

South Yorkshire Countryside Directory for People with Disabilities

Fourth Edition

Whatever your needs, access to and enjoyment of the countryside is rewarding, healthy and great fun. This directory can help you find out what opportunities are available to you in your area. Get yourself outdoors and enjoy all the benefits that come with it...

With a foreword by Lord David Blunkett



This directory was designed for people with a disability, though the information included will be useful to everyone.

South Yorkshire is a landscape and culture steeped in a history of coal mining, steel industry, agriculture and the slightly more light hearted tradition of butterscotch production in Doncaster!

In recent years the major cities and towns have undergone huge transformations but much of the history and industry is still visible today including steel manufacturing in Sheffield, the medieval streets of Rotherham and the weekly town centre market in Barnsley – a tradition held since 1249!

For those that enjoy the outdoors, South Yorkshire is equally diverse. You can enjoy the many tracks and trails of the spectacular Peak District National Park or the Trans Pennine Trail, the rolling fields of corn and windmills of Penistone, and the wildfowl delights of Rother Valley Country Park – an opencast coal mine turned local nature reserve.

Whatever your chosen form of countryside recreation, whether it's joining a group, getting out into the countryside on your own, doing voluntary work, or investigating your local wildlife from home, we hope you get as much out of it as we do.

There is still some way to go before we have a properly accessible countryside. By contacting Open Country or another of the organisations listed here, we can help to encourage better access for all in the future.



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Foreword

“

I am very pleased to lend my name to this excellent publication and above all the work that is being done to open up access to the glories of the countryside, the enjoyment of nature and what others take for granted.

I know from my own experience (I own a tandem but clearly need not a passenger but a front seat driver), and I've long enjoyed walking in the Peak District and beyond.

Yorkshire has equal glories to the wonderful vista around Sheffield, and I know that right across Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, so many people have their well-being restored, their life force renewed and their communing with nature facilitated, by being able to get out into the countryside.

For those with any form of special need, particularly where this involves having to overcome physical and sensory challenges, even small adaptations can make a difference and personal support where needed can be crucial.

Protecting our precious countryside, the walks and bridle paths – from both natural erosion and man-made hazards – helps to bring alive equality in practice as well as ensuring that families in all their guises, can enjoy nature together.

Much emphasis quite rightly in the past, through the Disability Discrimination Act and the Equality Act 2010, have concentrated attention on physical barriers and other impediments within an urban environment. It is so vital not to forget that nature is a free gift for all of us, and all of us need to be able to access it.

”

Lord David Blunkett

Using the Directory

Throughout the Directory you will see some symbols. These are to help you see what kind of facilities or information is available. Please also contact individual places to ask what they can offer people with disabilities.

Key:



Blue Badge parking is available



A wheelchair accessible toilet is available
(*Changing Places facilities at venues have also been included; see www.changing-places.org for a full list*)



Scooters / wheelchairs are available for loan



Large print leaflets are available



A Braille guide is available

South Yorkshire covers a large geographical area. Sometimes we divide sections into areas to make it easier for you to find local information.

These areas are:

- Barnsley
- Doncaster
- Rotherham
- Sheffield



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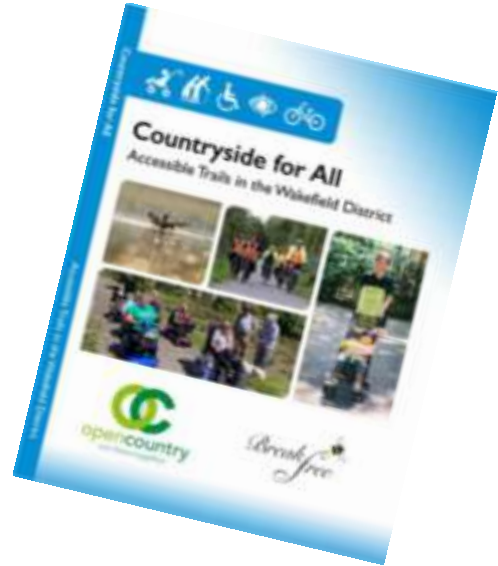
1. Walking & Outings

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Breakfree



Open Country have produced *Breakfree* packs for Harrogate District, Leeds, Wakefield, Wharfedale and York.



Great for short walks, nature trails, children, cycles and people with disabilities.

The packs have clear, colour maps for each place, with all the information you need to help plan your day.



Call Open Country on 01423 507227 and we will gladly post them to you.

Breakfree: get healthy and discover your local green space!

Walking Clubs & Contacts

General Contacts

Disabled Ramblers

7 Drury Lane, Hunsdon, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG12 8NU

Email: chairman@disabledramblers.co.uk

www.disabledramblers.co.uk

The Disabled Ramblers is a small charity working across England and Wales to help make the countryside more accessible to people with limited mobility. They campaign to raise awareness of the needs of people with limited mobility and organise a national programme of rambles for people who use mobility scooters.

The Ramblers

Tel: 020 3961 3232

Email: ramblers@ramblers.zendesk.com

www.ramblers.org.uk

Britain's walking charity, working to safeguard the footpaths, the countryside and other places people go walking, and to encourage more people to take up walking. They provide information and publications and promote walking for all throughout England, Wales and Scotland. There are several local groups across Yorkshire, each group has its own walks programme with walks ranging from easy to strenuous. Their website also has a directory of 'Wellbeing Walks' in Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield. These are free, short walks designed to help you take the first step towards better health, wellbeing and happiness.



Walking Clubs & Contacts

Local Contacts

Barnsley Council

Tel: 01226 773555 (Public Rights of Way Team)

Email: publicrightsofway@barnsley.gov.uk

www.barnsley.gov.uk

Contact the council for information about walking routes, including copies of their 'Miles without Stiles' well-surfaced, easy access routes without stiles, steps, or steep gradients.

Bradfield Walkers are Welcome

www.bradfield-walkers.org.uk

Eight inclusive routes in the Bradfield and Stocksbridge area that are accessible to wheelchair users and families with buggies. Each route has detailed information on parking, seating, accessible toilets and the quality of the paths in terms of the surface, gradient and width.

Canal and River Trust

Tel: 0303 040 4040

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

There are several parts of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation that have accessible walking routes, with flat, tarmac paths. Contact the Canal and River Trust for more information or have a look at their 'Accessibility Map' online which has information on towpaths and access points.

Doncaster Council's Countryside Team

Tel: 01302 736020

Email: countryside.interpretation@doncaster.gov.uk

www.doncaster.gov.uk/countryside

Based at Sandall Beat Wood, the team provide a series of events to help you explore Doncaster's countryside, wildlife and heritage, including guided walks and regular walking groups.

Get Doncaster Moving

<https://getdoncastermoving.org/walking>

A partnership of organisations committed to help Doncaster's communities to become healthier and more vibrant by increasing participation in physical activity and sport. There is a programme of guided walks at levels to suit all abilities; some are wheelchair accessible.

Walking Clubs & Contacts

National Trust

Tel: 01433 631757

Email: peakdistrict@nationaltrust.org.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The National Trust runs guided walks and events at Longshaw, Burbage and the Eastern Moors. Staff and volunteers can give information on accessible and 'Miles Without Stiles' routes.

Peak Walking Adventures

Tel: 07913 549483

Email: info@peakwalking.com

www.peakwalking.com

Guided walks in Yorkshire and the Peak District. A fee is charged. They can arrange tailored accessible walks for people who use wheelchairs and scooters, or people who are less mobile.

Sheffield Shamblers

Email: organiser@shamblers.org.uk

www.shamblers.org.uk

A privately run friendly, relaxed, sociable group that leads walks around Sheffield and the Peak District. Walks range from short health walks to more challenging hikes of up to 12 miles.

Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group (SVIWG)

www.sviwg.co.uk

SVIWG offers visually impaired people the opportunity to go walking regularly, assisted by trained volunteer guides. There is an annual programme of walks in and around the Peak District and South Yorkshire, ranging from 4 to 7 miles.

South Yorkshire Green Social Prescribing Activity Directory

Tel: 0114 312 2235

www.wildsheffield.com/getinvolved/the-green-network

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust has been supporting organisations in the delivery of Green and Blue Social Prescribing activities as part of a national 'Test and Learn' programme. The online directory contains details of groups operating green and blue activities to support people with mental health support needs.

Step Out Sheffield

Tel: 07505 639524

Email: admin@stepoutsheffield.co.uk

www.stepoutsheffield.co.uk

Walking Clubs & Contacts

A volunteer-run organisation providing a choice of free walks at 25 different locations across the city each week, primarily using parks and greenspaces. Many walks are 'wheels-friendly' and most groups offer walks at different paces to make sure that everyone travels at a speed that is comfortable for them whatever their age or level of fitness.

Trans Pennine Trail (TPT)

c/o Barnsley Council, PO Box 597, Barnsley, S70 9EW

Tel: 01226 772574 (National Office)

Email: info@transpenninetrail.org.uk

www.transpenninetrail.org.uk

A 215 mile coast to coast route between Liverpool and Hull, with extensions to the seaside towns of Southport and Hornsea. Much of the trail has level, surfaced, traffic-free paths. South Yorkshire has a vast number of trails, covered by three maps, which can be ordered from the TPT office or from their website.

Weekend Wanderers

Tel: 01302 851905

www.weekendwanderers.org.uk

A friendly group of walkers who enjoy fresh air and scenic countryside. Group members are of mixed ages and abilities and walks are usually around 8 miles, with nothing too strenuous. Providing they have places available, non-walkers are welcome to join them; they will drop you off at places of interest to enjoy sightseeing, shopping or a trip to tearooms.

Open Access

Tel: 0300 060 2091 (Open Access Contact Centre)

Email: open.access@naturalengland.org.uk

www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/use-your-right-to-roam

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW), the public can walk freely on mapped areas of mountain, moor, heath, downland and registered common land in England without having to stick to paths. The right of open access includes using a wheelchair or mobility scooter. Clearly, most areas will not be very accessible, but you can view the CRoW maps for further information, or give the Contact Centre a call.

Easy Going Walks

Please note that paths are subject to natural erosion and their quality may vary over time, though maintenance of the paths should be ongoing. Please ring your local council's Access Officer or Open Country if you would like to report or comment on any accessible paths.

There are many local parks and recreation grounds that are accessible in and around the towns and cities of South Yorkshire. Contact your local authority or Tourist Information Centre for more information.

Barnsley

Dearne Valley Country Park

Off Pontefract Road, Barnsley, S71 1HS

Tel: 01226 774353

www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/dearne-valley-country-park

P

Access is off Pontefract Road, where there is a car park (with a height barrier) and an accessible path leading across the River Dearne and past the lake. Access in the southern, flatter half of the site is generally straightforward with tarmac paths, but some paths towards the northern edge can be steep, including Cliffe Wood. The flat, wide, grassy route of the old Barnsley Canal provides easy access from west to east. The nearest accessible, 'Changing Places' toilet is at Barnsley Town Hall, off Church Street – check for opening times.

Rabbit Ings Country Park

Lund Hill Lane, Royston, South Yorkshire, S71 4BB

<https://thelandtrust.org.uk/space/rabbit-ings-country-park/>

P

Located on the former colliery yard and spoil heap of the Monkton Colliery and then the Royston Drift Mine, which closed in 1989. It is home to an array of wildlife including skylarks, kestrels and herons. There is an extensive network of footpaths across the site, mostly made of crushed stone, though very steep in places. A-frame barriers at some access points may be a bit tight for some larger, motorised scooters. The larger car park off Lund Hill Lane has a height barrier and closes at night.

Winscar Reservoir

Car park off Dunford Rd, Barnsley, S36 4TF

www.yorkshirewater.com

P

A Yorkshire Water site; Winscar reservoir was built in the 1850s with further works taking place in the 1970s to improve the capacity. You can experience impressive views of the reservoir and surrounding countryside. The mile walk (there and back) follows the bridleway (Route 68) and takes you across the dam to the car park off Windle Edge. The path is on a wide, flat tarmac track. Nearest toilets are at Langsett Reservoir (see page 10).

Easy Going Walks

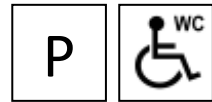
Worsbrough Mill & Country Park

Worsbrough Bridge, Barnsley, S70 5LJ

Tel: 01226 774527

Email: worsbroughmill@barnsley.gov.uk

www.worsbrough-mill.com



Over 200 acres of country parkland with a large fishing reservoir and working water powered corn mill which still produces stone ground flour (available in the shop). The water and its margins are a haven for wildlife attracting a wide variety of birdlife. There is a tarmac path over the dam with great views across the reservoir. If you want to explore further a 2.2 mile long path takes you around the reservoir and into the country park, though it may not be suitable for wheelchair users or those with limited mobility due to muddy paths, tree routes and narrow bridges. Two Blue Badge bays are situated near the mill and café.

Doncaster

Campsall Country Park

Churchfield Road, Campsall, Doncaster, DN6 9LN

Tel: 01302 736020 (Sandall Beat Community Environment Centre)

Email: countryside.interpretation@doncaster.gov.uk

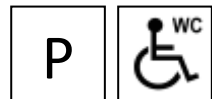
www.doncaster.gov.uk

Campsall Hall was the home of the Frank family until 1956. Original features in the park include examples of London plane, Wellingtonia, beech and yew which were first planted by Richard Frank. There are wheelchair accessible tracks across the park and the path around the lake has a hard surface, though is bumpy in places. There is a car park off Churchfield Road, though from here you have to walk down a fairly steep grassy bank which could be unsuitable for wheelchair users, especially in winter. You can, however, access the lake, avoiding the grass slope, via Back Lane or Sherwood Avenue, though parking is limited. There are accessible toilets, including a 'Changing Places' toilet and a café at the leisure centre next to the car park.

Lakeside Walk

Lakeside Boulevard, Doncaster, DN4 5PJ

<https://jeffswheelchairwalks.org.uk/>



A pleasant 1.5 mile walk around a man-made lake on the outskirts of Doncaster, with plenty of water birds to see. Paths are mostly tarmac. There is Blue Badge parking at the Lakeside Village retail park (customers only), or roadside parking close to the lake. There is a 'Changing Places' toilet at the retail park, along with cafés and restaurants.

Easy Going Walks

Rotherham

Harthill Reservoir (The Tom Wakefield Way)

Off Woodhall Lane, Harthill, S26 7YQ

www.harthillwithwoodall-pc.gov.uk

A flat, easy, surfaced route about a mile in length. The central section of the trail crosses a long narrow bridge where available width is reduced to 90cm. Download the walk leaflet from the parish council's website above.

Rother Valley Country Park

Mansfield Road, Wales Bar, Sheffield, S26 5PQ

Tel: 01709 334455

Email: info@rvcp.co.uk

www.rvcp.co.uk



A flat, easy three mile walk around the park, enjoying the sights and sounds of the countryside with rest places along the way. Accessible toilets are available in both the male and female toilets next to the café. Wheelchairs and mobility scooters are available to hire for free if you provide a Blue Badge, passport or driver's licence. Discounted parking for Blue Badge holders; register your blue badge and vehicle registration number at the park office located in the courtyard area. There is a small farm, as well as water sports and adapted cycles available (see *Outdoor Pursuits* – page 28 and *Cycling* – page 34).

The Old Mineral Line Trail

Steadfolds Lane, Thurgroft, S66 9LT

A pleasant two mile walk (one way) along an old railway line with a tarmac surface and resting places along the way. There is a large layby at the north end of the trail on Steadfolds Lane where you can park.

Thrybergh Country Park

Doncaster Road, Thrybergh, Rotherham, S65 4NU

Tel: 01709 382121 (Rotherham Council switchboard)

Email: thrybergh.countrypark@rotherham.gov.uk



A 1¾ mile level walk around the reservoir, with opportunities to spot birds and stop for a drink at the café. The path can get muddy in parts during wet weather. Accessible toilets and Blue Badge parking are available.

Sheffield

Damflask Reservoir

New Road/Oaks Lane, Low Bradfield, S6 6HD

www.yorkshirewater.com

Easy Going Walks

Surrounded by woodland within the Peak District National Park, Damflask Reservoir lies in the picturesque Loxley Valley. The 3.5 mile walk around the reservoir is level and has a good surface suitable for wheelchairs, though there are some steep gradients in places, where manual wheelchair users may need assistance. Parking is along the roadside. The nearest accessible toilets are in Low Bradfield on Mill Lee Road, by the Bradfield Parish Council Offices – RADAR key required.

Ecclesall Woods & Woodland Discovery Centre

Abbey Lane, Sheffield, S7 2QZ

Tel: 0114 235 6348

www.sheffield.gov.uk



Located between Ecclesall Road South and Abbeydale Road South is the largest, semi-natural woodland in South Yorkshire. There is an 'Easy Going Trail' in the woods across the road from the Woodland Discovery Centre; it follows a fairly wide, level and hard surfaced bridleway, though there are stones and tree roots in places. The centre has a café, accessible toilets and an information centre and runs public events in spring and autumn, as well as craft courses throughout the year. There are Blue Badge spaces in the car park next to the centre and a further car park off Limb Lane.

Five Weirs Walk

www.welcometosheffield.co.uk



The full walk from Meadowhall along the banks of the River Don to Sheffield city centre is about five miles, where walkers can enjoy industrial architecture and semi-rural areas. Keep a look out and you may see herons or maybe a flash of a kingfisher. The path is mainly on tarmac and crushed stone with some road crossings and small gradients where manual wheelchairs might need assistance. Some parts are not surfaced and may become muddy in wet weather. Blue Badge parking and accessible toilets are available at Meadowhall Shopping Centre, which is near the beginning of the route. You can get a tram back from the city centre at the end of the walk, or join/leave the route at various points.

Langsett Reservoir

Car park off the A616, Langsett, Sheffield, S36 4GY

www.yorkshirewater.com



A two mile circular walk through woodland and across open moor, following one side of the reservoir. The route is on fairly good surfaced paths; though there are some steep slopes in places. You can also walk along the dam (a smooth tarmac pavement) for a good view of the reservoir. There are accessible toilets and a picnic area in the car park. A

Easy Going Walks

café and pub can be reached a little further down the A616 by the end of the dam, but take care crossing the road as it can be busy.

Norfolk Heritage Park

Guildford Avenue, Sheffield, S2 2PL

Tel: 0114 250 0500

Email: parksandcountryside@sheffield.gov.uk



The park, opened in 1848, was laid out by the Duke of Norfolk and incorporates a main circular carriageway with two avenues, leading to the main gates. There are five Grade II listed buildings within the park. Blue Badge parking is located in the main car park off Guildford Avenue and there is level access from here to the Centre in the Park building where there is a café and accessible toilets (check for opening times). Health walks take place on Fridays; contact 'Step Out Sheffield' for more details (see *Walking Clubs & Contacts* – page 5).

Ulley Country Park

Pleasley Road, Aughton, Sheffield, S26 3XL

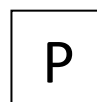
Tel: 01709 850353 (Thrybergh Country Park)



A reservoir built in 1871, now a picturesque park rich in birds and other wildlife. The paths around the reservoir offer scenic views of the surrounding countryside and are fairly easy going with good resting areas (though you cannot walk all the way around the reservoir). Blue Badge parking is available next to the information centre. There is a small café run by the 'The Friends of Ulley Park' generally open on the third Sunday of the month.

Underbank Reservoir

Underbank Reservoir, Oaks Lane, Stocksbridge, Sheffield, S36 4GH



A 3 mile walk around the Yorkshire Water reservoir on mostly hard-surfaced footpaths and some roadside pavements. There is a car park with a Blue Badge space off Oaks Lane. The nearest toilet facilities are at Langsett Reservoir 2.5 miles along the A616 (see previous page).

Notable others outside of South Yorkshire

Chesterfield Canal

Tapton Lock Visitor Centre, Lockoford Lane,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 7JB

Tel: 01629 533020

Email: countrysideservice@derbyshire.gov.uk

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/taptonlock



Easy Going Walks

Built in 1777 the canal skirts the southern boundary between Norwood and Turnerwood. There is plenty of wildlife to spot as you walk along the towpath (known as Cuckoo Way) which is accessible for everyone from Tapton Lock to Staveley. The visitor centre provides a great place to start exploring the canal and is fully accessible. Trumper mobility scooters are available to hire.

Peak District National Park

Tel: 01629 816200

Email: customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

The Peak District was Britain's first National Park, established in April 1951. The National Park Authority aims to make recreational facilities available to as many people as possible and provides a number of opportunities:

- **Miles Without Stiles** are suitable for those who are less mobile, disabled, or have young children. There are 20 routes across the national park. Routes can be downloaded from their website.
- **Trampers** are free to borrow from visitor and cycle hire centres across the park. These all-terrain mobility vehicles are ideal if you have limited mobility or additional mobility needs, are recovering from health issues, or want to explore further but may not manage a longer walk or cycle ride.
- **Walks for All** are short, very steady, fully accessible wheelchair and dementia friendly walks. Contact Derbyshire Dales District Council on 01629 761194.

Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve

Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9HN

Tel: 01623 677321

Email: sherwoodforest@rspb.org.uk

www.visitsherwood.co.uk



A beautiful ancient woodland with a diverse flora and fauna. There is an accessible path to the Major Oak (1.5 miles), though it is gently sloping and has a loose surface in places. There are other surfaced trails around the forest; ask at the visitor centre for more information. There is a café, shop, accessible toilets, 'Changing Places' facilities and Blue Badge parking (next to the visitor centre, parking charges apply). A mobility scooter is available to hire, but must be reserved in advance.

Outings

Barnsley

Cannon Hall Farm

Bark House Lane, Cawthorne, Barnsley, S75 4AT

Tel: 01226 790427

Email: info@cannonhallfarm.co.uk

www.cannonhallfarm.co.uk



One of the largest farm attractions in the UK. Animals include sheep, pigs, goats, cows, llamas, meercats and ferrets. There is a farm shop, tearooms, restaurant, accessible toilets and a large barn area to eat your picnic lunch. The farm is mostly wheelchair accessible with smooth tarmac paths and ramped access overlooking the large barns. There are some slopes where manual wheelchair users may need assistance, particularly the path down to the animal barns. Manual wheelchairs and electric mobility scooters are available to hire for a charge. A deposit and photographic ID is also required – please ring the farm shop to reserve on 01226 790427.

Cannon Hall Museum, Park & Gardens

Bark House Lane, Cawthorne, Barnsley, S75 4AT

Tel: 01226 772002

Email: cannonhall@barnsley.gov.uk

www.cannon-hall.com



Cannon Hall is a stunning Georgian country house museum set in 70 acres of historic parkland and beautiful landscaped gardens. The main paths around the grounds are tarmac. There are some areas and steeper slopes that may not be suitable for wheelchair users. The free museum holds collections of fine and decorative arts and has a lift to floors one and two. The Victorian Kitchens and Servants' Hall are accessible via the Walled Garden which has step free access. There are Blue Badge spaces in the main car park and additional alternative parking spaces are available outside the Hall, accessed via a private drive. Please ring ahead if you wish to use one of these. There are accessible toilets in the hall and in the car park next to the café.

Elsecar Heritage Centre

Wath Road, Elsecar, Barnsley, S74 8HJ

Tel: 01226 740203

Email: elsecarheritagecentre@barnsley.gov.uk

www.elsecar-heritage.com



An interesting history and craft centre, set in the attractive conservation village of Elsecar and surrounded by beautiful South Yorkshire countryside. There are plenty of independent shops to look around, whilst learning about Elsecar's history and legacy. Wheelchair hire available.

Outings

Wentworth Castle Gardens

Park Drive, Barnsley, S75 3EN

Tel: 01226 323070

Email: wentworthcastlegardens@nationaltrust.org.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/wentworth-castle-gardens



Managed by the National Trust. South Yorkshire's only Grade I-registered landscape, encompassing a formal garden, historically important monuments and a folly. There is a hard-standing path from the visitor car park up to the Conservatory. Other parts of the garden are a mixture of firm and grassy paths, often sloped; there are no hard-standing paths in the parkland. A map with recommended accessible routes around the garden is available. There are two powered mobility scooters, an all-terrain tramper and two manual wheelchairs available for hire, free of charge – but book in advance. A buggy shuttle service runs daily. Admission charge; carers are free. Cafe on site.

Wigfield Farm

Haverlands Lane, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 5NQ

Tel: 01226 216474

Email: wigfieldenquiries@barnsley.ac.uk

www.barnsley.ac.uk/shops-services/wigfield-farm



A small farm located next to Worsbrough Mill Country Park (see *Easy Going Walks* - page 8). A mix of farm animals, small animals and horticulture with a shop and café. The site is gently sloping and all buildings are single storey, making the farm suitable for people with restricted mobility. The Trans Pennine Trail is nearby and provides a good, scenic cycle route to the farm. Cycle parking facilities are provided outside the café.

Doncaster

Brodsworth Hall & Gardens

Brodsworth, Doncaster, DN5 7XJ

Tel: 01302 722598

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/brodsworth-hall-and-gardens



This Victorian mansion shows how life was in the house, from the servants to the families that lived there. The terrace and formal gardens are accessed on tarmac paths, though the Quarry Gardens has restricted access. Many artefacts and materials are available to touch, and most of the house except the servants' quarters are accessible by wheelchair, with a lift to the first floor. There is Blue Badge parking directly outside the hall, if these are full, there is a golf buggy service available from the main car park. Larger, very heavy mobility scooters are not permitted in the hall due to the narrow spaces of the rooms and corridors, though manual

Outings

wheelchairs are available to borrow at the front door of the house if you are able to transfer. Tea room and accessible toilets on site.

Conisbrough Castle

Castle Hill, Conisbrough, Doncaster, DN12 3BU

Tel: 01709 863329

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/conisbrough-castle



One of Europe's finest examples of medieval castle architecture, Conisbrough Castle has over 800 years of history. The path to the castle is fairly steep and manual wheelchair users may need assistance.

Wheelchair access to the keep is restricted due to several steep steps.

Blue Badge parking at the visitor centre.

Cusworth Hall, Museum & Country Park

Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, Doncaster, DN5 7TU

Tel: 01302 782342; Café: 01302 390959

Email: heritage@doncaster.gov.uk

www.heritagedoncaster.org.uk/cusworth-hall



Cusworth Hall is an imposing 18th century country house set in extensive landscaped parklands; a fantastic spot to eat your sandwiches whilst taking in the great views of Doncaster! The museum displays the unique and rich heritage of the town and has disabled access throughout. There is a tea room and shop on site. Wheelchair loan is available from the museum. Blue Badge spaces in the main car park and additional parking near to the hall. Admission free, though donations are welcome. There are several tarmac paths around the grounds, with a steep slope down to the lake (manual wheelchairs may need assistance). Once at the lake there is a surfaced path around it providing good opportunities to spot ducks and geese and other water birds.

Danum Gallery, Library & Museum

Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BZ

Tel: 01302 737555

Email: DGLAMenquiries@doncaster.gov.uk



The museum tells the story of Doncaster and includes displays on natural history, archaeology, local history and fine art. There is also a King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Museum, a Rail Heritage Centre, a borrowing library and a café. All floors can be accessed by a lift. There are Blue Badge bays in the nearby public car park on Chamber Road, as well as on-street Blue Badge bays near to the entrance.

Outings

Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Hurst Lane, Auckley, Doncaster, DN9 3QY

Tel: 01302 535057

Email: info@yorkshirewildlifepark.com

www.yorkshirewildlifepark.com



A wildlife park with over 400 animals and 70 different species! The majority of the pathways throughout the main park are level and wheelchair accessible, with shallow gradients in areas. Assistance dogs are welcome in most of the park, except in animal walkthrough areas. Manual wheelchairs and electric scooters are available to hire, but it is best to book them in advance. A 'Changing Places' facility is located in the Yorkshire Hive courtyard and there are several accessible toilets throughout the site. The park has many picnic areas and eateries. Discounted admission for disabled visitors and their carers, but you need to provide ID (please ring for details).

Rotherham

Clifton Park & Museum

Clifton Lane, Rotherham, S65 2AA

Tel: 01709 336633

www.cliftonparkrotherham.co.uk



You can enjoy learning about the history of Rotherham Borough, the house, its owners and their servants. The park has gardens to relax in, a museum, play park, water splash, tennis, bowls, adventure golf and land train (with a wheelchair accessible carriage). There is a network of wheelchair and pushchair friendly paths throughout the park. Mobility scooters are free to hire for a returnable deposit from the garden house and a manual wheelchair can be borrowed for use inside the museum. 'Changing Places' and accessible toilets, gift shop and café on site.

Magna Science Adventure Centre

Sheffield Road, Templeborough, Rotherham, S60 1DX

Tel: 01709 720002

www.visitmagna.co.uk



A hands-on experience, with interactive science and technology exhibits displayed in four pavilions – Air, Earth, Fire and Water. Set within a former steel works, it can be a bit chilly, so don't forget your coat! The building is wheelchair accessible, there is a 'Changing Places' facility near the main entrance and carers are admitted free.

Outings

Roche Abbey

Maltby, Rotherham, S66 8NW

Tel: 01709 812739

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/roche-abbey



Founded in 1147, the fine early Gothic transepts of this Cistercian Abbey in South Yorkshire still survive to their original height. There is a side gate for easy access onto the site for wheelchair users. Access is available to most parts of the castle on grassy paths with some slopes. Accessible toilets are located in the Abbey House. Refreshments are available and picnics welcome. Two Blue Badge spaces at the entrance.

Rosehill Victoria Park

Old Warren Vale, Rawmarsh, Rotherham, S62 7HJ



Rotherham's third major Victorian park which stretches over 36 acres and includes mature woodland, a bandstand and drinking fountain, bowling green and tennis courts, children's play areas, a café and a miniature railway. The café has accessible toilets; a RADAR key can be borrowed from inside.

Wentworth Family Farm

Wentworth Garden Centre, Hague Lane, Wentworth, Rotherham, S62 7TF

Tel: 01226 744842

Email: info@wentworthgardencentre.co.uk

www.wentworthgardencentre.co.uk



Animals include llamas, alpacas, pigs, ponies, sheep, goats, foxes, meerkats, peacocks and various aviary birds. Accessible toilets and café are located in the garden centre. Wheelchairs are available to hire but it is best to book in advance. Free admission for carers.

Wentworth Woodhouse

Wentworth, Rotherham, S62 7TQ

Tel: 01226 351161

Email: info@wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk

<https://wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk>



Winners of Open Country's Good Access Scheme Award 2023! A Grade I listed Georgian stately home with the longest façade in the UK and 50 acres of gardens. An accessible visitor shuttle service operates from the car park to the house, where there is an access ramp to the right of the main entrance. Wheelchair users can access the ground floor of the house, but there is no disabled access to the upper floors. Wheelchairs and mobility scooters are available to hire. The main paths in the garden are gravel; ask the Front of House team for more information and an access map. Changing Places toilet. Café & gift shop. Carers are free.

Outings

Sheffield

Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet

Abbeydale Road South, Sheffield, S7 2QW

Tel: 0114 272 2106

Email: info@sheffieldmuseums.org.uk

www.sheffieldmuseums.org.uk



A unique 18th century industrial works. There is plenty to touch and handle, with Braille labels on the objects and interactive displays. Access is limited in places due to the nature of it being an old building but the café and museum are accessible and there are videos of the inaccessible areas which can be viewed on tablet and smart-phone devices at reception. PenFriends are available at reception. Closed on Fridays and some Saturdays due to wedding ceremonies. Free admission.

Bolsover Castle

Castle Street, Bolsover, S44 6PR

Tel: 01246 822844

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/bolsover-castle



Just outside South Yorkshire, with spectacular views over Derbyshire, the fairy-tale Stuart mansion, was designed to entertain and impress. Blue Badge parking available close to the castle. Terrace Range, Venus Garden and parts of Riding House and Stables have level access with good viewpoints. The Little Castle is not accessible to wheelchair users but interpretation boards are located in the Riding House. Audio tours are available at the entrance and there is a café and accessible toilets on site. Manual wheelchairs are available to borrow.

Graves Park & Animal Farm

Hemsworth Road, Sheffield, S8 8LL

Tel: 0114 250 0500



Sheffield's largest park occupying over 200 acres on the southern edge of the city. There is plenty to explore including parkland, woodland and a lake, as well as facilities for tennis, bowls, miniature golf and orienteering. Accessible paths and toilets on site. The animal farm is near the Hemsworth Road entrance and provides a home to some of the rarest breeds of farm animals in the country. You can get close to the animals and there is a children's 'pets corner'. Free entry.

Peace Gardens

Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH

Tel: 0114 273 6895

Email: citycentre.management@sheffield.gov.uk

Outings

An award-winning public space officially opened by The Prince of Wales in 1998. The plantings draw inspiration from the rich tradition of English flower gardening. The gardens have flat, concrete paths suitable for wheelchair users, with 'Changing Places' toilets at the nearby Town Hall, off Surrey Street and The Crucible Theatre on Norfolk Street. Wheelchair access is only available via Norfolk Street, where there are also parking spaces for Blue Badge holders. Whilst you are visiting the gardens, pop into the nearby Winter Garden (see next page).

Sheffield Botanical Gardens

Clarkehouse Road, Sheffield, S10 2LN
Tel: 0114 250 0500
www.sbg.org.uk



A 19-acre garden, first opened in 1836, containing themed garden areas, a temperate glasshouse, ponds, café, shop and some interesting features, including a fossilised tree and bear pit! The site has gently sloping, tarmac paths with a few sets of steps, but there are alternative, wheelchair-friendly routes. Blue Badge parking available via the Thompson Road entrance. Scooters are available to hire for free but must be booked in advance. Free entry.

Tropical Butterfly House

Woodsetts Road, North Anston, Sheffield, S25 4EQ
Tel: 01909 569416
Email: info@butterflyhouse.co.uk
www.butterflyhouse.co.uk



The centre is home to a tropical house, bird of prey centre, animal nursery, pets' corner and nature trail with a daily programme of animal encounters and shows. The site is wheelchair accessible except for a small corner of the butterfly house which can be viewed from an alternate platform. Wheelchairs can be hired for a deposit, but need to be booked in advance. Café, gift shop, accessible toilets and picnic areas on site.

Weston Park Museum

Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TP
Tel: 0114 278 2600
Email: info@sheffieldmuseums.org.uk



The museum and gallery house important collections of cutlery, ceramics, natural history and archaeology, as well as artefacts from Sheffield's history. Disabled access, including Blue Badge parking, is on Mushroom Lane (parking spaces at both top and bottom) and there are accessible toilets on both ground and upper floors, as well as a 'Changing Places' toilet on the ground floor. The Large print 'find out more' sheets are available in the exhibitions along with versions of all interpretation and

Outings

their brochures and flyers. The adjacent Weston Park is a pleasant place for a stroll, with level, tarmac paths.

Winter Garden & Galleries

Winter Garden, 90 Surrey Street, Sheffield, S1 2LH

Tel: 0114 273 6895

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/>



Next to the Peace Gardens (see page 18) and the Millennium Gallery; there is also an entrance on St Paul's Street. One of the largest temperate glasshouses to be built in the UK during the last hundred years containing more than 2,500 plants from around the world; it is a stunning green world in the heart of the city. Mostly level access with some gentle slopes. A 'Changing Places' toilet is located at the nearby Town Hall, off Surrey Street and in The Crucible Theatre on Norfolk Street. There are parking spaces for Blue Badge holders on Norfolk Street.

2. Sports & Outdoor Pursuits

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Sports Clubs & Contacts

Activity Alliance

Tel: 0808 175 6991

www.activityalliance.org.uk

Supports organisations to include more disabled people in their work and provide accessible, meaningful experiences in sport and activity.

British Blind Sport

Tel: 01926 424247

Email: info@britishblindsport.org.uk

www.britishblindsport.org.uk

A national sports charity which helps blind and partially sighted adults and children to get active and play sport.

Disability Sport Sheffield

Tel: 0114 273 4266

www.movemoresheffield.com/disabilitysportsheffield

A Sheffield based charity which aims to increase sustained opportunities for disabled people who wish to take part in sport and physical activity.

Disability Sport Yorkshire

Tel: 01924 372382

Email: staff@disabilitysportyorkshire.org

www.disabilitysportyorkshire.org

Aims to address inequality in access to sport for disabled people in Yorkshire.

Phab Clubs (North Region)

Tel: 020 8667 9443

Email: info@phab.org.uk

www.phab.org.uk

A national organisation which creates opportunities for all ages and abilities to take part in sport and outdoor activities. Provides information about local groups which are accessible for both disabled and non-disabled people.

Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind

5 Mappin Street, Sheffield, S1 4DT

Tel: 0114 272 2757

Email: info@srsb.org.uk

www.srsb.org.uk

Sports Clubs & Contacts

They work to provide opportunities and support for blind and partially sighted people in Sheffield and organise a wide range of sport and leisure activities.

UK Deaf Sport

www.ukdeafsport.org.uk

Aims to encourage and provide opportunities for deaf people to participate in sport, as well as promoting the ability and success of deaf athletes.

WheelPower – British Wheelchair Sport

Tel: 01296 395995

Email: info@wheelpower.org.uk

www.wheelpower.org.uk

Aims to help create and maintain an environment for people in wheelchairs to become part of a sports team or take up some form of wheelchair sport. They have a directory for finding local disability sporting clubs around the UK, as well as information on events and training.

Yorkshire Sport Foundation

Tel: 0330 2020 280

Email: info@yorkshiresport.org(see website for local contacts)

www.yorkshiresport.org

A County Sports Partnership, supporting organisations across the nine districts of South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire and dedicated to improving the access to physical activity and sport for disabled people.

Outdoor Pursuits

Aerial Sports & Activities

Aerobility

Tel: 0303 303 1230

Email: frontdesk@aerobility.com

www.aerobility.com

A charity offering disabled people the opportunity to fly an aeroplane. They provide 'experience of a lifetime' trial flying lessons for as many terminally ill and disabled people as possible every year, as well as subsidised flying days for other disability charities and at-cost instruction and qualification flight training to disabled people.

Flyability

Tel: 0116 289 4316 (BHPA office)

Email: contact@flyability.org.uk

www.flyability.org.uk

Flyability is the disability initiative of the British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association (BHPA) and strives to motivate disabled people to become involved in the sport of hang gliding and paragliding and to train as pilots.

Archery

Chantry Bowmen of Rotherham

Tel: 0114 266 4145

Email: enquiries@chantrybowmen.co.uk

www.chantrybowmen.co.uk

Provide beginner courses which cater for all abilities including visually impaired people and wheelchair users.

Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind Archery Group

Northern General Hospital Spinal Injuries Unit Wheelchair Sports Hall,
Herries Road, Sheffield, S5 7AU

Tel: 07400 426854

Currently run an archery group on Wednesdays and Fridays for people with visual impairments.

Yorkshire Archery Association

Email: yaa.sec@gmail.com

www.yorkshirearchery.co.uk

For a list of clubs and contacts plus tips on how to get started.

Outdoor Pursuits



Canals & River Cruises

Ethel Trust Community Barge

Tel: 07722 678168

Email: ethelbarge@gmail.com

www.etheltrust.co.uk



A volunteer run charity providing boat trips to a wide range of community groups in South Yorkshire. They provide subsidised or free trips and offer both day and residential outings. The barges 'Ethel' and 'Pearl' are fitted with accessible toilets and showers, along with accessible seating and sleeping facilities, safety rails and hydraulic lifts. The barges operate from Victoria Quays, Sheffield during the winter months before moving to Thorne, north of Doncaster, for the summer boating season.

Safe Anchor Trust

Shepley Bridge Marina, Huddersfield Road, Mirfield,
West Yorkshire, WF14 9HR

Email: admin@safearchor.org.uk

www.safearchor.org.uk



An award-winning charity in Mirfield, near Dewsbury, providing canal boat trips for community groups which for reasons such as illness, special needs or social exclusion have no access to the waterways. There is a lift for wheelchairs and an accessible toilet on-board. No charge is made for the trips; donations are appreciated as they rely solely on voluntary contributions.

Outdoor Pursuits

Caving

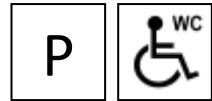
Poole's Cavern

Green Lane, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9DH

Tel: 01298 26978

Email: info@poolescavern.co.uk

www.poolescavern.co.uk



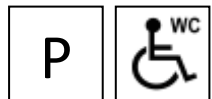
Over in the Peak District, this cave offers great accessibility for wheelchair users who can access the main chamber, which is 100m/300ft long. There is a constant temperature of 7°C in the cavern, so dress warmly! Blue Badge parking, accessible toilets, café, picnic area and shop on site.

Climbing

Awesome Walls Climbing Centre

Garter Street, Sheffield, S4 7QX

Tel: 0114 244 6622



Although they provide no specific equipment which is specialised for disabled people, the wall is accessible and staff are able to assist individuals to climb safely regardless of ability. Blue Badge parking and accessible toilets are available.

Climbing for All, Sheffield

The Foundry Climbing Centre, Unit 2, 45 Mowbray Street, Sheffield, S3 8EN

Tel: 0114 279 6331 (The Foundry Climbing Centre)

Email: cfasheffield@gmail.com



A Sheffield based charity with the aims to assist teens, adults and children in climbing regardless of any sort of disability. They currently run sessions from the Foundry Climbing Centre.

Orienteering

British Orienteering

Tel: 01629 583037

Email: info@britishorienteering.org.uk

www.britishorienteering.org.uk

The website has details of permanent orienteering courses and events near to you. The site also provides information on TrailO, a form of orienteering competition where people of all levels of physical ability, including wheelchair users, can compete on equal terms.

Outdoor Pursuits

South Yorkshire Orienteers

Email: events@southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk

www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk

South Yorkshire Orienteers has over 200 members with an age range of 5-85 years. There is a wide range of ability within the club.

Outdoor Centres

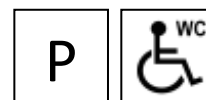
Dukes Barn

School Lane, Beeley, Derbyshire, DE4 2NU

Tel: 01629 733039

Email: info@dukesbarn.org

www.dukesbarn.org



This outdoor classroom provides facilities for people of all ages and abilities to access outdoor activities such as hill-walking, rock scrambling, abseiling, climbing and caving. Both day and residential services are available. They specialise in allowing disabled people to participate in outdoor activities and gain a sense of personal achievement through completing such activities.

Hatfield Outdoor Activity Centre

Old Thorne Road, Hatfield, Doncaster, DN7 6EQ

Tel: 01302 841572

www.dclt.co.uk/hatfield-outdoor-activity-centre-campsite



The centre offers raft building, bushcraft, climbing, kayaking and canoeing activities for day activities and residential trips. The residential facility is fully accessible and lifts and hoists are available to help wheelchair users into the water.

Parson House Outdoor Pursuits Centre

Houndkirk Road, Sheffield, S11 7TW

Tel: 01433 631017

Email: info@parsonhouse.com

www.parsonhouse.com



Set in the heart of the Peak District National Park, on Burbage Moor. Surrounded by great views and beautiful countryside. The centre primarily works with young people, but everyone is welcome to participate in the outdoor activities.

Underbank Activity Centre

Underbank Reservoir, Oaks Lane, Stocksbridge, Sheffield, S36 4GH

Tel: 01782 722226



Outdoor Pursuits

www.peak.co.uk/underbank-activity-centre

A range of outdoor pursuits including canoeing, raft-building, abseiling and sailing as well as archery, climbing and orienteering. Whilst no specialist equipment is provided for wheelchair users, the activity centre is wheelchair accessible and individuals can be supported to take part as much as possible. Phone for advice and more details prior to booking.

Skiing

Disability Snowsport UK

Tel: 01479 788770

Email: hello@disabilitysnowsport.org.uk

www.disabilitysnowsport.org.uk



Disability Snowsport UK gives people with disabilities the chance to learn and master skiing and snowboarding in a safe and supported environment whilst allowing you to experience the joy and freedom of the sport. The club also runs skiing holidays. The nearest local group is:

- Snozone, Xscape, Colorado Way, Glasshoughton, Castleford, WF10 4TA Email: j.m.ekins@open.ac.uk

Water Sports

Manvers Waterfront Boat Club

The Boathouse, Station Road, Wath-upon-Deane, Rotherham, S63 7DG

Tel: 01709 878984

Email: info@mwbc.org.uk

www.mwbc.org.uk

They offer a wide range of water sport activities with accessible equipment for disabled customers, such as access dinghies and kayaks.

Rother Valley Country Park

Mansfield Road, Wales Bar, Sheffield, S26 5PQ

Tel: 01709 334489

Email: rvcp.watersports@rotherham.gov.uk

www.rvcp.co.uk/activities/water-sports-activity-centre



A wide range of accessible water sports are on offer with instructors and courses also available. They have a disabled access sailing boat for those wanting to learn to sail.

Cycling Clubs, Contacts & Maps

Bikeability

Tel: 01223 606027

Email: contactus@bikeability.org.uk

www.bikeability.org.uk

Bikeability is today's cycle training programme. It's about gaining practical skills and understanding how to cycle safely on today's roads. You can search their website to find a Bikeability Cycle Trainer near to you.

British Cycling (Breeze Rides for Women)

www.letsride.co.uk/breeze

British Cycling's Breeze programme organise guided cycle rides for women from 3 to 30 miles. All ages and abilities are welcome.

City of Doncaster Council

www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/transport-streets-parking/cycling

The council's website provides details about local cycling clubs, help and advice for cyclists, information about their cycling strategy as well as interactive and downloadable cycle maps.

Cycle Sheffield

Email: info@cyclesheffield.org.uk

www.cyclesheffield.org.uk

This voluntary organisation campaigns for a Sheffield which is safe and enjoyable for people to cycle around. They also provide advice on routes and information on how to get involved in cycling around Sheffield.

Cycling UK

Email: bigbikerevival@cyclinguk.org

www.cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival

Cycling UK run the Big Bike Revival events designed specifically for adults who do not cycle or have not cycled for a while. They offer opportunities to get cycles fixed, learn new skills or take part in a local led ride.

National Cycling Centre

Stuart Street, Manchester M11 4DQ

Tel: 0161 223 2244

Email: cyclingcentre@gll.org

www.nationalcyclingcentre.com



Cycling

For the more adventurous, how about trying lapping around the Manchester Velodrome? They run sessions on Thursdays, on the back of a track tandem that cater for disabled or visually impaired riders.

Open Country Tandem Clubs

Tel: 01423 507227

Email: info@opencountry.org.uk

www.opencountry.org.uk

Our tandem clubs provide rides for people with visual impairments and learning disabilities, and, together with sighted volunteers, members can enjoy the freedom and excitement of cycling. We have clubs in several locations including Selby and Wakefield, and occasional rides in Barnsley.

Sandall Beat Community Environment Centre

Sandall Beat Road, Off Leger Way, Doncaster, DN2 5QB

Tel: 01302 736020

Email: countryside.interpretation@doncaster.gov.uk



They hire out a wide range of bikes for people with a disability that can be used to cycle around the various trails through Sandall Beat Wood. There is a small hire fee and bikes must be booked 24 hours in advance.

Sheffield City Council

Email: transport@sheffield.gov.uk

www.sheffield.gov.uk

Maps, suggested rides, information on coaching and local cycling schemes, as well as cycle parking locations can all be found on Sheffield City Council's website.

Sheffield Cycling 4 All

Hillsborough Park, Sheffield, S6 2AS

Tel: 07565 695296

Email: info@sheffieldcycling4all.org

www.sheffieldcycling4all.org

This volunteer-run organisation provides regular, inclusive cycle rides, offering a wide range of accessible bikes including side-by-side tandems and wheelchair trikes. There is a small fee for hire, but carers go free. All public sessions take place at Hillsborough Park and are run by a qualified and experienced cycle leader. Private group sessions are also available and the bikes can be transported outside of Hillsborough Park. They also have a cycle loan scheme.

Cycling

South Leeds Stadium (John Charles Centre for Sport)

Middleton Grove, Leeds, LS11 5DJ

Tel: 0113 376 0398

Email: jccs@leeds.gov.uk

<https://active.leeds.gov.uk>



The stadium, run by Leeds City Council has a variety of adapted cycles available for use, including hand cycles, quad cycles and wheelchair tandems. Sessions run from Monday to Friday. Bookings can be made through the stadium. A small charge is made for use of the bikes, but carers are free. A bar area, café and accessible toilets are available.

Sustrans

Tel: 0117 926 8893 (Head Office) / 0113 245 0006 (Yorkshire & Humber)

Email: Englandnorth@sustrans.org.uk

www.sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans works on practical projects to encourage more people to walk and cycle. They produce information on the National Cycle Network and have maps and cycle routes available to download or purchase, including:

- *Barnsley to Old Moor* (Route 62 & 67) – 12-mile round trip from Barnsley Town Centre to Old Moor RSPB Reserve, available online (see *Accessible Wildlife Watching* - page 46).
- *Doncaster Greenway North* (Route 62) – from Bentley to Doncaster, 9 miles, available online.
- *Penistone to Dunford Bridge* (Route 62) – starting at Penistone Train Station, 6.5 miles each way, available online.
- *The Peak District Cycle Map (26)* – pocket sized map which shows the NCN and local routes around the Peak District, available to purchase.

Tandem Club

Contact: Disabilities Liaison Officer

Tel: 01732 848432

Email: disabilities@tandem-club.org.uk

www.tandem-club.org.uk

The club can help with questions relating to disabled and visually impaired tandem riding. They cannot offer tandems for loan but can advise on groups who do. They produce a bi-monthly talking journal on CD.

Trans Pennine Trail (TPT)

c/o Barnsley Council, PO Box 597, Barnsley, S70 9EW

Tel: 01226 772574 (National Office)

Email: info@transpenninetrail.org.uk

www.transpenninetrail.org.uk

Cycling

A 215 mile coast to coast route between Liverpool and Hull, with extensions to the seaside towns of Southport and Hornsea. Much of the trail has level, surfaced, traffic-free paths. South Yorkshire has a vast number of trails, covered by three maps, which can be ordered from the TPT office or from their website.

Wheels for All

<https://wheelsforall.org.uk>

A national accessible cycling charity which promotes inclusive cycling through a range of successful community engagement programmes that give people the opportunity to cycle on a regular basis; through help, support and guidance. The centres in South Yorkshire are:

- Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre, Snydale Rd, Cudworth, Barnsley, S72 8LH. Tel: 01925 575628
- The Dome, Doncaster Lakeside, Bawtry Road, Doncaster DN4 7PD. Tel: 01302 370777

Cycle Routes

The following are the longest, best-surfaced and most enjoyable traffic-free routes that we can find in South Yorkshire. Most of them are fully accessible to wheelchair users.

Most routes are part of the National Cycle Network and can be found on the Sustrans website:

www.sustrans.org.uk

Doncaster Greenway North

The Doncaster Greenway is a 9 mile, mostly traffic free route which links the areas of Woodlands and Highfield in the north, to Bessacarr and Rossington in the south of the borough. The North route connects Highfields Country Park and the ancient monument at Castle Hills, as well as linking up with parts of the TPT and other local bridleways. Leaflets are available to print or download from the Sustrans website.

Five Weirs

www.welcometosheffield.co.uk

Blue Badge Parking and accessible toilets are available at Meadowhall Shopping Centre, which is at the beginning of the route; the Five Weirs route runs from Meadowhall along the banks of the River Don towards Sheffield City Centre, a distance of around 5 traffic-free miles. The path also connects to the Sheffield and Tinsley canal towpath, the Upper Don Walk and the Trans Pennine Trail.

Cycling

Howden & Derwent Reservoirs

Fairholmes Car Park, Derwent, Bamford,
Sheffield, S33 0AQ

Tel: 01433 816526

Email: derwent.cyclehire@peakdistrict.gov.uk

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/cycle



The trails around both these reservoirs are great off-road cycling routes. Start and finish at Fairholmes Car Park by the Derwent Cycle Hire Centre, where there are accessible toilets. An 11½ mile circular route, most of which is on tarmac roads or forest trails. You can hire bikes, mobility scooters and trampers. There is a refreshment kiosk at the visitor centre which provides a great place to rest and refresh afterwards!

Longdendale Trail

Torside Car Park, B6105, Glossop, SK13 1JF



We have included this 6½ mile linear trail as it represents some of the best and most accessible off-road cycling anywhere. The trail takes you along part of the former Great Central Manchester to Sheffield Railway, and offers magnificent panoramic views of the Upper Longdendale Valley. Start at Torside Reservoir car park on the B6105 off the A628. There are accessible toilets here and you can head towards either the historic Woodhead Tunnels or Hadfield Railway Station.

Peak District National Park Trails

Tel: 01629 816 200

Email: customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/cycle

Less than 10 miles from the centre of Sheffield, the Peak District offers a huge variety of cycle routes with a range of difficulties and lengths. Cycles are available to hire from Ashbourne, Parsley Hay and Derwent cycle centres. Each centre differs in terms of the available bikes to hire, though there are a wide range of cycles, including adult and children's bikes, tandems, tricycles, hand-crank, electric, wheelchair cycles and various mobility scooters. Some 'easy-going' routes, the maps of which are available on their website, include:

- **Carsington Loop** This 8 mile off-road route takes you around Carsington Water with some short up and down sections.
- **High Peak Trail** Domlow to Cromford. Along an old railway line, this 17.5 mile route connects to the Tissington Trail too.
- **Manifold Trail** Hulme End to Waterhouses. Another disused railway line turned cycle/footpath, though part of the track has traffic. About 9 miles in total.

Cycling

- **Monsal Trail** Bakewell to Blackwell Mill, Wyedale. A flat, 8.5 mile linear route along a former railway line.
- **Thornhill Trail** Thornhill Lane to Yorkshire Bridge. This is a short 2 mile route from Thornhill to Ladybowers Reservoir.
- **Tissington Trail** Parsley Hay to Ashbourne. Along the old Ashbourne to Buxton railway line, with links to the High Peak Trail, a 13 mile route.

Rother Valley Country Park

Mansfield Road, Wales Bar, Sheffield, S26 5PQ

Tel: 01709 33 44 55

Email: info@rvcp.co.uk

www.rvcp.co.uk



The cycle centre at Rother Valley has a wide range of accessible bikes to hire. The track around the main lake and northern lake is around three miles, and is off-road and accessible, though the park is also connected to the TPT for those who want to venture off north towards Sheffield or Rotherham, or south towards Chesterfield or Poolsbrook Country Park (around 10 miles away). Rother Valley country park has a small animal feeding area, a café and accessible toilets.

Trans Pennine Trail (TPT)

c/o Barnsley Council, PO Box 597, Barnsley, S70 9EW

Tel: 01226 772574 (National Office)

Email: info@transpenninetrail.org.uk

www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/cyclists/traffic-free-cycling/central

There are a number of great routes on the TPT which pass through South Yorkshire, as well as within it. Here are just a few, further information for each can be found on their website or by calling the local authority in the area (see page 6 for contact phone numbers):

- **The Dove Valley Trail:** From Worsbrough Mill Country Park, the route goes westwards through and out of Stainborough, veering south and around Nabs Wood, past Wentworth Castle and back into Stainborough, finishing at Worsbrough, where there are accessible toilets and a café.
- **Dunford Bridge to Penistone:** Beginning at a car park in Dunford Bridge, the route extends to Wortley 21 miles away, though it can be shortened by returning at Penistone. There are no road crossings, however take care of traffic around Millhouse Green.
- **Old Moor to Old Royston or Sprotbrough:** The TPT runs near to the RSPB Old Moor Reserve (see page 46), which has accessible bird hides, toilets and a café. To Old Royston it is a

Cycling

20 mile return journey, but can be shortened by returning at the beginning of the Dove Valley Trail (Aldham Junction) or Stairfoot. To Sprotbrough it's a 21 mile return trip, but can be shortened at Conisbrough.

- **Rother Valley to Tapton Lock:** Rother Valley Country Park has various accessible bikes to hire, lots of water sports, and wheelchair accessible footpaths around the lakes (see previous page). The Tapton Lock Visitor Centre by Chesterfield Canal (see page 11) is also great in terms of accessibility. The route is around 24 miles but can be shortened at various points along the way.
- **Sheffield/Rotherham (Tinsley Canal):** Starting at either end of the canal, you can cycle along this 8 mile traffic-free towpath and pop into the Magna Science Centre (see page 16) or pick up the Five Weirs route too (see page 32). The route is only short, but is mostly off road.
- **Timberland Trail:** An 8½ route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, linking the villages of Elsecar and Wortley. The trail also accesses other paths and bridleways including the Dove Valley and Upper Don Trail. Parts are accessible to wheelchair users. Other parts are steep and on-road.
- **The Upper Don Trail:** Traffic free from Penistone to Barnsley. Joins up with the Dove Valley Trail. Stop off for a break at either Worsbrough Mill Country Park (see page 8) or Wigfield Farm (page 14).



Fishing

Open Country does not profess to be an authority on fishing; the entries here are just a sample of fishing areas that we know are accessible.

Inclusion in this guide may indicate easy access, or wheelchair accessible platforms or toilets. We would always advise you to contact the site management before visiting.

Do remember that all fresh water fishing in England requires both a permit from the owner or manager of the water in question and an Environment Agency National Rod Licence. Licenses are available to buy online at www.gov.uk/fishing-licences, at Post Offices and tackle shops, or by ringing 0344 800 5386. You may be eligible for a concessionary licence.

Angling Trust

Tel: 0343 5077 006

Email: admin@anglingtrust.net

www.anglingtrust.net

The Angling Trust represents all game, coarse and sea anglers in England. They lobby government, campaign on environmental and angling issues and run national and international competitions. You can search for your nearest fishery or club on their website.

British Disabled Angling Association (BDAA)

Email: info@bdaa.co.uk

www.bdaa.co.uk

The BDAA was founded in 1996 to develop opportunities for disabled people of all ages and abilities to access the activity of fishing in the UK.

Canal & River Trust

Tel: 0303 040 4040 (Customer Services Team)

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/see-and-do/fishing

You can search the Canal & River Trust's online directory, which lists over 6,000 fishing venues nationwide. There is also information about fishing guidelines and a fish species guide.

Environment Agency Flood Information Service

Tel: 0345 988 1188 (24-hour Floodline)

Textphone: 0345 602 6340 (for the hard of hearing)

<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels>

For information on levels in your local rivers you can call the number above. Alternatively, you can check the online map using the link above.

Fishing

Fisherman's Friends

Tel: 07818 348631

A group set up to help people with physical and mental health problems and disabled people to get back into the community by running a group for people who enjoy fishing.

Key:

T Trout fishing

C Coarse fishing

C Bakers Pond

Springfield Road, Swinton, Mexborough, S64 5SN
www.ravenfieldponds.co.uk/waters/bakers-pond

The site is accessible for disabled anglers. Accessible toilet on site.

C Candy Corner Fisheries

Wroot Road, Finningley, Doncaster, DN9 3DZ
Tel: 07825 913264
Email: info@candycornerfisheries.co.uk
www.candycornerfisheries.co.uk

This complex consists of four well stocked lakes and is situated near Wroot, in the outskirts of Doncaster. The best suited pegs for wheelchair users are on the match lake, which is often busy at weekends, so best to call in advance to reserve a spot.

C Campsall Country Park

Churchfield Road, Campsall, Doncaster, DN6 9LN
Tel: 01302 300798 (Sandall Beat Community Environment Centre)

The track around the lake is suitable for wheelchairs, and offers a disabled platform for anglers, however if parking at the main car park, you have to walk down a steep grassy bank which may be unsuitable for wheelchairs, especially in winter. You can access the lake, avoiding the grass slope, via Back Lane or Sherwood Avenue, though parking is limited.

C Damflask Reservoir

Damflask Reservoir, Loxley Road, Low Bradfield, S6 6SQ (nearest postcode)

A large reservoir with many different fish. See page 9 for more information about walks around the reservoir.

Fishing

C Dearne Valley Country Park (Hoyle Mill Lake)

Off Pontefract Road, Barnsley, S71 1HS

Tel: 01226 773136

Email: parksservices@barnsley.gov.uk

The lake has a variety of fish including tench, carp, and roach, and is close to Dearne Valley Country Park for parking.

C Delves Lake

Lakeside Mews, Field Side, Thorne, Doncaster, DN8 4AA

The lake is close to the centre of Thorne on the Selby Road leading towards Snaith on the A614. It has a variety of concrete and wooden pegs suitable for disabled anglers. Toilet and café on site.

C Elsecar Reservoir

Off Armroyd Lane, Elsecar Park, Elsecar, Barnsley, S74 8EY

Although the reservoir is managed by Barnsley MBC, the fishing rights belong to the Elsecar Colliery Angling Club. Parking is available at nearby Elsecar Heritage Centre where there are accessible toilets and a café.

C Fleets Dam

Smithies Lane, Barnsley, S71 1NL

Regular match venue with over 70 pegs, some of which are accessible to wheelchair users.

C Highfields Country Park

Great North Road, Woodlands, Doncaster DN6 7RA

The site is run by Doncaster Council and Woodlands Angling Club, and is wheelchair friendly.

T Ladybower Reservoir Fisheries

Ashopton Road, Bamford, Derbyshire, S33 0AZ

Tel: 01433 659712

www.ladybowerfisheries.co.uk/accessibility

The fishery has accessible boats and pontoons and provides coached fishing support for disabled people, their families and friends.

C Lewden Spring Fishery

Station Road, Worsbrough, Barnsley, S70 4SY

Tel: 07539 263457

Fishing

This fishery is completely flat with good hard standing pegs, with room for wheelchair access. It also has an accessible toilet.

C Milton Pond

Milton Road, Hoyland, Barnsley S74 9BG (nearby pub car park)

Set just off the roadside, there are two separate ponds, both suitable for wheelchair users.

C Mitchell & Darfield Pond (Pit Pond)

Bradberry Balk Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley S73 8HR (nearest postcode)

Renowned for its tench fishing, the pond has over 25 pegs, and is suitable for wheelchair users.

C Ravenfield Ponds

Tel: 01709 363788 (Ravenfield Ponds Angling Club)

www.ravenfieldponds.co.uk

This fishery is part of Ravenfield Park, situated in a secluded valley near Old Ravenfield near Rotherham. There are six fishing lakes, with several car parks (some very close to the bank for increased accessibility).

C Rother Valley Country Park

Mansfield Road, Wales Bar, Sheffield, S26 5PQ

Tel: 01709 334455

Email: rvcp.enquiries@rotherham.gov.uk

www.rvcp.co.uk

Lots of things to do as well as fishing here. Both lakes are available for angling, as well as the banks of the River Rother, with accessible pegs for wheelchair users. Accessible toilets and café on site.

T Thrybergh Country Park

Doncaster Road, Thrybergh, Rotherham, S65 4NU

Email: thrybergh.countrypark@rotherham.gov.uk

The Country Park lies between the villages of Thrybergh and Hooton on the A630. Accessible toilets and parking facilities available, as well as some wheelchair accessible fishing platforms.

C Thurnscoe Reservoir

Thurnscoe Reservoir, Lidget Lane, Thurnscoe, Rotherham, S63 0DQ

Fairly small lake with lots of pegs including a few which would be suitable for disabled anglers.

Fishing

C Tin Mill Dam

Soughley Lane, near Deepcar, S35 7DL (nearest postcode)
Tel: 0114 288 3728
www.tinmilledam.co.uk

Just off the A616 Stocksbridge Bypass, this stretch of the River Rother and the ponds make up Tin Mill Dam, with numerous pegs including some suitable for disabled anglers. Parking is available close to the ponds.

C Tyram Fisheries

Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6DR
01302 840886
www.tyramfisheries.co.uk

Three lakes with plenty of angling pegs for everyone. There is also a café and accessible toilet on site.

C Ulley Country Park

Pleasley Road, Aughton, Sheffield, S26 3XL.
Tel: 01709 850353 (Thrybergh Country Park)
Email: ulley.countrypark@rotherham.gov.uk

Ulley Country Park has two wheelchair accessible platforms for anglers, located just a short way from the main car park. The car park has Blue Badge parking, and there is a wheelchair accessible toilet at the visitor centre.

C Woodhouse Grange Fishery

Hatfield, Doncaster, DN7 6DU
Tel: 07936 647588

This family run fishery has six fishing lakes to choose from, with parking available behind most pegs, and a café on site for refreshments. A number of pegs are suitable for wheelchair users and there is an accessible toilet in the café.

C Worsbrough Mill Country Park

Worsbrough Bridge, Barnsley, S70 5LJ
Tel: 01226 774527
Email: worsbroughmill@barnsley.gov.uk
www.worsbrough-mill.com/country-park

The northern length of the reservoir has a number of wheelchair accessible platforms available, with accessible toilets and a café nearby.

Horse Riding

Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA)

Tel: 01926 492915

Email: info@rda.org.uk

www.rda.org.uk

The Association provides disabled people of all ages with the opportunity to ride and/or carriage ride for the general benefit of their health and well-being. There are several centres in South Yorkshire offering riding for disabled sessions. Contact the groups below for further information:

- **Barnsley Group**

Tel: 01226 241478.

Email: info@rdabarnsley.com

- **Dial Wood Carriage Driving Group**

Tel: 01924 849368.

Email: dialwoodcarriagedriving@gmail.com

- **High Hopes Group**

Tel: 07881 683781

Email: highhopesrda@hotmail.com

- **Rossington Hall**

Tel: 07535 664853

Email: rdarossington@gmail.com

- **Sheffield Group**

Tel: 01246 413211

Email: mgregory88@btinternet.com



3. Wildlife & Conservation

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Wildlife Clubs & Organisations

Barnsley Biodiversity Trust

Email: barnsleybiodiversitytrust@gmail.com
www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk

An organisation which aims to inform people about the landscapes, habitat and wildlife found in Barnsley, as well as what we should be doing to help conserve them.

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

Tel: 01842 750050
Email: info@bto.org
www.bto.org

The BTO have a broad range of surveys for volunteers to participate in, including the 'Garden BirdWatch' and 'Nest Record Scheme'. The surveys are a great way to help wildlife from your home by making an important contribution to the understanding of the UK's birds.

Butterfly Conservation

Tel: 01929 400209
Email: info@butterfly-conservation.org
www.butterfly-conservation.org

A national charity devoted to saving butterflies, moths and their habitats throughout the UK. You can take part in the annual Big Butterfly Count in your garden or local area.

RSPB

Tel: 01767 680551 (UK Headquarters)
www.rspb.org.uk

The RSPB is a charity for the conservation of birds and nature. You can help out the wildlife in your garden by taking part in their annual 'Big Garden Birdwatch'; the world's largest wildlife survey. Their website also has advice for disabled bird watchers. There are several groups in South Yorkshire see - www.rspb.org.uk/localgroups:

- **Doncaster Local Group**

Email: groupleader@rspbdoncaster.com
www.rspbdoncaster.com

The local group is composed of members who want to learn more about birds and conservation, go on visits and locally support the valuable work of the RSPB in various ways. Regular monthly indoor meetings (wheelchair accessible location) plus occasional day trips to local nature reserves; some are at wheelchair accessible locations.



Wildlife Clubs & Organisations

- **Sheffield Local Group**

Email: RSPBsheffield@googlegroups.com
<https://group.rspb.org.uk/sheffield/about-us>

They aim to introduce new members to the RSPB and raise money to support the RSPB's work. Weekly indoor meetings all year round apart from June to August, plus trips to reserves.

Sheffield Bird Study Group

Email: secretary@sbsg.org
www.sbsg.org

The group promotes an interest in birds in the community, providing something of interest to all levels of birder. They organise field trips as well as indoor meetings with guest speakers.

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust

Tel: 0114 263 4335
www.wildsheffield.com

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust aims to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Sheffield and Rotherham, as well as to advance education in environmental matters.

The Sorby Natural History Society

www.sorby.org.uk

The group has many events, publications, news and information about local wildlife and conservation. They also cover a full range of natural history interests in Sheffield and the surrounding area, including bats, invertebrates, mammals and much more.

South Yorkshire Badger Group

Email: admin@syorksbadgergroup.org.uk
www.syorksbadgergroup.org.uk

The SYBG aims to protect the badger and its environment throughout South Yorkshire by providing shelter, building natural and artificial setts, and producing quarterly newsletters about what the group is up to.



South Yorkshire Bat Group

Email: sybatgroup@gmail.com
www.sybatgroup.org.uk

Wildlife Clubs & Organisations

The group holds regular indoor meetings, with talks by bat experts. There are also practical events such as bat box making, conservation work, surveys and bat walks. They can provide advice and information about bats and also care for sick and injured bats.

Yorkshire Mammal Group

Email: secretary@yorkshiremammalgroup.org.uk
www.yorkshiremammalgroup.org.uk

Affiliated to the Mammal Society, they take part in all sorts of field and conservation work parties, including surveys. Meetings are held regularly through the winter months with a wide range of guest speakers.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Tel: 01904 659570
Email: info@ywt.org.uk
www.ywt.org.uk

The YWT's aim is to conserve and promote the diversity of Yorkshire's wildlife and habitats, for the benefit and well being of both wildlife and people. Their staff and volunteers are dedicated to nature reserve work, environmental education, conservation, advice and much more.

- **Regional Office: Potteric Carr Nature Reserve**
Mallard Way, Doncaster, DN4 8DB
Tel: 01302 325736



Accessible Wildlife Watching

Wildlife watching is an enjoyable and peaceful past time where you can develop your skills in your own time. Below are some of the best accessible sites in which you can enjoy, watch and study wildlife and nature.

This picture denotes an accessible bird hide is on site:



Centenary Riverside

Contact: Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
Riverside Way, off the A6178, Rotherham, S60 1DS
Tel: 0114 263 4335
www.wildsheffield.com

A 4.5 hectare wetland reserve alongside the River Don in Rotherham. The site has a wildflower meadow bank and a series of ponds and wetlands that attract a huge variety of birds, mammals and insects. The reserve is sometimes closed during periods of wet weather as it is a flood plain. A surfaced path allows wheelchair access across the top flood defence bank and a slope (1:10) takes you down to a boardwalk that crosses the pond. A narrow A-frame barrier at the entrance to the reserve might present a problem for larger motorised scooters. Car parking is on Riverside Way and toilet facilities are at the nearby Clifton Park (see *Outings* – page 16).

Dearne Valley – Old Moor RSPB

Old Moor Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley, S73 0YF
Tel: 01226 751593
Email: old.moor@rspb.org.uk
www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/dearne-valley-old-moor



The reserve has a wide variety of wetland habitats with accompanying bird, plants and animal life. During the winter it is an important stopping off point for ducks, geese and swans plus 8,000 golden plovers! Most paths are hard-surfaced and on a flat level. All hides and screens are wheelchair accessible. Mobility scooters are available to hire from the visitor centre for a small fee; booking is advised. There is a café on the first floor, accessed via the lift and plenty of picnic tables in the courtyard and on the reserve to eat your sandwiches! Admission charge, carers free.

Ecclesall Woods & Woodland Discovery Centre

Contact: Sheffield City Council
Abbey Lane, Sheffield, S7 2QZ
Tel: 0114 235 6348
www.sheffield.gov.uk

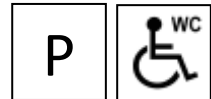


Located between Ecclesall Road South and Abbeydale Road South is the largest, semi-natural woodland in South Yorkshire. There is an 'Easy

Accessible Wildlife Watching

Going Trail' in the woods across the road from the Woodland Discovery Centre; it follows a fairly wide, level and hard surfaced bridleway, though there are stones and tree roots in places. The centre has a café, accessible toilets and an information centre and runs public events in spring and autumn, as well as craft courses throughout the year. There are Blue Badge spaces in the car park next to the centre and a further car park off Limb Lane.

Hatfield Moors (part of the Humberland Peatlands National Nature Reserve)



Contact: Natural England

Boston Park car park off the A614, between Hatfield Woodhouse & Blaxton

Tel: 07766 420290 (Reserve Manager)

<https://humberheadpeatlands.org.uk>

Part of the last remnants of a large wetland that occupied the floodplain of the Humberhead Levels thousands of years ago. The Humberhead Peatlands comprises Thorne, Hatfield, Goole, and Crowle Moors and are designated as National Nature Reserves. It represents the largest area of raised bog wilderness in lowland UK at 2,887 hectares in size. From the Boston Park car park there are four waymarked routes of varying lengths including an Easy Access route which is flat and step free with a hard surface. Compost toilets (including an accessible one) are situated near to the car park. There are benches, viewing platforms and bird hides along the routes. Horse riding by permit only in advance and on Hatfield only. Cycling route on Hatfield only.



Accessible Wildlife Watching

Melton Wood

Contact: Doncaster Council
Sheep Lane, Doncaster, DN5 7ED
Tel: 01302 736020 (Sandall Beat Community Environment Centre)
Email: countryside.interpretation@doncaster.gov.uk
www.doncaster.gov.uk

A lovely 100-hectare ancient semi-natural woodland. There are paths starting from the car park (off Sheep Lane); they are unsurfaced with some tree roots, but some access should be possible for wheelchair users during the drier months. Cusworth Hall is nearby for accessible toilets and other facilities (see *Outings* - page 15).

Potteric Carr Nature Reserve

Contact: Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Mallard Way, Doncaster, DN4 8DB
Tel: 01302 325736
Email: potteric.carr@ywt.org.uk
www.ywt.org.uk/potteric-carr



The reserve has much to offer wildlife enthusiasts with around 70 breeding bird species and an array of interesting plants and insects. The visitor centre, café and shop are fully accessible. Most of the paths are well surfaced and suitable for wheelchairs, as are most of the bird hides, though some paths can get muddy after wet weather; ask at the visitor centre for advice before heading out. Admission charge, carers free.

Salmon Pastures Local Nature Reserve

Contact: Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
Tel: 0114 263 4335
www.wildsheffield.com

A small urban reserve by the River Don managed by Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. It is a great place to watch butterflies in the summer months and you might be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a kingfisher on the river. The reserve can be accessed from either end of Warren Street, off Attercliffe Road, or on foot via the 'Five Weirs Walk'. Parking is available in the Park and Ride car park at Cricket Inn Road, with some limited street parking off Attercliffe Road or Effingham Road. (see *Easy Going Walks* - page 10.) Paths are wheelchair accessible.

Sandall Beat Wood

Contact: Doncaster Council
Sandall Beat Road, Off Leger Way, Doncaster, DN2 6JP
Tel: 01302 736020
Email: countryside.interpretation@doncaster.gov.uk
www.doncaster.gov.uk/countryside



Accessible Wildlife Watching

The area has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the wood's rare insects. Some of the trails provide a hard level surface which is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs, though areas may get muddy in wet weather. Next to the Environment Centre there is a sensory garden, adapted bike hire and accessible toilets - RADAR key required (check for opening times).

Shire Brook Valley Nature Reserve

Contact: Sheffield City Council
Car park off Stone Lane, Sheffield S13 7BR
Tel: 0114 250 0500 (Sheffield City Council)

P

A Local Nature Reserve situated five miles from Sheffield city centre, containing woodland, grassland, meadows and ponds. A hard-surfaced path takes you on a short route around the ponds and through the meadow. Other paths may be narrow, steep and muddy. Regular nature walks and other events are organised. Blue Badge parking in the reserve car park, which has a height barrier at the entrance. Nearest accessible toilet facilities, including a Changing Places toilet can be found at Crystal Peaks shopping centre off Waterthorpe Greenway about 2.5 miles away.

Sprotbrough Flash

Contact: Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Nursery Lane, Doncaster, DN5 7NB
Tel: 01904 659570
www.ywt.org.uk

Sprotbrough Flash located alongside the River Don, offers a mixed site with ancient woodland, a large lake and small area of grassland. The lake is home to a variety of wetland birds such as reed and sedge warblers, reed buntings and if you are lucky, you could catch a glimpse of the elusive bittern! The level, tarmac towpath along the River Don is suitable for wheelchair users, with two accessible hides and a viewing screen overlooking the wetland areas. There is parking on Nursery Lane, a short walk along the towpath to the reserve. There is an accessible toilet at the nearby Boat Inn pub, for use by customers only.

Wyming Brook Nature Reserve

Contact: Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
Car park off Redmires Road, Sheffield, S10 4QX
Tel: 0114 263 4335

A little bit of wilderness on the western edge of Sheffield; Wyming Brook's babbling streams, mossy crags and sweet smelling pines provide a valuable home to wildlife. Wyming Brook Drive forms a wide, surfaced bridleway running through the reserve on a north-south line; the last half mile as the path nears the A57 gets a bit rougher with larger stones in the path. There is an A-frame barrier between the car park and the bridleway.

Accessible Wildlife Watching

Notable Others...

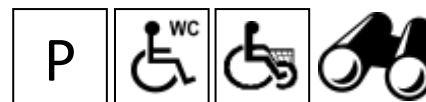
Outside South Yorkshire, these RSPB reserves have been included as they offer some of the finest and most accessible bird watching sites in the country. See the RSPB website for more information and full Accessibility Statements: www.rspb.org.uk

Bempton Cliffs

Cliff Lane, Bempton, YO15 1JF

Tel: 01262 422212

Email: bempton.cliffs@rspb.org.uk



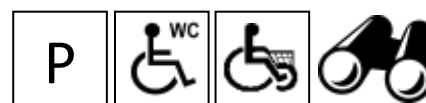
This sea cliff bird reserve is home to one of the UK's top wildlife spectacles; half a million seabirds gather here between March and August to raise a family on towering chalk cliffs, including gannets, guillemots, razorbills and puffins. Some cliff edge viewpoints are accessed via a hard-surfaced path and have wheelchair bays. Information centre, tea room, picnic area and accessible toilets on site. Trumper mobility scooters and manual wheelchairs are available to borrow; donations are appreciated, best to book in advance. Admission charge, carers free.

Blacktoft Sands

Ousefleet, Nr Goole DN14 8HR

Tel: 01405 704665

Email: blacktoft.sands@rspb.org.uk



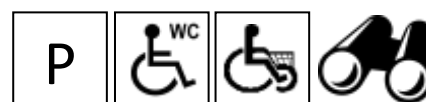
A reserve of tidal reed beds and salt marsh, home to lots of specialised birdlife, such as bearded tit, bittern and marsh harrier. Good level paths, six accessible hides and a small visitor centre with hot drinks and snacks for sale. An accessible toilet is available in the main toilet block near the car park. Manual wheelchair available to hire for free. Admission charge; carers free.

Fairburn Ings

Newton Lane, Castleford, WF10 2BH

Tel: 01977 628191

Email: fairburn.ings@rspb.org.uk



600 acres of wetland close to the A1. The reserve has several accessible bird hides and boardwalks, as well as a visitor centre with accessible toilet, refreshments for sale and an indoor picnic area overlooking a bird feeding area. A mobility scooter is available to borrow; best to book in advance. Further afield, most paths are accessible to wheelchair users though there are some undulating areas. The Lin Dike Link and Coal Tips trails provide up to four miles of gravel paths running alongside the River Aire. Some gates require a RADAR key. Parking charge for non-members, free for Blue Badge holders.

4. Volunteering

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Volunteering Advice & Contacts

There are always lots of opportunities to get involved in your local countryside through volunteering for a conservation or community group. Try the following places and contacts to find out about local groups and projects in your area:

Volunteer Centres

Your local Volunteer Centre will have someone on hand to discuss your interests and abilities and help you make the right choices about where and how you would like to volunteer. The centres have up to date contact information about small and local groups as well as national charities.

Barnsley CVS

23 Queens Road, Barnsley S71 1AN
Tel: 01226 448800
Email: info@barnsleycvs.org.uk
<https://barnsleycvs.org.uk>

Volunteer Action Rotherham

The Spectrum, Coke Hill, Rotherham, S60 2HX
Tel: 01709 829821
Email: volunteering@varotherham.org.uk
www.varotherham.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Sheffield

The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, S1 4FW
Tel: 0114 253 6649
Email: vc@vas.org.uk
www.sheffieldvolunteercentre.org.uk

Volunteering in the Countryside

Barnsley Council Parks Service

Tel: 01226 774353

www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/parks-and-open-spaces

You can volunteer with Barnsley council as a countryside ranger, working on a variety of sites, from nature reserves to disused railways. Examples of work include litter-picking, scrub removal, and public engagement.

Doncaster Council

Tel: 01302 736020

Email: countryside.interpretation@doncaster.gov.uk

www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/culture-leisure-tourism/about-countryside-activities

Join the Friends of Sandall Beat or the Don Gorge Conservation Volunteers and get involved in looking after nature reserves through practical conservation tasks and general maintenance.

Groundwork

Tel: 0300 3033 292

Email: leeds@groundwork.org.uk

www.groundwork.org.uk/yorkshire/

A charity that helps people and organisations make changes in order to create better neighbourhoods, to build skills and job prospects, and to live and work in a greener way. Contact them for details of volunteer opportunities.

National Trust

Tel: 01904 702021 (Yorkshire Regional Office)

Email: n.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer

The National Trust has many voluntary roles including gardening, leading walks, wardening, information stewards, and conservation tasks. You can search for opportunities near to you on their website.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

www.rspb.org.uk

The RSPB offer a range of volunteering roles which can be tailored to your skills, interests and circumstances. You can search online for opportunities in South Yorkshire or contact:

- **Dearne Valley – Old Moor**
Tel: 01226 751593
Email: old.moor@rspb.org.uk

Volunteering in the Countryside

Sheffield City Council

Contact: Parks and Countryside Service

Tel: 0114 250 0500

Email: parksandcountryside@sheffield.gov.uk

Sheffield council has a rich variety of parks, woodlands and countryside and are always looking for volunteers to help look after the city's fantastic green spaces. If you have spare time and you enjoy being in the great outdoors, get in touch with them.

Sheffield Conservation Volunteers

Email: scvenquiry@gmail.com

www.sheffieldconservation.org

The group enables all members of the community to get involved in conserving the local environment by way of positive action. They currently meet on two Sundays a month to work on practical conservation projects in the community including tree planting, habitat management and path laying.

The Conservation Volunteers

Tel: 01302 388 832

Email: southyorkshire@tcv.org.uk

www.tcv.org.uk/yorkshire/tcv-south-yorkshire

TCV is an environmental organisation involving the public in practical nature conservation work. Volunteering is a great way to get outdoors, meet new people, and learn new skills, as well as improve your health, wellbeing, and confidence.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Tel: 01302 325736 (Regional office)

Email: volunteering@ywt.org.uk

www.ywt.org.uk

The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust manages several reserves in South Yorkshire and work to improve a variety of habitats from moorlands to urban parks, often in collaboration with other groups and organisations. They have regular volunteer days at their reserves and welcome people of all abilities. They also offer voluntary traineeships which range from 6 to 12 months and are perfect for picking up skills for a future career in conservation. For current opportunities you can contact the South Yorkshire regional office above, or you can get in touch with:

- **Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust**

Tel: 0114 263 4335

Email: volunteering@wildsheffield.com

www.wildsheffield.com

5. Useful Information

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RADAR Key & Blue Badge Parking

Disability Rights UK

Tel: 0330 995 0400

Email: enquiries@disabilityrightsuk.org

www.disabilityrightsuk.org

Disability Rights UK works to create a society where everyone with lived experience of disability or health conditions can participate equally as full citizens. Disability Rights UK is led, run and controlled by disabled people.

The RADAR National Key Scheme (NKS) ensures that one key will open wheelchair accessible toilets throughout the country. RADAR padlocks are also increasingly used on many nature reserves and cycle paths. Keys are available directly from Disability Rights UK.

Blue Badge Scheme

www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge

Blue Badges help people with disabilities or health conditions park closer to their destination. The scheme operates throughout the UK and is managed by local authorities, who deal with applications and issue Blue Badges.

Blue Badge holders may:

- Park as long as they wish in a disc parking zone provided that the Blue Badge is displayed.
- Park on a single or double yellow line for up to three hours provided that the Blue Badge and time disc is displayed and the vehicle causes no obstruction.
- Always check individual car parks to see if you are required to pay or not as practice differs widely.

Tourist Information

Barnsley

www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/visit-barnsley

Doncaster Tourist Information Centre

1 Priory Place, Doncaster, DN1 1BN

Tel: 01302 734309

Email: tourist.information@doncaster.gov.uk

www.visitdoncaster.com

Peak District National Park

The visitor centres below provide a wide range of leaflets and maps to help you explore the Peak District:

- **Bakewell**
Old Market Hall, Bridge Street, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1DS.
Tel: 01629 813227
Email: bakewell@peakdistrict.gov.uk
- **Castleton**
Buxton Road, Castleton, Hope Valley, S33 8WN
Tel: 01629 816572
Email: castleton@peakdistrict.gov.uk
- **Edale (The Moorland Centre)**
Fieldhead, Edale, Hope Valley, S33 7ZA
Tel: 01629 816587
Email: edale@peakdistrict.gov.uk
- **Upper Derwent**
Fairholmes, Bamford, Hope Valley, S33 0AQ
Tel: 01629 816527
Email: derwentinfo@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Rotherham

www.yorkshire.com/rotherham

Sheffield

www.welcometosheffield.co.uk

The Countryside Code

The Countryside Code



Your guide to enjoying parks and
waterways, coast and countryside

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it in any public waste bin or take it home
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

www.countryside-code.org.uk



Open Country

Open Country began in 1990 as a temporary project set up to enable adults with a disability to access and enjoy the countryside. Since then, we have developed into a small charity with huge aims! On an average week we run up to twenty-five countryside activities, catering for a range of abilities. Over the years we have been recognised by many awards including the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

We lead a wide variety of countryside activities including hiking, wheelchair accessible walks, cycling, conservation projects, nature study and outdoor pursuits. In addition, we are able to offer high quality information, training and advice to organisations wanting to provide better access to their countryside sites and events, as well as individuals and their families wishing to access the countryside independently.

The Open Country staff have joined the charity from a countryside background of work and personal interest. This Directory is just one of the ways in which we try to let people know about what is available to them in their area and how they can get involved.

There are also directories available for East Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, County Durham, Lancashire and Teesside. They can be downloaded from:

www.opencountry.org.uk/countryside-access-directories/

Our directories are free but we always welcome donations. You can donate online at www.opencountry.org.uk

Thank you very much!



This Directory was updated with the help of Open Country's volunteers and disabled members.

The authors of this Directory have made every effort to ensure that the information included was correct at the time of going to print. However, we cannot accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions, or any loss or damage arising from the use of this information. We advise Directory users to ensure the suitability of all services described for their individual needs.



We hope to be able to update this Directory in the future. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact us at:

Open Country

Community House

46 East Parade

Harrogate

North Yorkshire

HG1 5LT

Tel: 01423 507227

Email: info@opencountry.org.uk

www.opencountry.org.uk



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