

Shep-Den Trail - 3.7 or 6.3 miles

Over its relatively short course, this is an interesting 3.7 miles from Shepley to Denby Dale. The route makes its way round the back of Shepley via Shepley Carr to Upper Cumberworth. It passes through Stephen Wood then follows the Dearne Way to Denby Dale. It can be made into a circular route by walking to Shepley (see separate Denby Dale to Shepley leaflet) instead of taking the train, which makes for a 6.3 mile trail.

Points of Interest along the way

Rev Ben Swift Chambers

Born in the nearby village of Stocksmoor, Chambers was a Methodist minister who started the St Domingo Football Club, later to become Everton FC. He is seen as the godfather of Merseyside football before Liverpool FC emerged from a split in the club. Chambers' grave is always associated with blue and white or red colours. He was laid to rest in Shepley, the cemetery is not easily found so well worth a short diversion to this quiet place.

Stephen Woods

These woods are something of a nature reserve, tended to by the Upper Dearne Woodlands group and are quite special. The bluebells form their own glades and make a spectacular display in spring.

Of note is the hairy wood ant which make its presence



known. The woods are the most northerly site of the species which, as a colony, build very large nests. In the spring they start to rebuild the nest and these reach maximum height during the summer. You can almost hear the buzz of activity. Be careful not to disturb them.

You may also note to the LHS of the trail a long trench which run parallel to the footpath. There is much debate as to what purpose this served, but a local historian

concluded that they were used for 'fulling' or 'felting', a process used after the weaving of woollen yarn to stop it unraveling. The woven yarns would be soaked in the trench which was supplied by water diverted from Park Dike.

Amenities

Shepley village has a small range of amenities including the Co-Op, following which Upper Cumbeworth is a short deviation from the trail but has a PO / village store. Thereafter Denby Dale offers most things.

The Route

This is a relatively easy walk, mainly on good surfaces. The track between Shepley Carr and Upper Cumberworth can be muddy. There are stiles to negotiate but nothing too difficult. Stout footwear is recommended. Total ascent and descent is 274ft and 334ft. Allow 1.5 to 2 hours walking time.

Transport

Visit our website and check out the travel page to plan your visit.

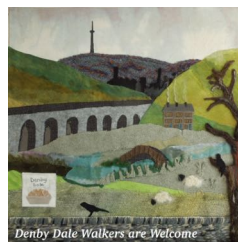
Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome



Please check out our website for further information on

<https://www.denbydale-walkersarewelcome.org.uk/>

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Denby Dale Parish
Countryside Project



Kirklees
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Walking in and around Denby Dale

The Shep-Den Trail



A walk and a train ride in one adventure during this 3.7 mile route between Shepley and Denby Dale railway stations.

This leaflet has been written and produced by
Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome

Route Guidance

Leave the railway station and turn L up Station Road. Continue to top and turn R onto Jos Lane and then L up footpath between houses, this takes you up past the back of the St Paul's church.

Turn L and down to meet Marsh Lane, go straight across on Church Lane. At the T junction turn L down Cliffe Road. Continue down hill and up the other side to meet with Lane Head Road, Cliffe House is to RHS.

Cross road and turn R and then L at finger post down track. After a short distance turn R on path to stile into field. Turn L and continue at side of wall past a gate and cross over wall via stile. Continue up field with stone wall to RHS, cross another stile and continue to top where the path turns R through gate and then soon after over a stile into field.

Head straight across field to Shepley Carr and kissing gate. Go through and in between buildings to meet road, turn R.

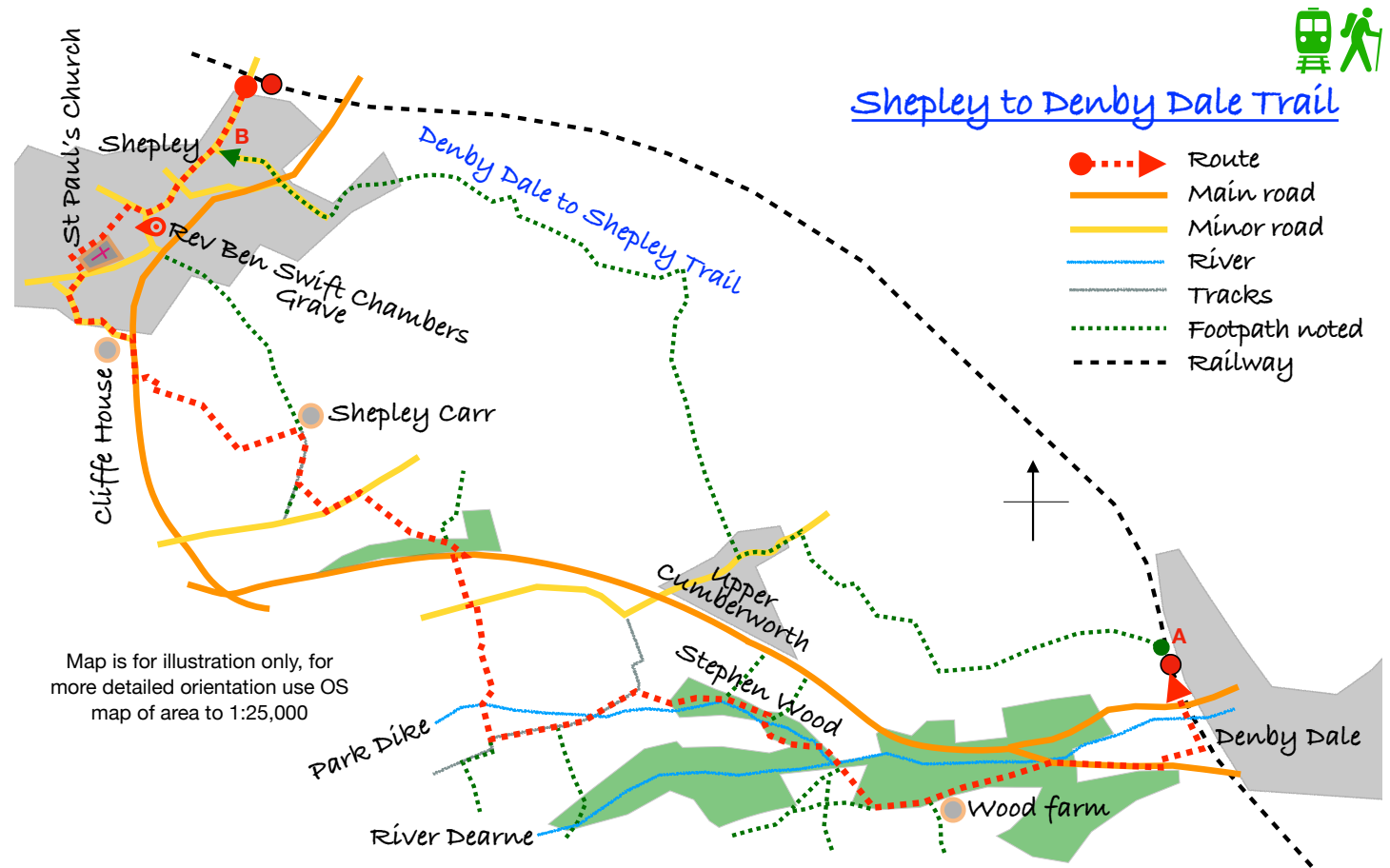
Continue through gate and up road, take stone stile on LHS over wall and head across field to another stile.

Go over stile and onto Carr Lane, turn L and continue. After a short while turn R at fingerpost and continue across field with trees on RHS. At stile cross over and continue straight forward heading for trees with footpath running at bottom of embankment. Bear L and continue straight ahead to finger post and track. Turn R and up short steep hill to meet Barnsley Road.

Turn R and after a few paces cross road and up footpath between house and garage. Cross stepped stile and continue to stile and Carr Hill Road. Turn L and then R at fingerpost on footpath. Keep wall to LHS and pass through stile and across field to end of wall and then bear R down to Park Dike. Cross and top hill with stone wall on RHS.

At track turn L and go down hill, cross bridge over Park Dike. At L bend on track, just before houses, turn R down stone steps and carry on down field with fence to LHS.

At Stephen Wood enter via stile and take path to LHS of notice board. Carry on down path keeping Park Dike to RHS.



Where path meets track near ford crossing of Park Dike take stile and turn R and cross top of ford. Enter woods and go straight forward keeping Park Dike to LHS.

At noticeboard bear left and cross Carr Dike and access track via stile, turn R down to stile on R. Pass through and cross bridge over river Dearne, carry on up steps to stile.

Cross stile and take footpath that bears L up field to stile, cross and enter woods. Take path up hill to meet with another path from R, bear L and continue down to kissing gate at Wood Farm.

Pass through and turn L down hill to meet with Barnsley Road. Cross and turn R and then L after row of houses on L. Path bends R and then meets with another path from R, turn L and down hill and upon to meet Wakefield Road. Turn R to go into Denby Dale for refreshments or straight across up steps to station.

Denby Dale to Shepley Trail

The trail can be extended to form a 6.3m circular walk. This is done by taking the DDTST from point A to B and meeting with the Shep-Den trail on Station Road just before the RH turn onto Jos Lane.

Grave of Rev Ben Swift Chambers

It is only a short deviation from the trail but worth a few steps. After making the RH turn onto Jos Lane turn L onto Church Close which is a cul-de-sac. At the top there is a grand set of ornate gates, go through into small graveyard. The grave is situated at the wall to the far RHS. There is no exit, retrace steps to rejoin trail.