

DOORSTEP WALK

Short, Easy to follow and local

Take a walk through the countryside at Rother Valley Park.

- This walk will take about 1½ hours, and is almost entirely off public road. It also has a much shorter circuit and short-cut.
- The award winning Rother Valley Park is the base of our walk, this route links into the rolling farmland above the valley and has a link into nearby Aston where there are shops and pubs.
- You do not need to read a map.
- You do not need fancy equipment.

Just follow the GREEN Doorstep waymark

Rother Valley Country Park is very accessible, and links to the Trans Pennine Trail, the National Cycle Network and the Cuckoo Way, a 42-mile linear route along the Chesterfield Canal. For copies of any of these publications contact the Rights of Way team (01709) 822168. The time for this walk is based on an adult walking fairly slowly and having a few good rests. As ever, don't forget to dress for typical English weather, it can get muddy underfoot at any time of year. The route has links to pubs and shops at Aston, and there is a cafe at Rother Valley Park.

For more details, downloads of alternative route descriptions and themed guides check out our web-page on www.rotherham.gov.uk/prow

Responsible Walking

This walk uses just a few of our many rights of way to access and enjoy the countryside. A right of way is not owned by the council, it is a right to pass over private land. When you go out please remember that almost all the land you cross is in private ownership, and someone's livelihood will depend on the crops and livestock there. Our countryside is not just a beautiful place, but a working environment, please play your part by keeping it tidy for the people who walk and work there tomorrow.

Take a responsible attitude into the countryside, leave only footprints and take only photographs.

Follow the Country Code, happy walking!

How do I get there?

Aston has good bus links to other areas in the Borough. For up-to-date information call the Travel South Yorkshire on **01709 515151** or visit www.travelsouthyorkshire.com for timetables. The walk starts at Rother Valley Park. From the bus-stop follow the access road into the park until you reach the visitor centre, this link puts about another hour on the walk in total.

Something to think about

Many of the paths to the north of Rother Valley are newly restored, up until recently the whole area was an open-cast coal site. Again the walk would not be possible without the abundant help and enthusiasm of landowners and local people.

All paths around Aston and Rother Valley Park are shown clearly on the OS Explorer Map 278 Rotherham.

Why not pick up a copy at your local bookshop and devise your own walks. Any enquiries please ring

01709 336003

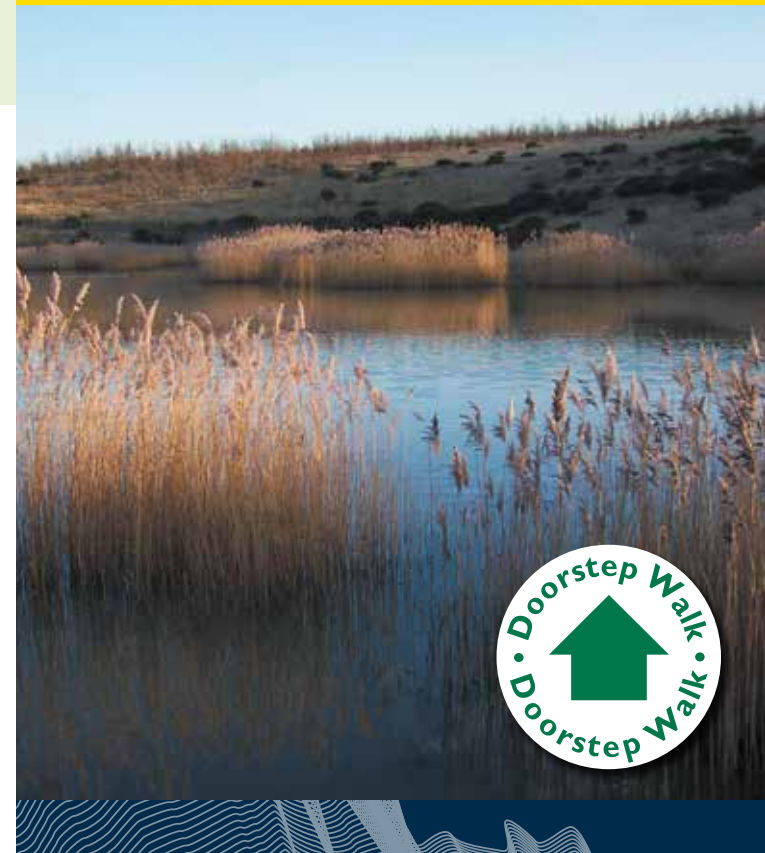
or email streetpride@rotherham.gov.uk

Remember to keep a track of where you are in the description, occasionally waymarks get vandalised and we may not have had time to replace them.

DOORSTEP WALK Number 4

An easy way to explore the beautiful, local countryside on your 'doorstep'.

The Waleswood Walk around Rother Valley



REF: 85020/2020 Produced by RMBC Design Studio

DOORSTEP WALK Number 4

The Waleswood Walk around Rother Valley (3 Miles)

Abundant Birdlife

The park is abundant in woodland, grassland and hedgerow, ensuring a large amount of birdlife. Keep an eye out and you may see jay, sparrowhawk, woodpecker, little owl, green finch and goldfinch.

With 170 acres of open water within the park Rother Valley offers an ideal habitat for the many species of waterfowl such as teal, tufted duck, widgeon and greylag geese.



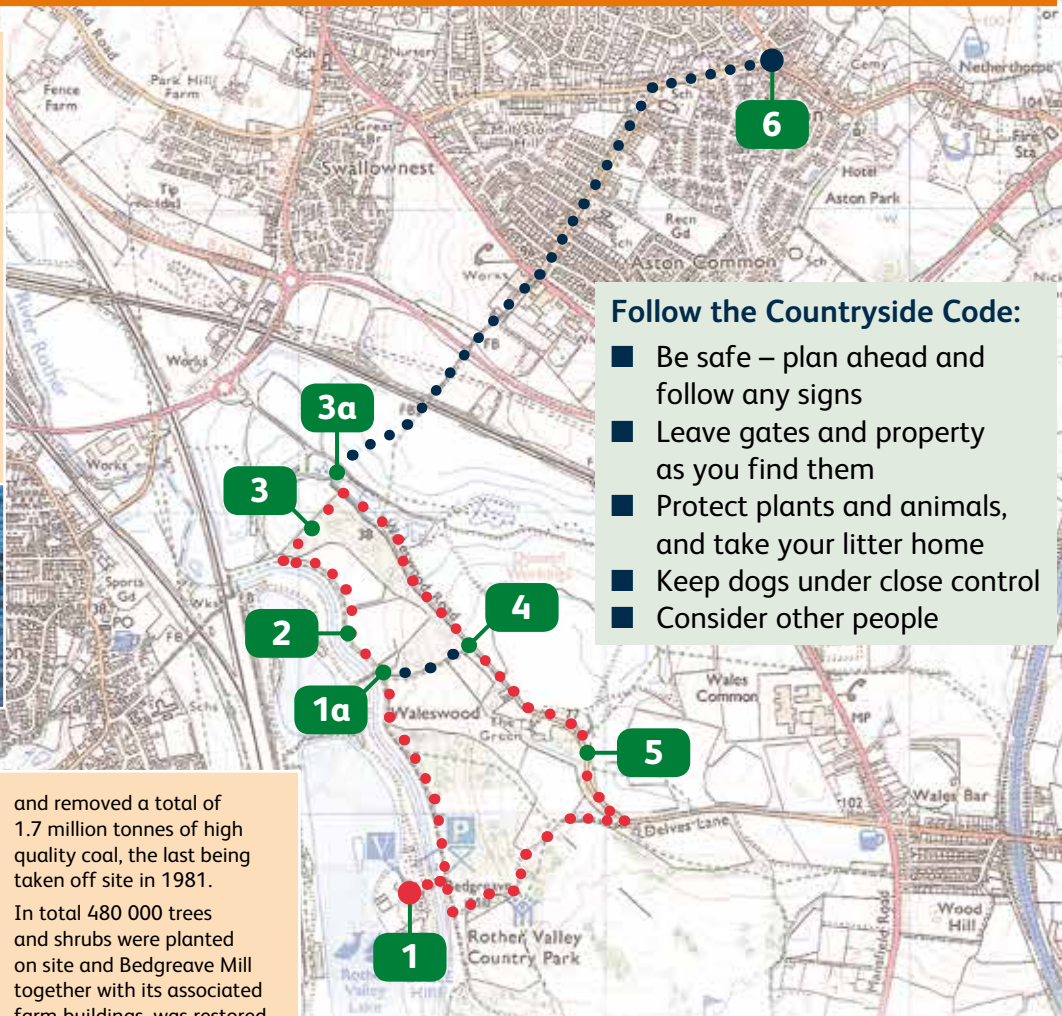
Rother Valley Park - History

Rother Valley Country Park was first suggested in the 1960's as the areas of Mosborough, Beighton and Sothall began to expand.

Open-casting of the 300 hectare site began in 1976,

and removed a total of 1.7 million tonnes of high quality coal, the last being taken off site in 1981.

In total 480 000 trees and shrubs were planted on site and Bedgreave Mill together with its associated farm buildings, was restored to form a centrepiece to the park.



Follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

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A Family Friendly Walk

This easy walk passes through rolling farmland and parkland and offers an interesting easy route away from the busy park. The short route should take about forty five minutes. Part of the walk can get boggy, please make sure children have suitable footwear. Allow about 2 hours for smaller legs to complete the whole walk.

1 Start at the Visitor Centre in the Rother Valley Park (see sidebar), head out onto the access road, go right and then cross the road bridge. Once across turn left and follow the broad path with the river immediately on your left. After a while you will see a large suspension footbridge ahead on your left.

1a To take the shortcut lookout for a path on your right more or less opposite the suspension bridge, follow this path uphill by the edge of the plantation and rejoin the main route at Point 4.

2 Keep following the path ahead, you are following part of the Trans Pennine Trail, a 350 mile route from Southport to Hull, this route forms part of a much larger European route called the E8 route which links the West Coast of Ireland to Istanbul. Some 20 miles of the Trans Pennine Trail crosses Rotherham, with many potential shorter link walks such as the one you are following. Stay on the path above the river until you see a wood ahead on your right, here the track joins an embankment and bends slightly left. Just before this go right, down a very short bank and then immediately right again to follow a path which heads uphill.

3 Keep going straight and after a very short time the path levels out with the wood on your right. Soon you will come to a track.

3a To have a side trip to Aston where there is a pub and shops, head left for about 50 metres, then right across a small arched footbridge. Then go straight uphill, crossing the railway and road via bridges, eventually you will reach Mansfield Road. Carefully cross this and head straight-ahead up Lodge Lane where there is a pub and shops. Retrace your steps to return to the trail.

4 Turn right and follow the track, which heads steadily uphill, (for those who have taken the shortcut you rejoin the walk here). Stay on the track, which eventually joins a road, take care on this short section.

5 Passing a farm on your right the road turns right and slightly downhill before coming to a corner where there are a couple more houses. Just before these is a path on your right, follow this along a track, this heads gently uphill, then finally steeply down, back into the park. The visitor centre is to your right, just over the bridge.

6 To join the walk from Aston start at the Aughton Lane/Workshop Road junction (where there are several shops) head downhill along Workshop Road until you pass Aston Junior and Infant School on your left. Here head left down Lodge Lane until you reach Mansfield Road, cross this (taking care as the road is busy) and head down Brookhouse Lane, keep heading straight as the lane leaves the industrial units behind and crosses the road and railway. The path heads straight downhill until you reach some ponds, keep going straight, crossing a small arched footbridge and turn left. Follow the description from 'Stay on the track...' (below left) but when you reach the road bridge at point 5 do not cross it, instead turn right and head along the track, then follow the description back to the arched footbridge.