

10. Pies and Viaducts: Denby Dale & Denby

Duration: 1½ Hours

These two villages, Denby (parent) and Denby Dale (child), couldn't be more different. Denby Dale, otherwise known as 'The Pie Village', is in the valley bottom; it grew up during the Industrial Revolution and has a long row of shops, a railway station, several pubs and eateries, and is arguably the 'most populous community' in the Dearne Valley. It also still has a working mill. Denby, on the other hand, occupies quite a lofty position (being over 500ft above sea level) and has relatively little in the way of facilities, although the village does have a church, a cricket ground, a pub and a school. This walk therefore gives those visiting the two villages the best of both worlds and if you're lucky you might even get a piece of pie into the bargain.

Park in the car park opposite the run of shops in Denby Dale where the **war memorial** stands. Cross over **Wakefield Road** and turn right at the HSBC bank onto **Norman Road**. Walk past **The Dale Club** and on reaching **Springfield Mill** (this used to be a working mill and is now home to various shops and a café) turn right at the T-junction and walk up Bank Lane to meet **Barnsley Road** (this is quite a busy road). Go under the viaduct and immediately after cross the road and take the left up towards the woods (the viaduct should now be on your left). NB: this path is signposted 'Public Bridleway'.



Just before the gate and still with the viaduct on your left, turn right, taking the cobbled path up through the woods. The steep climb is rewarded by fantastic views as you climb (the Huddersfield-Sheffield railway line below and Emley Mast in the distance). When you finally reach the top of this ancient path (this is a very steep

climb and the cobbles can be slippery in wet weather) there is a bench for you to recover on and enjoy the views of Denby Dale in the valley below.

When you have recovered, walk past the allotments and join the track at the end, following it round to the right. The track eventually becomes tarmac and you are now on **Bank Lane** in Upper Denby. Just before the red brick house, leave the tarmac and take the track to the right. Just after the last house on the left along this track, go over a brick wall on the left into a field. Denby Church comes into view at this point. Continue into the next field and follow the footpath into a third field. Go over a wall into that field – the football ground of Denby F.C..

Climb over the stile and through a gate and you should now be standing in **Denby Cricket Club's** home ground. If one of Denby's teams are playing at home you might want to sit on one of the benches and take a short break.



Denby CC, 1932

Leave the cricket ground through the gate by some houses in the bottom- left corner. Walk across the car park for the residents of **Upper House Fold** and when you reach the main road through Denby, **Denby Lane**, turn left and keep on the footpath. Walk down Denby Lane past **The George** public house. Immediately after the pub's gardens, turn left into **Fairfields** and then next right into a *cul-de-sac* to join the public footpath that leads straight ahead and goes between a fence and a wall. On a clear day the views from this point are fantastic – to the right you can see Barnsley and its hospital and the left Emley Mast.

Continue into the next field, keeping the wall on the right. You are now beginning the descent back down to Denby Dale. When you come to the end of the field, climb the stile with the way marked by a yellow arrow. Cross over the railway and shortly

after the bridge the track swings left, then right into a field. Continue on – now keeping the wall on your right.

When you reach the main road (Barnsley Road) turn left and then right, taking the public footpath through the field. Walk at the side of the wall, keeping it on your right. At the end of the field turn left and walk down the road – **Miller Hill**. Be careful walking on this rather bendy but quite busy road. Turn right at the **Old Chapel** on to Cuckstool Road.

Ignore Hollin Edge and take the left down hill towards the home of **Denby Dale Cricket Club** (below).



Cross the **River Dearne** and walk past the bowling green on the left. Continue along the road until you reach the main road running through Denby Dale, **Wakefield Road**. Walk past Denby Dale's ground, where there are plenty of benches for those who want to sit down and relax, picnic or simply watch a game if one is in progress.

Keep going along Wakefield Road: you will pass **Denby Dale Pie Hall** on the left and the library on the right. Ignore the left turn up Miller Hill and continue straight on. Eventually you will see the run of shops on the left and the car park with the war memorial on the right where we started.

