

# Conisbrough Circular Walks

## Route 5

### The Craggs and Denaby



At the junction, after the playing field, turn left and follow the track straight, until the junction, where you turn left and walk to Balby Street School.

Turn right at the gate and follow the path until you reach the top of Windsor Road. Take the steps to Windsor Road and then right onto Buckingham Road noting the Pit Deputy's houses on your right and on to Station Road. Walk up Station Road following it to the left at the top end and then right on to Castle Hill to bring you back to the Castle Visitor's Centre

## Hope you enjoyed your walk!

These walks are intended for locals and visitors alike to appreciate the countryside just on our doorstep.

Toilets and refreshments available at the Castle Visitor's Centre at the beginning and end of the walk.

Conisbrough Forward is a not for profit community group striving to make Conisbrough a better place to live and an enjoyable place to visit.

If you see any dumped rubbish or areas that need attention on your walk please contact Doncaster Council on 01302 736000


More history facts from [www.conisbroughheritage.co.uk](http://www.conisbroughheritage.co.uk)

Starting and finishing at Conisbrough Castle Visitor's Centre. 5 miles, taking approximately 2.5 hours.

Not strenuous, but some hills and scrambles. Not suitable for wheelchairs or buggies. Appropriate footwear and clothing should be worn for potentially muddy and cool conditions.

Please note all the above information is open to interpretation and is not meant to be a definitive guide.



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Cross Doncaster Road and turning left towards the railway crossing, find the path through the trees on the right hand side of the road. Note the intriguing 'studs' in the path depicting different aspects of local life designed by schoolchildren and community groups. Follow the path through the trees back onto Doncaster Road. Walk along Doncaster Road until you get to Flower Park. Cross over the park and traverse the market to Church Road.

*Flower Park or The Denaby Main War Memorial Park was completed in 1932. The land was given by Captain F. J. O. Montagu and laid out with formal flower beds; shrubberies and a rockery.*

Walk up Church Road and cross Wadworth Street at the top to St Alban's Church. Follow the track past the church and convent back onto the Craggs.

*Denaby was a small agricultural hamlet in the nineteenth century until the sinking of the Denaby Main Colliery in 1863. Many Irish Catholics arrived to work the mine and Fr. Thomas Kavanagh was appointed to minister to them. Local landowner Andrew Montague, donated an acre of land to build a Church and a school. The Church was opened on June 22nd 1898; the Catholic school in 1926 and a Convent of Mercy in 1927.*

Exit the castle grounds via the main gate next to the Castle Visitor's Centre. Walking on the right hand side of the road, pass the Old Vicarage to your right and cross the road. Go up the steps into Castlewell and walk through the houses, following the road, until you reach the house shaped Well Head.



The Ancient Well Head in Wellgate

*For centuries, this well sustained the people of Conisbrough. In 1903, when water mains were laid, the old well was finally sealed.*

Turn right on to Wellgate and follow the road to its junction with Elm Green Lane. Cross the road to the footpath and follow it to the green gate where the path continues on to the Craggs.

Follow this path for just a few yards until you see a separate small steep path leading off to the left. Climb this path to take you to the edge of Northcliffe field. Here you will pick up another path which will lead you around the field.

Follow this path until you get to the corner of the fenced off area where you will find another path leading off to your right. Take this route to 'Lady's Valley', taking the left fork for a less steep descent into the valley.

In the Valley continue along the path to the right, climbing out, and enjoying the extensive panoramas from the top. Continue along this path until you reach the tarmac track.



View Towards the Water Tower from Ladies Valley

*Previously a limestone quarry, the local name, Ladies Valley, may have come about from the nearby 'Lady's Lane' (now Elm Green Lane) though urban myth has it that it was so named after a woman hanged herself there. It was used to shelter families in tents during the Bag Muck Strike of 1902, when many Denaby miners were evicted from their homes. Ladies Valley was also used as an illegal gambling area for the game of 'Toss'. You would place your bet and one man would flick up two penny coins. If two heads came up you were a winner! Men were posted on each corner of the valley as lookouts for police.*

Turn right onto the track and follow it down on to the main Craggs area. Continue along the main track across the Craggs only taking the right fork when the track finally splits in two (Towards a small farm). Head towards the wooded area.

Looking into the valley, on the other side of the railway track, is the site of the Cadeby and Denaby Mines.



Old View Overlooking Denaby

*During the life of the two pits from 1869 to 1986, a total of 400 men and boys lost their lives in the course of their employment. The death of some 200 of these being attributed to falls of coal, roofs or sides. However, one fatal event figures highly in the history of Cadeby Main Colliery, when in the early hours of July 9th 1912, an explosion took the lives of 35 men and boys, deep within the pit. Some time later a further explosion killed 53 more miners and rescue workers.*

Make your way through the woods until you see a broad path going off to the right. Take this path on to the '20 Acre' field and follow the edge of the field along to the junction with Bolton Street next to the houses.

*The 20 Acre Field was a large area of land belonging to Mr W.J. Robinson used by residents of Denaby for events and celebrations such as the 1920 Peace celebrations. It was also a venue for the illegal gambling game 'Toss'.*

Cross over Bolton Street to Harrogate Drive and then right onto Woodlands Way opposite Catterick Close. Follow this path in a straight line through the houses. When you get to a grassed area at the end of the path, take the path to the right, passing the houses until you reach Melton Court and follow Hilltop Road past the Asda store to Doncaster Road.