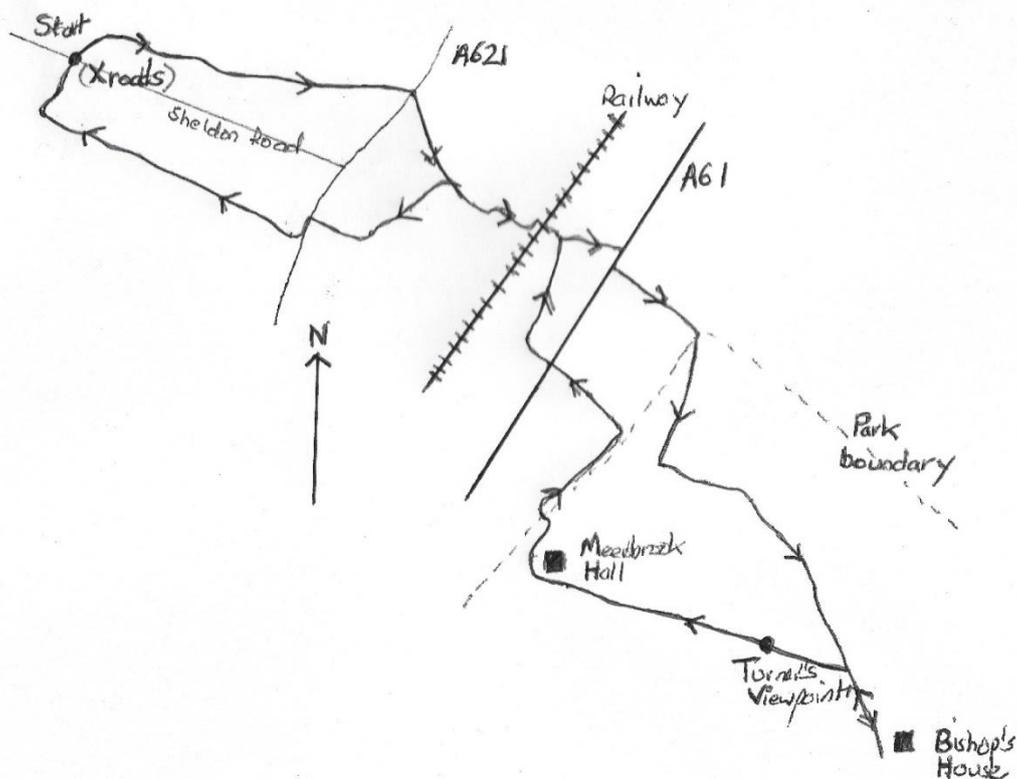


An Ascent of Turner's Viewpoint

This article is the first in a series describing circular walks to follow during a pandemic when the Government advice is to exercise locally. The walk of 4km can be done within one hour starting from the Nether Edge Crossroads. It takes you from the heart of Nether Edge to one of the best viewpoints in Sheffield.

Head towards town and take the first right down Machon Bank crossing the A621 towards Heeley Baths. Cross Broadfield Road and walk over the footbridge over the River Sheaf making your way under the railway bridge to the A61.



Cross the A61 (pedestrian lights) and take Meersbrook Park Road to the entrance of Meersbrook Park on the corner with Brook Road.

Meersbrook Park is one of Sheffield's oldest and most historic parks and is located on one of Sheffield's seven hills. It was originally the grounds of Meersbrook Hall and acquired by Sheffield Council in 1886 and opened a year later on September 17th 1887.

Once in the park, fork left and then take the next left walking between the football pitches and the playground. At the end of the playground fork right to begin your ascent (40 metres) up to Turner's Viewpoint. The view is the same as one in the watercolour by JMW Turner "View of Sheffield from Derbyshire Lane which is displayed in the Millennium Gallery. The watercolour was engraved for the "The Copper-Plate Magazine "of August 1798 and Turner had made the sketch on a Yorkshire tour the year before. In the early part of his career, before he earned his reputation as a great artist, Turner mainly painted landscape views for mass-producing in magazines and print books.



Figure 1 Turners Viewpoint

The Bishops' House is 200 metres further up the hill. It was built around 1500 and is one of three surviving timber-framed houses in Sheffield. It was built around the time that two members of the Blythe family became Bishops but their historical connection with the house is unconfirmed. In 1886 ownership passed to Sheffield City Council and various recreation department employees lived in the house until 1974. It is a Grade II listed building and has been opened as a museum since 1976.



Figure 2 Bishops House

Retrace your steps back to the viewpoint and turn left heading towards Meersbrook Hall. At the 5 way junction follow the sign to the walled garden, which was the kitchen garden for Meersbrook Hall. The Hall was built in about 1760 for Benjamin Roebuck a merchant who later became a partner in the first bank in Sheffield "Parker, Roebuck & Shore (1770)". It was later bought by Samuel Shore, one of the partners, who was a grandfather of Florence Nightingale. Samuel Shore extended the building employing the architect William Fairbank Fairbanks of the famous Fairbanks family.



Figure 3 Meersbrook Hall

Leave the park at the Meersbrook Hall exit, (see optional extension) turning right along Brook Road and then the next left along Beeton Road crossing the A61 at the retail park. Walk past Costa Coffee down the ginnel to meet the road going back under the railway bridge.

You can extend the walk by about 800m to see the location of the shop that featured in the recent television series 'Back in Time for the Corner Shop' that was on the BBC in February. On leaving the park turn left instead of right and go through the gennel on the corner of Brook Street and Binfield Road to join Derbyshire Lane. Turn left and walk up hill for 200 metres to the location on the corner with Norton Lees Road. Retrace your route back to the Meersbrook Hall exit and follow the original directions.

Retrace your steps to Broadfield Road but do not cross it. Instead cross Broadfield Way and walk in between the river and the playground to meet the end of Leyburn Road and the Leyburn Road mosque and walk to the A621 and AE Butterworth on the corner.

AE Butterworth, the bike repair shop and a Sheffield institution is run by Matthew Butterworth, the grandson of the founder Albert Edward Butterworth who started the business on Abbeydale Road in 1930.

Cross the A621 using the pedestrian lights to Glen Road. and continue back to the shops at the heart of Nether Edge.