

Continue along the track till it meets Common Lane/Hollin Edge, turning right after a short distance off the tarmac, following a footpath sign onto a wide track which descends to Cuckstool Road.

Walk right up to the main Wakefield Road, cross with care and walk up Leak Hall Lane. At the end of the tarmac lane, turn right along the path and then left into Wither Wood where you join up with the shorter route.

### Shorter family route

A point A turn right onto Gilthwaites Lane and continue over the crest, following the lane sharply to the right alongside farm buildings before, shortly after a left turn, with Denby Dale First & Nursery School in view and just before a tarmac street, turning right onto a public footpath.

Immediately after a wooden footbridge turn right into the lovely Wither Wood.

Keep to the lower side of the wood, alongside the public footpath, for 200 metres until you approach the main entrance to the wood, where you join up with the longer route at point B



Bluebells in Wither Wood

### Both routes

You may wish to explore the Wither Wood, which is owned by the Woodland Trust a national conservation charity see and managed as community woodland open for all to enjoy



Sparrow Hawk in Wither Wood

If not, take the broad track into the wood for just 20 metres, then fork left onto the narrower path which hugs the western border of the wood. Cross a low footbridge over a small stream, continue ahead looking out for a second footbridge down to the left. Cross this, climb the large (& steep!) log steps and follow the path round to a stone stile on your left.

Exit the wood via the stone stile and walk up the field to join Cumberworth Lane at the side of a stone house. Cross the lane with care, turn right and proceed past the Bromley Park estate back to the Foresters Arms where walkers are welcome and refreshments await!



The Foresters Arms

### Walking from Denby Dale railway station to the Foresters Arms

Exit the station via the small car-park onto the bus interchange and turn left onto Bromley Bank. At the low railings proceed onto Bluehills Lane, turn right and follow this lane as it winds its way out of the estate to the T-junction with Cumberworth Lane. Turn left at point C and continue ahead to Lower Cumberworth.

This leaflet was written by members of Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome Group and funded by Denby Dale Parish Council.

“Camp of the Cumbrians” by A. Tarbatt (published 1983) is an excellent history of Lower Cumberworth available from Kirklees Libraries. Also worth reading is “Exploring the Upper Dearne Valley” by John Wilkinson.

## The Lower Cumberworth Circular



Footbridge over Thorpe Dike on Kirklees way

### Getting Here

Denby Dale is 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 as well as many other stations along the line.



Lower Cumberworth is served by bus services from Huddersfield to Denby Dale Interchange and from Holmfirth to Wakefield (no Sunday service).



Local services can be found by the link to our website.



### Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome

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



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Walking in and around Denby Dale

## The Lower Cumberworth Circular



A leisurely 3.2 mile walk which nonetheless offers much variety along with a taste of the Kirklees Way, the Deame Way, a historic stone causeway and beautiful woodlands. Just one step-over stile and two short climbs. The shorter route is an inviting hour-long family stroll. Stout footwear is advisable.



# The Lower Cumberworth Circular

This part of west Yorkshire is rich with clues to its past heritage in the names of our villages. There are signs nearby of Neolithic and Iron Age settlements at Castle Hill, site of an ancient hill fort near High Flats. Cumberworth or Cumbra's Enclosure is derived from its Celtic heritage. Later the Romans showed an interest in the iron deposits at Castle Hill but left no name to any settlements. Cumberworth then became surrounded by Saxon villages, Emley, Scissett and Clayton West. Following the Saxons were the Vikings in Denby Dale, Kitchenroyd and Skelmanthorpe. Later on we have the Quakers in Quaker Bottom.

Cumberworth was once renowned for its hand loomed fine quality woollen cloth. With the advent of the industrial revolution and power looms it was left behind in favour of the valley bottoms where there was water power.

## Start: The Foresters Arms, Lower Cumberworth

Walk along Lane Hackings Green, continuing straight ahead (on the Kirklees Way) as the lane becomes first a track and then (after Little Hackings) a footpath.

The Kirklees Way is a 73-mile route, devised by Kirklees Council, which circles the district.

The term Hackings refers to cultivation of soil.

Turn right through a kissing-gate, remaining on the Kirklees Way, eventually leaving the field through another kissing-gate onto Githwaites Lane. (0.6 miles) Here the two walks diverge.

### Main route, 3.2 miles

Turn left onto Githwaites Lane, then after 100 metres take the right fork off the lane onto a path across fields which leads to Cross Lane on the outskirts of Skelmanthorpe. Walk across the football pitch (round it if there's a match on!!) to a waymarker. Turn right downhill,

along the Kirklees Way, onto a woodland path which after a few minutes leads onto a splendid stone causeway, Thorpe Lane, over Thorpe Dike and beyond.

Stay on the Kirklees Way, turning left over a wooden stile (or through a gate) onto a broad track, with a deep wooded valley (bluebell woods!) to your left, which leads to a further wooden stile/gate. Follow the path on the right hand side of the field (with Perch House Farm to your right) over a stile, onto the farm track and down to the main A636 Wakefield Road.

Cross the road with care and immediately take the sign-posted footpath downhill which soon joins the driveway to Lower Clough House.



Lower Pudding Mill Pond

To the right is Lower Putting Mill (Lower Pudding Mill according to local historians), a fulling mill with mill house in the early 19th century. The fulling process was used to thicken the newly woven cloth by wetting and beating causing the fibres to matt together to give it strength and increase waterproofing. After fulling the fabric was stretched secured by tenterhooks.



Lower Pudding Mill



The driveway crosses the River Dearne and proceeds steeply uphill to the house. At the wooden footpath sign turn right through a picket-gate, cross the field to another gate, just before which you should turn right again and walk along the path beside the fence.

You are now briefly on The Dearne Way, a 30 mile continuous footpath from the source of the river near Birdsedge to its meeting with the River Don at Mexborough.

Cross the beck (Clough House Dike), go through a kissing-gate into woodland, over a wooden stile into a field, straight ahead uphill towards the trees, over another wooden stile onto a path, passing Stubbins Farm on the right, to the farm-track.



Old bridge over River Dearne



View towards Kitchenroyd