

# TRACKS THROUGH TIME

## Wincobank: Roaming The Roman Ridge

### OVERVIEW

This walk takes you along a significant section of the ancient monument known as 'Roman Ridge'. The route offers you the opportunity to consider the location and meaning of the Ridge whilst also understanding its relationship to the Wincobank Hillfort and the wider landscape. Be prepared for some breathtaking panoramas of Sheffield but remember to keep your eyes to the ground especially over rougher areas.

The walk has a number of options and allows for circular and linear routes and the option of taking in the Iron Age hillfort. There is also the option of exiting to public transport at a number of locations.

A detailed study of the ridge has been compiled by ArcHeritage. It makes a great companion to the walk and is available at <http://tinyurl.com/bqgcrl8>

Distance: 2miles (linear) 4 miles (circular)

### START

#### By Public Transport

The walk is ideally planned for those reliant on public transport. Make your way to the Meadowhall interchange and exit to the north onto Tyler street. When on Tyler street cross the road and head North noting the wooded area on your left. This is a section of the Roman Ridge but is in a poor state and it is not possible to follow it further than 80m before it is terminated by industrial units. Continue north for 120m and take the public footpath (*Figure 1*) to the left into Evesham Close. Continue up Evesham Close and veer left for 30m up Aylesbury Crescent. You will now see the footpath sign to where the accessible part of Roman Ridge begins.



Figure 1 Footpath leading to Evesham Close

#### By Car

Head for Aylesbury Crescent (S9 1JR) and park so not to cause inconvenience to residents. The walk begins

near to the bottom of Aylesbury Crescent (see footpath sign *Figure 2*)

#### Joining the Ridge.

Locate the footpath sign on Aylesbury Crescent and follow it up to the top of the bank. You are now standing on top of Roman Ridge. Looking back you will have good views of Rotherham and the M1 valley. You should be able to follow the line of the ridge in both directions as you walk up the hill.



Figure 2 The footpath from Aylesbury Cres to the Ridge

#### Walking the Ridge to Jenkin Rd

Follow the line of the Ridge until it joins Jenkin Rd (~400m). Along the way you will notice how well defined the Ridge can be in places with it reaching ~4m high at the best preserved points. Car enthusiasts will notice the Triumph graveyard on the left with a number of Spitfire, GT6 and Herald saloons to enjoy!

#### Jenkin Rd to The Forum steps



Figure 3. Wincobank Common where the Ridge meets Jenkin Rd

As the Ridge meets Jenkin Rd at Wincobank Common you can decide whether to follow the line of the Ridge or divert to the right up to the Hillfort (\*See notes at end). To skirt along the lower bank of the ridge cross the road and proceed along Jenkin Avenue. The scheduled section of the ridge is behind the houses. Continue to number 82 where you will see steps leading up the hill.

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### The Forum Steps to Sandstone Rd

Walk up to the first lamppost. To your right you can see the scheduled section of the ridge (Figure Four).



Figure 4. Looking North along the ridge behind Jenkin Ave.

Whilst facing up the steps hop over (or under) the hand rail and make your way to the left along the unscheduled section of the Ridge (Figure 5). There are several paths to choose through this piece of land with some being easier than others. You will find yourself amongst dispersed oak woodland and areas of meadow flower. Keeping to the lower slope will avoid brambles and will allow you to appreciate the break of slope where the original profile of the Ridge can be seen now partially overlaid by groundworks from the houses built on Sandstone Rd. Make your way to Sandstone Rd.



Figure 5. Explore the ridge by choosing a suitable path.

### Sandstone Rd to Roman Ridge and Ancient camp

As you emerge from the section of the ridge below Sandstone Rd you will see a small brick service building and the Victorian reservoir above you. This was built to serve Forgemasters steelworks below and is still in use!

Facing the reservoir, you will see the path that leads off to the left. Follow this path and note the profile of the bank to your left. Archaeological investigation has suggested the Ridge no longer survives here yet the profile of the bank suggests significant earthworks have shaped this section of the hill. At the end of this section take care whilst negotiating the path to the right of the deep trench where you can spot frogs and the occasional heron. Walk up on to the field where you will find the last section of Roman Ridge and the site of an ancient enclosure.

### Roman Ridge & Ancient Camp to Wincobank Lane

From this point the ridge can be identified as the bank which forms the SE boundary of this field (Figure 6).



Fig 6. The exposure of Parkgate sandstone which forms the ridge

Continue along this ridge until it curves around and follows the hedge line. The area to your right is thought to be an ancient enclosure discovered in the 1920's during woodland clearance. Little remains of this camp today as the area has been subjected to extensive ground works. However, you may decide to stand on this site to appreciate the views that your forebears would have once experienced. Having taken in the views you can decide whether to exit to Wincobank Lane, Wensley St, or return on a circular route over the Iron Age hillfort (see below).

### Wincobank Lane exit



Figure 7. Wincobank Lane exit

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Follow the red route down the steep flanks of the hill at the end of the hedge line. Take care and only attempt if sturdy footwear is worn. As you descend you will see some impressive outcrops of sandstone which give form to Wincobank Hill. When you arrive at the lower field keep to the line of trees following the path. You will find Wincobank Lane on the other side of the basketball court. If you cross the road on to Skelwith Rd you can take the No 35 or 37 bus back to Meadowhall interchange.

### Wensley St exit

For those wishing to explore the steep slopes on the south-west of the hill the purple route will provide a good vantage point over Upwell and Wensley St. Proceed to the around the hedge line of the lower field keeping the hedge to the left until you arrive at the west corner. Carry on along the path amongst the trees (*Figure 8*).



*Figure 8.* The woodland path overlooking Upwell St.

The steep sides provide a good view of Upwell St. After about 250m you will arrive at a clearing. Walk towards Wensley St. To return to Meadowhall walk south down Wensley St and catch a No 17 bus from Upwell St.

### Circular Route

Follow the perimeter of the field around until you meet the path which leads NE up Wincobank Hill (blue route). Follow this path to the summit of Wincobank Hill. At the summit you will see the earthworks of the Ancient Fort. There are some breathtaking views to be had here.

At this point you can join the yellow route and decide whether to walk the circumference of ramparts and descend again to the Forum pub or go directly to Jenkin Avenue and wander down to meet the Ridge again opposite you on the bend of Jenkin Road.

### \*Diversion to the Hillfort

When you reach Jenkin Rd you might decide to divert to the hillfort rather than follow the line of the Ridge.

To do this follow the yellow route across Wincobank Common to where it meets Jenkin Road again higher up. Cross this busy road carefully and continue up Jenkin Road till you see the modern commemorative artwork "Posh Pillars" next to the cobbled track of Winco Wood Lane leading to the hillfort (*Figure 9*)



*Figure 9.* Posh Pillars next to entrance to the hillfort

Proceed up the track until you can see the ramparts of the hillfort. The hillfort was built some 500yrs before the arrival of Romans. It occupies perhaps the most commanding site in Sheffield with good views across the Don Valley and far west to the Peak District.

To return to the Ridge follow the track back and approximately 40m from the earthworks you will see a path running off to the right and disappearing in to the trees. Take this path and follow it to a clearing looking out on the right hand side for a set of steps which will allow you to descend to Fort Hill Rd. When on Fort Hill Rd walk NW until you reach the steps down situated between Nos 55 and 53. Take these steps down and make for the Forum Pub then take the steps which run down the right hand side. Stop at the lamppost on the steps (*Figure 10*) and resume the route as described above from (the Forum Steps to Sandstone Rd)

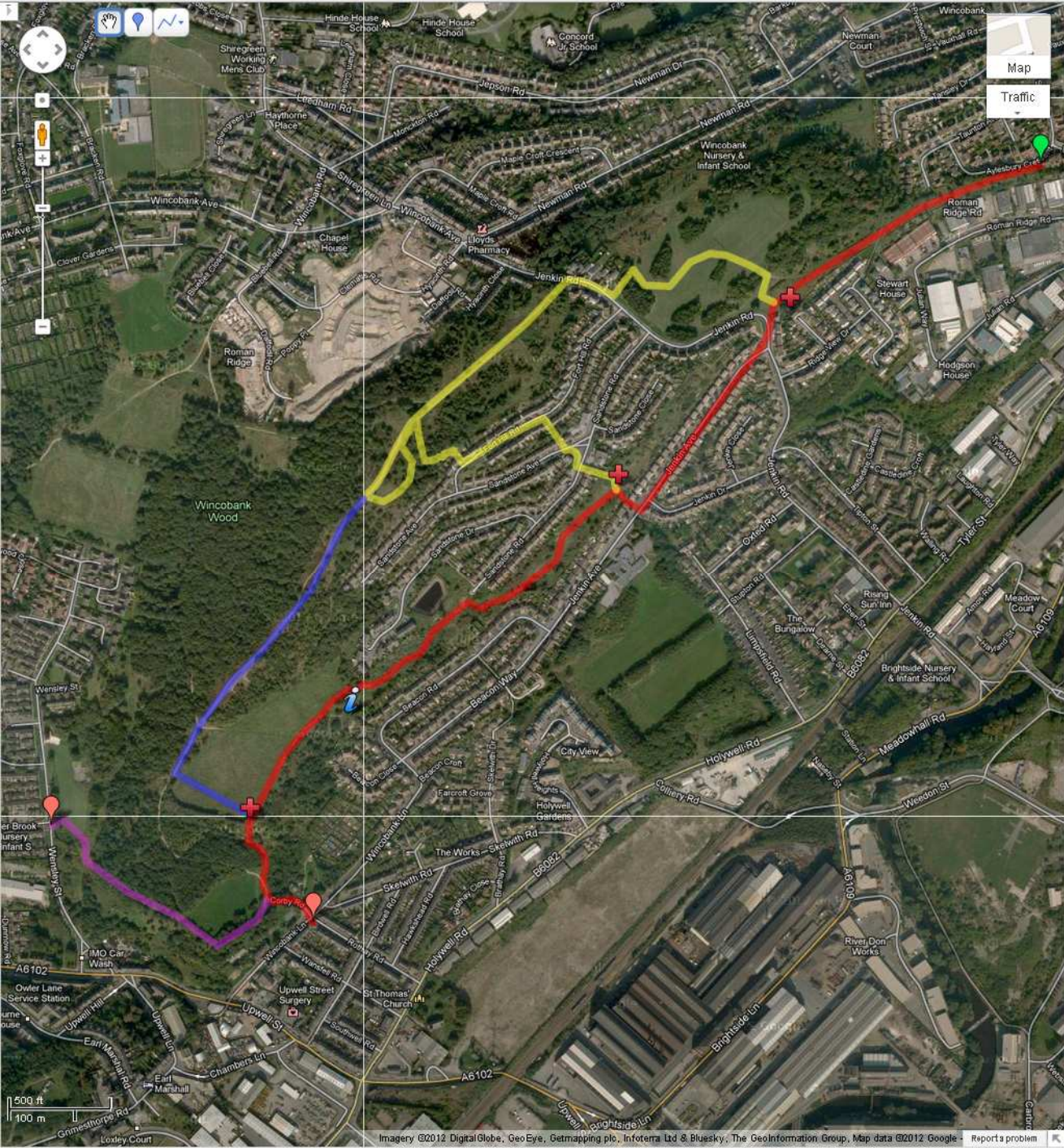


*Figure 10.* The steps leading down from the Forum Pub to Jenkin Avenue

# Tracks Through Time

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### MAP



Link to inter-active map at: <http://goo.gl/maps/sx1kz>