

Step Out at SWFC

The Wednesday Walk on Thursdays



133 – Shepherds Height, Ughill – 3.2 miles (Grade 2)

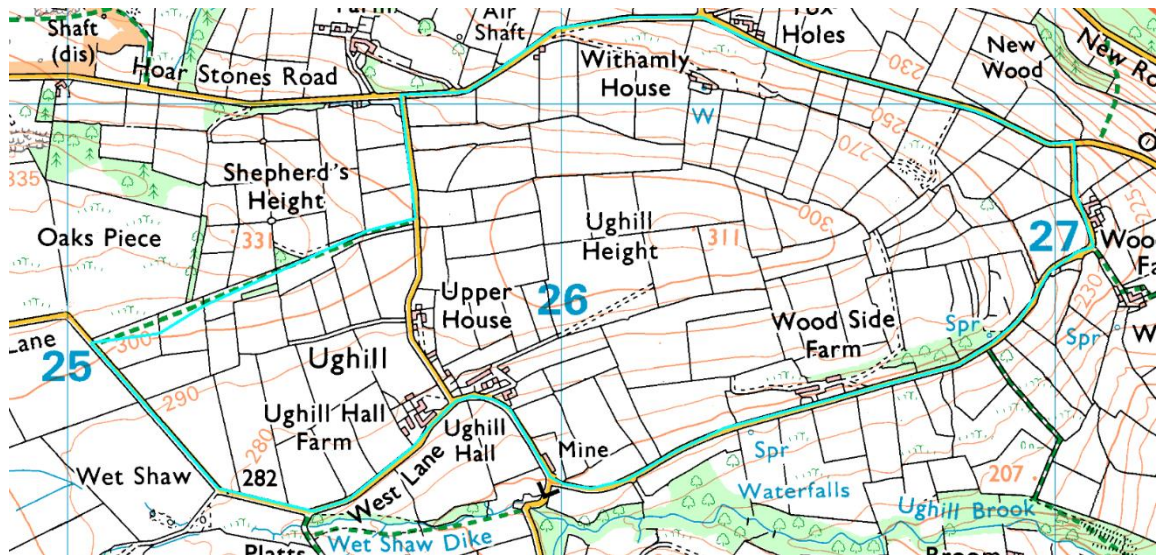
This walk is very exposed but has incredible views all the way round so it needs a clear, dry and preferably calm day. As this is something we can never guarantee, I am not going to put this on the schedule but will just swap it in if the weather is right.

Essentially a road walk, the only off road section is over the top of Shepherds Height which is grassy paths. Two wooden step stiles which may be a bit slippery but no mud and mainly dry underfoot. A bit of climbing but the views are worth it! Grade 2 because it is longish, has stiles and lots of road walking.

Park on Oaks Road, at the top past the Ughill and Strines turning. There is a space on the right hand verge, but be careful as the edge of the road is quite high.

Anticlockwise

Carry on along the road towards Bradfield, but at Fox Holes bear left, up Hoar Stones Road. Take the first road on the left, Ughill Road, and follow this up the hill. As you reach the top of the hill, there is a footpath on the right up a grassy lane. Follow this, cross a step stile at the end and continue straight on following any of the sheep tracks across another three fields.



You will see the stile in the top right corner of the final field; cross this (carefully, it's a bit wet and slippery), and you are back on the road. Turn right, down Wet Shaw Lane, bend left at the bottom onto West Lane and pass Ughill Hall before bending left onto Tinker Bottom.

At the bottom of Tinker Bottom, bear left onto Ughill Wood Lane, and follow this back round to Oaks Lane, turning left at the end to find the cars.



Risks

- No major roads, but lots of walking on narrow country lanes with no verges. Watch out for cars and bikes.
- 2 stiles and no steps.
- Grass and some wet places, boots recommended.

Ughill Hall

A substantial stone residence which has been much altered over the years; it existed in the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042–1066). In more recent times the hall was owned by Charles Vickers who used it as a summer shooting lodge and then by Mr. Lomas, the owner of some of the mines in the surrounding area. The adjacent Ughill Hall farm is still a working farm.

Ughill Manor

A farmhouse which dates from the early 18th century, however buildings have existed on the site from a much earlier date with timbers from the adjoining cruck barn being dated to 1504. Ughill Manor and its barn and cow house are Grade II listed buildings.

Ughill Mine

Despite being 'rural', Ughill is near enough to Sheffield to provide raw materials for the iron and steel works. The main materials in the area are coal (a thin seam covered most of the area), ganister (a high-silica sandstone found below the coal layer) and pot clay (a soft clay found below the ganister). The mine here is located at the bottom of the hill, going in under the ganister and mainly mining pot clay. Ganister is used to make refractory bricks to line the furnaces, while pot clay is used to make the 'pots', the crucibles in which steel was melted.

Ughill Mine is no longer visible, despite being marked on the map it closed in 1977 due to flooding, but at its peak it was producing 15,000 tons of clay per year. That works out at about four or five lorry loads a day, but thankfully we are unlikely to meet any on our walk.

Water Troughs

You will probably notice the troughs beside the road on this walk. Originally used for watering horses, they are now redundant and getting overgrown, but are still useful for washing your boots or hands, or if you are really thirsty!

