



PENISTONE BOUNDARY WALK

The following text has been copied directly from the original Penistone Boundary Walk leaflet published several years ago, now sadly out of print. Although accurate when written, please bear in mind that the landscape constantly changes and some descriptions may differ slightly from the current lay of the land.

The map that is included at the end is the one that was originally drawn for the leaflet; the Google maps version which can be seen on the Visit Penistone website, though not strictly accurate, will help to clarify landmarks.

A Brief History

Penistone is a very historic market town with settlements dating back as far as the eighth century. The town became centred around the parish church of St. John which began its life in the 12th century. The church has grown and been added to many times over the centuries, and was the birth place of Penistone Grammar School in 1392 which is one of the oldest educational establishments in the country.

Penistone and its surrounding moorlands are ideal for rearing sheep, and at that time it even had its own breed known as the 'Penistone' sheep which was particularly hardy to withstand the severe winters. Both the ram and the ewe were horned and it is from this ancient breed that the logo for the Penistone Boundary Walk has been taken.

Parish boundaries were very important, and marked the limits of land ownership. Nowadays these can be easily found from maps, but before, it was necessary for everyone to know where these boundaries were in case of dispute. An annual tradition emerged of 'Beating the Bounds' which was linked to the church as a religious ceremony known as 'Rogationtide' to pray for good crops throughout the year. The walk took place five weeks after Easter, and so that the boundaries were never forgotten young boys were beaten or bumped against boundary stones, thrown in brambles or even in the river at set points. These young men were then never likely to forget where the boundary lay.

About the Walk

Penistone town centre lies at 227 metres (747 ft) above sea level, and the boundary walk which is just over 25 kilometres (16 miles) long starts from Cubley Hall at 260 m (853 ft). The lowest point of the walk is 140 m (459 ft) at Gunthwaite, rising to 355m (1164 ft) at Hartcliffe

The route can be followed on the map, which is reproduced on this leaflet, and in combination with the way marking arrows should be easy to follow, even for the less experienced walker. Referring to Ordnance Survey - Pathfinder 715 Barnsley and Penistone, may be used as a more detailed guide. The written information can be followed to guide you through, and also to point out areas of particular interest.

The walk officially starts at Cubley Hall, and the landlord John Wigfield, a keen local walker has kindly allowed the use of their car park. A large plinth showing the walk can be found in the grounds.

The idea to create the walk came out of a need for a local route to promote as a sponsored walk to raise funds for the Penistone & District Community Minibus, which is administered by the local charity 'Penistone Three 9's'. The production of the walk was seen as an ideal community project by the charity secretary, the late, fondly-remembered Darryl Marshall, who was also the local Community Police Constable. It was decided to use it as a project with a local youth group, who were part of an Outreach Youth Project, led by Michael O'Roarke and funded by the South Yorkshire Police Authority - Community Initiatives Programme.

Once the route had been planned the youth group were responsible for marking the route with arrows, placing way-marking posts, mending and replacing stiles and building a half-way rest shelter.

Funding to create this recreational walk has come from Rural Action and the Parish Paths Partnership, plus invaluable help to produce this leaflet from Ledgard Jepson Graphic Design.

A metal lapel badge is available for purchase at a small cost, for those who have completed the walk. These are available either from Cubley Hall who can be contacted via their website, www.cubleyhall.co.uk or the Town Clerk's Office in Penistone, Telephone 370088.

Narrative for the Walk

The 25km (16 mile) route is well marked with signs and arrows using the wording 'PENISTONE BOUNDARY WALK' and the sheep's head logo. Following the signs, the map and using this narrative should ensure against anyone straying off. The walk uses footpaths, bridleways and country lanes, crossing main roads in only a few places. Caution should be paid to traffic and dogs should be kept on a lead. Stout shoes or walking boots should be worn, as there are some wet patches, especially during winter months.

Cars can be left in Cubley Hall car park, which is situated on the main road out of Penistone town centre 1.5km (1 mile) Southwards towards Stocksbridge. The circular route can be walked either way round, but the written instructions are for an anti-clockwise direction.

Leave Cubley Hall car park and turn left for 100 m until you see the start of the walk down the farm track on the left. Follow this track through the farmyard and take a right at the three-way stile. Down the left side of the fields and left over the bottom stile into the bridle-way marked with blue arrows. At the end of the track turn right into Castle Lane for 200 m before leaving it over the stile on the left by the stream. There are several stiles along this 500 m section before going down the steps, under the railway bridge which carries the 'Trans Pennine Trail' and out to the roadway. *There is a footpath access onto the Trail from this point.*

Cross the road and turn left along the footpath until you reach the Britannia Inn, then turn right down to the waste disposal site. Keep to the left of the site and over the narrow Packhorse Bridge, turn left, and up the banking into the fields. Follow the left side of the fields uphill, and then left up the farm track. There is a bench here from where you can get a good view of the famous 29 arch viaduct. Continue uphill through High Lea Farm to the main road.

Cross straight over with care and over two stiles and then half right across the field to the gate post, Turn left on the top side of the wall until turning' right down the lane and follow it almost to Delf House. Just before the farm turn right off the track and then after 20 m left into the woods. Walk through the woods (footpath unclear) to the bottom, over the stile keeping left, and past the front of Tinker House. Down their long driveway and fork left at the bottom. After 150 m turn left over 1 st stile into fields. Head for the stile in the middle of field and then slightly right to the one on the edge of the woods. Down the steps over the bridge and up towards the main A628 road. Cross over with care and turn left for 100 m before turning right up Whin Moor Lane towards Pye Flatts.

Follow the lane and take the third footpath on the left, head towards the way marking post. Down the banking and through the old gateway and keep the wall and bushes on your left. At the end of the line of holly bushes climb over the stile, then keep right to the ladder stile along bottom edge of field. Downhill over a stile in the wall, to a further stile at the bottom. Then turn left towards Cooper Lane opposite Guyder Bottom Farm.

Turn right at the road then up to the T-junction with South Lane, then left for a further 350 m. Turn right along Cross Lane by the school, to the end and then right again for 100 m before taking the footpath on the left into the fields. Head straight into the field to the stile by the single bush. The path then cuts across the field corner diagonally to the right, but it might be wise to walk around any crops and then down the right of the field with the hedge on your right to the double stile at the bottom. Then head down and right to the stile by the gate, and out onto New Road. Turn left downhill, stay on the main road and past Gunthwaite Dam. The Spa Well can be found on the left 100 m past the dam. Continue up the lane past Carr Lane Farm and then after a further 500 m take the bridle-way on your left, which will cross the Penistone to Huddersfield railway line. Take Care! Follow the bridleway, turning right up farm lane and go left when you reach the main A629 road. You will pass Scout Dike Outdoor Centre on the left. Just past the centre on the left there is a half way rest shelter. This is an ideal place to start or finish half of the walk.

From the shelter you need to cross the main road safely and take the road signed B 6462 to Penistone for 75 m. Take the footpath on the right, down and over the small bridge, then keep right around the edge of the woods. The next section can be wet during winter months. Over the stile and head up the field past the metal post in the middle towards the stone gate post at the top. Then turn right into the field above and walk along the top side of the wall into the next field.

Follow the wall around to the right and over the stone stile, then over the ladder stile on the right. Follow the bottom edge of the field towards Belle Royd and then up to Folly Farm, where you turn right for 150 m before turning left over a stile into the fields. Up to the next stile, which you will see has a special dog stile beside. Keep to the left around Royd Moor Reservoir, turning right off the track and over the concrete bridge. Over the two stiles, then head diagonally up to the right across this field to the stile at the top. Cross straight over the farm lane into the field and keep to left side of the first two fields and all the way up to the road at the top. Turn left into the road, and then right at the junction with Royd Moor Hill. Down the hill with the windmills on your right to the bottom and turn left for a short distance before taking the footpath on your right. Down this track and take the path to the right before the house and over the stile. On to the next two stiles heading downhill on what used to be an old walled lane over the bridge and continue up the lane to the stile at the top where you turn right towards the farm.

Go up the ramp and through the gateway by the barn, through the farm yard, and bear left continuing downhill on the tarmac lane. Follow the lane to the next farm and turn left before the barn into the bridle-way, and through the swing gate out into the field, and head diagonally right over towards the gate. Over the stile beside the gate and then walk across to the wall ahead. Follow this wall down and out onto the road. Keeping to the left hand verge until you reach the brow, cross the road at this point with caution and straight into the lane opposite called Catshaw Lane. Follow this lane down to the very bottom and into the field. Keep to the right of this field towards the back of the works, turn right at the bottom, and keep circling left around the back of the works until you come to a stone bridge over the River Don on your right. Over the bridge and then right up the track. Stay on this track until you come to the swing gate and stile by Bullhouse Hall, up the tarmac drive to the top, turning right into the lane for only a few yards before turning left through a gateway and over a bridge over the 'Trans-Pennine Trail'. For a short diversion up the lane you can see Bullhouse Chapel. *There is access nearby onto the Trail.*

Once over the bridge fork right through the gateway and up the field towards the stone gate post towards the left. Follow the wall left to the stile and over into field. Head across the field past the intermediate post to the back of Green House. Then up the lane and out to the main A628 road by the Cafe. Turn right and walk up the right hand verge for 150 m before crossing the road with care, and entering the lane towards Moor Royd. At Low Bank Cottage walk through the garden and out into the field. Follow the left hand wall until you meet the road again. Turn left up the road and stay on this road until you reach the very top with its junction with Hartcliffe Hill Road. The route then forks off right along this road.

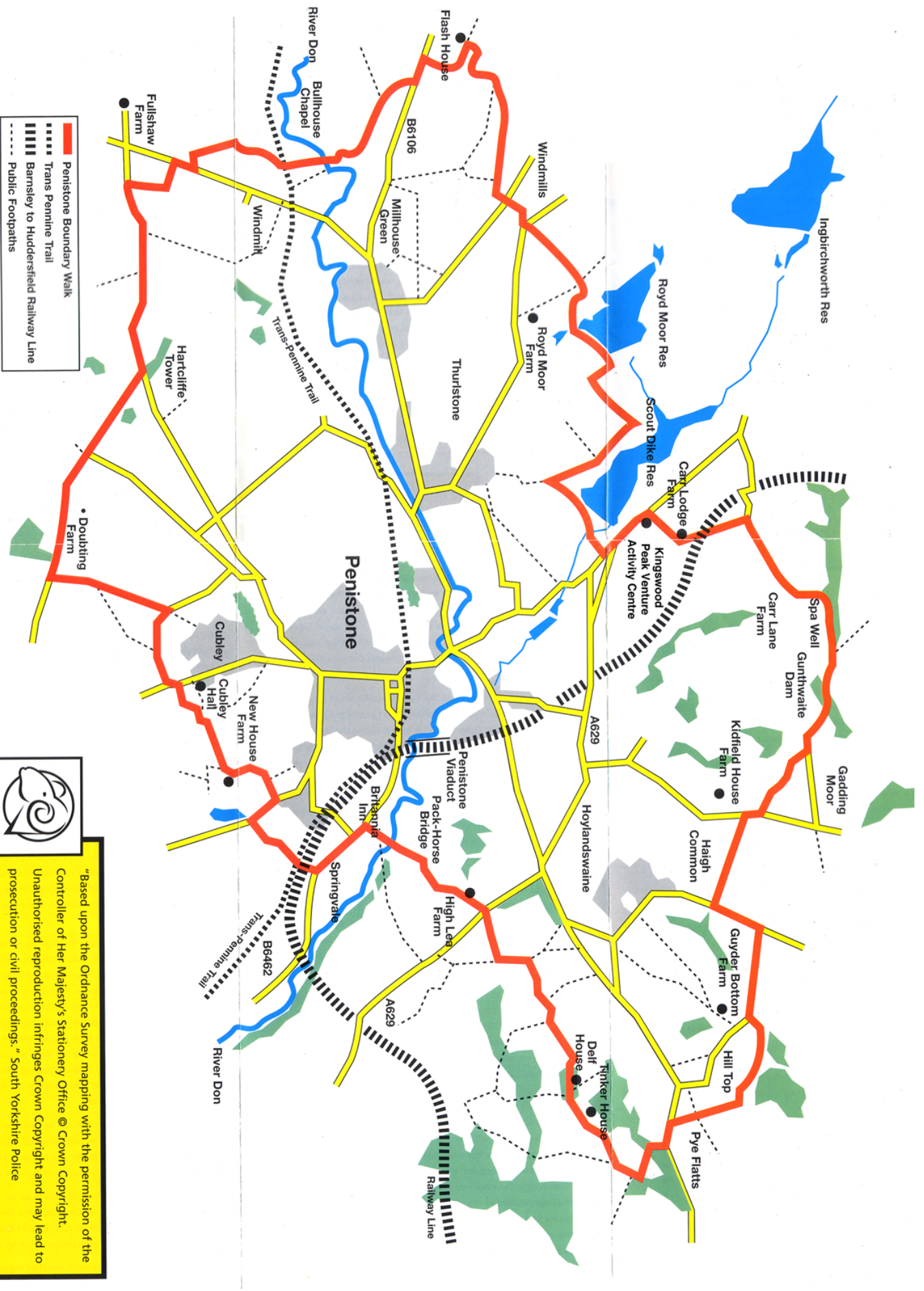
A slight diversion at this junction can be taken by continuing up the main road for a further 100 m past the wood. By looking left across the field you will see Hartcliffe Tower, and a further 150 m walk will see the old Greyhound Boundary stone built into the wall on the left.

Back on the route, stay on Hartcliffe Hill Road for approx. 1.5 km (1 mile) before turning left down Doubting Lane towards Cubley. Follow the lane to the bottom and then turn right. At the junction with the main road turn left for 150 m to return to Cubley Hall.

Well done that was over 25 km (16 miles) all the way round, and I'm sure you have earned yourself a drink.

Map

The map on the following page is a direct scan of the one originally included on the leaflet.



- Penistone Boundary Walk
- Trans Pennine Trail
- Barnsley to Huddersfield Railway Line
- - - - Public Footpaths



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