About this walk
Sheffield is a remarkable city – with more parkland than any other city and a world-wide reputation for its steel industry. This walk allows us to see some of the remains of the early industry and to appreciate how nature recovers.

The trees, flowers, and wild life of these two valleys give pleasure to everyone in every season. They are specially suitable for young children who don’t need to go to the cinema, but can find their own “secret garden” along these paths. Look not only for birds and flowers, but also for the fascinating world of insects to be found under stones and on the ground. Please remind small children to leave all flowers for others to enjoy.

Distances
Total circular walk – 4 miles.
Fulwood to Ringinglow (linear walk) – 3 miles.
Fulwood to Whirlow (linear walk) – 6 miles.

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Points of interest
- Children’s playground.
- Forge Dam.
- Finder cairn with spectacular views.

Ground conditions
Mayfield and Porter Valleys

Take the bus from the Interchange to Crimicar Lane/Brooklands Avenue (Fulwood Shops).

START — Cross road to Brookhouse Hill, walk down hill continuing down the lane to bottom, over river turn R, pass children’s playground, public toilets and Forge Dam Café.

1 — Forge Dam: The dam is one in a series along the river; water produced the power needed for Sheffield’s cutlery industry in the 19th century. At the dam you may see a heron and you will definitely see many friendly mallards who will accept offerings of food (no bread). There are also coots (white beak) and moorhens (red beak). Alongside the dam, by the path, yellow celandines grow in February and the leaves, then flowers, of wild strawberry can be seen.

2 — Follow the path beside the dam and over small bridge. Spring flowers grow at the side of the path all the way up the valley. Walking up stream look for white wood anemonies and white or pink purslane. Later there are bluebells, rosebay and purple thistle.

In April blackthorn (sloe) shrub and holly bush brighten the path sides and in May the mayblossom is in bloom (so you can then “cast a clout” – take off your jacket). In August the berries are on the holly. The trees are magnificent – beech, larch and oak – all with different barks (look for insects), shapes and leaves.

3 — Cross the busy road beside Carr Bridge and continue along FP, over small bridge, along field fence eventually reaching a stony lane.

4 — Cross to the stile, then over a bridge and continue upstream. On the R is a waterfall. Cross the river again via a small bridge and on the L see a packhorse bridge which reminds us how material was moved at one time in this valley. An ash tree was recently dug out to reveal this bridge. The stone work has been re-done.

5 — Continue to stile and cross another stony track (or rest a while on the seat). You are now in the upper section of the valley which is steeper and more narrow. Continue on path, crossing two bridges. At a third (signed Sheffield Round Walk) continue straight ahead soon reaching the road.

6 — Turn R to view finder cairn with magnificent views over Sheffield and as far as Lincoln Cathedral on a clear day.

EITHER return to junction of path and retrace steps down valley to Fulwood OR return to junction, continue on road to Ringinglow passing Mayfield herd of Peruvian alpacas. (infrequent buses at Ringinglow) OR follow the green Sheffield Round Walk arrows via Ringinglow to Whirlow (one boggy field in this section).

Key  FP = footpath  BW = bridleway  L = left  R = right