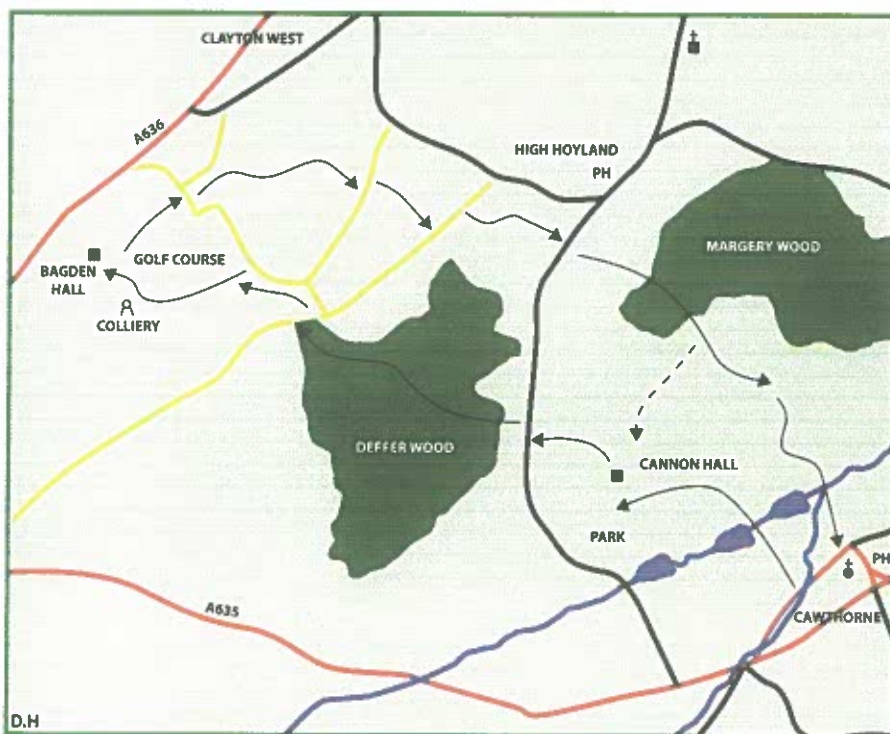


A Cawthorne Walk

BY DEREK HINCHLIFFE

Over Hill & Over Dale An 8-mile circular walk around Cawthorne



Introduction

If Cawthorne was situated in the Cotswolds or even in the Yorkshire Dales, it would be a tourist 'honeypot', as it remains one of South Yorkshire's treasures and a vital lung for the more developed local areas. The village and park are a delight and likely to encourage simple strolling rather than the steady walk suggested below. This however gives wonderful views over Cawthorne and some occasional surprises, such as a working pit, golfers hacking away and even Andean llamas munching in fields!

Access

Cawthorne is easily accessible by the A635 (Barnsley-Holmfirth) and is not too far from the M1 (Junctions 37 and 38). The nearest railway station is Silkstone Common.

Key



The Route

1. Cawthorne to Bagden Hall.

From the **GREEN** or **SPENCER ARMS**, walk through the village past the **MALTKIN ROW** and the **MUSEUM**, down **TIVY DALE**, to enter the **PARK** by the **SOUTH LODGE**. Follow the path over the bridge, through the **PARK** and **GARDENS** to **CANNON HALL**. Skirt around the **HALL** to **FARM** at rear, and exit via the access road to road.

Turn right at road and then take public footpath on left to **DEFFER WOODS**. The many paths of these woods can be a little confusing, but basically head **NW** and keep climbing! Specific instructions are: - enter woods over site; take immediate right fork; take second left on main path which brings the walker to **DEFFER NOOK**.

Turn right past **TOPPITT COTTAGES** and then left down **WHEATLEY HILL LANE**. Turn left at public footpath sign by lodge to discover **HAY-ROYDS COLLIERY**, a living relic of earlier more extensive mining, where a dozen miners mine 20,000 tons of coal a year from the

Whinmoor seam. A little further on turn right at lodge and cross the **BAGDEN HALL GOLF COURSE**. From pit to putting in a few yards!

2. Bagden Hall to High Hoyland.

Carefully follow markings through **GOLF COURSE**, then turn right and quick left past pool to lane. Turn right onto **WHEATLEY HILL LANE** and after 100 yards, to left into field at 'Kissing Gate'. Climb hill and then following Clayton West Trail along track, take a slight zigzag over stile, take track around edge of field and then across second field to road. Here pause and look back towards Emley Moor T.V. Mast. Turn left and then immediate right over **SWALLOW HILL**. This path reaches road to **HIGH HOYLAND** and offers super views back to Cawthorne and Barnsley. Turn left and then right across fields to **WOODS**. The path through woods leads to Cottages and converted **METHODIST CHURCH**.

3. High Hoyland to Cawthorne.

Pause once more to take in extensive

view of Upper Dearne Valley swooping from Woolley Edge to Langsett Moors. For final leg of walk, simply aim for Cawthorne Parish Church. The route crosses a field, penetrates **MARGERIE WOOD** emerging to a field, which is crossed aiming for style below telegraph poles. Pick up path through gate and follow track back to Cawthorne over stone bridge and up **CLIFFE HILL**.

An alternative route is, after **MARGERIE WOOD** to aim for a white gate right of field and then to pick up path which brings the walker to **CANNON HALL** and parkland path back to village. On this route Llamas may be seen!

Alternatives

The walk takes about four hours but can be easily shortened according to energy levels or understandable desire to take in the views by standing at Cannon Hall Park or by using local roads as shortcuts!