

➔ Upper Denby, recorded as “Denebi” in the Domesday Book means ‘farmstead of the Danes’ and was founded soon after the Danes had conquered York in AD 862. It is the only Yorkshire village that the Domesday Book ascribes as having a ‘cattle- house’. Clay quarrying activity also took place at Upper Denby on land that is now the South Croft housing estate.

Continue on path until you pass a large house on LHS and then reach crossing of track. Turn right through gated entrance and bear left across top of Denby Delf. There are wonderful views from here, down the Dearne valley, north to the Ovenden wind turbines and beyond to the Pennines, and west to the Peak District moors.



The path descends quite steeply between heathland and woods to another field. Leave Denby Delf via stile down field to another stile and track. Turn left and around Toby Spout at the outfall of Square Wood Reservoir. Cross next stile and continue to Wood Farm.

It was here that that the disastrous Denby Dale Pie of August 1887 was buried. This pie had been baked to celebrate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. However not all the meat had been cooked thoroughly and it was described as somewhat ‘gamey’ before it was declared unfit to eat and was taken in ‘solemn procession for burial’.

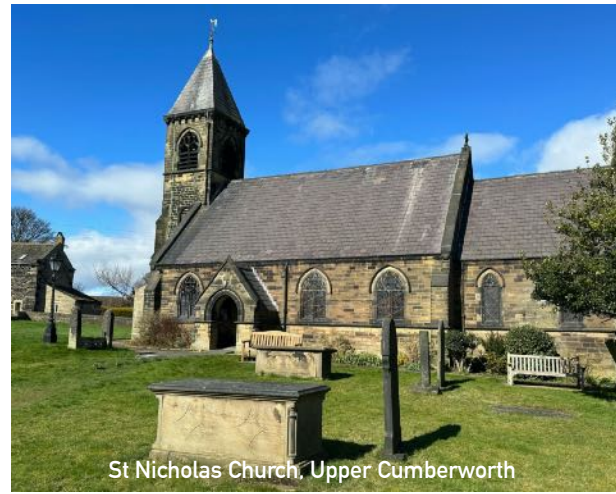
Beyond the buildings turn left through a kissing gate into an area of wood pasture. Shortly before the wood end turn right down hill on a path marked the Dearne Way. Cross the stone stile and descend the field obliquely to a further stile and steps down to Carr Bridge over the infant River Dearne and into woodland. Just before end of bridge drop down to river and up other bank and continue on path.



These are the Upper Dearne Woodlands, owned by the Wavin group and managed in partnership with the Upper Dearne Woodlands Conservation Group.

Cross a small footbridge and stepping stones to attractive pond and a memorial bench. Continue up and straight ahead through the northern arm of the woods to a footbridge and ford. Cross and continue left on the right hand bank of the stream, until you reach a narrow path to the right alongside the garden boundary wall of the Old Rectory. Follow this path to the A635 road.

Cross with care, turn right then immediately left into a shady footpath. At its end bear slightly right then left into a footpath past housing and into the graveyard of St. Nicholas Church, Upper Cumberworth.



St Nicholas Church, Upper Cumberworth

Recorded as “Cumberworde” in the Domesday Book, this site may be even older than Denby as the name means “enclosure

of the Britons”. The village centre is a Conservation Area, with the fine church and the school both being listed buildings of architectural interest. Notice the village stocks, near the entrance to the church.

Pass the stocks and leave the churchyard with care as the road here has blind bends.

Turn right away from the church and continue along the road. Almost at the end of the village turn right into a footpath between houses. Our way bears leftward across the field to a gate and path to reach the access road to the recycling site. Cross the access road and the gate and follow FP to left hand corner of the field to reach a narrow and sometimes overgrown path alongside the former Bromleys landfill site.

The landfill site utilised the former Naylor Bros clay pits and the scars of previous exploitation and current incomplete restoration are clearly visible.

Bear left across field and follow FP with fence to your LHS continue to a stile leading into the Wood Lane track. This quickly leads to the bridge over the railway and Denby Dale station.

This trail was devised by the Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome Group. Revised 2023.

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Denby & Cumberworth Circular Trail



Old spring water supply to Denby Dale



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.



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



Look out for the Denby & Cumberworth 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 and around Denby Dale

Denby & Cumberworth Circular Trail



View of the Deame Valley and Denby Dale Viaduct

The Denby and Cumberworth Trail is a 7 mile circular walk. Stout footwear is advisable.



Denby & Cumberworth Circular Trail

The railway came to Denby Dale in 1850. Its arrival meant that existing small businesses were able to export further afield and thus they and the village began to expand rapidly. Originally the viaduct spanning the Dearne valley was a timber structure but this became increasingly unsound. The stone viaduct built to replace it was officially opened in 1880 and was built by Naylor Bros. Naylor Bros stayed in Denby Dale and began the manufacture of clay pipes utilising deposits at the nearby Bromleys clay pits. The firm operated in Denby Dale until 1993 when production was transferred to Cawthorne. The site occupied by the offices, kilns, storage areas is now the Bromley Park housing estate. The firm's name however remains in Naylor Myers, the building supplies merchant located in the station yard.

Start: Denby Dale railway station

Cross the Interchange bus turning circle to the footpath, Wood Lane, and follow this down past East Hill Wood to the main A636 road.

The interesting gate on the left mid way down Wood Lane led into the garden of "Woodbine", the impressive, though sadly no more, residence of George William Naylor. Behind the boundary wall to the right is the site of the former Kitson Works, also manufacturers of clay pipes and other earthenware, and now occupied by the Denby Dale Industrial Park. To the right of the junction with the A636 is the former Dalesman public house, again victim to changing recent economic circumstances. It was previously the Prospect Hotel where any traveller could request a bed for the night for the price of 1 shilling.

Turn left through the village centre. At memorial park bear left up hill to Cumberworth Lane and Methodist Church. Alternatively for refreshments continue to White Hart PH, turn left up Cumberworth Lane. Beyond the Methodist Church cross the road onto track leading past Leak Hall Farm.

In Old English 'leak' meant a brook. This cluster of cottages and converted farm buildings is the site of Leak Hall, an important house in the area. It was here that John Firth, who brought Quakerism to the area, was born in 1597.

Through the next gate turn right to the end of Leak Hall Lane then immediately left into the footpath leading past Wither Wood.

Wither Wood is a delightful area of semi-natural ancient woodland bought by the Woodland Trust with substantial support from the local community. It is open for all to explore and enjoy.

The footpath eventually meets a track close to the entrance to Denby Dale First School. Turn left into the Gilthwaites Lane bridleway and continue past Gilthwaite Farm.

Gilthwaites, or Gilfites, 'a clearing belonging to Gil', is Old Norse and the name is from Norwegian mythology. The recently converted building between the farm house and the school was originally a loom shed; the farm was also a site for cloth production.

Follow the lane over the brow of the hill and down to join the Kirklees Way over Thorpe Dike. Next bear right, still on the Kirklees Way, to the Cross Lane recreation ground, on the outskirts of Skelmanthorpe. Go obliquely left to the far corner of the sports field then turn right down a wooded path. Follow this path down and again over Thorpe Dike and onto the old drovers' flagged way.

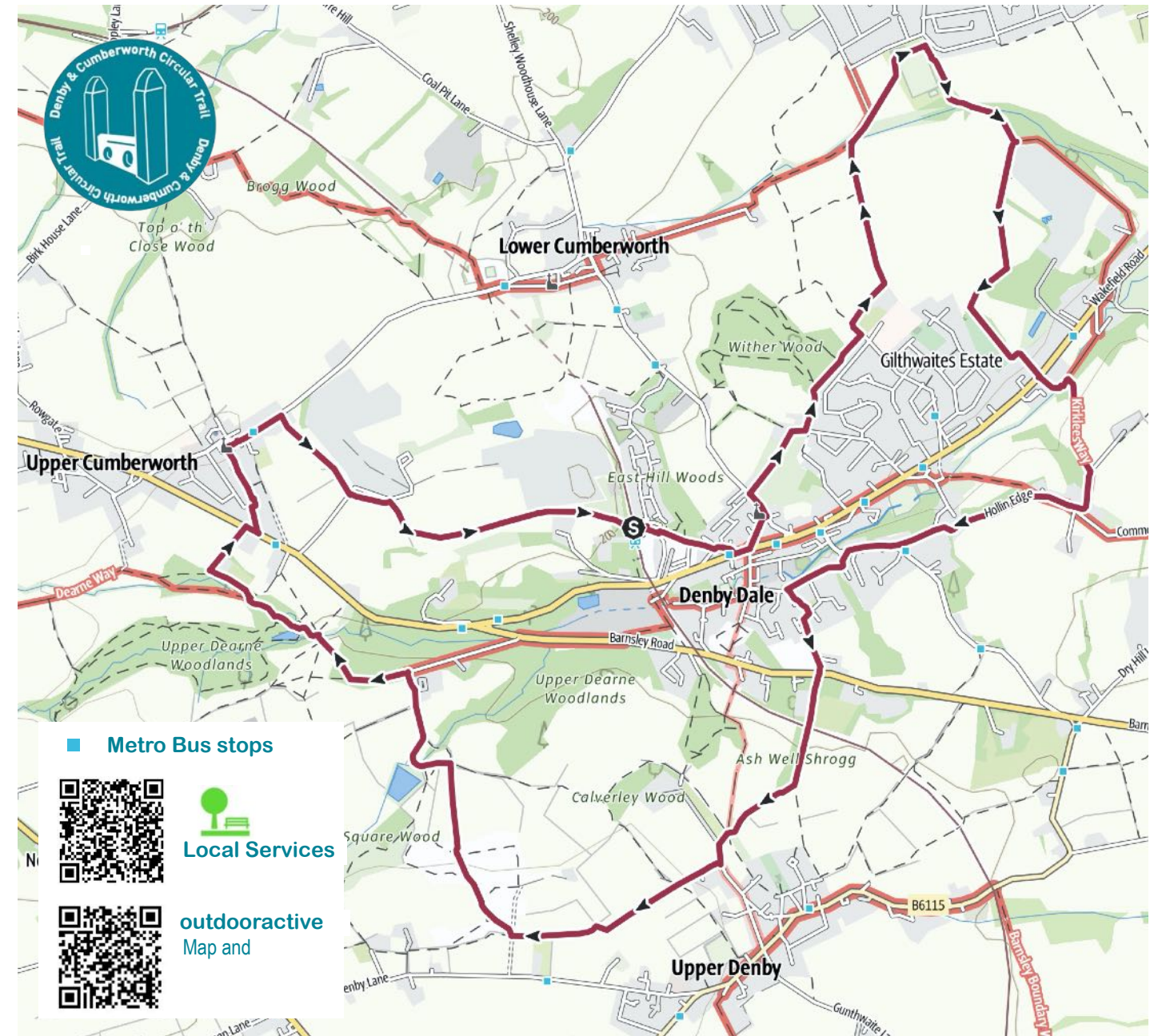
Thorpe is an Old English word for village or hamlet. It is likely that this refers to the old village of Skelmanthorpe which was probably abandoned at the advent of the Black Death plague in the 13th century.

Continue straight on the main path and over several stiles and bends.

On your left is the new landscape of the restored areas of Hen Perch clay quarry operated by the Wavin group (formerly Hepworths). Hepworths also had clay pits at nearby Lower Cumberworth where the Cumberworth Brick and Tile Company manufactured. Their main centre for manufacture and distribution is now at Crow Edge.

The path eventually turns left, then right narrowly down between gardens to meet the A636 road. Cross carefully and into the footpath opposite leading down to a footbridge over the River Dearne. Turn left, then right almost immediately uphill on Stubbin Lane. At the next path junction turn right and follow the track round to the road, Hollin Edge. Continue right, along the road to Cuckstool Road, and eventually to its junction with Miller Hill. Turn right and downhill then left at the small grass triangle into Dearnside Road. Take the next left residential road, Inkerman Way, and bear right to beyond the green space. To the left a public footpath leaves the estate between timber fences and leads to the buildings of Inkerman Court and the A635 Barnsley Road.

The original building dates from the time of the Crimean War; the name is from a battle in the same. A substantial three storey mill was built here in 1868.



Cross the road with care and continue under the railway line. Continue uphill with a wooded stream on your right to a path junction. Continue right, along the field edge and through a pleasing old gated stile, to a junction of five paths.

Take second on left track up hill, Bank Lane. After a short while turn right on track with housing to left. Continue straight ahead and leave track on path between wall and fence.