



THE SHEFFIELD WAY

Peter Price

a forty-five mile circular walk round the City of Sheffield

with notes on places of interest by Martin Olive

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Sheffielders have always been proud of the city's golden frame, and rightly so. The quality of the scenery is such that six thousand acres of the Peak National Park are within the city boundary, and the whole of the National Park stretches away from there.

This book by Peter Price is in the direct tradition of John Derry's "Across the Derbyshire Moors" which was the inspiration of my generation in persuading us to ramble. G. H. B. Ward's Clarion Handbooks, and, I would like to think, my own writings in *The Sheffield Mail* and *The Independent*, though few are old enough to remember them, were of the same genre.

Conditions have changed greatly during living memory. Until 1928 Longshaw was "Trespass Land"; Blacka similarly until J. G. Graves bought it in 1938; and the great areas of Burbage, Houndkirk, and Hallam Moors, Froggat Edge, Derwent Edge, and much of Stanage Edge were forbidden to the public until after 1949. This change in conditions gives scope for public knowledge to be enlarged and for new walks to be tried.

It was inspiration which led J. G. Graves to buy land and create his "Round Walk" which is much used and appreciated. That walk is about twelve miles and in no way goes round our city, and the need for a round walk was known and talked of. Independently Peter Price and a group of the Ramblers' Association started work on the idea at the same time. But the walks are very different.

Obviously this walk will be beyond most people to attempt in one day, but it will provide the framework for several days' walks. Rambling is not a race, and gives

opportunities to pause and really see the countryside and its denizens in a way that is only possible to those who go quietly on foot. It is a fact that many people are afraid to try the footpath way and so follow that most irksome and boring process of walking along roads.

My hope and expectation is that this book will persuade people who do not yet know the joys of the footpath way to venture forth and gain health and pleasure in so doing.

Stephen E. Morton.

Stephen Morton is a vice-president of the Ramblers' Association and President of its South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area. He is associated with many bodies engaged in protecting the countryside and in gaining access to the, still, forbidden lands. He was a member of the Peak National Park Board in its early years.

For someone to suggest to country lovers and hardened ramblers that a long-distance walk comparable to any in the country can be devised within a major industrial city must indeed raise a few eyebrows. To suggest such a walk within the City of Sheffield will have many people (who perhaps do not know the City) feeling that I must have taken leave of my senses. However, the circular walk I am proposing, one of forty-five miles, not only competes with other similar walks but in my view surpasses many.

This “Sheffield Way” covers areas of outstanding beauty and multiple interests. The walk varies from the upper moorland of the Peak District to the forests and woodlands around Oughtibridge and Grenoside. From the beautiful valley around Ford to the magnificent views from the hills of Bradfield and Totley – even the industrial east area has its own beauty and interests, including the canal.

A wide variety of flora, animal and insect life will be noted by the observant biologist and the many old buildings will interest the historians. The walker will be amazed to learn that over ninety per cent of this path is within the boundaries of the City of Sheffield. How fortunate Sheffield people are.

I have tried to draw the reader’s attention to as many points of interest as I could, but I guess more have probably been missed than included. However, I am certain that any walker who completes this path will agree with me that the “Sheffield Way” well merits the billing I give it.

Compared to the Lyke Wake Walk, the “Sheffield Way” has major advantages, with the main disadvantages being

the distance and toughness, for though forty-five miles is roughly the same distance as the Lyke Wake, I believe it to be much tougher, which probably puts it beyond most mortals for completion within twenty-four hours. However, this is possible for the fittest and well-trained walker. The great advantages of this walk are the easy access at almost any point to a very cheap and regular bus service which can get walkers back to civilisation if so needed; the number of shops and pubs which punctuate the Way and provide much welcome refreshment; and the very fact that the walk begins and ends at the same spot some 200 yards from the M1 Motorway solves any problems of arranging special pick-ups.

PLEASE NOTE: the representation on these maps of a road, track or footpath is not evidence of the existence of a Right of Way.

Having completed the walk and drawn the maps, I was left with the problem of how best to present them so that the walker could follow without too much difficulty. This proved much more difficult than first envisaged. How do you present maps that cover a circular route? Whatever direction you start, i.e. travelling eastward or westward, it changes as you work round. You can begin by walking east, i.e. left hand side of the page to the right, but by the time you are half way round you are walking west, i.e. from the right hand side of the page to the left. This can prove difficult to understand or follow if the reader decides to begin at a different point from the author. In the end I figured the best way was to recommend a starting point and a direction so that the walker simply follows the route as presented in the book and hopefully we will all arrive together at the end.

I decided the best starting point would be the Tinsley Canal at Wharf Lane just off the Sheffield road where it leaves the huge roundabout at the end of the doubled-decked M1 Tinsley viaduct, where there is room for some parking. The direction I recommend is “go West young man”. This means that most of the highlights of the Sheffield Way are reached during the best parts of the day.

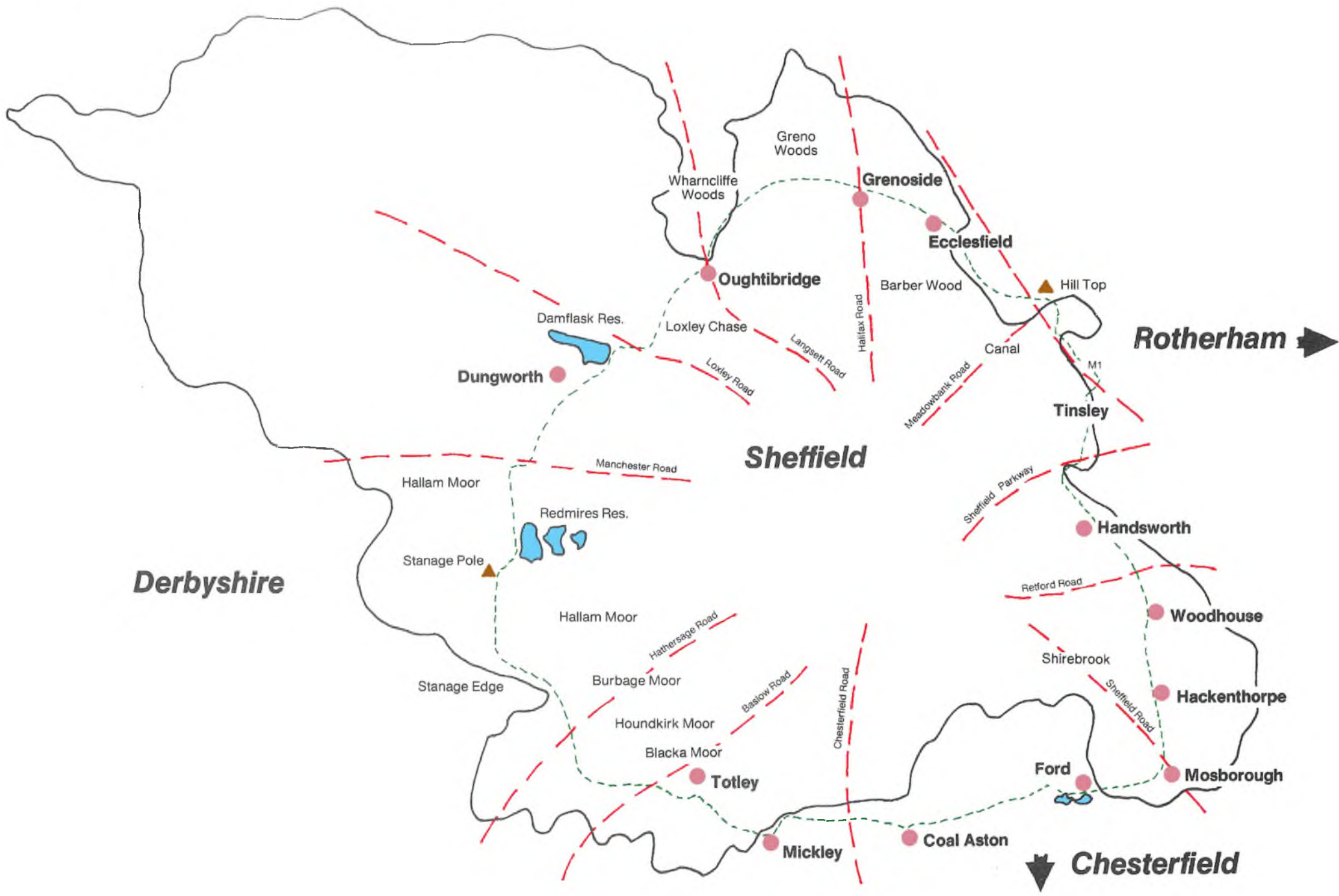
THE MAPS. In drawing these maps I have made an attempt to provide a continuous map on a scale large enough to indicate in detail the route showing walls, fences, stiles, gates etc. Actually there is one map only, continuous throughout the guide on a very generous scale 6 inch to the mile. It is presented in the form of a strip, with all the information necessary to follow the way exactly. Geographical details off route are omitted and the 1 inch Ordnance Survey maps should be used in addition to give a full appraisal of the countryside in sight.

For those using a compass, North (as tradition dictates) is at the top of the page with East to the right, West to the left and South at the bottom. I have put arrows at the beginning and end of each page which guarantee a continuous path in anti-clockwise direction around Sheffield.

I would like to dedicate this walk to those valiant striking South Yorkshire miners and their families who, throughout the twelve months I was researching the route, were engaged in a struggle of epic proportions fighting to maintain their jobs and communities.

I would also like to thank all those individuals who encouraged me and gave support in the making of the “Sheffield Way”, particularly Bob Marshall, Barry Twigg and Peter M. Price who walked with me, Neil Kay who suggested routes from Totley to Woodhouse and my wife and family for putting up with all the hassle.

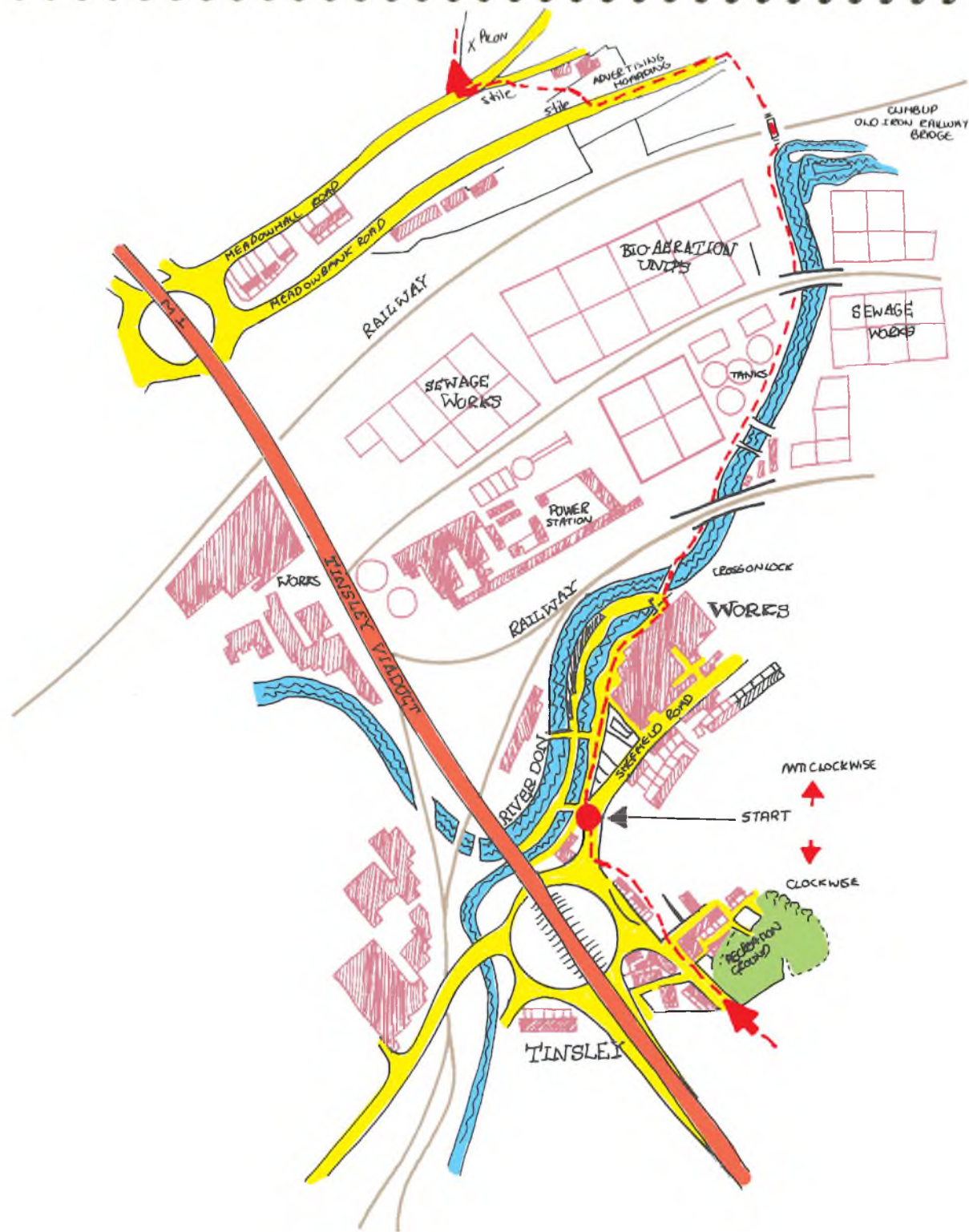
Peter Price.



Leave the large island at Tinsley down the Sheffield Road and take the first left turning, the little lane that runs down to the canal towpath. Follow the towpath heading north keeping to the right hand side of the canal. Ignore the first bridge that crosses the canal as this leads to private property. Cross the canal at the second lock which really means the third lock gate. Here there is a swing bridge which is no longer in use. Follow the towpath then for a short while on the left hand side of the canal and cross over the River Don on the concrete bridge. Continue along the west bank towpath passing under two railway bridges. On the left hand side we have the most modern sewage works in Europe. Continue to follow the river bank until the river turns sharp east with a large weir and the renewal of the canal alongside the river. Just round the bend take the narrow path sharp left which rises to the footbridge across the railway. Continue to follow the footpath as it climbs the hill up towards Meadowbank Road. On reaching Meadowbank Road turn left and follow the road for about 400 yards until you come across a large advertising hoarding on the right hand side. About 20 yards before this sign climb the bank towards a stile. Climb the stile and continue up the wide footpath which climbs up towards Meadowhall Road. Head in the direction of the large electricity pylon and another stile is reached. Climb the stile and turn left up the lane.

Sheffield and Tinsley Canal. Thanks to the works carried out by the River Don Navigation Company, boats were able to reach as far inland as Tinsley by 1760. Cargoes for Sheffield had to be transferred to road at Tinsley Wharf until 1819, when the Sheffield Canal was completed by a separate company. It descends to the river by the flight of locks along which the walk starts. Iron and timber from the Continent continued to reach Sheffield by water until well into the present century, but the navigation suffered a period of neglect under railway control and the canal section into Sheffield has always had difficulties in finding water; this part has not been used commercially since 1970.



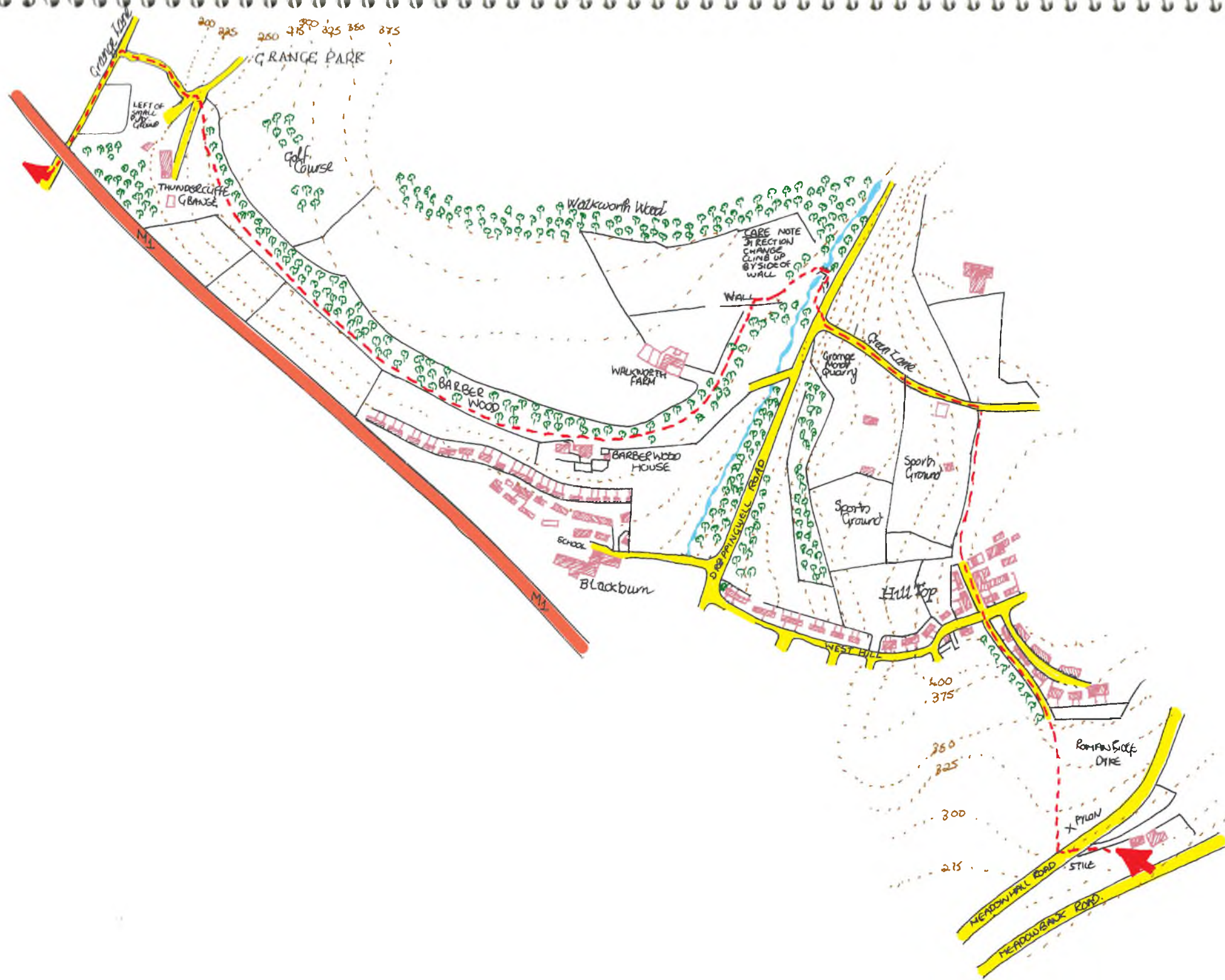


Cross Meadowhail Road and climb the small bank to the left of the pylon. Continue to follow the footpath up towards Hill Top and the housing estate keeping the fence on your right hand side, the Roman Ridge dyke being on your right. On reaching the houses continue on the footpath which climbs up towards West Hill at Hill Top. Cross over the road and continue along Poucher Street towards the open country. Follow the path down by the side of the fence. On the right hand side is Scotland Balk and the trig point. Note the extensive views on the left of Shiregreen and Woolley Woods. In the distance straight ahead is a view of Kepple's Column. At the end of the fence turn left down onto Grange Lane which is really just a cart track. Drop down Green Lane towards Droppingwell Road. Cross Droppingwell Road and descend the steps into the woods down towards the stream. Cross the stream by the small wooden bridge on the hairpin bend. About 20 yards from the bend take the path that takes the sharp right turn up the hill. Do not follow the laid path that continues alongside the stream. Climb up the hill beside the wall. Turn left at the top and follow the line of the old railway through the woods. Continue along the path until you reach a crossroads where a wider track crosses. Turn right up the path and then left when the wide path does a hairpin bend. Continue along the path through Barber Woods with the attractive rhododendron bushes on the right hand side.

On reaching Thundercliffe Grange follow the metal road on to Grange Lane. Go under the bridge which carries the M1 motorway and immediately afterwards turn right into Peggy Lane. This is just a small track.

Hill Top. Scotland Balk is part of a line of Brigantean earthworks connecting the Wincobank hill fort with Scholes and continuing to the marshy ground between the Don and Dearne near Mexborough, a distance of about 11 miles. It is visible in various places, and excavations suggest that there was originally a rampart some 8 feet high with a ditch about 10 feet wide and 5 feet 3 inches deep on the south side. It seems to date from not long before the Roman invasion and to have been used to defend the southern frontier of the Brigantes.

Thundercliffe. Once the site of a hermitage, by 1161 it was part of an extensive estate belonging to Kirkstead Abbey. The monks were allowed to work up to four furnaces using iron ore and charcoal produced from the estate. The furnaces, dependent on wind power, were probably near the top of the hill where Monks' Smithy House still stands on Thorpe Common. The monastic grange for agricultural produce, possibly on the site of the old hermitage, was to the west of the present house, which was built by Thomas, 3rd Earl of Eppingham in 1777 and recently restored for residential use. Close under the Park wall is the Grange Mill, probably on the spot where the monks of Kirkstead placed their mill 600 years ago. The Blackburn Brook also powered grinding wheels, for example, the Wragg Wheel on Ecclesfield Common which ground forks in the 19th Century. There was a community of fork-makers at Shiregreen.



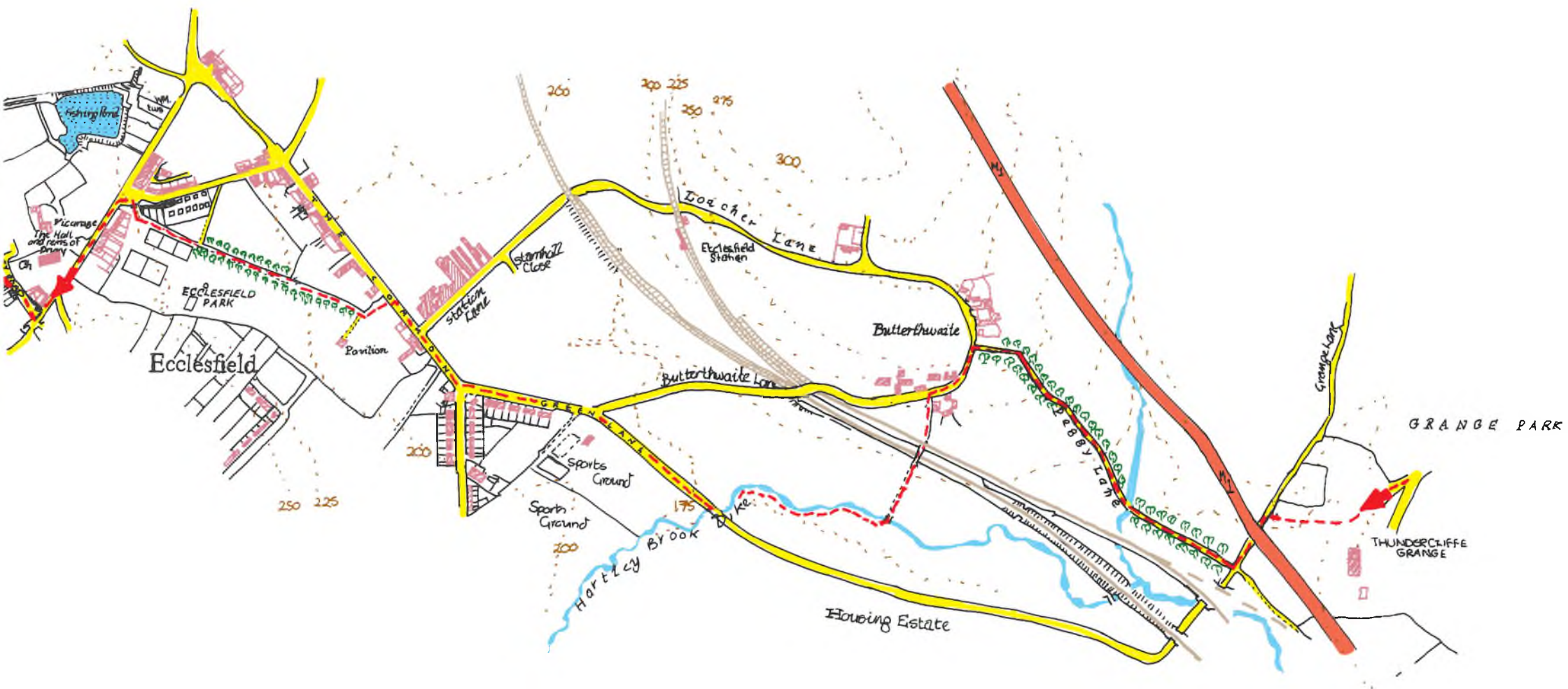
On Peggy Lane continue on the path where it narrows. Ignore the stiles on the left. At the end of Peggy Lane turn left down the road past Butterthwaite Farm. Just past the farm on the left hand side there is a stile over the stone wall. Climb the stile and continue the footpath down to the railway past through the white kissing gate and cross the first line and then climb the old Victorian footbridge which takes the path over the very busy main railway line. Follow the footpath down to the footbridge which crosses Hartley Brook. Take the path which turns sharp right and continue alongside the brook for about a quarter of a mile until it climbs up to the main road. This is Green Lane. Turn right along Green Lane and continue along here into Ecclesfield and then left into Ecclesfield Park. Shortly after entering the Park turn right along the tree lined footpath. On reaching the end of the path walk on to the road and turn left up Church Street. Ecclesfield Parish Church which is just up on the left, and the Ecclesfield Village centre, with its old stone houses and pubs is well worth a visit for those who have the time. However for our walk, continue up, just past the church and turn up Priory Road, note the remains of the old Priory incorporated in the house at the back of the church.

Ecclesfield. *In the middle ages the parish extended as far as the Cheshire border near Woodhead. The Parish Church was known as the “Minster of the Moors”, and lives up to the name. The name of the village suggests that there may have been a British church here before the Anglo-Saxons arrived. The tower of the present church dates from the 14th century and the rest of the building from about a century later. It contains fine medieval woodwork, including the roofs to the chancel chapels and choir stalls.*

On the north side of the churchyard is the Priory, another medieval survival, now converted into a private dwelling house. The oldest part is the former chapel, dating from about 1300. It belonged to the Benedictine monks of St. Wandville in Normandy.

The fish pond probably served the Prior’s corn mill. At the time of the Industrial Revolution it powered a cotton mill, and it ended industrial use about 1900 as a corn mill.

Ecclesfield has a long tradition of small scale industry. In 1800 it was known as the nail-making centre of Hallamshire. By the 1860s nail-makers were outnumbered by file-cutters, many of them women. A former file-cutters’ workshop can be seen off High Street. Gimlets were hand-made here in similar workshops until very recently.



The road soon peters out into a footpath that drops down the hillside. Follow the path as it curves left through the edge of the wood skirting the field and then turn right at the telegraph pole and drop down the path by the side of the field to the wooded area at the bottom. Cross the stream by the stone bridge.

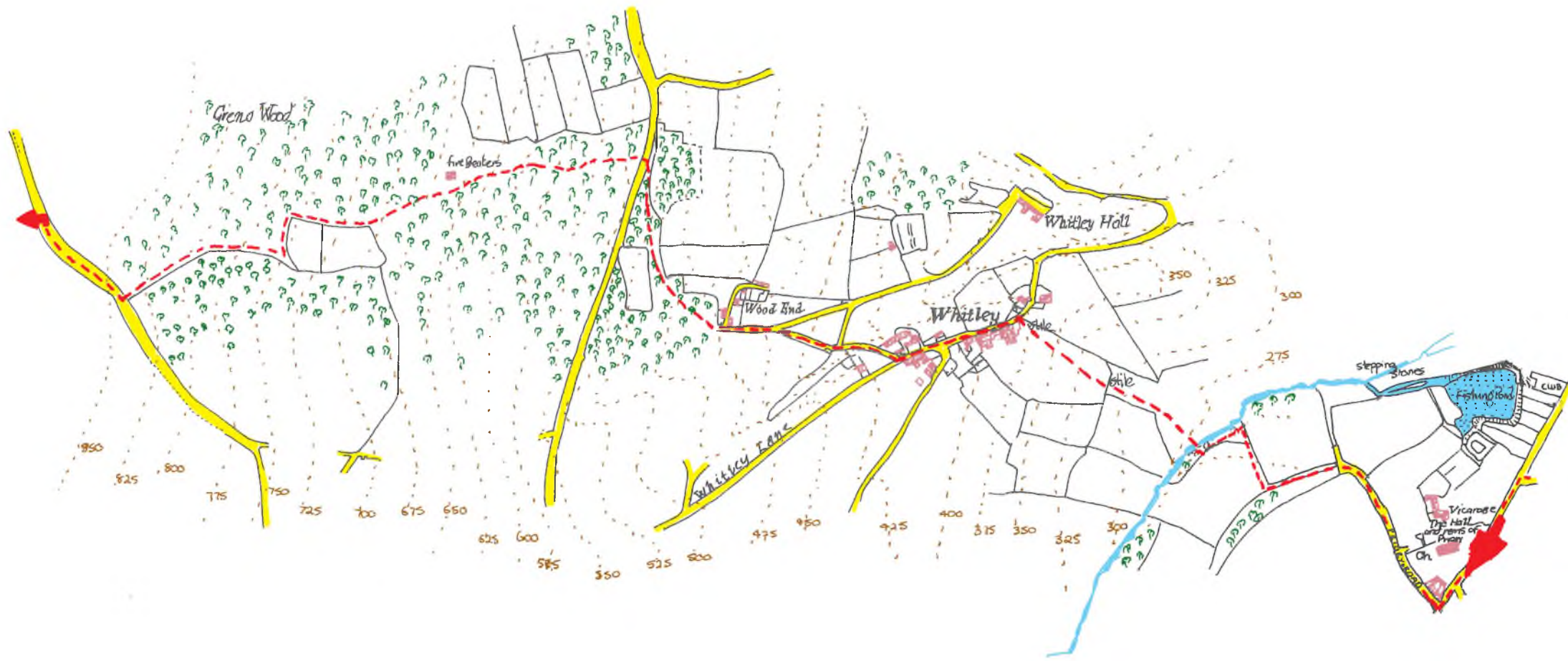
After crossing the bridge follow the path in a north westerly direction towards the stiles that lie ahead. On reaching the top field we see steps leading to the stone stile on to Whitley Lane. Turn and look back and just remind yourself that you are not looking at a rural scene but indeed towards the centre of a large industrial City of over half a million people. After climbing the stile turn left up Whitley Lane. After walking up Whitley Lane for about 200 yards take the right hand road which is marked public footpath. There is also a garden machinery centre arrow. The road descends through a wooded area and meets up with the path that leads up from the Whitley Hall, an old stately mansion now a restaurant. Continue up the track towards Wood End, a small hamlet and on towards Greno Woods.

Just past the telephone box at Wood End take a path on the right which enters the wood. Continue along the path between the wood and the field. Do not take the first major left turning up to the road but continue a little further along the path which will then wind its way up on to Penistone Road. Cross Penistone Road and just a little way to the right re-enter the woods along the main track. Continue following the main path which runs in a general easterly direction. Where it forks take the left fork and where it meets the bridle way, cross over and again follow the path

in a south westerly direction. Again cross the second bridle way and notice on your right fire beaters. Continue on the path straight forward which runs by the side of a wall which separates a field from the woods.

Whitley Hall, now a restaurant, was built in 1584 by William Parker. His doorway can still be seen, but the house was much altered by additions in 1683 and 1700 when the Shirecliffe family was in residence. Further changes were made in the 19th century, when the house was a boarding school for a time.

Greno Wood was part of the woodlands of the Manor of Sheffield. In 1441-2 it yielded the Earl of Shrewsbury 43 shillings rent for pasture and a coal mine. By the 17th century it was largely coppiced to supply wood for charcoal burning.



Continue on the path straight forward which runs by the side of a wall which separates a field from the woods. Continue on the path which climbs slowly up towards the road and after the wall follows a wire fence. Note the interesting fauna of heather, bilberry, different grasses, deciduous and coniferous trees, clearly a typical example of acidic soil. On reaching Woodhead Road, turn right and walk for 200 yards and reach the main entrance on the left just before the open field. Cross through this short area of woodland to reach the gate and stile. Climb the stile and cross the field keeping to the top towards the stone stile which lies ahead and into the woods. These are Wheata Woods. Note the magnificent views across the valley towards Stocksbridge.

On entering the wood take the path that goes immediately right and follows the wall near the edge of the fields. Note on the right the strange structure that is used for clay pigeon shooting. Continue to follow the path as it winds its way along the edge of the stone wall until it reaches a stile at the top corner of a field. Cross the stile and take the path around the top side of the field, i.e. follow the wall at the right hand side right round. On reaching the opposite corner of the field climb the stile and take the path that descends steeply. The path officially runs to the right hand side of the ruined building. Continue down the hill crossing the path that runs horizontally, and continue by the side of the hawthorn bushes down to the stream where there is a stile. After climbing the stile join the main path through Wharncliffe Wood, turn left when you reach it. Keep to the wide forestry track as it winds and descends down to the bottom. When it meets a cross track which is

made of white stone take the left hand turning and continue down. On reaching Wood End Cottage at the bottom turn left and follow the road until it meets Oughtibridge Lane, turn right and drop down into Oughtibridge. On reaching Oughtibridge cross the bridge over the River Don and continue up Bridge Hill opposite past the Cock Inn.

Wharncliffe gets its name from the querns (stones for grinding corn by hand) which have been quarried here since mesolithic times. It was in the Manor of Wortley, and the Wortley family maintained a deer park here in the middle ages. It is said that they depopulated the village of Stanfield to leave the way clear for the chase. By 1800 Wharncliffe was celebrated for its natural beauties (see Scott's "Ivanhoe") and its romantic associations with the "Dragon of Wortley" celebrated in a ballad collected by Bishop Percy. It seems likely, however, that the all-devouring dragon is to be identified with one of the Wortley family who was successfully resisted in some dispute over tithes or enclosing common land. The opening of the railway in 1845 brought many excursionists to Wharncliffe, but the woods suffered from fires in Victorian times. As Oughtibridge is approached, evidence of gannister working can be seen.



Continue up the hill to Church Street passing the Hare and Hounds on your right. After climbing several hundred yards take the narrow lane called Wheel Lane on the right hand side. This is unmarked but it is just across the road from Poplar Road. Care must be taken not to miss it. Drop down Wheel Lane and up the other side and just before the lane begins to turn sharp right there is a footpath marked Public Footpath to Worrall where there is a gate and three stone steps. Take these steps and follow the path up the grassy bank to the right hand side of the stone wall. Continue following the side of the wall until you reach a stile at the top corner. Cross the stile and continue up the following field towards a gap in the stone wall heading due south. On crossing through the gap into the next field wooden steps will be seen, going over the following wall in the left hand corner of the field. Cut across to the steps and climb into the next field. Continue to climb up the field by the right hand side of the hawthorn bushes until you reach a stone stile in the corner. Continue straight up the next field to the wooden stile and steps which lead on to the narrow road. Turn right for a few yards along the road and then immediate left up the stone cart track. Continue to follow the track as it climbs into the fields. Cross the old stone gateway and the rough track and through the stone stile into the next field keeping to the right side of the wall with the new school on the far left.

On reaching the old stone gates to the next field take the right hand side of the field and continue to climb with the wall on your right. Upon reaching the stile with the stone steps climb onto the road and turn right. Take the first left turning after about 100 yards along the road following a

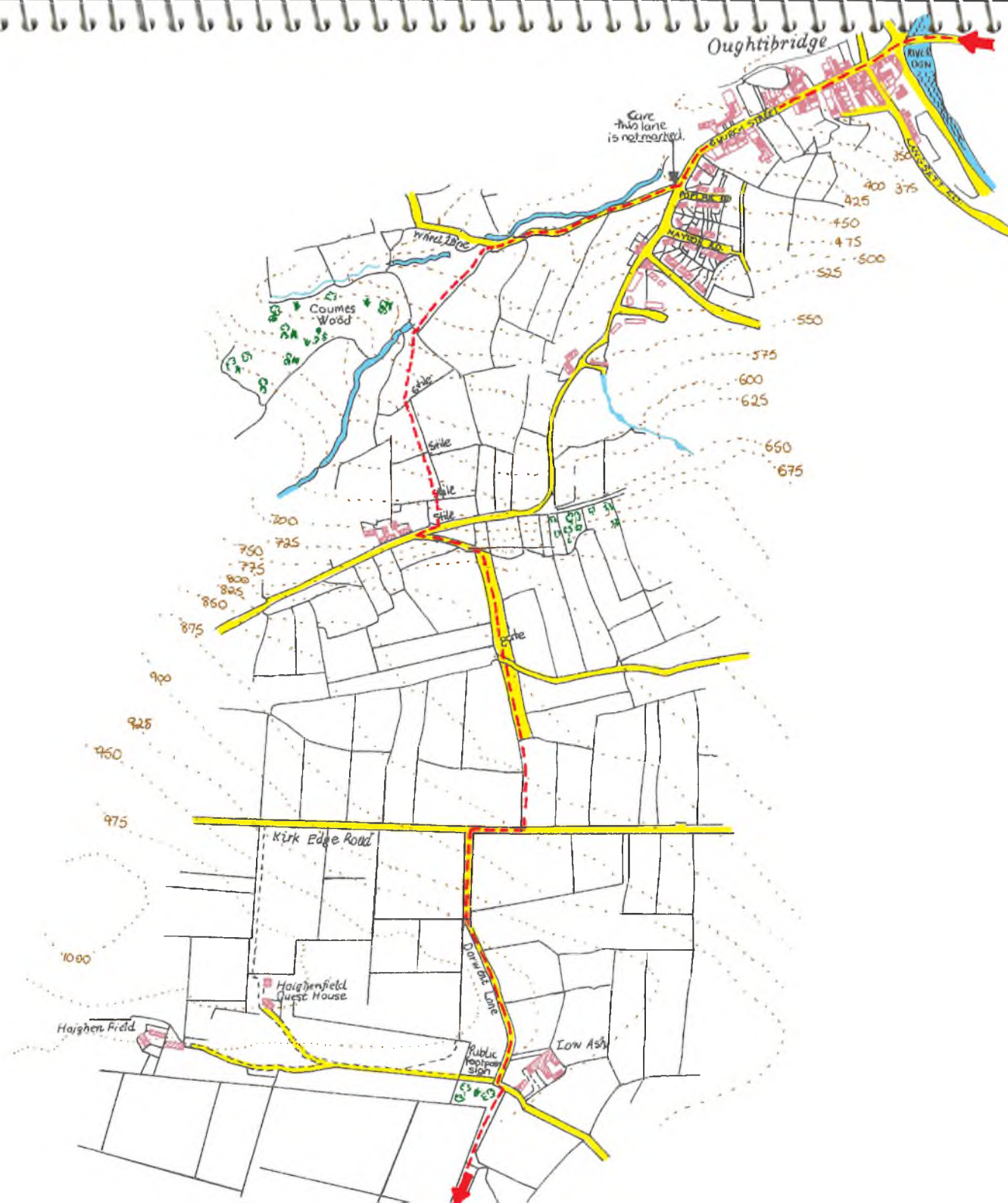
sign marked Low Ash Riding Centre. At the top of the hill at Low Ash Farm there is a magnificent panoramic view of almost three quarters of the City of Sheffield, going from Oughtibridge round Grenoside to the East End over towards the west. It is well worth staying a while with a pair of binoculars viewing the City. On reaching the T junction at Low Ash Farm follow straight across through the small wood and begin to drop down into Loxley Valley.

Oughtibridge. *There was a bridge here, presumably wooden, by 1161. There are several old buildings including Oughtibridge Hall Farm, part of which is half-timbered and dated to about 1530, though the timbers are now hidden by weatherboarding. Down in the village Forge Lane Cottage is dated 1684 and Burton Farm 1685. The church was not built until 1842.*

The railway station was closed to passengers in 1959 but the original small Tudor-style building remains. The Sheffield-Manchester line became Britain's first all-electric main line in 1954, but is now reduced to a siding serving B.S.C. at Stocksbridge.

Industry developed both on the Don and the tributary Coumes Valley. On the Don above the bridge were the Old Forge, dated 1792, and a tilt and a corn mill which shared the same goit. The latter two were replaced in 1905 by the Sheep Shear Co-operative, set up by a group of Sheffield workmen who had lost their jobs.

Wheel Lane is named from a grinding wheel on the Coumes Brook known as Wagtail.



As the path begins to descend there are again magnificent views of Loxley over towards Stanage and back towards the City.

Continue down the path between the fence and the wall crossing Myers Lane and again between the two walls down towards Loxley Road and Dam Flask. Take care to spot the stone steps over the wall rather than turning down to Loxley House Farm. As you approach Loxley Road you will be brought down to earth with a bang as industry reappears and rears its ugly head in the valley. On reaching Loxley Road turn right and walk on towards Dam Flask. Just before Dam Flask on the left is the Nag's Head and if our ridiculous licensing laws allow it you may be able to get well earned refreshment. Just past the Nag's Head take the narrow lane called Stacey Lane and drop down towards the river. Cross the stone bridge at the bottom and take the path that bears left around the concrete water tank. Go over the stone stile at the side of the gate and climb the grassy bank. Keep to the edge of the bank with the river in view and cross through the edge of a broken down wall. Continue to follow the valley as it begins to turn south west until you meet a stile with stone steps. Take the path into the woods.

Follow this path up through this pleasant wooded glade keeping the stream on the left until you meet the road to Dungworth. On reaching the road turn left and drop down the hill. Do not turn up the first Public Footpath sign in the little dip but continue up the hill until you reach the Public Footpath sign just before the road sign Storrs Carr. Turn right up the Public Footpath. Once again stop and admire the views and remember all this is still inside the Sheffield

City Boundary. Half way up the hill the path turns suddenly sharp right into a curiously named lane called Pudding Poke.

Damflask Reservoir was started by the Water Company in 1867. Construction ran into difficulties, and it had to be completed by Sheffield Corporation. The hamlet of Damflask was submerged in the process. The water is used to regulate the flow in the lower Loxley and not for domestic supply, and the reservoir is accessible for angling and sailing.

The Loxley Valley was devastated by the collapse of a dam higher up the valley at Dale Dyke on March 11th, 1864. This, one of the greatest Victorian disasters, which caused the deaths of some 250 people, was known as the Sheffield Flood. Scenes of devastation at Damflask and Loxley were recorded by contemporary cameras, and many of the local dead were buried in Wadsley Churchyard. Most of the watermills on the Loxley were rebuilt with compensation money from the Water Company, and such a good job was made of the rebuilding that some survived as among the last works to use waterwheels commercially.

Below **Stacey Bank** are the refractory works of Thomas Wragg and William Marshall. The Stannington pot clay began to be exploited by farmers in the area about the middle of the last century and several works in the area of Dungworth and Storrs made bricks or supplied powder clay to the Sheffield furnaces. Clay was mined in the area until a few years ago.

Pudding Poke takes its name from its shape as seen on a map, which resembles the poke (bag) in which a black pudding is made.

Loxley Chase was one of several extensive areas of common or waste land which were enclosed by Act of Parliament at the end of the 18th century. The rectangular walled fields and straight roads are a legacy of that time. A survey of 1637 located a place where there had stood the "cottage where Robin Hood was born". There is no supportive evidence, though "Loxley Town in Nottinghamshire", otherwise unidentified, figures in the Robin Hood Ballads.





On reaching the main road turn left and after about 50 yards there are steps leading to a stile on the right hand side. Take the stile and cross the field keeping to the right hand side of the stonebuilt wall. Cross the wooden stile at the top of the field and continue towards Hill Top Farm. Just before the small fence go through the wall and a small stone stile thus directing you to the left hand side of Hill Top Farm. Keep to the left of the outbuildings and a stile will be seen in the wall. On climbing the stile drop on to the road.

On reaching the road turn right for about 50 yards. By the side of the second building on the left take the footpath marked Public Footpath. As the path bears right round the bottom of the private garden cross the small stone stile and within a few yards climb the wooden stile. After this turn sharp left round the edge of the field. At the bottom of the field climb a small stone stile again and turn right up by the left hand side of the wall. Climb the stone stile at the top of the field and bear left through the farm yard on to the lane. Turn left down the lane past the farm buildings. The lane quickly turns into a rough track and at the point where there are three gates take the stile by the side of the gate on the immediate right and follow the track which goes between the two walls. At the end of the track take the stile at the left of the gate and continue along the path as it begins to descend towards the stream. After passing through a small area of gorse bush a wooden stile will be seen that leads into the next field. Climb the stile but take care on descending as there are difficult stepping stones at the bottom. Descend the grassy bank diagonally to the stream and there is a stone bridge in the corner. This is

difficult to see until you get there.

Cross the stone bridge and then turn immediate right where there is a small stile through the fence. Take care because this is often allowed to be overgrown and is difficult to find. However, go through this stile and continue up the hill at the left hand side of the wall. At the top of the field climb the stile and continue round to the left of the farm building. Turn right round the buildings on to the track and on to the farm road. Follow the road round the farm buildings and on approaching the gate turn sharp left by the side of the wall keeping the wall on your left. This is a poorly maintained path and is ill-defined. However, keep to the wall and eventually at the top the Public Footpath sign will be seen. On reaching the road turn left then turn along the road that is marked Hollow Meadows and Glossop.

Continue up the road past the farm buildings, and just past the electricity pylons turn left through an open gate by the side of a wall marked Public Footpath. On reaching the gate climb the stone stile on the right hand side, follow the path that bears right down the bank. Stop and admire the scenery once more with extensive views of the beautiful Rivelin Valley and over the top to Lodge Moor and on to Fox House. As you drop down the bank head for the gate in the far corner of the field. Here you will find stone stepping stones leading over the wall. Climb these and head down the field towards the wall below. Go through the open gate in the wall and head to the far left hand corner of the field where there is another stone stile. Drop down to the path in the bottom right hand corner, which leads into the road which drops down to Manchester Road.



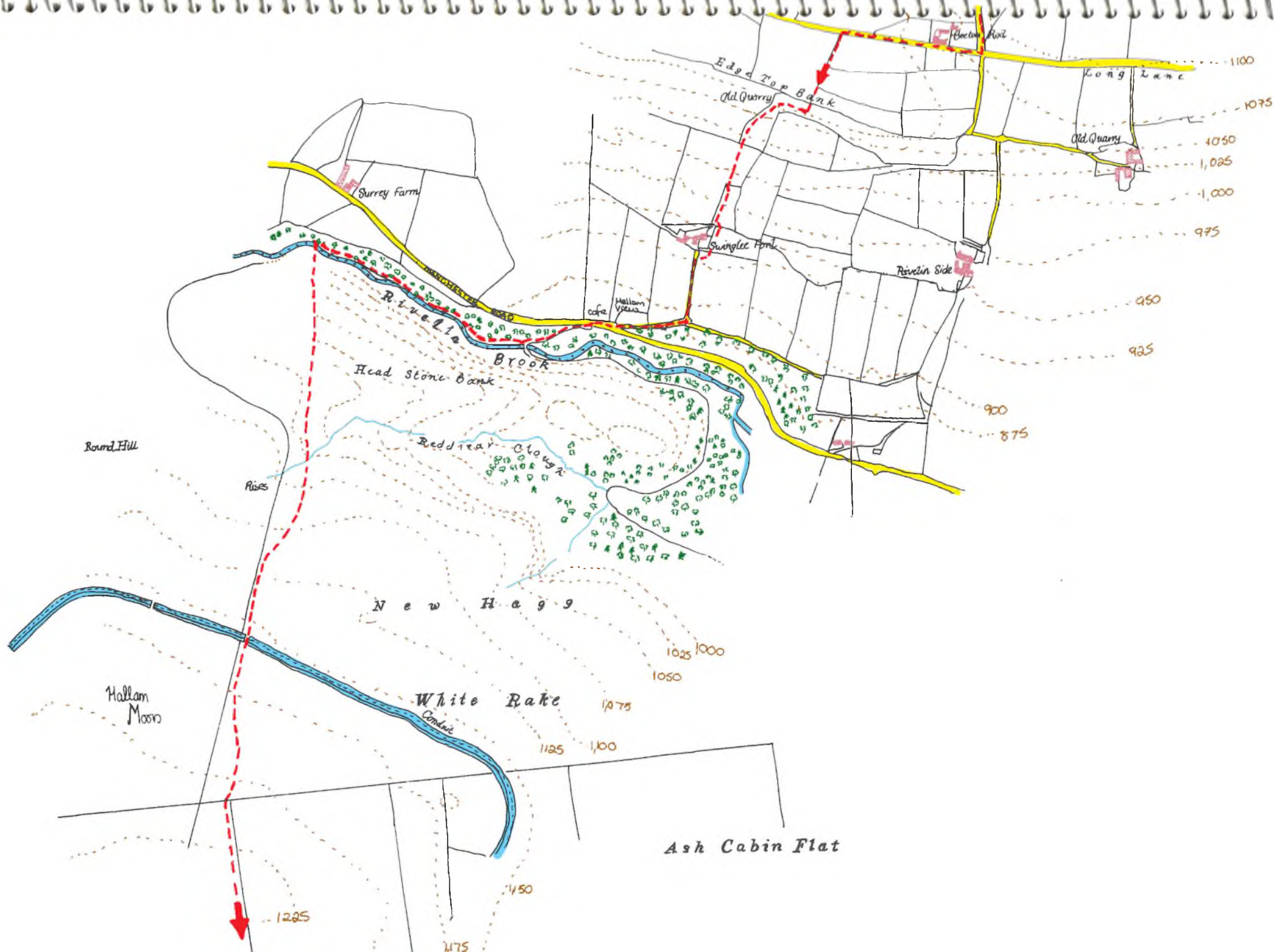
On descending on to Manchester Road there is a small cafe on the right hand side where a very welcome cup of tea and light refreshments can be gained. Cross Manchester Road and descend down through the woods on the wide track called Wyming Brook Drive towards the stream. Just before the stone bridge take the narrow footpath on the right that follows the stream. This is a very pleasant walk through a gladed wood with a babbling stream on the left. Continue along the footpath until the old wooden bridge is reached. Cross the bridge and climb up Headstone Bank on to the open moorland.

It is here we find our first complete change of scenery. In contrast to the mileage so far covered which has been mainly through very cultivated countryside and mainly dairy country we now enter the gritstone area and the acid soil-loving vegetation that grows there. This is mainly heather, cranberry, bilberry and bracken. This area can be very bleak and is mainly used as the water catchment area that supplies the large reservoirs surrounding Sheffield.

Continue along the well-defined footpath that climbs up on to Hallam Moors following the dry stonebrick wall on the right. At the top of the hill climb the small stile that has been placed in the gap in the wall ahead and cross the stone bridge which crosses the water conduit that gathers the water and takes it down to the reservoir. Continue to follow the path of the wall on the right. Take care to follow the path as it veers away from the wall and heads for another wall on the left hand side. Cross the remains of the wall and continue to climb up over the hill with the stone brick wall on your left.

The Rivelin Valley was a deer chase in the late middle ages. Lodge Moor takes its name from the Tudor hunting lodge. The Chase was also valuable for supplies of timber, including massive oak trees in the lower valley, while quarries yielded the well-known Rivelin gritstone for millstone and sandstone for slating. Like the other streams of Sheffield, the Rivelin was intensively used to power water-wheels, and products as diverse as paper and anvils once came from its mills. The dams in most cases are all that survives, and some of these are silted up.

Hollow Meadows were turned over from Moorland to cultivation by the efforts of the unemployed from Sheffield Workhouse during the "hungry forties" of the last century. The scheme owed something to the example of chartist land schemes. The Institution on Manchester Road which housed the workers was opened in 1848. Later it became a Truant School, and a home for the mentally handicapped.

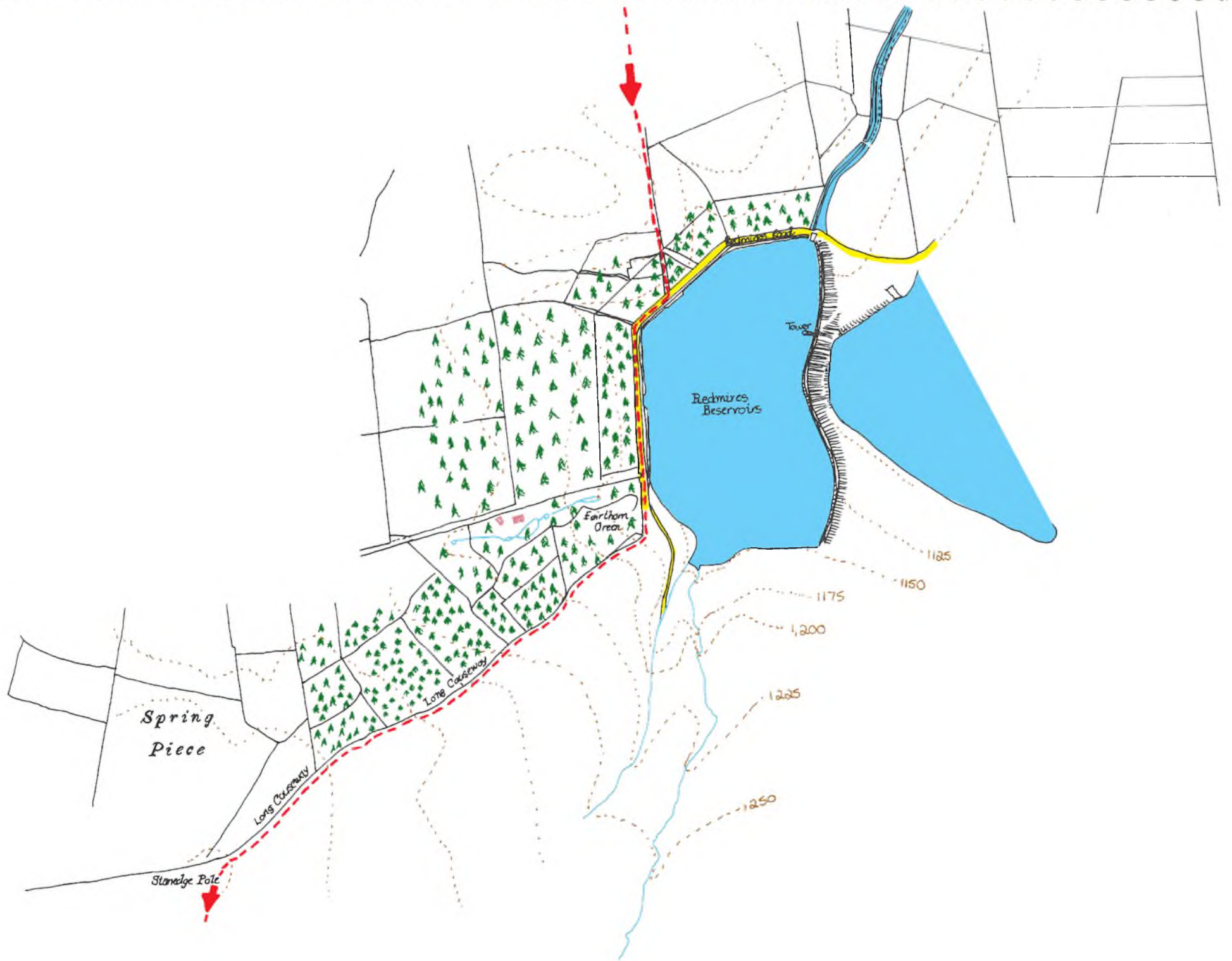


Climb the small wooden stile in the next dip and then follow the path over the next brow and down through the coniferous woods towards Redmires Reservoir.

On reaching the road that goes round the reservoir turn right and follow it to its very end. On reaching the end of the road turn right again up to the long causeway towards Stanage Pole. This path is reputed to be the course of an Original Roman road.

Redmires Reservoirs were built by the Sheffield Water Company in 1833-53 and were connected to the earlier Crookesmoor reservoirs by a conduit. They cover the line of part of the Roman road from Templeborough to Brough and its more modern equivalent, which the walk follows from the end of the reservoir to Stanage Pole. In a drive against pollution in the 1930s the Sheffield Water Department demolished several surrounding dwellings including Ocean View Farm, the Grouse and Trout Inn and Fairthorne, a children's home which was removed to Dore.

The view looking east over Sheffield includes the tower and chimney of **Lodge Moor Hospital**, originally opened in 1888 as a smallpox isolation hospital but since steadily encroached by suburbs. It is famous for its treatment of spinal complaints. There is a helicopter landing pad for special cases. About half a mile nearer is the Redmires Gipsy Caravan Site, which has been used for a camp for German P.O.W.s in the 1939-45 War and as an Army training camp in 1914-18. Horse races were held at Redmires in the last century.



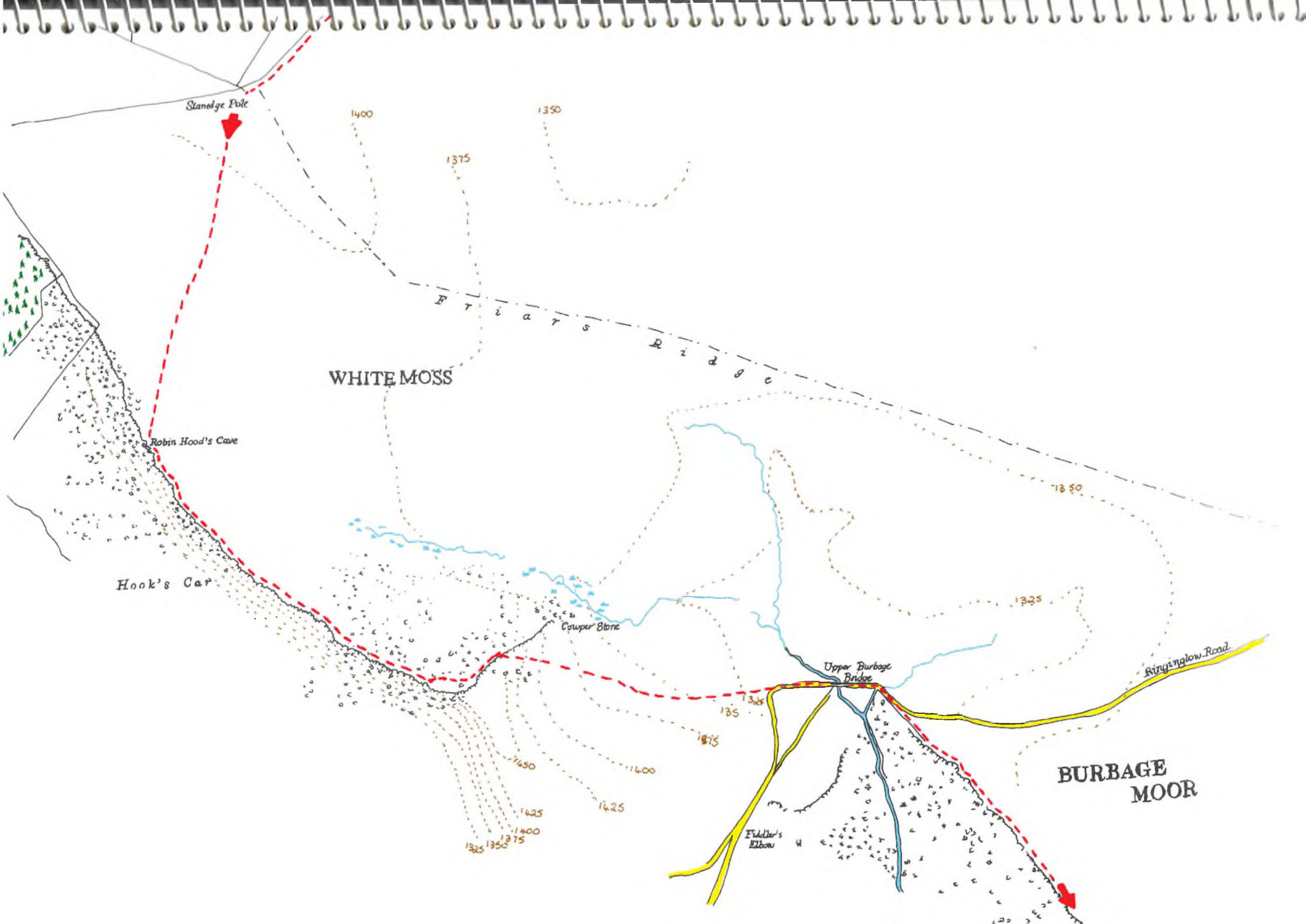
On reaching the pole take the path that veers left in a south south westerly direction across White Moss towards Robin Hood's cave and Stanage Edge. On reaching Stanage Edge turn left and walk along the cliff top remembering that we are still inside the Sheffield City boundary. Admire the magnificent views across the Derbyshire Peak District as you walk along this path heading towards the trig point at 1,500 feet.

Keep to the path that skirts round the left hand side of the trig point and follow the path as it descends down towards the road at the hairpin bend at Upper Burbage Bridge.

Stanage Pole is an ancient boundary marker placed where the line of the Roman road crossed from Yorkshire into Derbyshire, from the Parish and Manor of Sheffield to those of Hathersage, and from the grazing rights of Welbeck Abbey to those of Beauchief. The pole itself is not ancient, as it has attracted the attention of generations of vandals.

Stanage Edge overlooks Hathersage. Now famous for rock-climbing, it was once extensively quarried for millstones. Some incomplete examples can be seen abandoned on the slopes below, here and in the Burbage valley. Imported French stones seem to have killed the trade off quite suddenly. Robin Hood's Cave is one of many throughout the region, but is a reminder of the more substantial associations of Hathersage with Little John, whose grave can be seen by the church door.

In the wood below is North Lees, a fine late Elizabethan house, now owned by the National Trust. Its associations with the once powerful Eyre family owe more to romance than history, but sufficiently impressed Charlotte Bronte when staying in Hathersage to incorporate it (as Marsh End or Moor House) in 'Jane Eyre'.



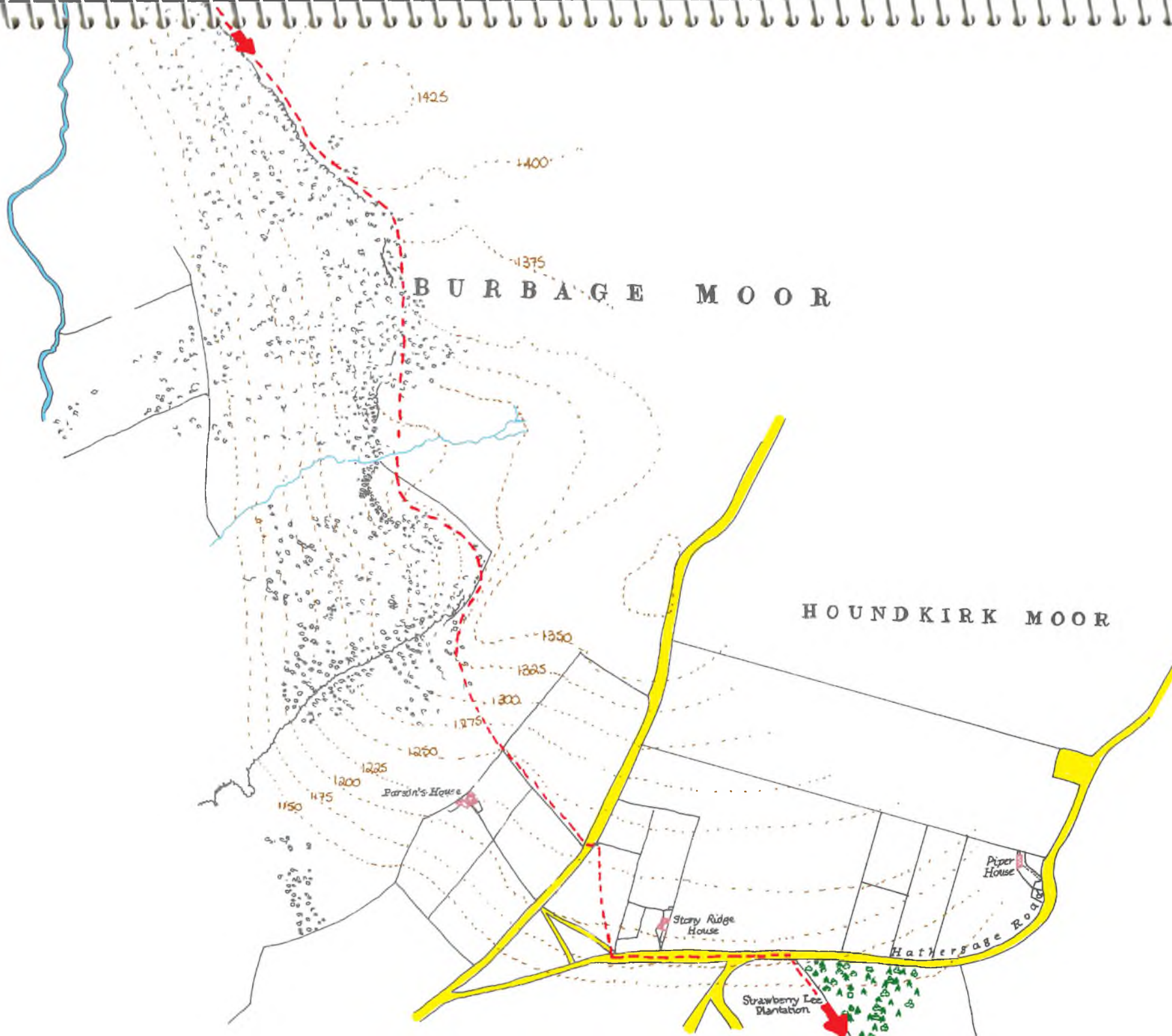
On reaching the road continue along it over the two stone bridges past the small gate until you reach a stile. Climb the stile and follow the path as it continues along the Burbage Edge. Once again admire the magnificent views across the valley. As the path descends cross the two small streams that head for the high ridge once again. Ignore the footpath that joins from the left near a large cairn. Continue to climb along the Burbage Edge until the high point is reached. Then head across the moor in a south south easterly direction towards Parson House Farm which is an outdoor pursuit centre. This is an undefined path, therefore care should be taken to aim for the corner of the walled field above Parson House Farm. Follow the path that runs down by the wall, cross the lane at the bottom and head down the path towards the tree and wooden stile on the Hathersage Road.

On reaching Hathersage Road turn left and walk for several hundreds of yards up the road until it reaches the Strawberry Lea Plantation on the right hand side.

*The lower of the two tors seen across the **Burbage Valley** is crowned by Carl's Wark, a Brigantean hill fort. We have already crossed this ancient frontier line at Hill Top near the start of the walk. The northern side of Carl's Wark, where artificial defences were necessary, consists of a wall of enormous stones set in turf, claimed to be the ancestor of the local dry-stone walls.*

Houndkirk Moors were bought in 1927 by Sheffield Corporation for use by the Water Department, but no reservoir was built. The keepers' lodges on what had been the Duke of Rutland's jealously preserved grouse moor, were one by one demolished. Parson's House is the sole survivor, and is now an outdoor pursuits centre run by Knowsley District Council on Merseyside. During the 1939-45 war Houndkirk Moor was the site for decoy lights to attract German bombs away from Sheffield.

Blackamoor was presented to Sheffield by Alderman J. G. Graves in 1933, with instructions for it to be preserved 'in its natural state'. This proviso has led to controversies over horse riding and sheep grazing. The sheep are now restricted to an area around Strawberry Lea, as part of a management scheme to maintain the moor in its natural state, encourage native species of trees and protect endangered species, including bog asphodel, crowberry and the bilberry bumble bee.



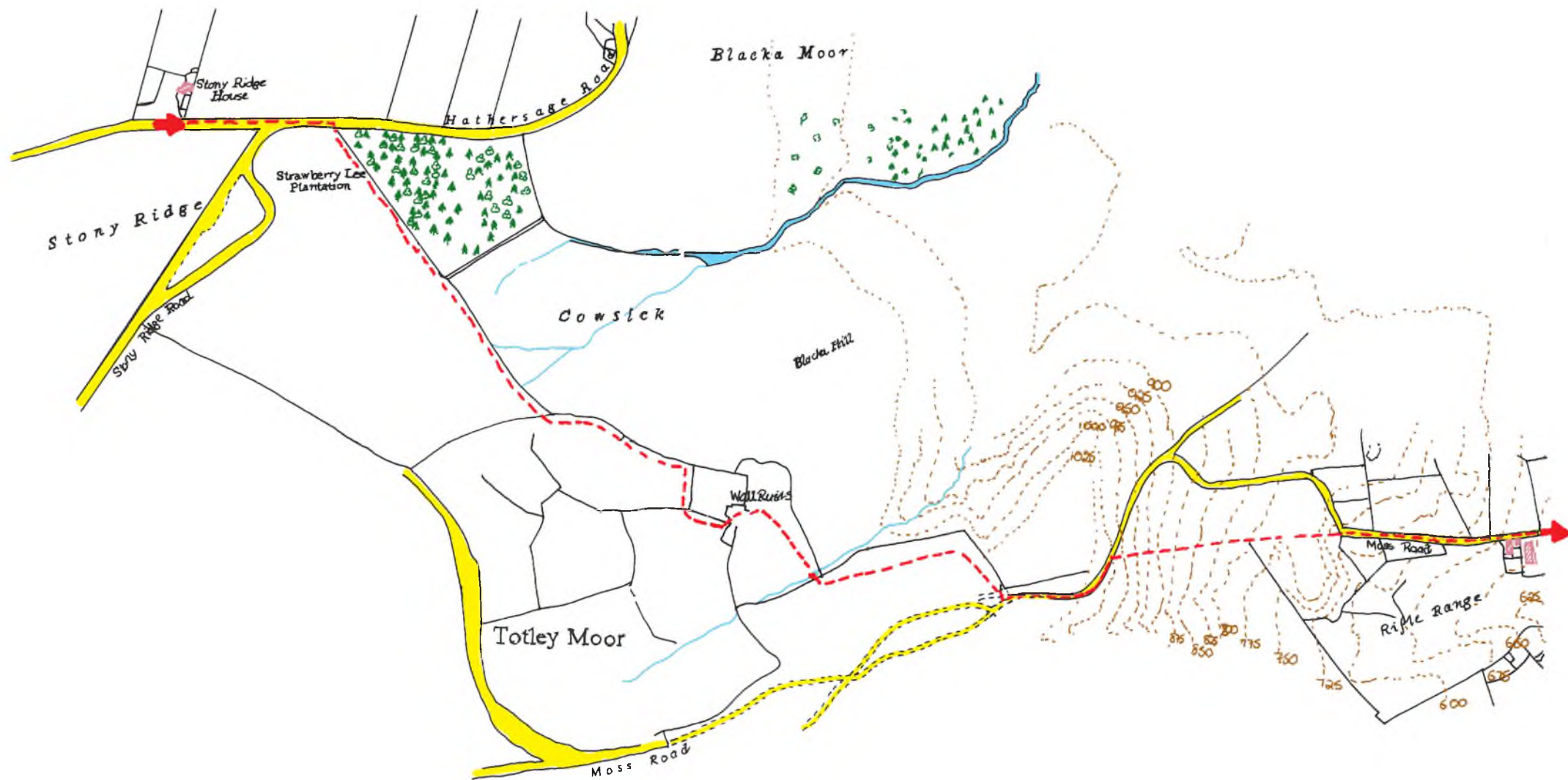
Ignore the road that comes in from the right but note the stone plaque just past the road on the left which commemorates the site of the Stony Ridge Toll Bar which was closed in 1884. On reaching the wood turn right along the cart track which takes the path onto Blackamoor and Blackahill.

Continue to follow the wide track through the gate as it turns west towards the rifle range above Totley. Once again note the extensive views of the City of Sheffield. As the path begins to descend down to the valley go through the ruined building which is now just piles of stones and once through this rubble turn right down towards the gate at the bottom left hand corner of the field. Do not continue on the main track towards the trees. On reaching the gate go through and follow the path to the left that keeps on the low side of the hill. As the path follows round and skirts the hill it will eventually join the main track running down towards Totley.

Once again more magnificent views come into view. Take the track, turn left and drop down. After passing through a gate along this track about 30 yards just round the bend there is a wooden stile on the right hand side. Climb this stile and then descend down the steep bank into the valley towards a large ventilation shaft which comes from the Totley tunnel which is beneath this land. After passing the shaft drop down the bank towards a small stile which leads into Moss Road. Continue down the road to the bottom of the hill.

Near the ruins of **Strawberry Lee Farm** (demolished in 1938) was a grange belonging to Beauchief Abbey, whose sheep extensively grazed the moors in the Middle Ages.

The Sheaf Valley was a very ancient boundary which divided the Counties of Yorkshire and Derbyshire and the ecclesiastical provinces of York and Canterbury until Sheffield expanded south and west in the 1930s. Being on the boundary between the Kingdoms of Northumbria and Mercia, Dore was the place chosen in 829 for the submission of Northumbria to King Ecgbert of Mercia, who became the acknowledged overlord of England.



At the bottom turn right along Lane Head Road for a few yards into the valley bottom. Turn right again up the small track just before the bridge. Just after a ford there is a stile through the wall on the left hand side near a hawthorn bush. This is difficult to find so look carefully.

Follow the path up the steep bank in a southerly direction and after about 100 yards you come across a gate in a wall that crosses the field. Go through the gate and follow the path up to the main road which is Baslow Road. The path meets Baslow Road at the far top left hand corner of the field where there are steps built in the wall rising up to road level. Turn right along Baslow Road and after 50 yards there is a public footpath sign on the left hand side and again stone steps built into the wall will take you over the wall and into the field. Continue across the corner of this field and more stone steps will be found leading over the next wall.

Keep to the bottom side of the coniferous wood that appears before you with the fence on the left hand side. After 200 yards enter Gilfield Wood via a wooden stile. Continue along this very pleasant footpath through an extremely attractive peaceful wood for about half a mile until the path turns sharp left and turns into a track with a smaller track going down to the right. Take this right hand track and then after about 20 yards turn sharp right towards the white bridge which crosses the stream. Cross this bridge and follow the footpath as it climbs steeply up the bank through the remaining part of the wood.

Leave the wood and follow the path as it climbs up the grassy field towards another small mixed deciduous and

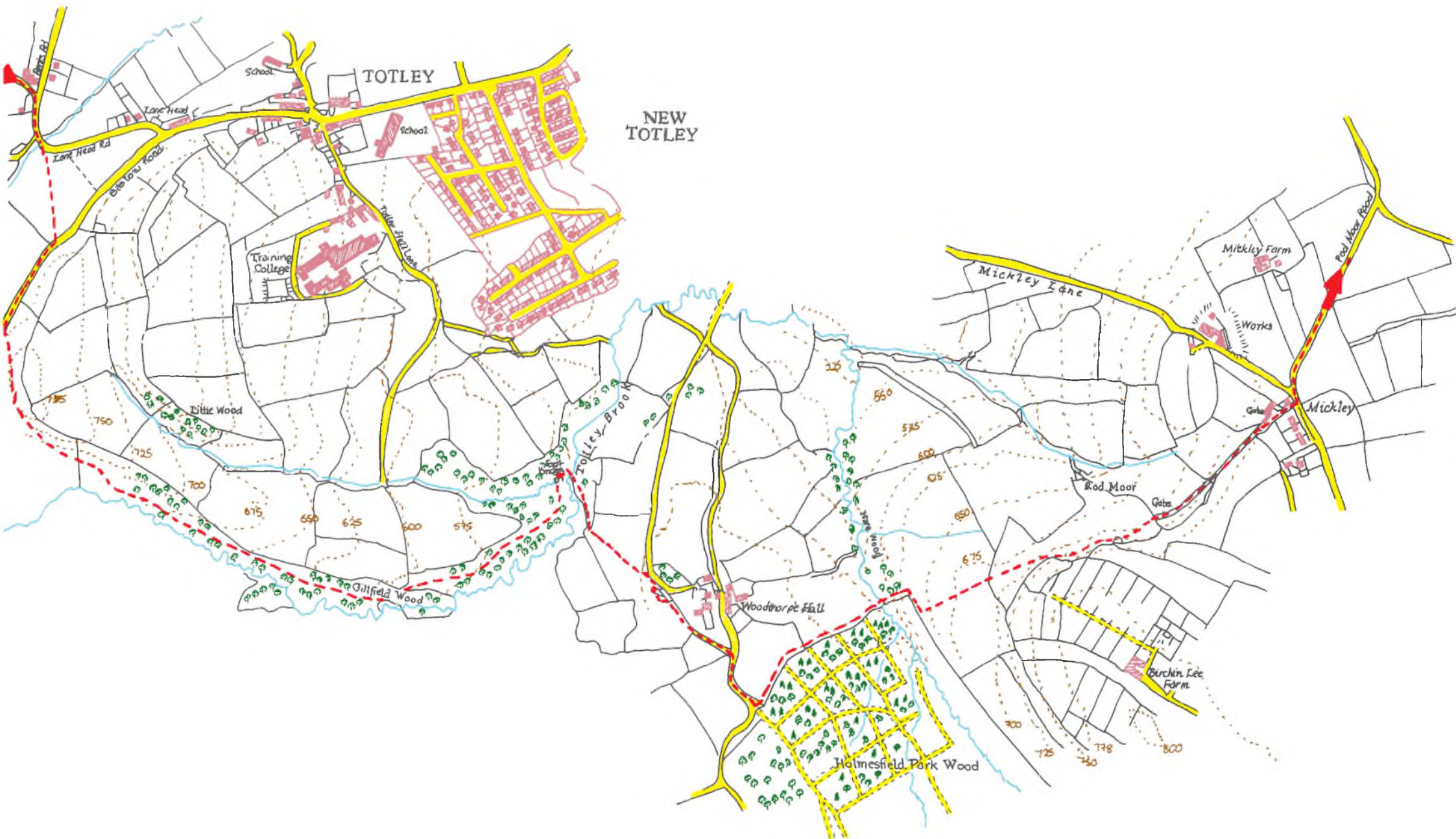
coniferous woodland. Just before entering the wood pause a while, look back and once again take in the magnificent and extensive views across the valley towards Totley. As you enter the wood via the wooden stile take the footpath that bears right of the brick wall, continue to climb the next wooden stile and follow the path through another stile further along the field. Continue up the path past Woodthorpe Hall via a kissing gate on to the narrow road. Turn right up the road for about 100 yards until you come across another wood. Enter this wood just before the gate and take the path that runs down the edge of the wood with the wall on the left hand side. Continue on this path as it drops down into the valley.

Just before the bottom where it goes very steep turn left and into the field and then continue down towards the footbridge. Cross the footbridge and climb steeply up through the wooded bank and onto the footpath which skirts the edge of the field. Follow this round keeping the wire fence on your right. At the top corner of the field go over the wooden stile and then follow the path at the right keeping just below the hill.

Totley Hall, a building of 1623, is incorporated in the modern buildings which make up the Totley site of Sheffield Polytechnic. Accommodation is available here in summer on a self-catering basis.

Holmesfield, with its Norman castle mound and 19th century church on a medieval site, is surrounded by halls of the 17th century.

Woodthorpe Hall is said to be built partly out of materials from Fanshawgate Hall nearby, the main building of which was pulled down in 1636. One of the porches comes from the demolished Owlerton Hall in Sheffield.



Once more admire the panoramic views to your left. Go through the gate at the top of the field and follow the track up into Mickley. At the top of the track go through the double gate then over the cattle grid, past the farmhouse on to the main road which is Northern Common. Turn left down Northern Common on to Pod Moor Road.

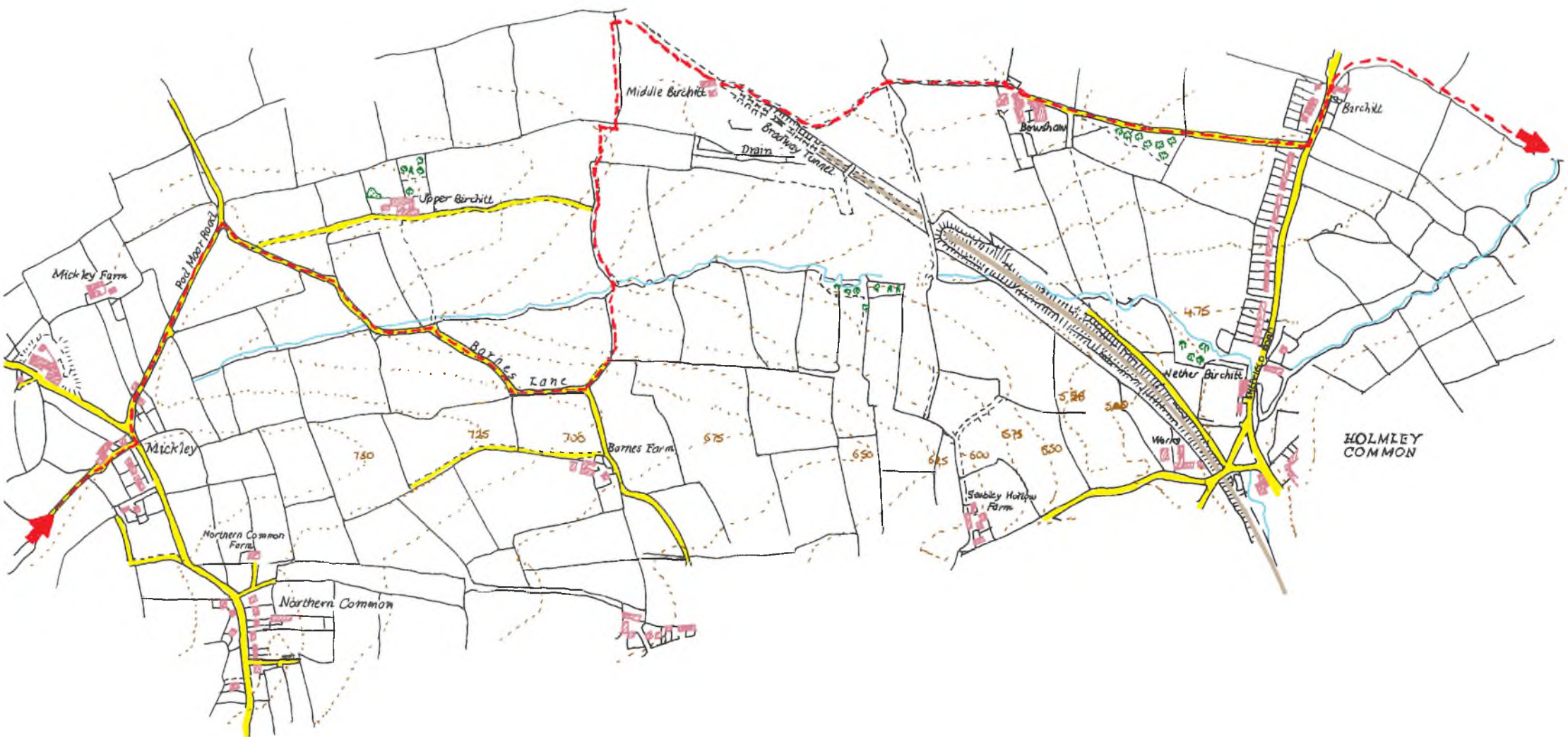
Continue down the road for about a quarter of a mile. Just before Barnes Lane there is an interesting old mile post which says one side Gleadless 3 mile, Carver 9 mile. Unfortunately Barnes Lane is not marked on the road; however, turn up this lane and follow the well used track to the right as it narrows between high hedges. Constant use as a bridleway has made this pleasant stretch of path extremely difficult in wet weather. Follow the path until it bears sharply away to the right towards Barnes Farm, turn left through the gateway and follow the path across the stile down to the stream. Cross the stream and continue to follow the path up the bank with the hawthorn hedge on the left. On reaching the top climb the stile at the side of the gate and skirt the next field round the edge keeping the fence on your left. Follow the edge of the field until the taller trees are reached and a stile will be seen. Climb the stile and continue down the right hand side of the field with the wood on your right. After about 150 yards the right of way turns on to the golf course near the golf tee. There once was a stile here but that has been demolished. However, the way goes by the side of an old stone gatepost. Follow the track towards the ventilation shaft which comes up from the Bradway tunnel and head round the left hand side of the shelter, which is on the map as Middle Birchitt, where you will find toilets.

Continue on the main path through the golf course keeping your eyes open for flying golf balls. The path soon turns into a lane which leads along to Bowshaw House. After passing the farm building and the house the lane continues to drop and goes under the new dual carriageway.

Continue along the lane until it meets up with Sheffield Road. Turn left up Sheffield Road towards Birchitt and the Nags Head on the left.

*At the bottom of Mickley Lane is **St. George's Farm**, which John Ruskin bought in 1876 as a collective farm for a group of Sheffield shoemakers. The collective was not a success, and the property became a fruit farm until Ruskin leased it in 1884.*

***The Birchitts and Coal Aston** were all part of the endowment of Beauchief Abbey. Aston (the "East Town" of Dronfield Parish) was recorded in Domesday Book. The description 'cold' was not recorded for another 400 years, and may refer to its elevated position; there was a windmill here at the time of Edward I which annoyed the Prior of Beauchief. Coal was also mined there in the middle ages, but the name 'Coal' Aston is a comparatively recent one.*



Just across the road from the Nags Head there is a stile over the wooden fence which takes the path down the left hand side of the trees through the field. After about 50 yards the path turns into the next field via the stile and continues down the right hand side of the hedge. Continue through the stile in the bottom corner of the field and keep going down the next field with the hedge on your left. Just before the bottom of the field the path again switches into the next field via a stile. Climb the stile and continue to drop with the hedge now on your right. After a few yards another wooden stile is reached and the path enters an overgrown woodland area. Continue along the path and up over a stone bridge which spans a stream.

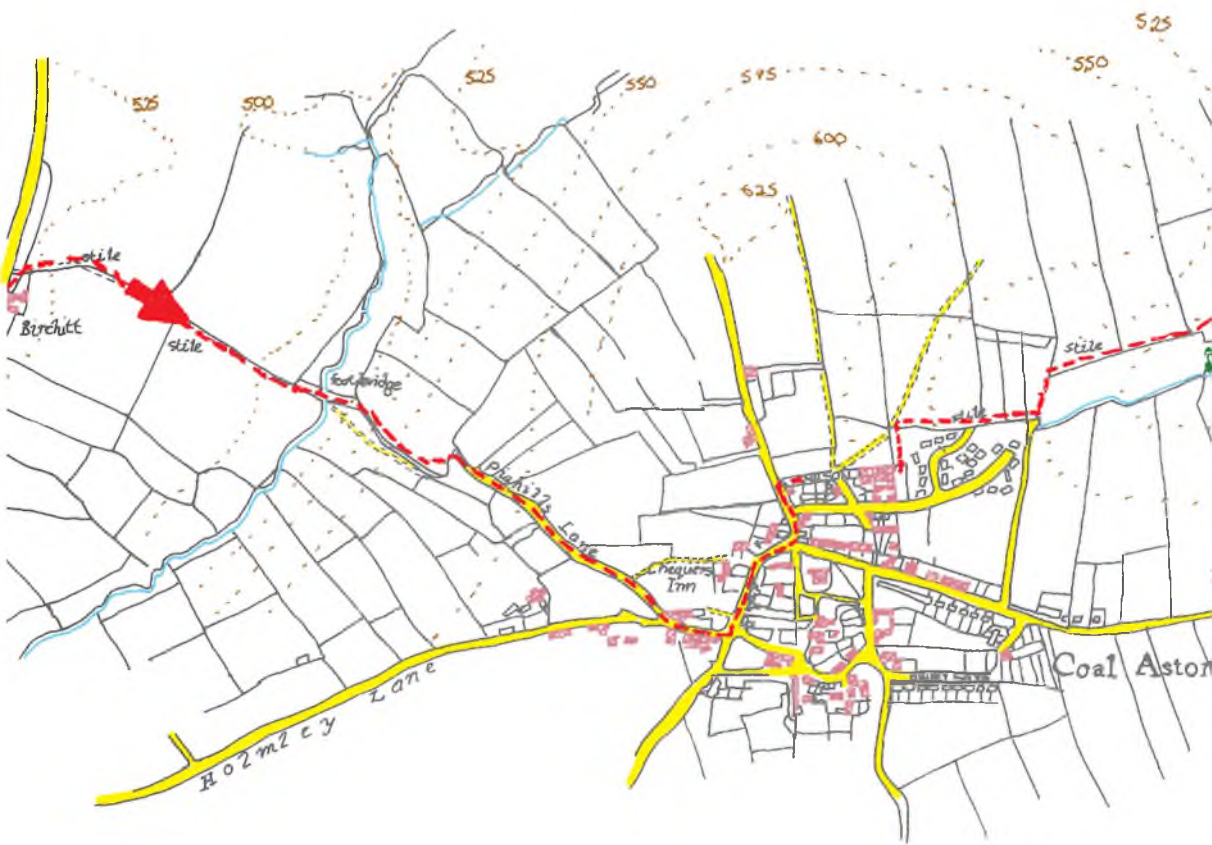
Keep to the path as it climbs up through an overgrown area with a fence immediately on your right. Eventually the footpath joins up with the lane. Keep following the lane as it rises up towards Coal Aston. This lane has the peculiar name of Aighills Lane. On reaching Holmley Lane, the main road through Coal Aston, turn left and follow the road round turning left down the lane into Dyches Lane, following the bend round past the Cat Cavalier Restaurant and then left down Dyches Lane past the Coal Aston Post Office on the right. Just across the road from the large garage turn down Wilson Road. Just past house No. 19 on the left hand side a public footpath is seen between the houses. Follow this down and into the wooded area. Where the path reaches the bottom of the gardens at the back of the houses take the fork that branches right and runs parallel behind the gardens. Climb the stile that leads into the fields and follow the path that runs at the right

hand side of the field with the hedge and houses on your immediate right.

Continue along this path as it goes through the allotments on the left. At the bottom the path meets up with a wide lane. Go straight across and climb the small stile at the side of the large gate and then follow the wide track which leads round the edge of the field with the hedge on your left. Continue to follow this track as it passes through several stile gate combinations until finally it narrows into a single path heading towards the woods. Keep to the path and make for the small wooden stile that uses a dead tree trunk as one of its supports, which gets you through a sparse hawthorn hedge. Follow the path straight across the next field which crosses a ditch via a stone bridge. Once you have crossed this, turn right and after a few yards enter the woods. Continue to follow the clearly defined footpath as it wanders through the edge of the wood and then drops down towards the meandering stream, where it meets a wooden bridge with a one-sided support.

Cross this bridge and follow the footpath, which forks to the right and climbs up the steep bank. On reaching the first brow of the hill continue up the more gentle slope towards the large wooden stump, left by the farmer to indicate the course of the footpath. Follow the footpath to the top of the field and turn left alongside the hedge.







After a short distance the path turns into a track; continue up this track and cross Owler Car Lane, which is now just an overgrown track, up towards Sicklebrook Farm. Climb the stile by the side of the farm and enter Sicklebrook Lane. Follow the lane to the left passing the farm houses and up the hill for about 75 yards, where a wooden stile through the hawthorn hedge on the left will be reached. Climb the stile and descend the steep grassy bank towards Mires Spring Woods. Enter the woods by the gate and follow the path as it climbs steadily through towards a wide gate with a stile at the side. Climb the stile and follow the path as it crosses a field towards Trowayhall Farm. Note the magnificent views across the Moss Valley, with the high rise flats of Norton on the skyline. Leave the field by the stile and continue for a short distance on the path until it meets an old stone stile and the road with the Gate Inn across. Follow the road past some fine houses on the left and after about 125 yards at the sign for Doe Lea Farm turn left down the public bridleway called Doe Lane. Continue down the lane to the valley bottom. The official footpath actually runs parallel to the bridleway through the fields; however the lane has recently been cleared and resurfaced and makes for easier walking. At the bottom of the hill cross the river via the stone bridge and enter the wood. After about 30 yards take the right hand path to the stream and cross using the stepping stones. Follow the path up the hill to Geer Lane Farm.

Continue down Geer Lane, past the Mill Pond on the right, past Birley Hay and on into the Ford village itself.

The Moss Beck runs through Eckington Parish and was used in the middle ages to drive cornmills. From the sixteenth century coal and iron were mined and iron was smelted, while water wheels were put to industrial use, in particular the grinding of scythes and sickles. The Beck was noted for industrial pollution as early as 1697.

Birley Hay Forge Dam was probably made about 1599. It was formerly used to produce sickles and cutlery, and last worked in 1938. The farm buildings include a cruck barn.

Ford Wheel was long connected with the Commonside Works at Ridgeway nearby. Afterwards, from 1858 to 1935 it was used for grinding by the Fox family of Troway. Traces of coal mining survive near the path to the east of Mosborough village.

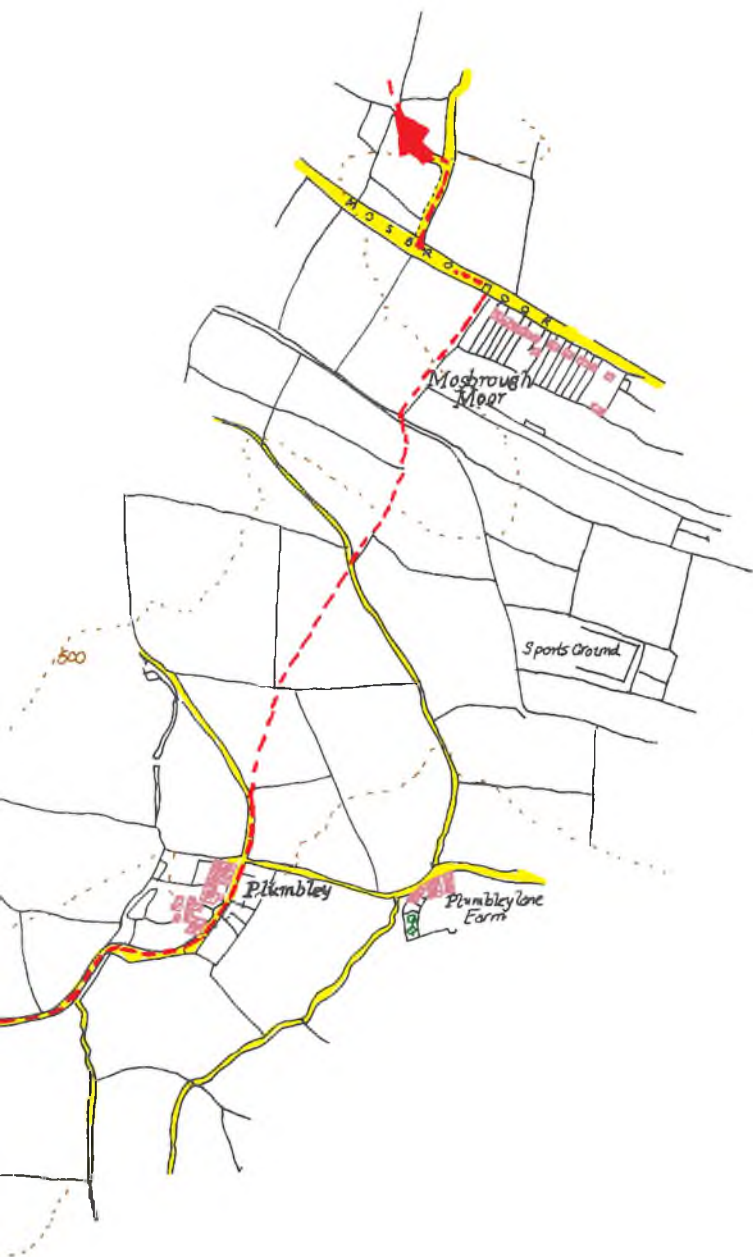


On reaching the Bridge Inn turn right into what is marked “Car Park”. Follow the path around the side of the mill pond and continue to follow the path along the valley by the side of the stream. When the path enters a small wooded area cross the short stone bridge over the stream and take the path up to the left which climbs up the bank. Head straight across the field towards the right hand edge of the wood ahead.

On reaching the edge turn into the lane, follow this up to Plumbley. Continue past the buildings at Plumbley, past the T junction in the road. Just shortly after this there is a stone stile on the right hand side of the lane at the side of the gate. Climb this stile and continue across the field towards another stile and gateway. Cross this and continue across the next field towards a small wooded area. Cut through the woods after first crossing the small stone bridge over the stream and climb up the bank. Follow the path up and over the hill until it meets a narrow track. Turn left a few yards along the track and then right at the T junction. Drop down this track which quickly turns into a small path and runs down between the new housing of Mosborough.

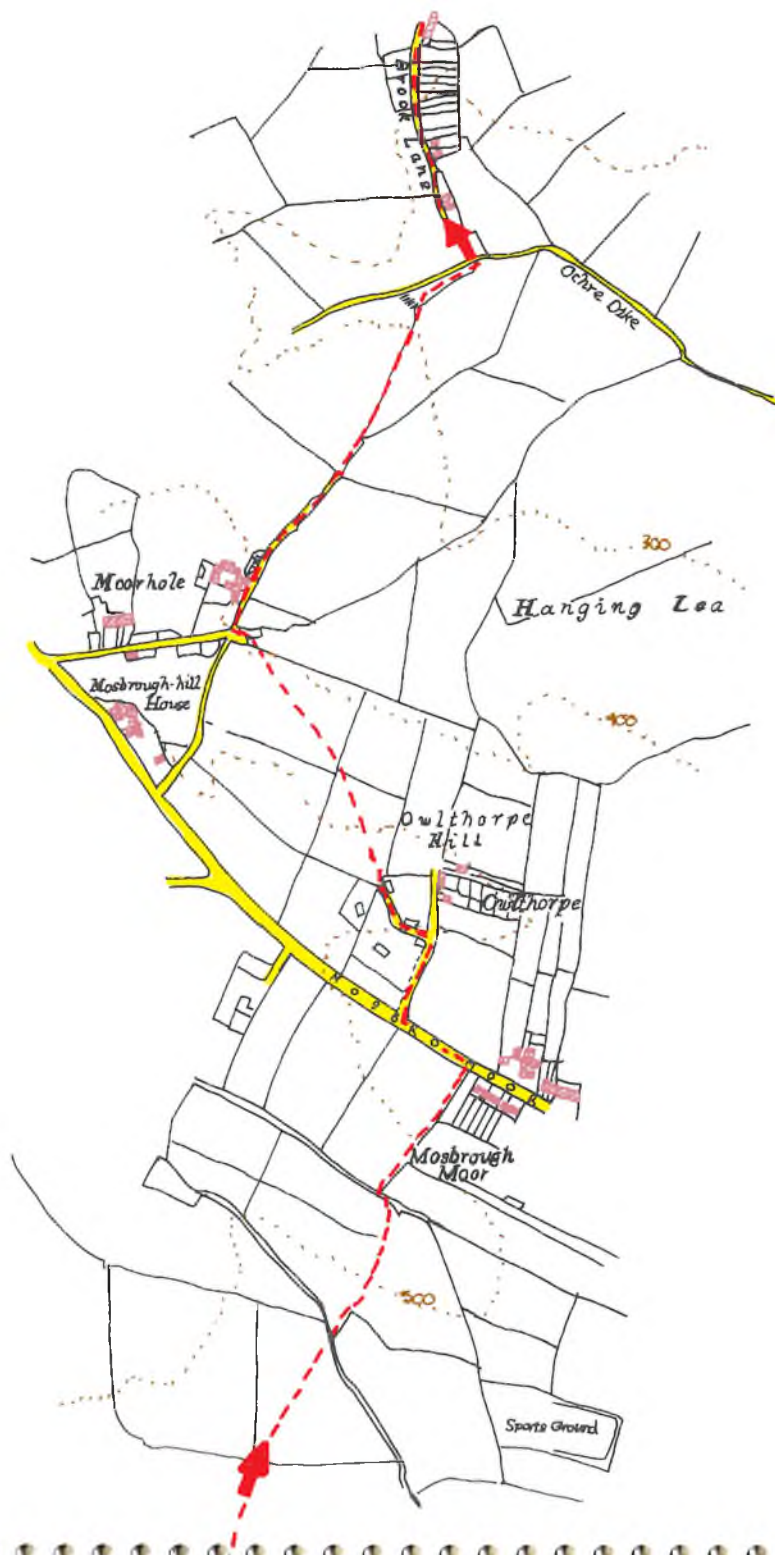
On reaching the main Mosborough road called Mosborough Moor, turn left up the road.





After about 100 yards turn right up Owlthorpe Lane which is signposted Public Footpath. Take the left hand turn that goes in front of the first house and follow it round keeping to the left of the house and then to the right of the next house, gradually climbing up the hill. The path then cuts diagonally across the field in front to the far left hand corner. Leave the field by the small wooden stile and continue diagonally across the next field. Again leave this field by the wooden stile in the wall. Turn left along the little lane and then immediate right towards Moorhole. On reaching the farm buildings continue along the narrow footpath that runs by the side of the buildings. Do not follow the track that turns in towards the farm yard. Head down the footpath towards Ochre Dike and then on towards Moss Way, the new bypass road.

On reaching Ochre Dike either drop down the steps and cross the stone bridge and turn right or cut down to the right at the side of the steps and through the woods and cross the dike further down where there is another stone bridge. The path then turns sharp left and climbs the hill up towards Moss Way. Cross this busy road and then climb up the path immediately across through the new housing development. This lane is called Brook Lane.



Turn right at the top along Sheffield Road and past the old Hackenthorpe village school. Turn down the first road on the left called Main Street. As can be seen by the buildings, this is the old Hackenthorpe village which was here long before the new housing developments of Sheffield began to spread into Hackenthorpe.

Just before the Bluebell Pub on the left on the opposite side of the road take the narrow lane that runs down on to the Hackenthorpe Council estate. Continue down Delves Road and then take the narrow path that runs down between the houses towards the new school. Make sure you don't miss this. The path has the playground on the right and the school on the left. Cross Birley Spa Lane at the bottom and continue down the narrow path across the road. At the bottom turn left and then right down Rainbow Avenue. After about 20 yards down Rainbow Avenue turn down the lane which runs into open country and the Shirebrook Valley. Take the footpath on the right which leads down to the Shirebrook and a small bridge which crosses the brook. Cross the bridge and climb the steps up towards a small works.

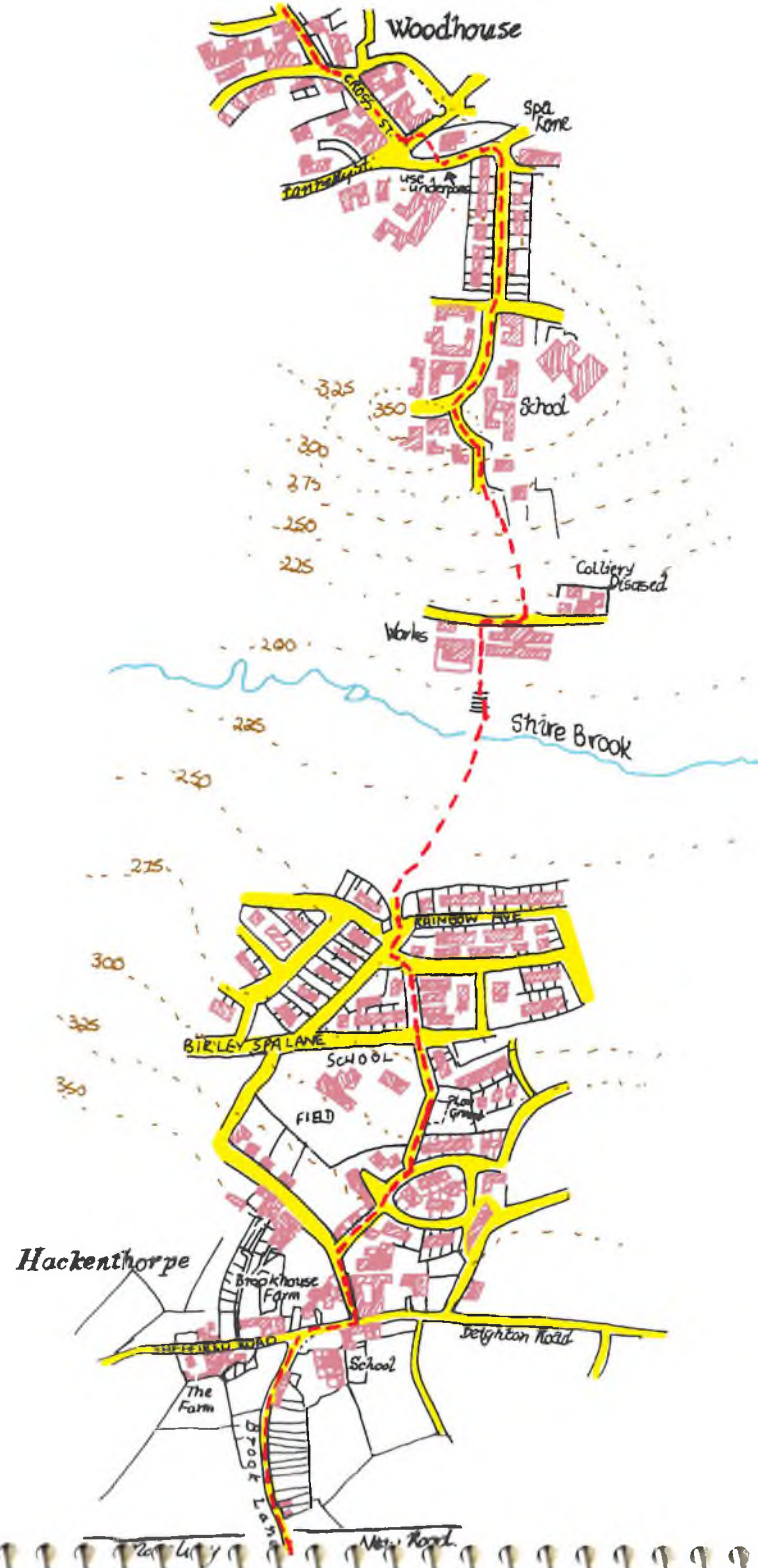
On reaching the small road turn sharp right and then left just before you reach the end of the buildings. Climb up this tarmac path towards Woodhouse. On reaching the flat complex continue along the main road on to Spa Lane. At the bottom of Spa Lane turn left and cross the main road via the underpass. Continue up the slope into the square, and note the ancient wooden stocks.

Hackenthorpe, now surrounded by Sheffield Council estates, was a large village in Beighton Parish, formerly known for scythe making. At one time the High Street was known as Smithy Road. The principal manufacturing families, the Staniforths and the Inkersalls, were closely related to those of Ridgeway. The Hall was rebuilt in Victorian times by the Hounsfeld family.

The Shirebrook, ancient boundary between Yorkshire and Derbyshire, still bears the prominent scars of colliery workings, but the stream was also used for grinding wheels. The dam of Rainbow Forge, upstream of the footbridge, can still be traced. It was used in the 1870s by Skelton's, the edgetool makers of Heeley, but later formed a water supply to Birley East Colliery. The dam burst in 1926, flooding the low-lying areas of Beighton.

Birley East Pit was sunk in 1889 and abandoned in 1948. Earlier, a number of smaller pits operated further up the valley on Birley Moor and at Intake.

Woodhouse was long the largest village in the Parish of Handsworth. Traces of the old village centre have survived the large-scale redevelopment of the 1960s. The Market Place with its cross is among these, though only the base of the cross is old enough to have been used for the butter and egg market which was discontinued about 1750. Woodhouse was a chapel-going village, and the Quakers established a meeting house as early as 1690; George Fox himself held open air meetings nearby when the guest of his followers the Stacyes at Ballifield Hall. Some handsome chapels remain. The "spa" of Spa Lane was a cold bath which flourished briefly around 1800. During the nineteenth century the mining community became increasingly dominant and there are many stories of industrial disputes; during the 1844 lockout the wives of Woodhouse gained some notoriety for waylaying "knobsticks" and stripping them naked.



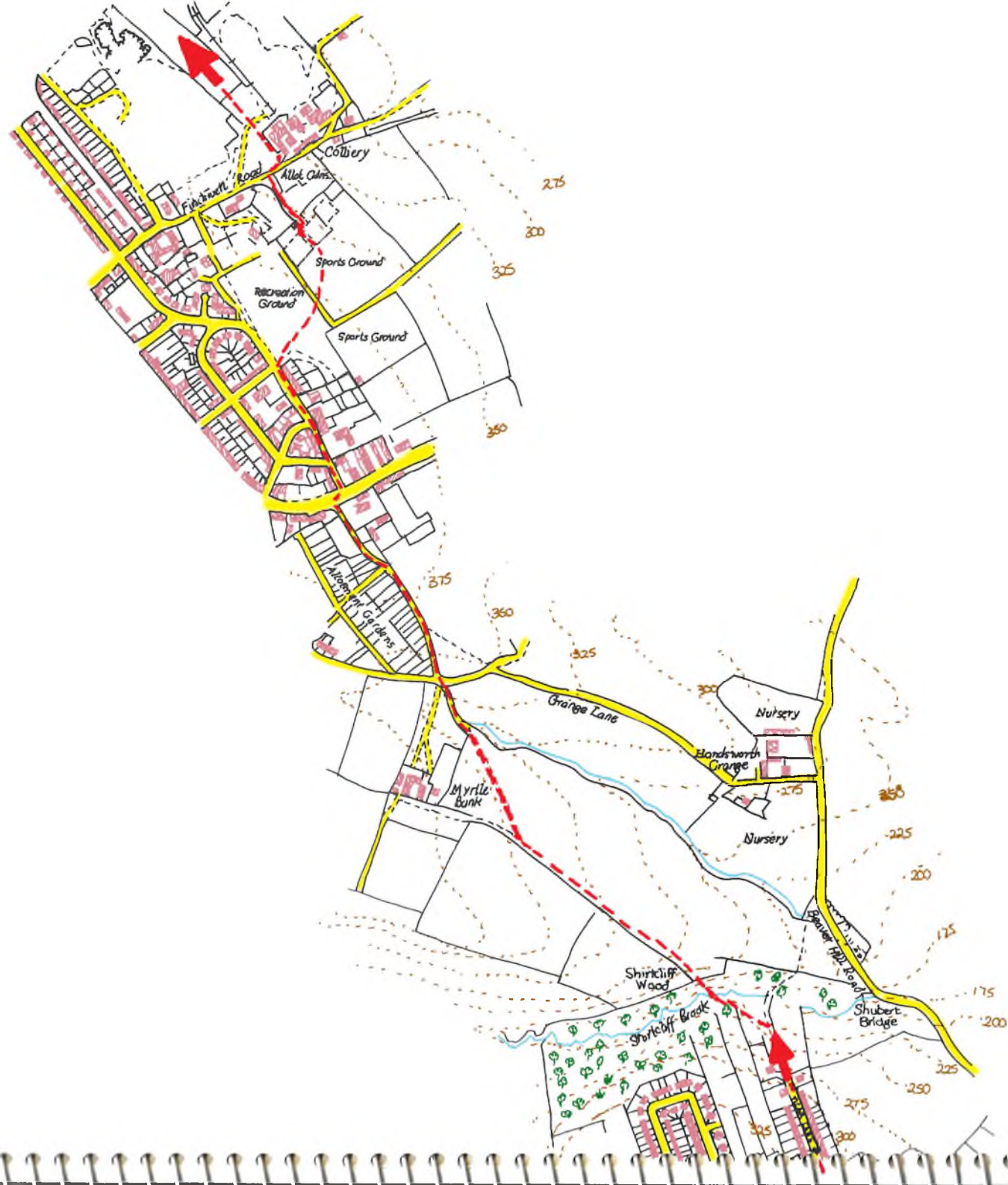
On reaching the old stocks in the centre of Woodhouse turn right along Cross Street and after a short distance where the street begins to turn left turn right down Vicar Lane. Continue to the end of the lane taking note of the houses which are part of the old Woodhouse village. At the end of the lane go down the steep descending track. Just about one third of the way down take the footpath that bears off to the left and continue through the woodland area which is Shirtcliffe Wood. About half way down to the valley bottom cross another path and descend on the stone steps that are provided. Continue to the stream and cross by the white railed bridge. Follow the footpath which ascends steeply up the opposite bank. Continue to follow the footpath which turns into a track across the fields on towards Myrtle Bank and then on towards Handsworth Church.

On reaching the old stone gate-post take the right hand fork and head directly for the Church steeple. Cross Grange Lane which runs horizontally to the path and go up the narrow overgrown path that runs at the side of the allotment gardens up towards the Church. Keep to the left hand side of the Church passing the Handsworth Parish Centre and up on to Handsworth Road. Cross the very busy Handsworth Road with care and just to the right go down St Joseph's Road past the old Presbyterian Church on your right and the old Handsworth School building on your left. On reaching the Recreation Ground turn right down the track past the playing fields. Turn left on towards the bowling greens. If there is no football being played cut across the field towards the old bowls pavilion. Pass round the bottom side of the pavilion and take the path that curves round towards the old Handsworth Colliery, still a

quite good example of industrial archaeology.

Take the first left hand fork following the track past the old colliery pithead and the old spoil heap on the right, which is in the process of being landscaped, before turning into the narrower path past the hawthorne bushes.

Handsworth village was noted for its church and at one time for the Manor House (formerly on Finchwell Lane) where George, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury retired to get away from Bess of Hardwick. St Mary's church has been much altered. The fine octagonal tower and spire are 19th century, but a visit inside will reveal the chancel and nave arches as typical Early English work (1200-1300). On Handsworth Road used to stand the cottage where Benjamin Huntsman first successfully melted crucible steel. On the Richmond side of the village were the extensive nurseries of Fisher Sons and Sibray, world famous for their varieties of holly. Quarry Lane led to quarries of blue sandstone. The colliery was closed in 1967. In folklore Handsworth is known for its sword dance, which is performed on Boxing Day.



Continue on to the more defined path past the sports ground on the left hand side and on towards the bridge crossing the railway.

Continue to follow the path up the bank and across the railway bridge and then turn left up towards the Parkway. On reaching the Parkway turn right and follow the footpath which runs parallel to the road itself. Just about 200 yards on the walkers will see that the path officially turns and crosses the Parkway. However, only a lunatic would attempt to cross such a busy road, which is really another motorway. Obviously the South Yorkshire County Council were unable or unwilling to provide a bridge. I guess this is because of the lack of finance. However, the walker's only alternative is to continue to follow the path which runs parallel to the road and at least the walk is an easy one and not unpleasant. The very interesting land reclamation scheme on the right hand side being carried out by the NCB should make this whole area much more attractive in a few years' time. This route also gives one an opportunity to look at the vast Orgreave Coking Plant on the right the scene of much industrial trouble during the miners' dispute.

After about a quarter of a mile the Catcliffe turnoff is reached and just by the site of a workman's hut the fence can be climbed. Cross the road and follow the path that bears sharp left and goes under the Parkway. Once under the Parkway cross over and take the unofficial path that cuts across the central grassed area. Cross the other side of the road and enter into the woodlands ahead. It was at this point that my original intention was to take the path

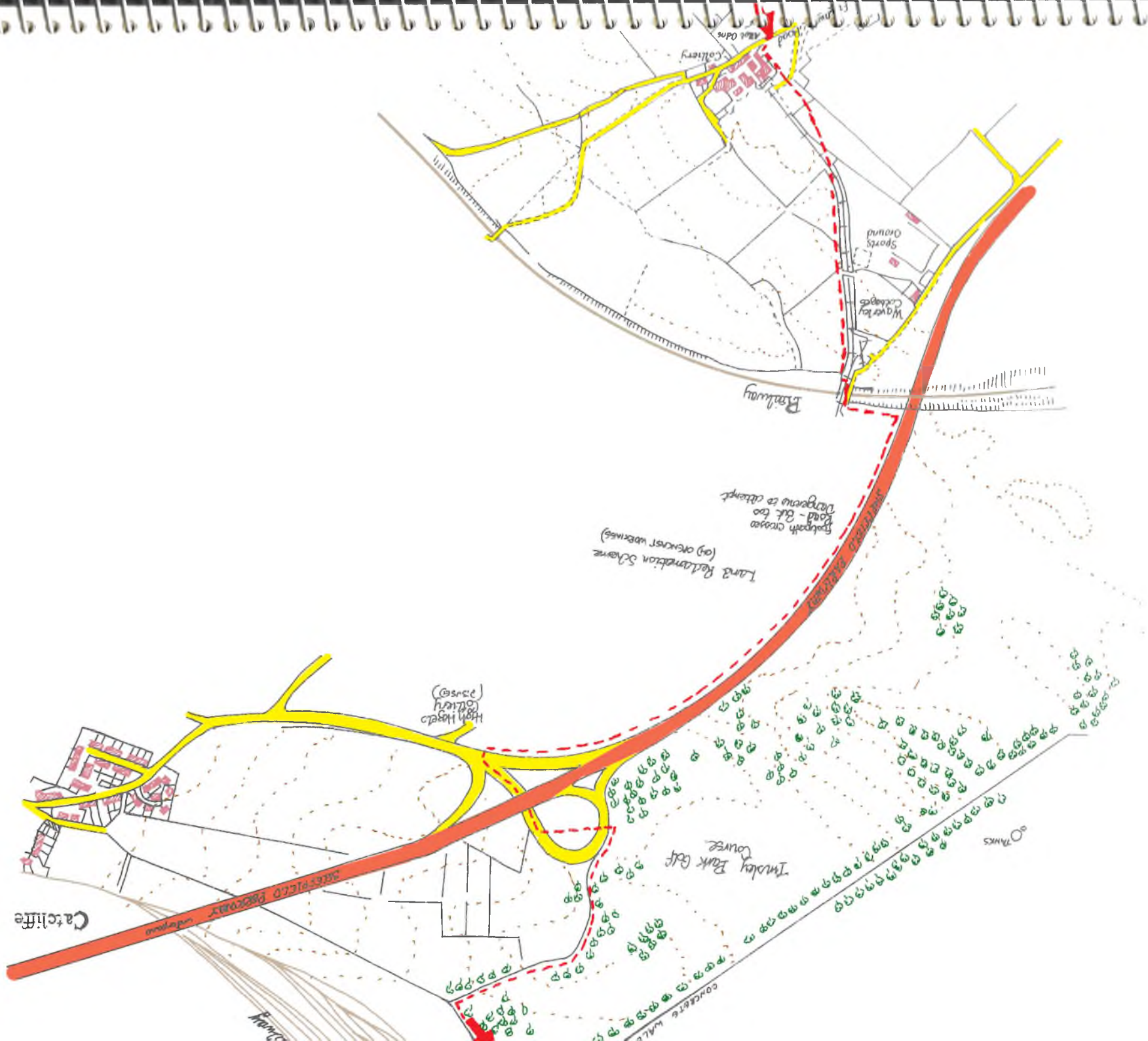
across the golf course on towards Darnall and back via the Canal. However, since I started this plan the Sheffield City Council have made a site for travelling people which has made the path very difficult and until the whole area is environmentally improved (which is planned in a few years) at this stage the best bet is to turn right up into the woods.

Continue to follow the path through the woods as it bears left and up by the side of the golf course. The path continues to skirt the edge of the golf course and turns sharp left and begins to descend.

The Manor of Tinsley was part of Rotherham parish until 1911, although the Victorian church of St Lawrence replaced a chapel dating from Norman times. Tinsley Park was enclosed for deer in the Middle Ages, had turned to charcoal production by 1700, and by a century later was pitted with coal workings.

Since the industrial revolution the village of Tinsley has had to absorb the impact of a river wharf (1760), canal (1819), rolling mills (1846), Edgar Allens (1890), Sheffield Simplex car works (1906) and in the 1960s the railway marshalling yards and the motorway viaduct.

The marshalling yards (1965) were the most modern in Europe at the time, when the Sheffield region produced the greatest concentration of rail freight in the country. They have since suffered from subsidence and a sad decline of traffic. The motorway viaduct (1968) is an early example of steel box-girder construction which has required extensive remedial work. These developments have obliterated the cottages and farmhouses which once lined Bawtry Road, but a small residential area defiantly survives.



Continue along the path to the bottom passing through the pleasantly wooded areas. On reaching the concrete wall at the bottom turn right along the track and under the railway bridge. The road then crosses over the massive Tinsley marshalling yards and extensive views of this rail complex can be seen. On reaching the main road at the top turn left and pass under the M1 motorway. After about a hundred yards a stile is reached on the left hand side. Climb this and follow the footpath running parallel to the motorway with the sports ground on your right.

Climb the next stile and continue along the path which is very close to the motorway. Eventually the path turns sharp right and breaks away from the motorway past several factory units. This path is a little overgrown in places, but there are excellent views of the Cities of Sheffield and Rotherham. The path eventually reaches a T junction. Turn right at the T junction and follow the path as it descends slightly. At another T junction turn left again with the sports ground on your left hand side and rough scrubland area on your right. The path continues between two chainlink fences with sports pitches on either side. Eventually the path reaches some garages and turns sharp right. Continue to follow the path until it reaches the main road which is Bawtry Road. Turn left down Bawtry Road towards Tinsley.

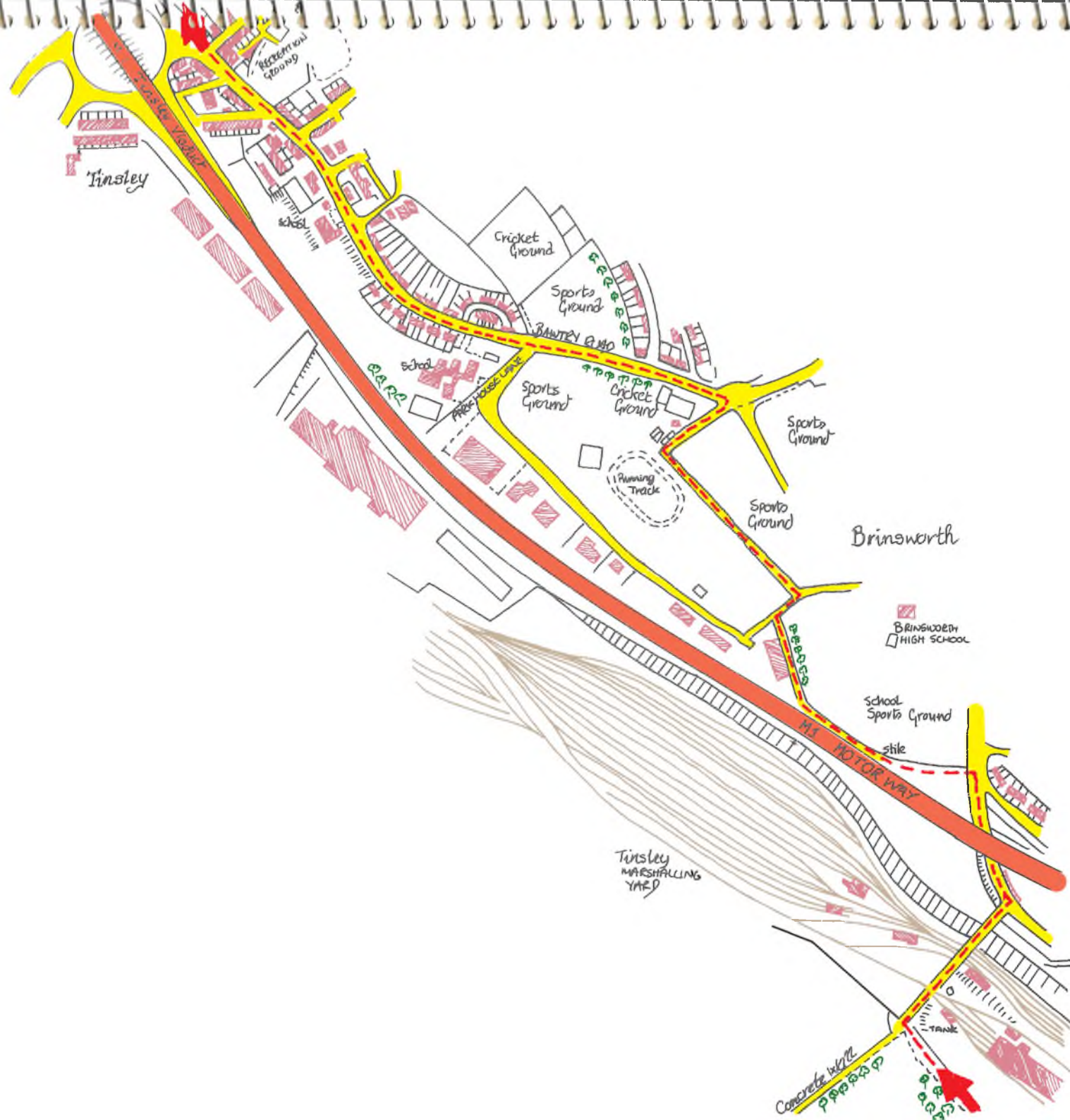
If you are still with me at this stage then you have cracked it. At the bottom of Bawtry Road keep to the right avoiding the large island at Tinsley Viaduct and follow the footpath that runs down to a short road with houses on either side. Cross the main road at the bottom by the underpass and we are back where we started many miles and many hours ago.

On June 30th 1985, I, along with my son Peter and three friends Clive Betts, Howard Knight, and Bob Marshall, set off from Tinsley at 6 am to launch this challenge walk.

We arrived back at 11.30 pm some seventeen and a half hours later, aching, blistered but triumphant. We had walked for fifteen hours and proved it can be done.

Good luck!

Peter Price.



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