



The reclamation and landscaping of the former Barnsley Main and Monk Bretton Colliery spoil heaps during the 1980's has seen the creation of 35 hectares of desirable countryside within half a mile of the town centre.

The habitat the park contains include, woodlands of different ages, mown grassland, rough grassland, water habitats (flowing & still) and marshy wetland areas.

Walk or run on one of our three trails through the woodlands to enjoy the habitat and the wildlife that has returned.

Children can enjoy finding the nature and sports signs on the orienteering trail to work out the mystery words by using the clues and map over leaf. Or simply picnic or fish as the area is always open to the public.

Whilst there are steps along some of the main paths many of them are accessible by wheelchair.

If you do decide to visit the park don't forget to...

FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

- Guard against all risk of fire - Don't light fires or drop lighted cigarettes
- Leave No litter - Put it in the bin or take it home with you
- Keep dogs under control - preferably on a lead
- Avoid damaging fencing, hedges and walls - Don't climb them
- Keep to the paths - Follow the signs and don't get lost
- Protect wildlife, wild plants and trees - Don't pick the flora or feed the wildlife
- Avoid polluting the water



A haven for local wildlife

The Dearne Valley is a rare opportunity for wildlife to move around a heavily-populated area forming as it does, an almost uninterrupted green corridor from Haigh, through Barnsley and on to the Dearne Towns and beyond. Dearne Valley Park is right at the centre of this corridor whilst also being less than a mile from the middle of Barnsley.



Walking, cycling, horse-riding, TPT link, canoeing, fun trail, self-guided walks.

The whole park is available for members of the public at all times to use on foot, by wheelchair or mobility scooter – however the steep valley sides are not appropriate other than on foot and motor vehicles are not permitted in the park. A concessionary cycleway runs from Harbrough Hills Road in the west to join the Trans Pennine Trail to the east of the Events Area. There is also a link to the TPT via Pontefract Road at Oakwell. Access points to allow canoes to use the river were installed in 2011 which enable the public to get as far as Darfield. Riding of horses and cycles slowly is allowed, riders must give way to walkers.



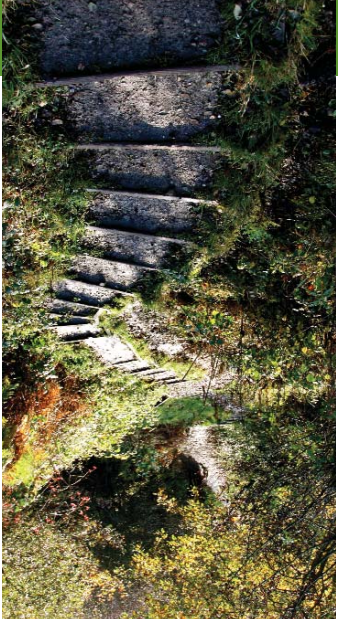
Point A on the map is where the Dearne, Dove and Barnsley Canal came together where the lock and lock keepers houses were situated. To get them together an



aqueduct had to be constructed (point B), this consisted of 5 30ft arches.

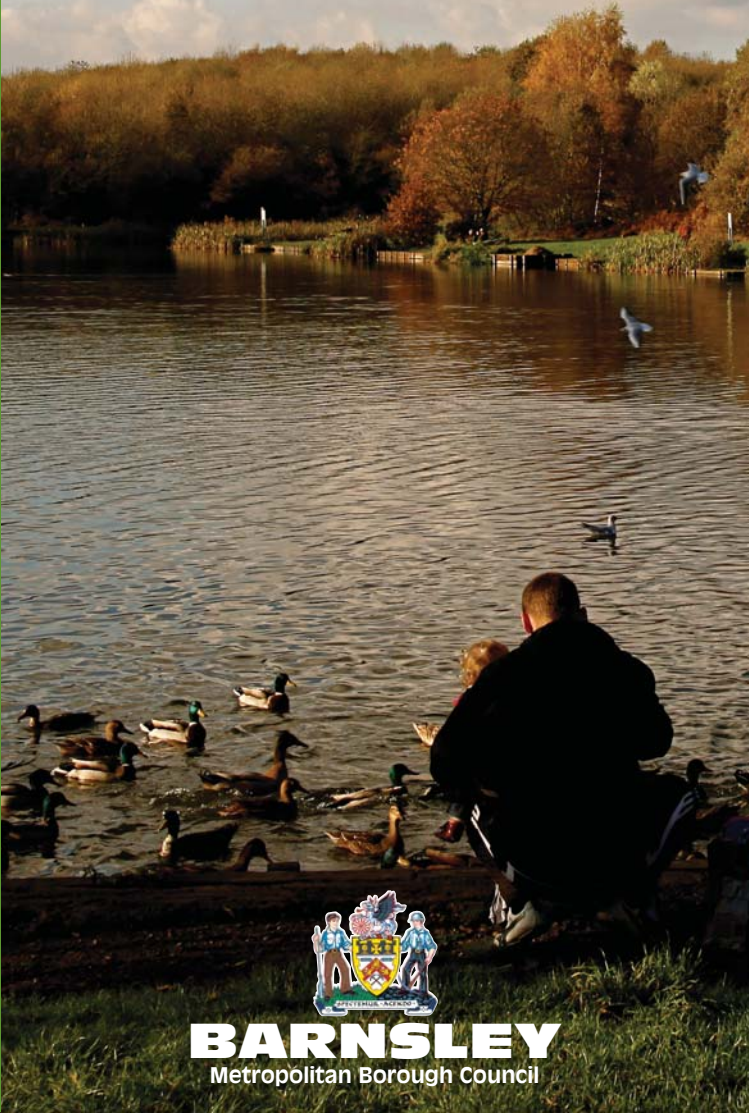
In 1945 the aqueduct burst and flooded the mines it was declared unsafe in 1953 and was subsequently demolished, although its stanchions still remain and form the support for a wooden footbridge over the river. In 1946 the canal burst its bank at Littleworth and 53 million gallons of water flooded local houses resulting in compensation of £3,500 being paid out. There were two railway lines running through the valley the Stairfoot to Mostell mineral line (point C) and the Barnsley to Cudworth passenger/ mineral line which crossed the valley by means of a steel viaduct (point d). The passenger service was withdrawn in 1958 followed by the closure of the goods line 10 years later in 1968 when the viaduct was demolished.

To the north of the Events Area at the east end of the park lies the remnants of Monk Bretton Priory – a hugely important site for monks in bygone centuries, The preserved pit-head winding gear of the disused Barnsley Main/ Oaks Colliery can be seen from much of the park and is a reminder of the valley's past.

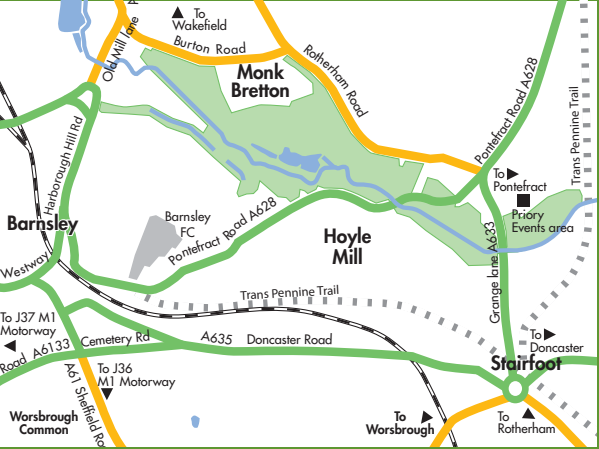


Dearne Valley Park

Walkways, woodlands and habitat



Where it is



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Travel

Car - The main car park area is situated off Pontefract Road (A628), Hoyle Mill Sat Nav post code S71 1HU. This is also where the children's play area and trim trail can be accessed. Other car parking exists at Eaming View (Old Mill), Rotherham Road/ A633 opposite the Hope Inn, and at Abbey Lane near the priory.

Train Station - Barnsley train station is approximately 1.5 mile from the main entrance to the park off Pontefract Road.

Bus - Details of bus and train times can be obtained by contacting South Yorkshire traveline: Tel 01709 515151, or by visiting the Travel South Yorkshire website.

Further information

Including the hire of the events area for fair and circuses Barnsley MBC Neighbourhood Services Tel 01226 772646

E-Mail neighbourhoodservices@barnsley.gov.uk
The Secretary, Hoyle Mill Angling Club Tel 01226 213686



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Dearne Valley Park

Walkways, woodlands and habitat

MONK BRETTON

Orange - 1km (3/4 mile) flat route is marked with orange arrows and is on surfaced paths around the river and lakes. Accessible for pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooter. Turn left out of the car park keeping the river on your right, Cross the footbridge and towards the small lake, Turn right back, then left between the small and large lakes. Keep turning right keeping the lake on your right, over two small bridges then back to the car park crossing the footbridge over the river.

Green - 1.8km (1 1/4 miles) route includes two sloping sections allowing views over the park and aquaduct bridge on mostly surfaced paths (accessible for most pushchairs and mobility scooters if happy with the slopes) Turn left out of the car park keeping the river on your right, Cross the footbridge over the river and go straight on to the small lake, Turn right back towards the car park, then left between the small and fishing lakes. Head along the track up the hill to the top and the back of Newlyn Drive Turn left to the top of the steps (views over the aquaduct bridge). Retrace your steps a short distance then follow path downhill through the trees to the small lake. Go straight over track to the fishing lake and follow path all the way round keeping the lake on your right, over two small bridges then back to the car park crossing the footbridge over the river.

Purple - 2.7km (1 3/4 miles) includes a large number of steps at the aquaduct bridge (ref B) and viaduct supports/spring (ref F) on surfaced and grass paths. This route goes around most of the main park features including the lakes, river, canal, woodland, springs and manmade features. Turn left out of the car park keeping the river on your right Past Lord Street entrance bear left up the slope on the tarmac path. Turn right along the former canal towpath to the canal junction/lock keepers cottage (ref A). Down the steps, crossing the aquaduct bridge (ref B) and up the other side. Keep on the flat following the old canal line past the new pond (ref E) to the remaining viaduct supports (ref D). Turn right down the steps and past the spring (ref F) and stream to the grass area beside the river. Turn right back to the fishing lake, then left over two small bridges and over the river to the car park.



Family fun trail

There are 7 posts and marker discs along the orange route and 10 along the purple route for you to find. Each post is within 10 metres of the path and the clues below should help you find them. On each post there is a letter and picture to be identified and you can do one of the routes or both together. The letters can be rearranged to make the missing words.

Clues

- 1 (all routes) by carpark mosaic
- 2 (both routes) behind group of trees
- 3 (both routes) amongst boulders
- 4 (both routes) by footbridge

- 5 (both routes) by small lake
- 6 (both routes) by ditch
- 7 (all routes) near Dearne way Mosaic
- 8 (purple route) behind lock keepers cottage
- 9 (purple route) behind in trees near rock face

- 10 (purple route) near pond
- 11 (purple route) at path junction
- 12 (purple route) near spring below steps
- 13 (purple route) near carved seat

To find the answers go on BMBC website under Dearne Valley Park or contact Parks Team on 01226 774353

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