

THE PENISTONE SHEEP TRAIL

Rest your weary bodies on one of the 5 sheep benches. There are two outside the market barn opposite the Tesco Superstore and three at the playground off Schole Avenue

Roller skating outside Penistone Leisure Centre



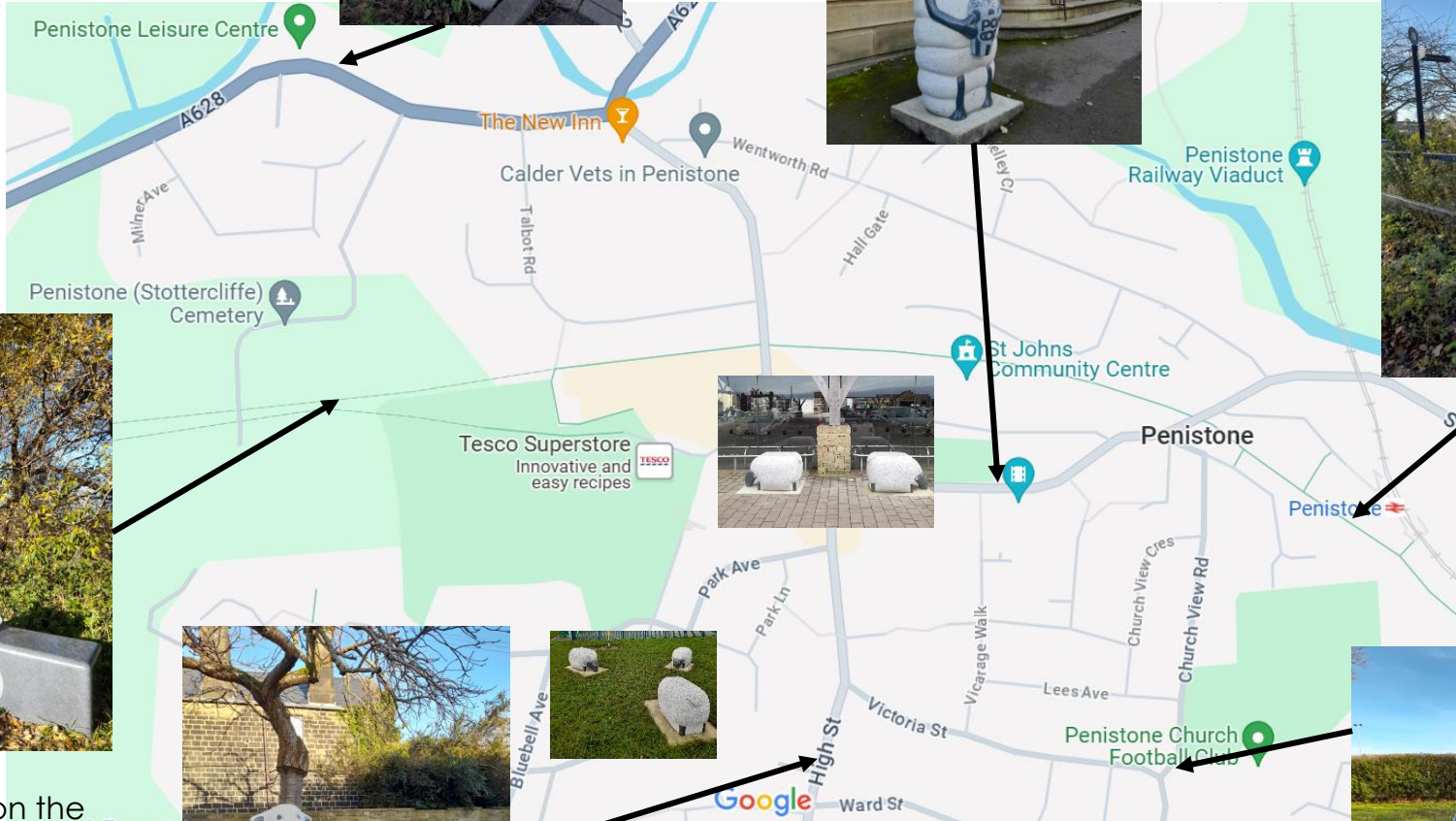
Eating Popcorn outside the Penistone Paramount



Travelling with a suitcase near Penistone Train Station



Cycling on the Pennine Trail near the skate park



Reading a book outside Penistone Library



Playing football outside Penistone Church FC



As part of the Principle Towns Project, and thanks to funding from the Arts Council, Sculptor Michael Disley has produced a number of stone sheep dotted around the town. Sheep have and still do play a large role in the economy of Penistone with the Whitefaced Woodland breed being also called Penistone Sheep.

There are six sculptures of sheep doing various activities around the town as well as 5 "sheep-benches" to rest your weary soul.

Why not do the Penistone Sheep Trail yourself? Take a picture by the sheep and post it on social media and tag them #PenistoneSheep ?

This is a suggested route begins at the train station. There is plenty of opportunities for a stop off at one of the many independent coffee shops in Penistone as well as something a little stronger!

If you are travelling on the train get off the train and cross onto the Trans-Pennine Trail. You can do this on the far left of the station which takes you directly onto the trail or up the steps through the car park and turn left past the Penistone Wine Cellars. This trail used to be the train line between Penistone and Manchester. If you turn left on the trail, a short walk later will take you to two sites of interest – the Railway turntable which was used to turn the steam trains around and further on a tank ramp, used in the 2nd World War to load and unload tanks which were tested out on the moors at nearby Langsett. At one point, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Dennis Healy, was one of the officers in charge here. But go right on the trail and leave the trail just after Lavenders NDT centre onto Eastwood Avenue. As you leave you will see the first of the sheep – holding a suitcase pointing the way to Penistone.

Go down the hill and at the junction turn sharp left up Church View Road towards Penistone Church Football Club. About 200 yards up the road you will see the football ground on your left. Penistone Church FC was formed in 1906 and the first team play in the Northern Counties East League, Premier Division. They have a great clubhouse serving a couple of real ales as well as live TV football when actual football isn't taking place!

Here you will find the 2nd of the sheep – this one has been adopted by the football club and is called "Penny". It is dressed in the club colours of black and white stripes.

Cross the road and on your left you will see Victoria Street. Walk along Victoria street to the end until it meets the main street in Penistone, High Street. Turn left and shortly after you will find Penistone Library. Penistone Library serves a vital role in the life of the town and is open 6 days a week. Outside you will see the third of the sheep – reading a book.

Cross the road and head down the hill towards Penistone Town Centre. The town is slowly regenerating and lots of new businesses are opening up. There are a number of independent places to have a coffee and a slice of cake along and just off the main street. As you get to the Co-Op and the Spar, turn left onto Park Avenue. Keep walking round and turn first right onto Schole Avenue. There you will see a playground. Here you will find 3 sheep grazing – also acting as benches to sit and contemplate what you've seen so far.

Walk across the grass towards the bowling green and Tesco, keep on the grass and Tesco on your right as you bend round and enter the Penistone Showground. The Penistone Show is held on the second Saturday in September each year. It is one of the largest one-day agricultural shows in the country. It has just celebrated its 150th anniversary and has only been stopped by World Wars and Covid!

You will see the skate park ahead of you and here is where you can rejoin the trail for the fourth sheep of the trail – one cycling! The Trans-Pennine trail is a much loved trail for walkers, runners, cyclists and those riding horses! Find out more about its history and walks at the website www.transpenninetrail.org.uk

Turn left onto the trail and as you come to the end of the first part of the show ground, you will see a path that takes you up towards the Stottercliffe Cemetery. As you get to the road through the cemetery, walk down through the old part of the cemetery and listen to the birdsong as you do. The road takes you down and onto the busy Thurlstone Road.

Just across the road you will see the Penistone Leisure Centre. This is the location of the 5th sheep – one on skates! The leisure centre is open 7 days a week offering all kinds of activities as well as a really nice café. Check their website to see what is going on www.penistoneleisurecentre.org.uk

Turn right and head back towards Penistone along Thurlstone Road. Cross onto Bridge Street at the Bridge End bridge where you can see the River Don flowing. Walk up Bridge Street, go under the bridge – the trans-pennine trail is above you – and cross at the roundabout. Go right up the hill towards the Tesco Superstore and as you get to the Tesco Car park turn left and go across it towards the Market Barn. Being a Market Town, Penistone has had a market of some kind. It was granted its Royal Charter for a market and fair in 1699. There used to be a livestock market in the town every week until its close in 2001. The new Market Cruck Barn was opened in 2011 as part of the redevelopment of this area as the Tesco Superstore also opened. Markets are held on Thursdays and Saturdays each week.

Just outside the Market Barn you can rest again on two more Sheep benches.

Once you have regained your energy, turn left around the edge of the market barn and walk through to High Street again. Cross over the road – there is a pedestrian crossing just to the right of you. Once on the other side of High Street, turn left down the street and then right onto Shrewsbury Road. As you walk down Shrewsbury Road you will see the lovely St John the Baptist Church on your left. It is thought that some of the masonry in the church is over 1000 years old. The tower which dominates the landscape of Penistone was built around 1500.

As you go down Shrewsbury Road you will come across the Penistone Paramount. The Paramount is our local cinema and arts venue. Here you can see the big blockbuster movies whilst enjoying an intermission halfway through. It is a community owned asset and run by the Penistone Town Council. Outside the Paramount you can see the 6th and final sheep – eating popcorn waiting to see the next blockbuster at the Paramount!

Keep walking down Shrewsbury Road and you will come back to the train station and your walk is complete!