

Walk and Talk

The 'Wednesday' Walk on Thursdays



COMMUNITY
PROGRAMME

200 – Huthwaite Tunnel – 3.1 miles

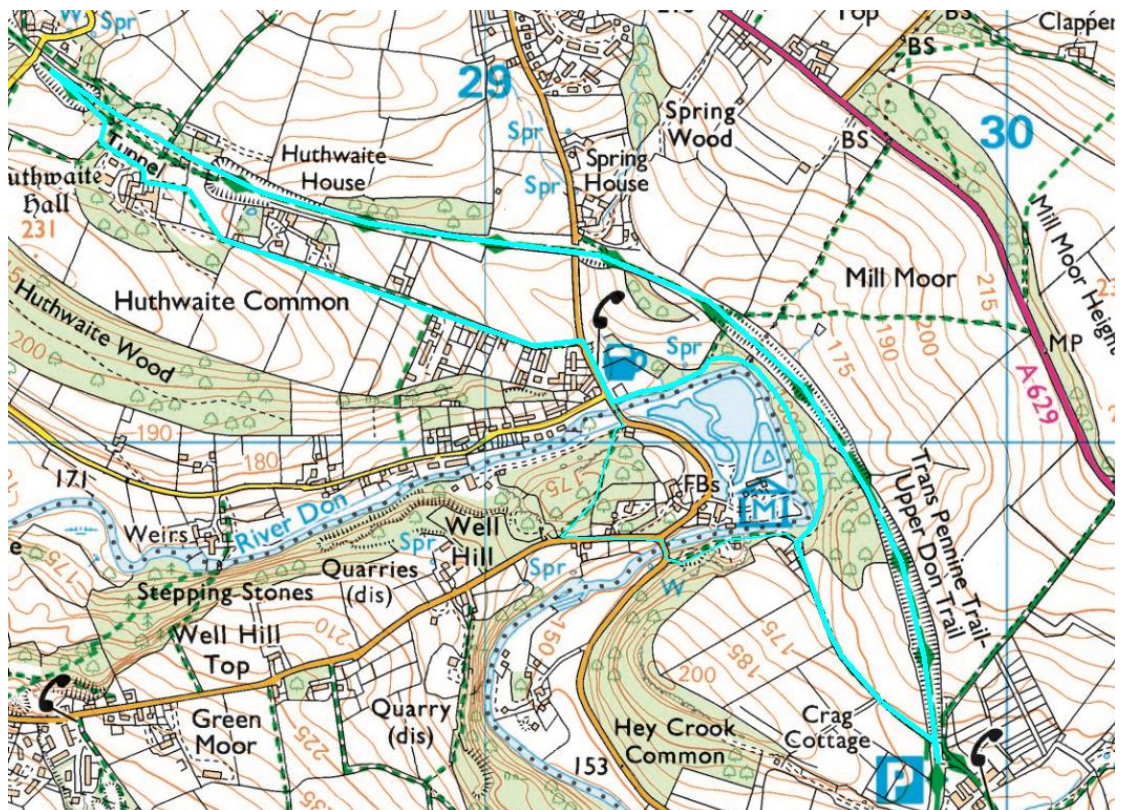
Huthwaite (or Thurgoland) Tunnels carried the electrified Sheffield to Manchester Railway, until it was closed in 1983. It is now used as part of the Trans Pennine Trail and has electric lights! This walk goes from Cote Green car park (Finkle Street Lane) along the TPT, through the tunnel and back past Huthwaite Hall, and I admit to stealing a large part of it from Bradfield and Stocksbridge Walkers longer walk (https://bradfield-walkers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2_11_Green_Moor_TPT.pdf) which has a lot of historical information about the tunnels, Rompticle Viaduct and the Chemical Cottages.

Park on Cote Green car park (by Wortley Wagyu – if you are feeling rich, you can buy a burger afterwards...)

Counterclockwise

From the car park head down to the Trail and turn right, then follow the trail (dodging the puddles if it has been wet) for about 1½ miles till you get out of the tunnel, under the road bridge and onto the viaduct.

That's half the walk over in a paragraph, and the return is being copied from Stocksbridge Walkers, so my job is nearly over!



The original Huthwaite Tunnel (315 yards) was built in 1844. It had two tracks. Stone was used for both its lining and portals. The tunnel which is now part of the TPT was built as a result of the electrification of the Woodhead line, as the original tunnel could not include two tracks worth of overhead line equipment (OLE). Nationalisation of the railways occurred during the construction resulting in both LNER (1947) and BR (1948) date stones. The Sheffield-bound line was slewed onto the centreline of the original tunnel whilst the second bore took trains to Manchester. The original tunnel is now blocked at both ends with the TPT utilising the new tunnel. The latter has a slightly tighter curve and is also longer at 340 yards. The Woodhead route was closed in 1981 but the Deepcar-Barnsley Junction section - which included the tunnel - survived until 16th May 1983.



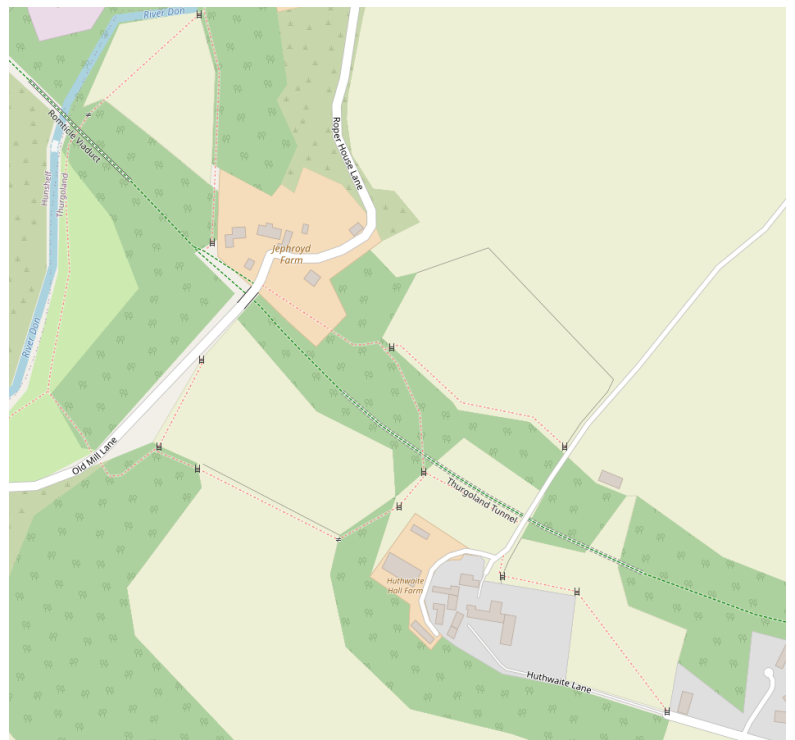
COMMUNITY
PROGRAMME



The Southern end of the Huthwaite Tunnel, showing the TPT and the blocked original tunnel

If you want to see the bottom of the viaduct, follow number 25 to take a loop under the viaduct or just walk up to the road, cross over and follow the footpath over the tunnel and head towards Hurthwaite Hall, rejoining at 30 (turn left after the stile).

25. Before the next over-bridge and subsequently, the Thurgoland Tunnel, leave the trail by taking the path over the stile on the left at the bottom of the ramp up to the road (25). Follow the path by the retaining wall and then on the other side of the field until you reach the river



stone and wooden stiles and follow the path with the Old Mill across to your right.

26. Turn left over the stone stile (26), and then cross the field before going under the viaduct. Keeping the river on your right, follow the bank to the rise at the gate. Go over both the



As you pass under the viaduct, look carefully at the inside of the arch which is to your right. Near the top, you may be able to make out a memorial stone. Whilst

building the viaduct in 1844, a stone fell and killed a navvy, William Crawshaw. His workmates later built the stone block into the structure. The stone is 5th.from the right, 20 rows from the ground.

27. At the road turn left up the hill. After ~300 m, take the path to the right (27)

28. The path rises steeply and swings left, passing through some stone gateposts. Do not cross the stile into the field, instead follow the path to the right keeping the wall on your left

29. The path leaves the wood and crosses a field. At the corner of the field, go over the stone stile by the gate (31). Go along the path to the wooden stile into the field

30. Turn right and cross the field toward the lane. Huthwaite Hall is to your right. Go through the gap in the wire fence and then turn right on the track heading towards the buildings

Completed in 1748, Grade II* listed, [Huthwaite Hall](#) was one of the first independent commissions from the prolific English architect, [John Carr](#) (1723–1807). Born in Horbury, he was twice Lord Mayor of York (1770 and 1785). [Fairfax House](#) in York, possibly the finest Georgian town house in England, is an excellent example of his work.

31. Take the stile in the wall by the gate to your left (33) and go across through fields to Huthwaite Lane

32. Walk down the Lane to the main road then turn right. Go past the Bridge Inn, then take the path on the left just before the bridge (34)

33. Follow the path by the river. Ignore the footpath to the left which goes back up to the TPT. After about 200 m, the path rises up above the river and passes through the woods. There is another footpath to your left which also goes towards the TPT. You may be able to see a number of fishing ponds through the trees on your right

34. At the end of the woods, the path opens out at Chemistry Cottages. Turn left up a track between the cottages and the out buildings opposite (36)

One of the buildings on your left is reputed to have been used to produce the serum which was required for the smallpox [variolation](#), a method which was introduced by [Lady Mary Wortley Montague](#) (1689-1762) into Western Europe from Turkey. She lived with her husband, the British Ambassador, in Constantinople, for two years, from 1716. She had both her children and the children of the Royal Family inoculated. However, she encountered a large amount of prejudice in spreading the practice, often due to the use of the lymph taken from people who were already suffering from smallpox. At the time, it was estimated that 20% of the population died of smallpox, with 60% catching the disease. [Edward Jenner](#) (1749-1823) later developed the much safer technique of vaccination using cowpox instead of smallpox.



Chemistry Cottages, apparently, are named due to their use for the production of an acid (green vitriol) used to scour wire. The ruin, (the Bandhouse), was supposedly where the Wortley Top Forge Band practiced.

35. The track opens out onto fields. Follow the track across over the fields. Cross the bridge over the TPT and turn right to return to the start point

Risks

Biggest danger round here is from cycles and horses.

A few stiles, no steps but some steep slopes if you go under the viaduct.

A bit of road walking on a very quiet road, and a few yards on a busier road.

TPT is well surfaced, but the first bit (through the cutting) is always wet.

Footpaths are well-used but may be rough and wet in places.

Some walking across grass which may be slippery.