

Step Out at SWFC

The Wednesday Walk on Thursdays

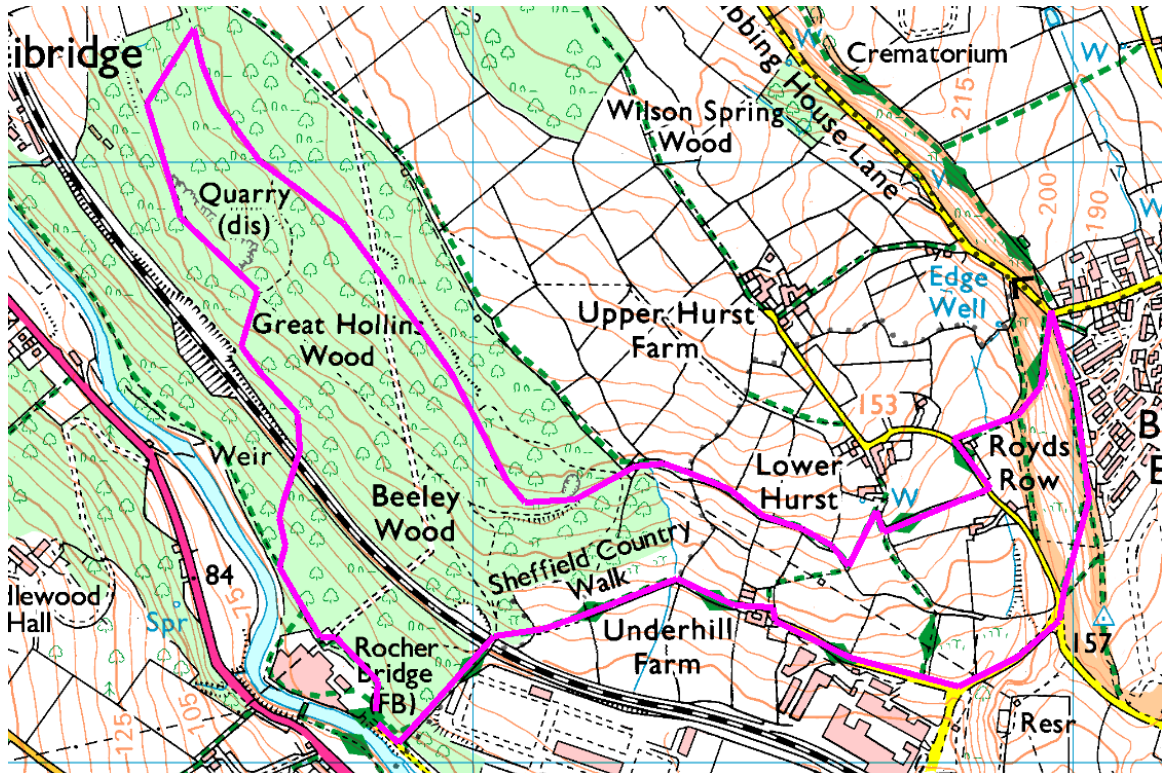


95 – Donway Wood – 3.4 miles

Ever wanted to buy a wood? Donway Wood is currently up for sale at a measly £55,000, so I thought we might take a look then walk up to the top of Black Edge and back. Park at Rocher Bridge (where we usually park for Beeley Woods).

Clockwise

After parking, head towards Oughtibridge but just where the track rejoins the river, bear right through a gate and up the track, which soon deteriorates to a footpath. Watch out for chestnuts up here (it may still be a bit early in the season, though).



Cross the railway and continue up

the path till you get to the cross-track, where you turn left. Donway Wood should be on the left along here. Keep following the track as it bends right and climbs up beside a field, then where it joins another track, turn right and continue slightly uphill, through the woods. This track is an old tramway which used to join the ganister quarries to the silica brick works just north of the road.

Follow the track out of the trees, through a gate and on as far as Lower Hurst (you will probably recognise this bit). When you enter the field at the end of the track, bear left, up the hill and head for the stile at the top. Cross this and the next field, then another stile out onto the road. Turn left, past two houses then take the footpath on the right across the stream and up to the trees on Birley Edge.

Here we bear left and up the steep climb to the top, then turn right and drop back down through the trees (with great views), but you can avoid this climb by turning right and follow the bottom of the slope; either way you eventually come out on the road. Turn left and head to the top of Hagg Hill, then turn right. Head down the road (carefully), then turn right on Underhill Lane, straight through the farmyard at Underhill Farm, and just follow the path back to the cars.

Risks

Hagg Hill – busy for a narrow road so watch out for cars (and sometimes bigger vehicles).

A few stiles (about 9) and some steps

Footpaths (mud, slipping, tree roots, steep slopes, etc) and possibly wet grass.