

# 5 – Brindwoodgate to Apperknowle

## 4.9 miles

1. *From Brindwoodgate walk along the road which swings 90° left and heads uphill. At the brow of the hill, approximately 200 yards on, turn right immediately after a red post box onto a lane. Walk along the lane for about 75 yards.*
2. *Just before the lane turns left, you bear right, through a gate and into the wood. This path heads steadily downhill through the edge of the wood. Where two paths meet, one heading down to the river, you continue straight ahead keeping the river and then fishing ponds to your right.*
3. *On reaching a gate, pass through and keep heading straight on. After a short while you go gently uphill to a gap in a wall. Pass through this and the path descends to a track. When you reach the track, turn right and then left along the signed footpath, keeping the river and fishing ponds on your right. **DO NOT CROSS THE STONE BRIDGE.***
4. *After about 30 yards you cross a small bridge and bear right. When you reach the fence, the river taking a sharp turn, cross over the stile and continue on the fenced path, crossing stiles as you go until you pass some buildings on your right, one of which is a green corrugated building.*
5. *On reaching the road, turn left to join a bridle path, at the entrance to which is a sign saying "Private Monkwood. Keep to the marked bridle and foot path. By order of the Hadden Estate". After about 200 yards the bridle path starts to climb uphill and bends round to the left with Monkwood farm clearly seen on the right.*
6. *At the top of the hill, with the farm on your right, continue along the bridle path, keeping a wooden fence on your right, and enter Monkwood. Where the bridle path bends left stay with it and, at the APEX of the hill, turn right along a path which leads you to the base of a bridge. **THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT TO SEE SO BE CAREFUL.** This bridge crosses the A61, Dronfield Bypass.*
7. ***Cross over the bridge and at the other side you are forced to turn right, heading into a wood. Once in the wood, walk straight ahead uphill along a path. At the top of the hill the path swings round to the right with a golf course on your left.***
8. *When you see a stile on your right with a yellow arrow marker pointing to it, cross over and head across the field with a hedgerow on your right. You are now following the Dronfield 2000 Rotary Walk. Cross over a stile and head for the farm.*
9. *You will now see another stile. Cross over this and walk down the track opposite to a stile. Cross over the stile and follow the path, with trees and hedges to your left, to yet another stile beside a gate about 70 yards away. Cross over this stile and continue along the path, with the hedgerow still on your left. At the end of this field cross another stile to a track. Go straight across to another stile and cross this. You now have Ouzle Bank cottage on your left. Walk across the top of the field to a stile on the right of a gate. Climb over the stile and continue straight ahead with a fence on your right. Cross another stile, the fence still on your right turning into a hedgerow after about 30 yards.*
10. *At the end of this field, the path swings gently left to a stile. Pass through this stile and turn left. After about 20 yards turn 90° right and walk slightly downhill across the field. Having crossed this field, bear right to join a track with the hedgerow on your left. You are now heading downhill to the village of Unstone.*

11. *Halfway down the hill, the track bears left – **stay with it, heading for Manor Farm.** Once you reach “open ground” just in front of the farm, **turn 90° right, walk 10 paces and turn 90° right again.** You are now walking “away” from the farm and heading towards (vaguely) a large tree. This is not the clearest path in the world! Basically, you have “doubled back” on yourself. To your left is a fence made of wooden poles linked together by barbed wire. After approx 100 yds the fence turns 90° LEFT (near the large tree mentioned earlier). **You turn left with it and start to head downhill using this fence as a guide.** Hopefully, the front runners will have trodden the grass down! After approx 150yds you reach the corner of the field where you will see a wooden stile beyond which is a tunnel running under the rail line. **Cross over the stile and walk through the tunnel.***

**TAKE CARE AS THE HEIGHT OF THE TUNNEL LOWERS AS YOU PASS THROUGH ESPECIALLY AT THE FARTHEST END.**

12. *When you emerge from the tunnel **cross over the stile ahead of you and turn slightly left to follow the path to another stile.** **Cross the stile to reach the road. Cross over the road and turn left** heading for a former garage (now a hand car wash). Just past this you reach some dilapidated cottages, **turn right and walk down the track,** soon bearing right onto a footpath with the Peak Paper building on the left. This path runs right of the gate and fencing and has corrugated fencing on its right.*
13. *You soon reach a small footbridge – **cross over this** and head uphill through a wood. After a few yards the path becomes stepped. At the top of these steps, where several paths meet, **go straight ahead to a kissing gate.** Once through this, **bear right for a few yards then turn left** up a path which passes by the side of six cottages (going uphill) on your left. Going up this path there are open fields on your left and a copse on your right. At the top of the hill is a kissing gate. **Go through this and go straight ahead, keeping in the middle of humps and hollows.***
14. *At this stage the path turns into a wide track. When you reach a gate with a kissing gate on the right, **pass through and continue straight ahead** along the track, keeping the hedge to your left. This track becomes flanked by a hedge on your left and a fence on your right and leads down to a metal gate with a stile on its left. **Cross over the stile and walk straight ahead,** keeping the hollybush-style hedge on your left. When the hedgerow swings left, **you bear slightly right,** heading for farm buildings and a stile to the right of a metal gate. Cross over the stile and bear right to a kissing gate five yards away. **Go through this and onto a metalised road.** You have now reached Apperknowle.*
15. ***Turn left onto the road and walk uphill.** The road swings to the left and 30 yards after the bend you **turn right onto another road, doubling back on yourself.** Where the road reaches some houses, **turn left and walk uphill,** with the houses on your right.*
16. *When you reach the road junction at the top of the hill, **turn right and walk along the pavement across the top of Apperknowle village.** **Cross the road and continue forward across the top of the village.** You will pass the Methodist church on your left, 20 yds later you will pass a bridlepath on your left before appearing to “leave the village”. 40 metres after the bridlepath you will arrive at the Travellers Rest public house which is situated on a road junction. **Turn left at that junction and walk the 25 metres or so to the pub car park.***

## **This is Checkpoint 5.**