



Key

- Heritage trail and direction
- Viewpoint
- House/farm
- Access Land Boundary
- Local Nature Reserve
- Community Wildlife Area
- Woodland
- Golf course
- Parking
- Bus stop (for more information www.travelsouthyorkshire.com)



Parsonage Farm



Bitholmes Wood



View across Ewden Valley

Route Directions

1 Follow the Trail from the Car Park past the community wildlife area towards Parsonage Farm.

The kingfishers on your right mark the entrance to the community wildlife area. Here schools and visitors can explore the plants and animals in the ponds, meadow and trees.

2 Past Parsonage Farm there is an optional trail on the left. Follow this path to admire the great views of Whamcliffe Crags. Rejoin the trail at point 4.

Parsonage Farm was established near Townend Common 700 years ago. Owned by a local church it was the Parson's home. It would originally have been thatched with local heather.

3 Leave the easy going trail and take a left through Townend Common towards Hollin Edge Farm.

This area was common land for local people to graze animals and cut plants for livestock bedding. Townend Common is now a Local Nature Reserve with a variety of habitats, including heathland. Heathland is a very important habitat for highly specialised species of plants, insects and birds.

4 Follow the inclined track on the right. Just past the barns take the left. At the dry stone wall continue right to follow the trail running between the parallel stone walls. Alternatively, turn left here for walks to Bitholmes Wood.

Bitholmes Wood is ancient woodland dating to at least 1600 AD. As early as the Middle Ages it was used for hunting game, more recently for mining and quarrying.

(Continues overleaf)



Walder's Low

Photograph by: Alex Murphy

Route Directions continued...

- 5 Follow the lane down the hill to just before the dirt track meets the tarmac road.
- 6 Turn right and pass through the woodland. Keep left on this track until you reach a grassy field.
- 7 Follow the track across the field keeping the old boundary bank immediately to your left, and pass through the old gate posts towards Cote House.
- 8 At Cote House, turn right and follow the trail upwards towards the golf course.

Walder's Low, on your left, is a mound of earth and stone. It is believed to date from the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age and may have been reused as a burial chamber for Walder, a Saxon chief. Being approximately 5000 years old, this monument is about the same age as Stonehenge.

- 9 Follow the footpath across the golf course, passing the hawthorns, the bridge, and the Birch trees. Walk through the small alleyway left of the bungalow.

The Golf Course was originally part of Townend Common. Maps dating from 1855 show this part of the common being used as a sandstone quarry. Materials from here were used to create firebricks for the furnaces used in steel production.

- 10 Go over the style and find yourself on Townend Lane. Turn right to head back to Parsonage Farm Car Park via Common Lane.

Stone to Steel Area Map

Heritage Leaflets

- 1 Town Heritage Trail
- 2 Bolsterstone to Midhopstones
- 3 Parsonage Farm and Townend Common
- 4 Forge, Craggs and Heath
- 5 Glen Howe and More Hall
- 6 Oughtibridge Rambles

Four Heritage Handbooks Available

Patterns in the Landscape, Getting Around and About, Steel Valley Life and Hidden Treasures. All are available to download from the Stone to Steel website: www.stonetosteel.org.uk

Stone to Steel is a project celebrating 10,000 years of human history in the Upper Don Valley. It is a partnership between the Steel Valley Project, South Yorkshire Forest Partnership and Sheffield City Council that covers an area of approximately ten square miles around Stocksbridge. It encompasses the towns and villages of Stocksbridge, Midhopstones, Wharncliffe Side, Oughtibridge, Bolsterstone, Deepcar and Grenoside. Stone to Steel is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

For more information and to find out about volunteering please visit our website at: www.stonetosteel.org.uk or email us at: info@steelvalleyproject.org.uk Alternatively write to us at: Steel Valley Project, The ARC, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge, S36 2DT



Parsonage Farm and Townend Common

Enjoy Parsonage Farm and the Ewden Valley on an easy going trail with some steep climbs

Distance: about 5½ km / 3½ miles

