

Sheffield Circular (via Porter, Limb, Sheaf and Gleadless Valleys)		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
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Sheffield Circular (via Porter, Limb, Sheaf and Gleadless Valleys)

Start: Sheffield station

Finish: Sheffield station

Sheffield (Midland) station, map reference SK 359 870, is 227 km north north west of Charing Cross, 54m above sea level, and in **South Yorkshire**.

Length: from 15.0 km (9.4 mi) to 27.8 km (17.3 mi), of which 5.0 to 11.2 km are on tarmac or concrete.

Cumulative ascent/descent: from 325/259 to 664/618m.

Buses take you back to the station from various points on the route, for details see *below* **Walk options**.

Toughness: from 4 out of 10 to 8 out of 10

Time: 4–8 hours walking time.

For the whole outing, including the full walk, trains, sights and meals, allow at least 14 hours.

Transport: Sheffield (Midland) Station is the terminus of the Midland Main Line from London St. Pancras, with up to two trains per hour (journey time from 118 mins Mondays-Saturdays, longer on Sundays).

Saturday Walkers' Club: Take the train closest to 9.00 hours.

OS Landranger Map: 110 (Sheffield & Huddersfield)

OS Explorer Map: 278 (Sheffield & Barnsley)

Walk Notes:

This walk leads from the hustle and bustle at the centre of one of the most populous British cities through gradually less urban areas into excellent walking country – with ancient escarpment woodlands, tumbling streams, panoramic views and plenty of bluebells in season – through the scenic, wooded valleys of Sheffield's south west, the greenest and cleanest of Britain's large towns.

Escape from Sheffield's City Centre, first along streets and through the atmospheric landscaped Victorian General Cemetery, then the woodlands of the municipal Endcliffe Park and the narrow wooded Porter Valley (part ancient woodlands, part plantation or meadows) to a viewpoint on the edge of moorlands at the fringe of the Peak District, and from there to the early lunch option in Ringinglow.

Continue by descending through the steep-sided Limb Valley, Whirlow Brook Park and Ecclesall Woods to Dore, a late lunch stop and your first chance for an early finish: a train or a bus back to the City Centre. Several other opportunities for early finishes by bus arise in the further stages of the walk, whose following woodlands and valleys offer somewhat diminishing returns in pleasure and in 'otherness':

From Dore you climb once again through Ladies' Spring Wood and Chancet Wood to Graves Park.

From there the walk continues through the Gleadless Valley and Meersbrook Park back to the City Centre, but for the return to Sheffield Midland Station you'll need to take a bus, regardless of where you finish.

The route includes large parts of the waymarked 'Sheffield Round Walk', but diverges in places.

Opportunities to avoid most of the hard surface walking at the start are described.

Walk options:

To cut some – or all – of the tarmac-heavy urban stretches at the start take one of the bus shortcuts, either from Sheffield Interchange (150m from the train station), or a little higher up the hill in the City Centre along Arundel Gate (bus stops change all the time, check online for up-to-date information).

→ **cut 1.6 km** net: **bus 218** to **Sheffield Cemetery** (direction Bakewell, to stop Cemetery Road/Washington Road). Join the main walk at the asterisk *).

→ **cut 3.2 km** net: **buses 6/65/271/272** to **Endcliffe Park** (directions Millhouses, Buxton or Castleton, to stops Ecclesall Road/Junction Road or Hunter's Bar). Join the main walk at the double asterisk **).

→ **cut 3.8 km** net (cut most of the urban stretches, while still experiencing some of the transformation from parkland to wild moorland): **bus 120** to **Whiteley Wood** (directions Ranmoor or Fulwood, to stop Fulwood/Riverdale Road). From the bus stop (just after passing The Florentine on the right and the entrance to Notre Dame School on the left), continue along Fulwood Road with the school on your left and *turn left* along Riverdale Road. Ignore all ways off for 380m and *turn right* along Oakbrook Road (unsigned, but with a low brick wall running along the far side); in 80m *turn left* down some steps onto a tarmac track and *veer right*; in 30m cross a bridge and *turn right* along a tarmac path to exit the park. Join the main walk at the triple asterisk ***).

→ **cut 6.2 km** net (cut all urban and semi-urban parts): **bus 120** to **Forge Dam Café** (direction Fulwood (but not Ranmoor), to stop Brookhouse Hill/Silver Birch Avenue). From the bus stop (just before a right bend by a number of shops on the left), continue down Brookhouse Hill and in 40m *turn down left* at a junction *with* Brookhouse Hill. In 180m continue ahead along the road (now signed as a cul-de-sac). In 170m cross the Porter Brook and in 40m *turn right* at a multi-directional signpost. Join the main walk at the quadruple asterisk ****).

You can take a train back to Sheffield from Dore & Totley Station (15.0 km/9.4 mi) on the Hope Valley Line (8 mins journey time).

You can take a bus back to the City Centre from many places along the route, from Dore onwards. See the route map for the exact location of the bus stops.

Elenvenses/Lunch (details last updated 02/07/2021)

Endcliffe Park Café Endcliffe Park, Sheffield, South Yorks, S11 7AB (0114 266 3044, <http://www.endcliffepark.co.uk/attractions/cafe/>). The Endcliffe Park Café is located 4.1 km (2.6 mi) into the walk. Open summer weekdays 09.00-17.00, winter weekdays 09.00-16.00, weekends 09.00-17.00.

Forge Dam Café Carr Forge Dam, Fulwood, Sheffield, South Yorks, S10 4GN (0114 230 9248, <https://www.forgedamcafe.co.uk/>). The Forge Dam Café is located 7.0 km (4.4 mi) into the walk on the fringes of Sheffield, on the border of the Peak District and a very early lunch stop. The café opened in the 1930s. Reportedly, it used to be Walkley Methodist Hall, until it was dismantled and brought, on horse and cart, to the park. There it was reassembled as the café, and has been open ever since. In 1968, the lease was taken on by Charles and Jean Chapman, Grandparents of the current owner. Regulars include(d) Richard Hawley and Jarvis Cocker. The café is, in fact, the one mentioned in the Pulp song *Wickerman*, which Jarvis wrote whilst sat in Forge Dam. Open daily (except Christmas Day) 09.30-17.00.

The Norfolk Arms 2 Ringinglow Village, Sheffield, South Yorks, S11 7TS (0114 230 2197, <http://norfolkarms.com/>). The Norfolk Arms is located 10.2 km (6.4 mi) into the walk and the recommended early lunch stop. Its garden overlooks the Mayfield Valley in a beautiful spot right on the edge of Sheffield and the Peak District National Park. It originally served as a pub with beds for travellers on the Sheffield to Buxton turnpike road. Open all day. Food served 11.00-21.00 (-20.00 Sun/Bank Holidays).

The Summer House 289a Abbeydale Road South, Sheffield, South Yorks, S17 3LB (0114 236 1679, <http://www.thesummerhousesheffield.com/>). The Summer House is located 15.0 km (9.3 mi) into the walk and the recommended late lunch stop. The Summer House sits a short walk from Dore & Totley Station on the Hope Valley Line. Open all day. Food served Mon-Sat: 12.00-21.00, Sun: 12.00-19.00.

Tea (details last updated 02/07/2021)

Rose Garden Café Graves Park, Hemsworth Road, Sheffield S8 8LL (0114 258 2705, <http://rosegardencafe.co.uk/>). The Rose Garden Café is located 60m off-route, 20.4 km (12.7 mi) into the walk, and a timber framed café. Open daily 09.00-16.00.

The Water Tower Hemsworth Road, Norton, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S8 8LN (0114 327 0795, <https://www.watertowersheffield.co.uk/index>). The Water Tower is located 21.3 km (13.3 mi) into the walk. Open daily 12.00-22.00.

The Sheffield Tap Sheffield Station, Sheaf Street, Sheffield, South Yorks, S1 2BP (0114 273 7558, <http://www.sheffieldtap.com/>). The Sheffield Tap is located within Sheffield Railway Station (in the former Edwardian Refreshment Room & Dining Rooms), and accessed either via Platform 1B or from Sheaf Street. It is noteworthy for its restored early 20th century interior and its selection of quality cask ales and beers from around the world. The bar has won the National Railway Heritage Award and the Cask Ale pub of the year award. Open 12.00-22.00 Sun-Thu and 11.00-23.00 Fri-Sat.

Notes:

Sheffield

Sheffield is a city and metropolitan borough in South Yorkshire and historically part of the West Riding of Yorkshire. It is in the valleys of the River Don and its four tributaries, the Loxley, the Porter Brook, the Rivelin and the Sheaf (from which the city's name derives). With around 584,000 citizens it is the 4th most populous British city outside of London. The area is believed to have been inhabited since at least the late Upper Palaeolithic period, about 12,800 years ago. In the Iron Age the area became the southernmost territory of a tribe called the Brigantes. After the departure of the Romans, the area may have been the southern part of the Celtic kingdom of Elmet, with the rivers Sheaf and Don forming part of the boundary between this kingdom and the kingdom of Mercia. Gradually, Anglian settlers pushed west from the kingdom of Deira. The settlements that grew and merged to form Sheffield, date from the second half of the first millennium, and are of Anglo-Saxon and Danish origin, when the area straddled the border between the kingdoms of Mercia and Northumbria.

In the 19th century, Sheffield gained an international reputation for steel production. Many innovations were developed locally, including crucible and stainless steel, fuelling an almost tenfold increase in the population in the Industrial Revolution. Today, 61% of Sheffield's entire area is green space, and a third of the city lies within the Peak District National Park. There are more than 250 parks, woodlands and public gardens in the city, and several million trees, giving Sheffield the highest ratio of trees to people of any city in Europe. The city has a long sporting heritage, and is home to the world's oldest football club and oldest football ground.

Sheffield (Midland) Station

Sheffield station, formerly Pond Street and later Sheffield Midland, is a combined railway station and tram stop, and the busiest station in South Yorkshire (but only the 15th busiest outside London). The station was opened in 1870 by the Midland Railway and was the fifth and last station to be built in Sheffield city centre. The original station buildings have been preserved and are between island platforms 2 to 5. On 21 December 1991, the station was flooded by the River Sheaf, which flows under it. A log that was part of the debris commemorates the event on platform 5. In December 2009, following the restoration of the station, a new pub – the 'Sheffield Tap' – opened next to platform 1B.

Porter Brook

The Porter Brook River descends over 300m from its source among the sedge grass on Burbage moor behind a small farm on Hangram just inside the Peak District National Park in the west of the city at Clough Hollow, near the village of Ringinglow. Porter Brook derives its name from its brownish colour, similar to the colour of Porter, a brownish discolouration obtained as it passes over iron-ore deposits on its course. It meets the subterranean River Sheaf beneath Sheffield Station.

The Porter, like the other rivers in Sheffield, is ideally suited for providing water power, as the final section falls some 140m in just over 6 km. This enabled dams to be constructed reasonably close together, without the outflow from one mill being restricted by the next downstream dam.

[Note: Dam is the normal local term for the lake, rather than the structure that creates the lake.]

Park Hill Estate

Park Hill is one of the seven hills on which Sheffield is built, south of the River Don, and east of the River Sheaf. The Estate occupies a prime position just outside the city centre and provides a striking backdrop to it. It is Grade II* listed since 1998 and remains Europe's largest listed structure. The building alone covers an area of 69,000 m² and currently contains around 1,000 flats, the whole site covers 130,000 m².

Park Hill was the first completed post-war slum clearance scheme of an entire community in Britain (the area colloquially known as "Little Chicago" due to the incidence of violent crime there). It was the most ambitious inner-city development of its time. In 1954 work began on the design and it was built between 1957 and 1961 in the Brutalist style: an exposed concrete frame with a progression of purple, terracotta, light red and cream brick curtain walling. However, as a result of weathering and soot-staining from passing trains, few people realised this and assume the building to be constructed entirely from concrete.

Within the old Park Hill area architects recognised there was a strong sense of local community and, in the design of the new Park Hill, tried to preserve this community spirit. Where possible, neighbours were rehoused alongside each other in the new complex and each flat opens out onto a 3m wide deck. This provided access for milk floats and communal areas, enhancing the image of 'streets in the sky'.

The slope of the site inspired the idea of a continuous roof line which results in the height of the blocks varying dramatically from 4 storeys at the top of the estate, rising to 13 storeys towards the city centre. Following a period of decline, the estate is being renovated by developers Urban Splash. The renovation was one of the six short-listed projects for the 2013 RIBA Stirling Prize.

Even now, inhabitants of Sheffield are split on the matter of Park Hill: many believe it to be a part of Sheffield's heritage, while others consider it an eyesore and blot on the landscape. Public nominations led it to the top 12 of Channel 4's *Demolition* programme. The 2014 film '71 used the buildings to recreate Belfast's notorious Divis Flats during The Troubles.

Sheffield General Cemetery

The General Cemetery was one of the first commercial landscaped cemeteries in Britain upon its opening in 1836 as a Nonconformist cemetery. It was a response to the rapid growth of Sheffield and the relatively

poor state of the town's churchyards. As the principal cemetery in the Victorian era it saw over 87,000 burials, is home to some of the most famous Sheffield industrialists and benefactors, but was closed for burials in 1978. The cemetery, with its Greek Doric and Egyptian style buildings, was designed by Sheffield architect Samuel Worth (1779–1870) on the site of a former quarry, occupying a north-facing hillside site, with the Porter Brook running along its north-west edge.

An Anglican cemetery with a neo-gothic chapel (Grade II listed) was consecrated alongside the Nonconformist cemetery in 1846 – the 'Dissenter's Wall' that divided the un-consecrated and consecrated ground can still be seen. Other notable buildings are: The Gatehouse, the Egyptian Gate and the Nonconformist Chapel (all Grade II* listed), the Registrar's house (Grade II) and the Grade II Catacombs (there are two rows of catacombs built into the hillside, this type of burial was unpopular though). Today it is a listed Landscape (Grade II*) on the English Heritage National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. It is also a Local Nature Reserve, owned by the City of Sheffield and managed on behalf of the city by a local community group, the Sheffield General Cemetery Trust.

Endcliffe Park

Endcliffe Park is located 3 km south west of Sheffield City Centre, and is part of the Porter Valley Parks sequence. It is 15 hectares in size, and was acquired in stages in 1885, 1887 and 1927. The park was opened in 1887 to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The entrance to the park was a toll bar on the Hathersage Road. Next to the entrance is a Grade II listed pavilion. The park features two monuments dedicated to Queen Victoria (a statue and an obelisk). There is also a memorial stone marking the crash site of the USAAF B-17 Flying Fortress "Mi Amigo" on 22 February 1944.

Shepherd Wheel

A working museum in a former water-powered grinding workshop, it is one of the earliest wheels on the Porter Brook, and one of the few remaining – and effectively complete – examples of this kind of enterprise, one that used to be commonplace in the area. Its 5.5 m diameter overshot water wheel is powered from a large dam stocked with water diverted from the Porter Brook. The present buildings date from c1780, during the time that Edward Shepherd – after whom the site is now named – was the tenant of the wheel. The workshops, dam, goit and weir are Grade II listed, and the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Sheffield Round Walk

A 24 km (14 mi) waymarked circular path through the picturesque south west of Sheffield, it starts at Endcliffe Park and rises through the Porter Valley to the moorland edge at Ringinglow. The walk then descends through the Limb Valley, Whirlow Brook Park and Ecclesall Woods before climbing once again through Ladies Spring Wood and Chancet Wood to Graves Park, continuing through the Gleadless Valley, Meersbrook Park and Chelsea Park back to Endcliffe Park. The waymark is an acorn.

Beauchief Abbey and Hall

Beauchief Abbey was founded in about 1176 by canons (rather than monks) who had mills on the River Sheaf and a sheep grange on Strawberry Lee. It was named *Beau* meaning beautiful and *chief* meaning headland, and was the only Premonstratensian abbey in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

Long after the dissolution, the ruined abbey buildings were dismantled to provide stone for the construction of Beauchief Hall in 1671 with the exception of the bell tower. The tower area was converted into the Pegge family chapel. By the early 18th century there were formal gardens and courtyards, a kitchen garden, a deer paddock and a tree-lined walk to a viewpoint of the abbey ruins. By the late 19th century there were additional woodland walks. It is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade II* listed.

Ecclesall Woods

Ecclesall Woods are ancient woodland, which means that their history can be traced in written documents for at least 400 years. They are not, however, a leftover of original primary woodland, as they have been used in many ways, by many people, for over 2000 years. In the Middle Ages the woods formed part of a deer park, set up in 1319 by Sir Ralph de Ecclesall. From about 1600 to a little after 1800 Ecclesall Woods were managed as "coppice with standards", and divided into compartments which were rented out for use. This is the period when Ecclesall Woods were of great importance in Sheffield's industrial development. Charcoal was made and used for smelting iron and "White coal" was made and used for lead smelting.

<http://www.friendsofecclesallwoods.org.uk/about/ecclesall>

The River Sheaf

The waters which form the River Sheaf rise as a series of streams on a ridge of gritstone about 10 km to the south west of the city centre. They combine to form Totley Brook and the Old Hay Brook in Totley, who then form the Sheaf. It flows northwards through the Abbeydale valley (so named because of Beauchief Abbey) and then passes the centre of town in a culvert, before joining the River Don. The main tributaries of the Sheaf are the Porter Brook, which joins it beneath Sheffield Midland station, and the Meers Brook. Until the 17th century the name Sheaf was written as Scheth or Sheath, equated with the Old English shed (as in water-shed) or sheth, which mean to divide, or separate. Historically, the Sheaf – along with its tributaries the Meers Brook and the Limb Brook – formed part of the border separating the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Northumbria; it remained on the border between Yorkshire and Derbyshire into the 20th century. The city of Sheffield derives its name from the Sheaf.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Alight from the train in **Sheffield (Midland) Station** and leave it via an overbridge in a westerly direction (to the left, from the direction of travel), signposted **Main Entrance** or **City Centre**. Exit straight through the main entrance (note the supermarket on the left, your most convenient option for stocking up later for the return journey) on to the large forecourt (**Sheaf Square**), with a long curving terraced vertical fountain wall (**The Cutting Edge**) in front of you. This may or may not be fed by the **Porter Brook**, who runs a little to the left and whose valley you'll broadly follow for the next 9.2 km.

Walk to the left of the fountain wall, and to the right of another cascading fountain, *curving up left* with the stepped path. In 100m – where some steps join from the left – *turn around* to admire the view up across and beyond the station to one of the most famous building estates in Europe, the **Park Hill Estate**, a sympathetically updated renowned gem of Brutalist architecture. *Turn right* to cross **Sheaf Street** (the A61) at a pedestrian crossing and in 25m – with **The Howard** pub ahead on your right and a building of **Sheffield Hallam University** ahead on your left (currently a building site) – *turn left* along **Paternoster Row** (unsigned). This continues as **Brown Street** and later **Sidney Street**. Its name changes again, to **Sylvester Street**, where the road veers right (the Porter Brook runs a little to the left behind a wall) and in 80m you *turn right* into **Jessop Street**, where Sylvester Street ends in a dead end.

In 80m at a T-junction with **Eyre Street**, cross this busy road using the pedestrian crossing just on your right and *turn left* on the other side. In 50m *turn right* into **Cumberland Street**. In 50m you *turn left* along **South Lane**, soon passing some large (government) office buildings on your right. Make sure you walk along the right-hand side of the road, in 200m cross **Young Street** joining from the right and then follow a slope down to an **underpass under the dual-carriageway A61**. You emerge on the other side of the junction, with busy **London Road** on your left, but *veer right* to the right of an angular building (Chinese Fireworks Co.) along the pedestrianised end of **Cemetery Road**. Follow its right-hand side uphill for 450m until you cross **Summerfield Street**, which joins from the right. Continue in the same direction and in 30m cross **Sunderland Street**.

*) In 40m [!] *turn right* along a tarmac path through a small green. In 20m *turn left* to in 20m pass a large "sculpture" (a bouldering/rock climbing rock) and in 50m cross **Montague Street** to enter **Sheffield General Cemetery** through its easterly entrance (a gap in a stone wall) and pass a **War Memorial**. Continue along the atmospheric gravel tree-lined central path (**Sandford's Walk**) with numerous ancient gravestones, mausoleums and memorials to the left and right. In 250m continue in the same direction at a four-way junction of wide paths (the one from the left runs down from the **Egyptian Gate** entrance) to the impressive **Nonconformist Chapel** 50m away. *Turn right* at the chapel down some steps and *right again* at their bottom (the interesting, but dilapidated, grave at the bottom is for **George Bennet**, a missionary who travelled around the world supported by the **London Missionary Society**) along a narrow gravel path and in 40m *turn left* at a T-junction with a wider path running down from the four-way junction. (In 10m on your right is a terrace, which sits atop some large **Catacombs**, and overlooks a **Geological Stone Spiral**.)

Continue down the path and in 150m leave the cemetery through the **Gatehouse** to [!] *turn hard left* in 20m along a tarmac path (**Frog Walk**). In 35m cross the **Porter Brook** on a metal-railed footbridge [!] and *turn right* on the other side, gently uphill with a high wall on your left-hand side and the river on your right. In 80m continue between walls, where the river turns right and in 40m ignore a left turning driveway. In 65m walk up some steps onto **Sharrow Vale Road** and *turn right* along its pavement. In 200m you pass **Seven Hills Bakery**, then **Roneys the Butcher** (splendid pies) and

then *turn right* along **Hickmott Road**. In 30m you cross the river on the road and pass **The Delightful Touch** (café) and **Iberico** and *turn left* along **Neill Road**. In 250m *turn left* along the busy **Ecclesall Road** (the A625) at a T-junction towards **Hunter's Bar** roundabout. In 40m *turn right* at some pedestrian lights to then also cross **Brocco Bank** (road) and *turn left* on the opposite side past the cascading Porter Brook to find the entrance to **Endcliffe Park** in 40m on your right.

******) Enter the park along a tarmac path, in 30m coming to a T-junction of paths by a statue of **Queen Victoria**. **[!]** *Turn right* here to cross the Porter Brook and continue along a tarmac path on the other side of the river. In 80m *fork right* off the tarmac path, signposted 'Mi Amigo Aircraft War Memorial', and follow a gravel-and-earth path for 1 km through woodland, always staying close to the river but on its right-hand side, until you leave Endcliffe Park. **In more detail:** In 220m you pass some stepping stones (cross here for the **Endcliffe Park Café**) and in another 25m the wartime memorial with an info panel and the track continues as a tarmac path. In 120m, by a bridge over the river on the left, you *bear right* to the higher lying **Holme Wheel Pond** and pass it to its left. At the end of the pond, ignore some paths and another bridge across the river off to the left, as well as a tarmac path up right, but in 40m *fork right* along a gravel path to stay to the right of the river. Ignore another track up right and in 90m walk between the river and a high wall. In 300m *turn left* with the path across the Porter Brook and *turn right* along a tarmac path to exit the park.

*******) Cross **Rustlings Road** and *turn right* along its opposite pavement to a mini-roundabout 15m away. *Fork left* along a tarmac path through **Bingham Park** (signed **Whiteley Woods – The Porter Valley**), ignoring the continuation of the road (Oakbrook Road). Soon you have a **Hanging Wood** on your left. In 280m and in another 125m ignore bridges on the right, but in another 60m, with a marked footpath running down the hill on the left, **[!]** *veer right* across a third bridge to carry on along the right-hand side of the brook. In 120m you reach the historic **Shepherd Wheel** water-powered grinding workshop (open 10-16 weekends/Bank Holidays), and (on the left of the river) an info panel and its hand-powered audio guide! Stay on the right-hand side of the river to rise gently and continue past the dam of the Shepherd Wheel to another info panel. In another 110m walk up some steps and *turn left* along a road (**Hanging Water Road/Highcliffe Road**). In 20m – just after crossing a bridge – *turn right* to follow a **Sheffield Round Walk** signpost into a wooded valley (ignoring a bridleway a little further along). In 250m walk up some steps to cross **Whiteley Wood Road** and continue a little to the left along a signposted footpath.

In 30m you have a choice:

- either use stepping stones to cross the river and follow a bridleway through the wood or, to avoid the stepping stones, follow a footpath on the right to re-join the bridleway a short way ahead,
- or follow the Sheffield Round Walk through a squeeze gate on the left.

In either case, in 900m you emerge on a tarmac lane (**Ivy Cottage Lane**) and *turn left* along the lane to then *turn right* at a multi-directional signpost after 75m (or after 25m if you followed the Round Sheffield Walk).

********) Pass a sign for **Forge Dam** and cross the river to – in 30m – *turn left* down some steps into **Forge Dam City Park** and in 60m pass the very early lunch/elevenses stop **Forge Dam Café**. Walk up a slope and continue along a tarmac path along the right-hand side of the **Forge Dam**. *[Note: Dam is the normal local term for the lake, rather than the structure that creates the lake. At the moment it is completely silted up, but funds are being sought to have it dredged.]*

In 100m *turn left* with the path and a Sheffield Round Walk marker and in 40m cross Porter Brook and *turn right* through the wooded valley on a gravel path. In 380m walk through a gap to the left of a metal barrier to cross **Wood Cliffe** (road) and continue in the same direction through a drystone wall gap and along a gravel path, signed **Porter Clough** ('clough' is Old English, meaning steep valley/ravine, and related to High German 'Klinge' = blade). In 80m you *fork down to the right* with the signposted footpath, where an unmarked bridleway forks off to the left, and in 25m cross Porter Brook on a bridge. In 140m ignore a footbridge on the left leading to the parallel running **Clough Lane**. In 100m emerge through a wall gap onto **Mark Lane** to cross it to continue in the same direction through a wall gap. Ignore all ways off and in 450m (by a bench and a stile on the right) go through a wall gap onto a gravel lane at an unsigned five-way junction of footpaths, bridleways and byways at the bottom of the **Porter Clough**. Cross **Clough Lane** and go through a gap to the left of a metal barrier to continue further up the valley, more and more steeply as you go along.

In 650m you cross a footbridge and *turn right* uphill through a truly mountainous stretch of the narrow valley, with the river now on your right. In 25m cross back over another footbridge to the right-hand side of the stream and in 40m ignore a third footbridge on the left (the **Sheffield Round Walk** turns left here). Eventually go up a stepped path to a road (**Fulwood Lane**) where you *turn right* for 100m to the top of **Greenhouse Lane** and a viewpoint with a toposcope (at 341m above sea level). From there you get superb views down the **Mayfield Valley** across the northern parts of **Greater Sheffield** and as far as **Lincoln Cathedral** (on a clear day). Re-trace your steps along **Fulwood Lane** and continue along it (initially without a good verge to walk along) past where you emerged from the Porter Clough earlier (and then past a picnic area and the **Mayfield Alpacas Animal Farm** with its **Paddocks Café**), and in 850m *turn left* at a T-junction with **Ringinglow Road**. In 60m reach the recommended early lunch stop **The Norfolk Arms**, opposite a remarkable octagonal **toll house** of this former turnpike road, at the corner of **Lady Canning's Plantation** (on the OS map), and also right on the boundary of the **Peak District National Park**.

Turn right along **Sheephill Road** with a Sheffield Round Walk signpost (i.e.: cross the road if you come out of the pub), with the Roundhouse toll booth on your right. In 110m *turn left* over stone steps with a **Sheffield Round Walk** signpost into a grassy slope. Follow a fenced path downhill, with the nascent **Limb Brook** on your left. In 300m and in another 60m footpaths join from the right, just before the path *turns left* to cross the brook and then *turns right* by a **Limb Valley** sign through a wooden gate (another footpath joins from the left), with the brook now on your right. Follow the main path downhill through this steep-sided wooded valley for about 1.3 km, as it initially zigzags over the brook, but then continues mostly halfway up the slope, high above the brook. Ignore all ways off. There are some steps, four footbridges and a picnic area on this stretch. Eventually you will reach a footpath junction near a stone bridge and another picnic area (70m after a footpath joined on the left).

Turn right across the bridge and follow a wide path towards **Whirlowbrook Hall**. At the next junction in 150m take the middle of three paths straight ahead and in 60m cross a car park and continue a little to the right through a fence gap along a tarmac path. Walk through the landscaped terraced gardens of **Whirlowbrook Hall** (a popular wedding venue, and on your right-hand side). Continue in the same direction through the park, with a pond and later another car park on your right and in 200m you *turn left* along a driveway, soon passing a shelter and then a larger pond on your left below. In 300m pass **Willowbrook Lodge** to leave the park and *turn right* along a pavement towards a main road [a left turn here along the curved tarmac lane and another left turn at the second turnoff leads towards **Whinfell Quarry Gardens** (worth a detour)].

In 20m *fork left* across the road and a grassy area and in 20m cross **Ecclesall Road South/Hathersage Road** (the A625) at a T-junction, opposite a bus stop. Walk down some railed steps with a footpath marker to *turn left* along a gravel path towards **Whirlow Playing Fields**. Continue along a woodland edge to an info panel about **Whirlow Mill** in 50m (currently missing). You can now either continue along the wood's edge or follow a narrow path through the wood, which re-joins the grassy field in about 400m. In either case, continue through some trees and make your way to the far bottom left end of the field by another info panel. Go through a narrow wall gap with a Sheffield Round Walk signpost into **Ecclesall Woods**, an ancient woodland and former deer park, and *turn right* along a sunken trackway (known as '**Stone Rails**', thought to have been used for moving stock on packhorse or mule, and of 19th century origin).

Follow occasional signposts for **Abbeydale Road South** (i.e.: keeping the brook on your left, ignoring left turning footpaths) and in 420m reach a bike barrier to the left of a wooden field gate at a T-junction with a signposted bridleway (Limb Lane to the right, Abbeydale Road South to the left). *Turn left* along the bridleway with a Sheffield Round Walk signpost and continue in the same direction for nearly 1 km, with the brook and the wood on your left and a wooded strip on your right, ignoring all ways off. **But in more detail:** in 170m you go over a Grade II listed stone packhorse bridge, in 80m walk between stone pillars and in 75m pass a marvellous ochre coloured spring on the right. In 200m you continue in the same direction with the footpath through a bike barrier to the left of a wooden field gate, where the bridleway turns sharply left, and in 70m ignore a right turning signposted footpath. You pass the **Abbeydale Model Railway** on your left across Limb Brook and continue with some houses on your right until you reach **Abbeydale Road** (the A621).

With a **bus stop for services to the City Centre** about 100m on your left, cross the road and *turn right* along the opposite pavement, in 50m pass the recommended late lunch stop **The Summer House** on the left and in 150m **Dore & Totley station** (for trains to Sheffield or into the Hope Valley). Pass the interesting **Woodland View Almshouses** on your right and in 100m *turn left* along **Twentywell Lane's** opposite pavement. You cross bridges over the **River Sheaf** and a couple of railway lines (Hope Valley Line and Midland Main Line, ignoring a right turning footpath between them) and immediately *turn left* along a footpath through a wall gap into **Ladies' Spring Wood**. Follow a gravel path through this very steep ancient oak wood and in 40m *turn right* through a fence gap towards some steps and go up them to *turn up further left* high up the rise with a waymark at a T-junction. You *turn left* again at a waymarked T-junction at the upper fringe of the wood. In 50m you stay on the main path along the woodland edge ignoring a path and some steps to the right.

At the next junction in 165m you fork left to stay on the main path heading downhill (ignoring the path and some steps to the right). In 240m though, you *turn right* up some railed steps, but ignoring some steps to the far-right behind a gate. Ignore all paths down to the left and contour around to the right with the main path. At the next junction you keep on the main path through the edge of **Gulley Wood**, with a golf course on your left below, until you reach the tarmac **Beauchief Drive** at a T-junction, leading on the right towards **Beauchief Hall**. *Turn left* along the driveway and in 360m get to a right turning footpath just before the ruined **Beauchief Abbey** (building and info panel are well worth a detour). *Turn right* along the path, past **Beauchief Abbey Farm**, in 100m passing a fish pond on your right. In 110m enter **Parkbank Wood** and continue along the lower of two paths with a signpost, with the golf course on your left.

In 160m *fork right* slightly uphill into the wood with a low marker post and in 350m *turn left* at a T-junction down a path between houses and then some railed steps towards an audible road and exit the wood to emerge on **Bocking Lane**, where you *turn right* past a **bus stop for services to the City Centre**. In 80m you cross the road to the

opposite pavement at a traffic island. In 50m you *turn left* between some houses (just before the junction of Bocking Lane with Greenhill Avenue) to enter **Chancet Wood** in 40m with a brook running on your left below. The path *turns right* and in 50m you *turn left* to cross a footbridge over the brook and *turn left* at a footpath junction, soon uphill. In 115m, at a four-way junction, *fork back down left*, towards the brook (300°) and in 180m *fork right* uphill to follow a path turning right with the wood. Ignore ways off and at the end of the wood in about 600m *take the left fork* down and eventually go down some railed steps onto **Meadowhead Road** (the A61), where you *turn right* along it.

In 40m pass a **bus stop for services to the City Centre**, then cross the road at a convenient spot and in 165m (opposite a service station on the right and just before a bus shelter) *turn left* along a car wide tarmac track (with a metal railing on the left) into **Cobnar Wood**. In 60m you continue in the same direction, ignoring a steep left fork down to a brook and one up right. In 270m you *fork down to the left* with a waymark and continue with a brook on your left. In 20m you continue in the same direction at a crosspaths, now uphill and on tarmac. In 165m you follow the path around to the left (now more than car wide) at a T-junction to cross the brook and in 40m *fork right* with the path (i.e.: not straight ahead into open fields). In 210m *turn left* with a Sheffield Round Walk signpost, along a small stream at the wood's fringe, with some grassy fields behind it. In 280m at the top of this rise continue in the same direction, crossing a car wide tarmac track, towards **Graves Park Animal Farm** (a steep path on the right in another 20m takes you to the **Rose Garden Café** in 60m).

In 180m at the top of this rise, *turn left* to walk past a car park on its left-hand side and in 180m go through a gate to leave **Graves Park** and *turn right* along **Hemsworth Road**. Pass **Bunting Nook** (road) and a **bus stop for services to the City Centre**, and in 600m – with **The Water Tower** on your left – you *turn left* along **Ashbury Lane**. In 240m this continues as a gravel track and in 65m, where the track turns right, you continue in the same direction along a downhill tarmac path into the **Gleadless Valley Woodlands**. In 60m start to descend and in 90m the path levels out by a bike barrier. Continue on gravel with a golf course on both sides behind trees (avoid all paths off right and left to the fairways). Later there's a school on the left. In 420m you continue in the same direction slightly downhill into **Gleadless Valley Nature Reserve**, where the path turns right with a fence around the golf course edge, and in 35m pass a small pond on your right. In 50m at a four-way junction of paths, *fork to the left* with a Sheffield Round Walk signpost into **Carr Wood**.

In 70m go through old stone gates and in 10m *turn down left* with a signpost off the main path *then left again* in 40m with another one. You cross a stream and continue in the same direction, ignoring all ways off. In 80m you then cross a sculpted metal railed bridge and in 30m *turn up right* off the main path (i.e.: not across the stepping stones). In 40m you walk on tarmac and in 30m you go through a squeeze gate to the left of a metal barrier and continue in the same direction along **Lees Hall Avenue**, still uphill, past **Meersbrook Allotments** (Sheffield's largest allotment site with over 15 km of hedge rows). In 200m you get some back views on the right-hand side, across the allotments to some colourful high rises. In 60m continue in the same direction at a crossroads and in 165m *turn left* (opposite a **bus stop for services to the City Centre**) along **Norton Lees Road**. Cross over to the opposite pavement at a convenient spot and in 200m *turn right* through a gate into **Meersbrook Park**, with **Bishop's House** immediately on your right, one of the earliest, best-preserved and most charming timber-framed buildings in Sheffield (open 10.00-16.00 Sat-Sun).

Follow a tarmac path gently downhill through Meersbrook Park. In 100m ignore a right fork and in 20m pass **JMW Turner's viewpoint** with an info panel on the left, in 100m enter a wood and in 50m continue in the same direction at a four-way junction. In 90m at a signposted five-way junction, *turn right* ('Playground', 'Bowling Green'), in 30m *fork*

left and downhill, and in 140m *turn right* at a five-way junction. In 30m cross a path and in 75m another path joins from the right behind. You continue along a fenced sports area towards the corner exit of the park 100m away and *turn left* to cross **Brook Road** and continue along **Meersbrook Park Road**. In 120m cross **Chesterfield Road** (the A61) and *turn right* along its opposite pavement. In 20m you cross **Little London Road** and *turn left* along it towards a railway bridge, (you'll find a **bus stop for services to the City Centre** a bit further along).

In 100m go under the railway line and follow the pavement around to the left. In 30m *turn right* along a shared cycle-/footpath with a **Sheaf Valley Route** signpost (direction 'University' and 'Nether Edge'), in 50m cross **Broadfield Court** a zebra crossing and follow the tarmac path around to the left to then *turn right* with it and cross **The Sheaf River** on a two-railed wide bridge to *turn left* with the path. In 50m cross **Broadfield Way** in the same direction at a pedestrian crossing and enter the **Broadfield Road Open Space** through a metal gate. Continue along the path with the river on your left and a playground on your right. In 110m leave **Broadfield Road Open Space** and *turn right* along **Leyburn Road**, then *turn left* – in 70m at a T-junction opposite a **bus stop for services to the City Centre** – *turn left* along **Abbeydale Road** (the A621). In 20m *turn right* to cross the road at some lights and turn up **Glen Road**. In 130m *turn left* at a road junction and continue up along **Sandford Grove Road**, ignoring all ways off.

In 300m the road bends right, still rising, and in another 100m it turns right. In 150m you continue in the same direction up **Brincliffe Edge Road**, where **Archer Lane/Ashland Road** crosses (ignore a faint path into the woods on the left). In 80m – at the junction with **Nether Edge Road** on the right – you *turn left* into **Brincliffe Edge Wood** by a Sheffield Round Walk signpost and **[!]** *turn right* immediately inside the wood, continuing parallel to the road, just inside the wood. Ignore all ways off and in 380m go up some steps to continue in the same direction with the path, which then veers down and away from the road, in 110m with some allotments on your left below. **[!]** *Turn right* here up some steps and between trees to climb back up to the road level, by *forking right up* some more (railed) steps in 90m.

Exit the wood through a fence gap to cross **Brincliffe Edge Road** and enter **Chelsea Park** on the opposite side through a metal gate with a Sheffield Round Walk signpost on the left. Follow a tarmac path diagonally through this open area of the park. In 165m *turn right* along another tarmac path at a T-junction (with the large mansion **Brincliffe Towers** on your left, now a care home) and curve left with it around a playground to – in 100m – exit the park onto **Chelsea Road**, where you *turn left*. In 110m *turn right* to walk down **Cavendish Road** and in 250m *turn left* along **Osborne Road** at a T-junction. *Bear right* with the road and in 240m you cross **Psalter Lane** (with **The Psalter Inn** a little to the right) and continue in the same direction down **Stretton Road**. In 70m *turn right* at a T-junction with **Penrhyn Road** and in 30m *turn down left* along the steep **Pinner Road**, with some typical terraced housing on both sides.

At the bottom of the road in 180m you *bear right* with **Hunter House Road** and then *turn left* at a T-junction with a main road to reach **Hunter's Bar Roundabout** in 40m. The entrance to **Endcliffe Park** is opposite the first road on the left, and **bus** stops for services **to the City Centre** are scattered along the roads leading to the roundabout. The different bus lines will drop you off close to **Sheffield (Midland) Station**. Make your way from there to the forecourt of the station. The *highly recommended* pub **The Sheffield Tap** is to be found on Platform 1B (but also accessible from the forecourt on the left-hand end of the station building). Recommendation: Do check out ALL the rooms, nooks and crannies!

London bound trains usually depart from platforms 5 or 8.