

Turn left and follow Coach Gate Lane until a footpath goes right past farm buildings, crosses another wooded valley to eventually reach Flat Wood (this is particularly beautiful when the bluebells are in flower). Take the unofficial but well-established track to join the footpath that leads past Papist Hall to Lower Denby.



(2) A worthwhile diversion is to continue along the Gunthwaite Mill access road to reach Gunthwaite Dam at a junction with Broad Oak Lane. The partly-paved ancient track of Gunthwaite Lane can be seen on the right and this leads very nicely to the hamlet of Gunthwaite Hall where the famous 16th-century manorial barn is to be found (<https://historicensland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1151106>); this is well worth a visit but as it is part of a working farm it is best to ask permission first.



The hamlet has a fascinating history stretching back more than a thousand years and before the surrounding estate was broken up it belonged to the MacDonalds of the Isles. The main walk can be rejoined where it crosses Coach Gate Lane. Alternatively, take a footpath through the fields and past Pit Bottom to Pinfold Bridge from where Lower Denby Lane can be followed back to the Dunkirk Inn where food and drink awaits. See: www.thedunkirk.co.uk.



Ruins & Rebuilds



Lower Denby is served by Yorkshire Tiger bus service 83 from Huddersfield to Denby Dale interchange (no Sunday service). Community Transport bus 350 operates from Holmfirth to Penistone via Lower Denby Thursdays & Saturdays only.

NB Public transport details were correct as of June 2019. Please check at www.wymetro.com from where timetables are available.

This leaflet was written by members of Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome Group and funded by Denby Dale Parish Council.

For wonderful historic photos of the area see www.denbydalekirkburtonarchives.co.uk

For visitor information see www.denbydale-kirkburton.org.uk

see: <http://www.denbydale-walkersarewelcome.org.uk>

Walking in and around Denby Dale Ruins & Rebuilds



A pleasant and very scenic circular walk (of about five and a half miles) from the Dunkirk Inn, Lower Denby, visiting the Gunthwaite area with the option of taking in the famous barn at Gunthwaite Hall. Stout footwear advisable



Ruins & Rebuilds

This circular ramble takes in some of the most beautiful scenery in the districts of Lower Denby and Gunthwaite. After rain some parts of the walk can be muddy so stout footwear is recommended.

The most convenient starting-point is the carpark of the Dunkirk Inn, situated up Dry Hill, about 50 metres from the Inn itself.

Follow Dry Hill past the partly-demolished farm of the same name (currently awaiting redevelopment) and the junction of Exley Gate to reach a footpath on the right which goes through fields to another former farm Denby Hall, noting on the way the bench remembering Hector and Cissy Buckley, formerly of Dry Hill Farm. On reaching the hall drive turn right and almost immediately take the footpath on the left alongside the old farm buildings and silage clamp and follow a hedge to eventually enter Deffer Wood.



The footpath continues through this mixed wood, much loved by dog walkers and horse riders alike, until an acute turn back right is made at a junction of paths; this is followed to the “Susannah Spring” exit from the wood. Go straight across the field and turn right along a farm track leading to Spring House (note the espaliered- pear tree on the gable end). Do not go through the gate to the “in-by” land but follow a path alongside the hedge to cross the A635 (take care!) to another footpath. This leads across the field to a bridge over Daking Brook. Go over this and when the footpath turns right it can be followed trending uphill through a sloping field and scrub to a stile in a wall, just to the right of a gate. Go over the stile and through undergrowth past the ruined cottage of Heald Head. There was the intention of turning this into an out-door centre but the project seems to have been abandoned even though a charity for the purpose is still in existence. Sadly, its complete neglect over several decades has resulted in a structure way past any chance of repair.



Emerging from the undergrowth join a bridle track and follow this for about a kilometer to Gadding Moor, noting the recent attractive redevelopment of Lane Head Farm on the left.



Just before reaching North Lane turn right to cross fields (two stiles) and, with magnificent views across the valley to Gunthwaite Hall and Upper and Lower Denby beyond, descend to the idyllically-situated Gunthwaite Mill. The Mill buildings, which are now superbly converted residences, date from the 17th century but there are records of a water-powered manorial corn mill on the site as early as 1348. The footpath continues between buildings, one of which contains the remnants of the old water wheel and its machinery. Just past this the mill pond is seen and here and there it is possible to discern signs of the mill race which brought the water from Gunthwaite Dam.

Continue along the drive which serves the residences and look out for the footpath on the right which takes one up through a field to Near



Broad Oak Farm. Follow the lane to the right for a short distance to Far Broad Oak where another footpath leads through a large field to cross Coach Gate Lane and down to Cuckold Carr Dyke. Go alongside Broad Wood and continue to Flat Wood where the path turns left before shortly descending to cross the stream by a stout wooden bridge. The path follows the bank of the stream for about ten metres before striking uphill to cross Denby Lane.

Follow another footpath, with the house of Papist Hill on the left, to where the Dunkirk can be seen across the fields. Look out for another footpath crossing at right angles. It is best to follow this to the Old School House in Lower Denby. Turn right and follow Lower Denby Lane to cross the main Road with great care back to the Dunkirk Inn.

Variations
(1) The walk can be shortened by turning down through the wood just after the ruined cottage of Heald Head to cross the stream by a footbridge from whence a path leads through a field to Hazel House.

