

Get Doncaster Walking

Cusworth Walk

Distance	5.8 miles
Time (Approximately)	2.5 hours
Accessibility Information	<p>A circular walking route following the Trans Pennine Trail and local footpath network around the parishes of Sprotbrough and Cusworth.</p> <p>There are some steep inclines at various points, particularly around Cusworth Hall. Some of the path surfaces are uneven due to their natural condition. There are several stiles and gates to negotiate along the route. Generally the walk is easy going and is mainly off road.</p>
Start Point	Cusworth Hall Museum
Grid Reference start point	SE644038
Car Parking facilities	Cusworth Hall Museum – Car Park Charges apply
Walk Description	<p>Take any of the footpaths from the car park and head towards the back of the hall. Follow the path at the back of the hall and continue down the hill towards the ponds (signposted Shrubbery Walk). At the bottom of the hill turn right and follow the path with the pond on your left hand side and head towards the corner of the park.</p> <p>At the corner leave the park and continue along the path at the edge of the field heading towards the A1 motorway, crossing the field and under the motorway. The land gently rises. Continue along the path for approximately 550 meters.</p> <p>Turn left, before the farm buildings and head down the footpath towards Melton Road. Cross the road, when it is safe to do so and turn right. After 150 meters turn left down the footpath, (signposted public footpath) immediately before the Ivanhoe Public House.</p> <p>Go through the gate on the right and follow the footpath across the cricket field. Climb over the stone stile and turn left down Thorpe Lane, heading towards the St Mary's Church. There are several shops here which offer refreshments.</p> <p>Cross Thorpe Lane and walk in front of the shops and onto Main Street. Cross Main Street near to the Spar shop and head down Boat Lane. At the bottom of the hill head along Nursery Lane towards Sprotbrough Landing and the Boat Inn Public House.</p> <p>Enter onto the Trans Pennine Trail at Sprotbrough Landing, turning left and heading along the trail, keeping the river Don on your right. Travel along the bank of the river, past the Lock, through the wood and under the A1 Motorway.</p> <p>At the Viaduct either climb the steps onto the upper trail, turning left at the top of the steps, or bear left under the viaduct and continue along the lower trail (no steps). The two paths eventually join together. Continue along the trail, approximately 1 km after passing under the road bridge turn left onto the footpath heading towards Cusworth Hall, passing the playing fields on the right hand side bear left towards the lower fish pond.</p> <p>Enter the park next to the fish pond and head back up the hill towards the hall.</p>
Toilets	Yes at the Museum
Bus Routes	Bus Route 41, 42, 42A

Additional Information/Points of interest.

1. Cusworth Country Park comprises a large area of parkland which surrounds Cusworth Hall, a grade 1 listed 18th century Georgian house, previously the home of the Wrightson family. It is now in the care of Doncaster's Local Authority as a museum devoted to South Yorkshire life.

The Park has been the subject of natural history study for more than a century, with around 400 plant species and over 600 insect species recorded from the site. Mature sweet chestnut trees and ornamentals such as Cedar of Lebanon and London plane can be seen in the expanses of grassland around the Hall.

The woodlands contain a mixture of deciduous species including sycamore, beech, lime, small-leaved lime, horse chestnut, pedunculate oak, ash, English elm, elder and hawthorn.

The lakes can be seen to contain the striking flowers of the yellow flag iris, fragrant water mint, mare's tail and meadowsweet, whilst a wide belt of reed swamp provides cover for water birds.

2. Engine Wood is a narrow strip of privately owned broad-leaved woodland on a steep Magnesian Limestone slope above the River Don. Access is restricted to the Trans-Pennine Trail which runs along the river. The Wood has been studied in the recent past for its plant life, and locally important ground flora species such as spindle, small teasel and cornflower have been recorded from the site.

A backdrop of exposed natural crags and quarried geological exposures of the Permian Cadeby Formation make for a picturesque setting beside the River Don. This area enjoys Site of Special Scientific Interest status and is also designated a Local Geological site.

On the Trans-Pennine Trail, near the Lock, are the ruins of what was a pump engine. Little now remains of the mechanism, but some cogs and other pieces of ironwork are still in situ. The pump was commissioned by Sir Godfrey Copley in the late 17th century for the purpose of extracting water from the river and conveying it to the roof of the Hall at the top of the Gorge in order to gravity feed a fountain in the grounds. It is said that the inspiration for such a venture was conceived when Sir Godfrey visited Chatsworth House in Derbyshire and was shown the Emperor fountain, with its jet of 290 feet in height, by the then Duke of Devonshire. The pump, powered by a waterwheel driven by the flow of the river, was powerful enough to raise water to tanks 100 feet above and also fed a 35 foot long swimming pool in the grounds. The river also supplied the village until the water became too polluted.

3. Sprotbrough Ings is located at the mouth of the Don Gorge, at the edge of the Magnesian Limestone. Here the River Don flows in a sweeping arc around an area of grazed pasture with a wide shallow pond, the deep linear 'Bell Pond', several water-filled drains and wet flushes. The site is part of a designated washland and is inundated when the river level is high, allowing the water to drain slowly back into the main channel as the river levels fall.

The ponds and drains are rich in aquatic invertebrate species and support wetland plant species including abundant water violet, lesser water parsnip, skullcap, yellow water lily and rigid hornwort, with various-leaved water starwort, common-, least- and ivy-leaved duckweed floating on the surface.

Cusworth Walk

Distance: 9.33KM (5.8 Miles)

Start/End Point:  Cusworth Hall

Public Facilities:  Parking  Bus Stop



Toilet



Refreshments

Points of Special Interest:  See text for information

