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Wentworth S62 7TF



Getting there

Leave the M1 at Junction 35 and take the A629, Rotherham, northbound 3, southbound exit 1. Enter Thorpe Hesley.

Turn left onto the B6086, signed Hoyland, Wentworth (Upper Wortley Road). At the mini roundabout, take the 2nd exit (Thorpe Street). Continue along this lane. Before entering Wentworth, turn right into the Wentworth Garden Centre car park.

Return to M1 Junction 35

Turn left out of the car park. At the mini roundabout, take exit 1. At the T-junction turn right and continue to rejoin the M1.

The walk

A large field next to the car park is ideal for immediate dog relief and off-lead games. After that, there's a delightful short walk through the historic gardens, and a clearly-signed footpath for a stroll from the garden centre into the Wentworth Estate and back.

Facilities

Free parking. WCs+disabled. Courtyard café/delicatessen and shops. Large pet shop.

Getting there

From Junction 37 take the A628, Manchester. At the next roundabout take exit 3, Manchester A628, and at the following roundabout take exit 1, Manchester A628. At the next roundabout take exit 2 and bear right to Higham Lane. Continue onto Higham Common Road and turn left at the traffic lights, A635. Turn right, Bark House Lane, at a tourist sign for Cannon Hall Country Park, then turn right to the park.

Return to M1 Junction 37

Turn left from the car park, and at the T-junction turn left signed Barnsley A635. At the traffic lights turn right, signed Dodworth. Thereafter, follow signs for Barnsley A628 to reach the M1 interchange.

The walk

There's little chance of getting lost in this 70 acre expanse of largely flat and open parkland. Stroll alongside the small river from the car park, then strike out into the park on a broad path. Follow the path on a circular orbit for a 30-40 minute walk.

If you have time, the historic walled garden next to the Hall is worth a visit. Quaffers of Australian wine will be intrigued to know that a cutting from a vine cultivated here was exported to Australia in 1802, and its offspring form the roots of today's Ozzie wine industry.

Facilities

P&D car park. WC+disabled. Café with fresh cakes and home-made soup.





Getting there

From Junction 3 take the A899, Bathgate, Broxburn. At the roundabout take exit 2, Dechmont A899, and at the next roundabout take exit 1, Dechmont. Turn right into Burnhouse Road, and continue for a mile. Turn left and pass Blackcraig Farm on the left, then North Mains farm on the right. Turn right to enter Beebraigs Country Park.

Return to M8 Junction 3

Exit Beebraigs and turn left. Pass the farms and turn right, Burnhouse Road. At the T-junction turn left, and at the roundabout take exit 2, A899, and continue to return to the M8.

The walk

With over 900 acres of grounds, there's a real variety of walking routes in this very active country park. Choose your walk at the visitor centre and buy the route leaflet.

Three marked trails start from the Balvormie car park (turn left from the visitor centre car park, turn left and then left again). These are waymarked with coloured posts.

The Balvormie overflow car park is 20m beyond the entrance to the car park proper on the right. Don't be fooled by an apparently locked gate; the entrance is further on.

Facilities

Free parking. WC. Visitor centre 0900-1600. Shop. Refreshments. Trail leaflets 20p each. Rangers on duty. Partial wheelchair/buggy routes from some access points. Children's adventure playground. Campervan access.



Getting there

From Junction 5 merge onto the B7057, signed Shotts, Harthill. At the T-junction turn left, B7066 Harthill. Enter Eastfield, pass a petrol station on the left, and enter West Lothian county. Turn left at the tourist sign for Polkemmet Country Park.

Return to M8 Junction 5

Turn right out of the park, and turn right signed M8. Continue ahead and turn right, B7057, to return to the M8.

The walk

This country park has been formed from the grounds of the Baillie Estate.

There's a good choice of routes to suit the needs of all walkers. The Red, Yellow and Blue routes are all under 2 miles, and the Green route is longer at just over 3 miles. There are also plenty of smaller paths to wander off on.

The Red and Blue routes start from the left of the car park entrance, and the Yellow and Green routes from just before the entrance to the car park.

As an extension to the Red and Blue trails, visit 'the Horn,' a music sculpture commission to liven the view across the M8.

Facilities

Free parking. WC. Children's playground and a steam train engine. Picnic tables and BBQ area. The children's 'Fantasy Forest' is off-limits to dogs. Campervan access.

