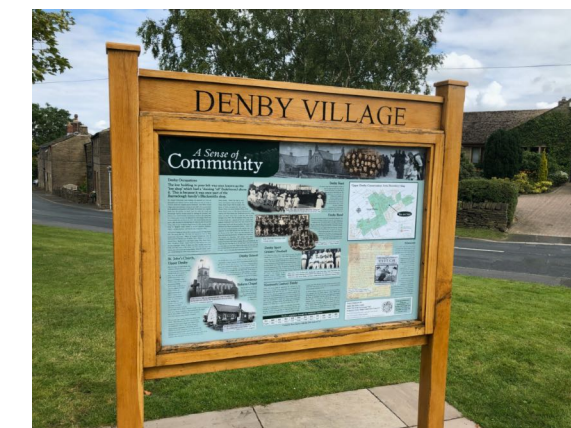
The route meets another bridleway, just past the access gate of the caravan site at Ingfield Farm. Turn right at this junction and walk in the direction of the metalled minor road, bearing right along the road past a number of interesting old stone built farm and domestic buildings.

Just before the point where the minor road rises slightly towards a stone bridge over a stream, turn left through an open gateway which gives access to a grassed recreation area beside the stream (picnic benches make this a good place for a tea break). Cross the narrow bridge over the stream and walk ahead up the grassy bank to reach the main A629 Huddersfield road.

Almost directly opposite this point, on the other side of the A629, follow the public footpath which leaves the main road between domestic buildings. The path goes round the back and turns right to a stile. Cross the field and through a kissing gate and bear left across the next field to the farm track where there is a stile.

Turn right here and walk ahead for a short distance to a point where the route being followed meets another track (also a public bridleway) at a T-junction.

Turn sharp left here and continue ahead for approx. 1 mile along the attractive, partly wooded, bridleway route, until it emerges between houses onto Denby Lane (B6115), in the centre of Upper Denby.



Cross over to reach the pavement on the opposite side of Denby Lane and turn right, walking ahead as far as the Bank Lane/Gunthwaite Lane cross roads.