

Location

INFORMATION

Pugneys Country Park

Pugneys Country Park is open every day, except Christmas day, Boxing Day & New Years day. The Park opens from 9:00am to just before dusk. A range of watersports is available. A cafe is located in the main building for hot and cold food. For further details please phone 01924 302360.

Sandal Castle

Sandal castle car park is open every day, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day. The gates are open from 9:30am to just before dusk. The visitor centre is open every day in summer and at weekends in winter. It has displays about the history of the castle, shop, toilets and activity room. Drinks and ice creams are available. For further information please phone: 01924 249779.

Dogs

Please keep your dog on a lead or under control and clean up after it. Both Pugneys Country Park and Sandal Castle have bins for dog waste.

Access

At the moment much of these walks are on rough paths that may not be suitable for pushchairs or the elderly. Improvements to some of the paths are planned which will make them easier to follow.

There are plenty of parking spaces at Pugneys Country Park. Parking space at Sandal Castle is limited; please do not park on the street and block neighbours' access.



Walks from Pugneys Country Park



WALK ONE

WALK TWO

WALK THREE



Bus Services

For Sandal castle: take the 110 to the Three Houses Pub on Barnsley Road. Or take a metro train to Sandal and Agbrigg Station.

For Pugneys Country Park:

Services 443 & 444

(Leeds - Wakefield - Barnsley - Hall Green)

Service 935

(Wakefield - Denby Dale - Holmfirth)
Travel down Denby Dale Road, adjacent to the Country Park.

Walks

WALK 1

Walk from Pugneys Country Park to Sandal Castle and back

**2 miles / 3.2km
40 minutes**

1. Walk to the end of the car park at Pugneys and pick up the path that runs around the lake. You can see Sandal castle on the skyline ahead of you.

Pugneys lake was created by the quarrying of sand and gravel before becoming an open cast mine.

2. As the path bends around the lake look for the path on the left (signposted) heading towards a wooden footbridge.

Flint tools about 8,000 years old have been found near here, left behind by Mesolithic people who lived near the riverside.

3. Once across the wooden footbridge, take the path in front of you. After only 50m you come across a T junction. Turn left up the hill.

This section of the path was once a medieval road.

4. Follow the footpath up the hill and turn right on to another footpath up to Sandal Castle.

The battle of Wakefield took place here on 30th December 1460. Richard Duke of York was killed by a Lancastrian arm. Up to 2,000 men were killed.

Sandal Castle was built in the 13th Century, more information is available at the Visitors Centre which has toilets and drinks/ice creams.

WALK 2

Extension to walk 1

**3 miles / 4km
60 minutes**

6. Instead of turning right at waymarker 4, carry on straight across the footpath cross roads, join the road (Manygates Road) turn right for Sandal Castle.

From here it is not too far to the medieval Chantry Chapel on Wakefield Bridge. (In some accounts this is where Edmund - a son of the Duke of York was murdered).

7. After about 100m look right for a Victorian monument which is overshadowed by trees.

Richard Duke of York is said to have died on this spot - his head was cut off and displayed on one of the gates of York.

8. At the second turn on the right, you can make a diversion to St Helen's Church.

There was a church here in 1086 - as noted in the Domesday Book. The current church is mainly from the 1930's.

Carry on up the hill to Sandal Castle.



WALK 3

Extension to walk 1

**4 miles / 6.4km
1 Hour 40 minutes**

You can do a circular walk by returning by this route. Some of this is very rough underfoot and also very wet in bad weather.

9. From Sandal castle turn right out of the gate, then turn right on to a footpath that leads downhill.

In the medieval period this area was a deer park providing venison for the high table of Sandal Castle. Archaeologists found deer bones when they excavated Sandal Castle.

10. At Castle Farm cross over the road and take the path almost immediately opposite.

11. The path crosses Pugneys Drain by a bridge and enters Pugneys Country Park. Turn right. This part of the path is very muddy in wet weather though a boardwalk has been provided.

12. At the T junction with the main track round Pugneys turn left.

13. The path on the left leads to a bird hide from which you can watch birds on the smaller lake which is a reserve for wildlife.

14. Continue round the larger lake to return to the car park.

