

## 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!

## The Laughton walk around Roche Abbey

This doorstep walk follows the same route as walk 1 – the Spire Walk – but the description has been modified to allow its use directly from Roche Abbey.

### How do I get there?

The Abbey has good bus links to other areas in the Borough, for up to date information call the Traveline on 01709 515151 or visit [www.sypte.co.uk](http://www.sypte.co.uk) for timetables.

The walk starts at the Blyth Road – Gypsy Lane bus stop.

### Something to think about

This walk would not be possible without the help of local people, landowners and farmers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them, and would particularly like to thank Mr Turner of Manor Farm, Laughton and Mr Hinchliffe of Grange Farm, Wickersley for all their help in carrying out works to this walk.

If you enjoyed this walk you may wish to find out more about Laughton in the Countryside Departments excellent Laughton en le Morthen Historic Walk leaflet. Contact 01709 822438 for a copy.

Any enquiries please ring 01709 822168

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 it.



Produced on Recycled Paper

Design & production by the Design Studio, RYBC 01709 823679

## Doorstep Walk No:2

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

## Laughton walk around Roche Abbey



## Doorstep Walk Short, Easy to follow and local

Enjoy a short walk in the countryside around the Abbey ruins.

- This walk will take about 2 hours, it has a small easy uphill climb of about 15 minutes, the rest is fairly flat.

- It passes an historic church and the remains of a castle before crossing rolling farmland, passing through a fine wood and finally along a valley with excellent views.

- You do not need to read a map.

- You do not need fancy equipment.

### Just follow the Doorstep waymark

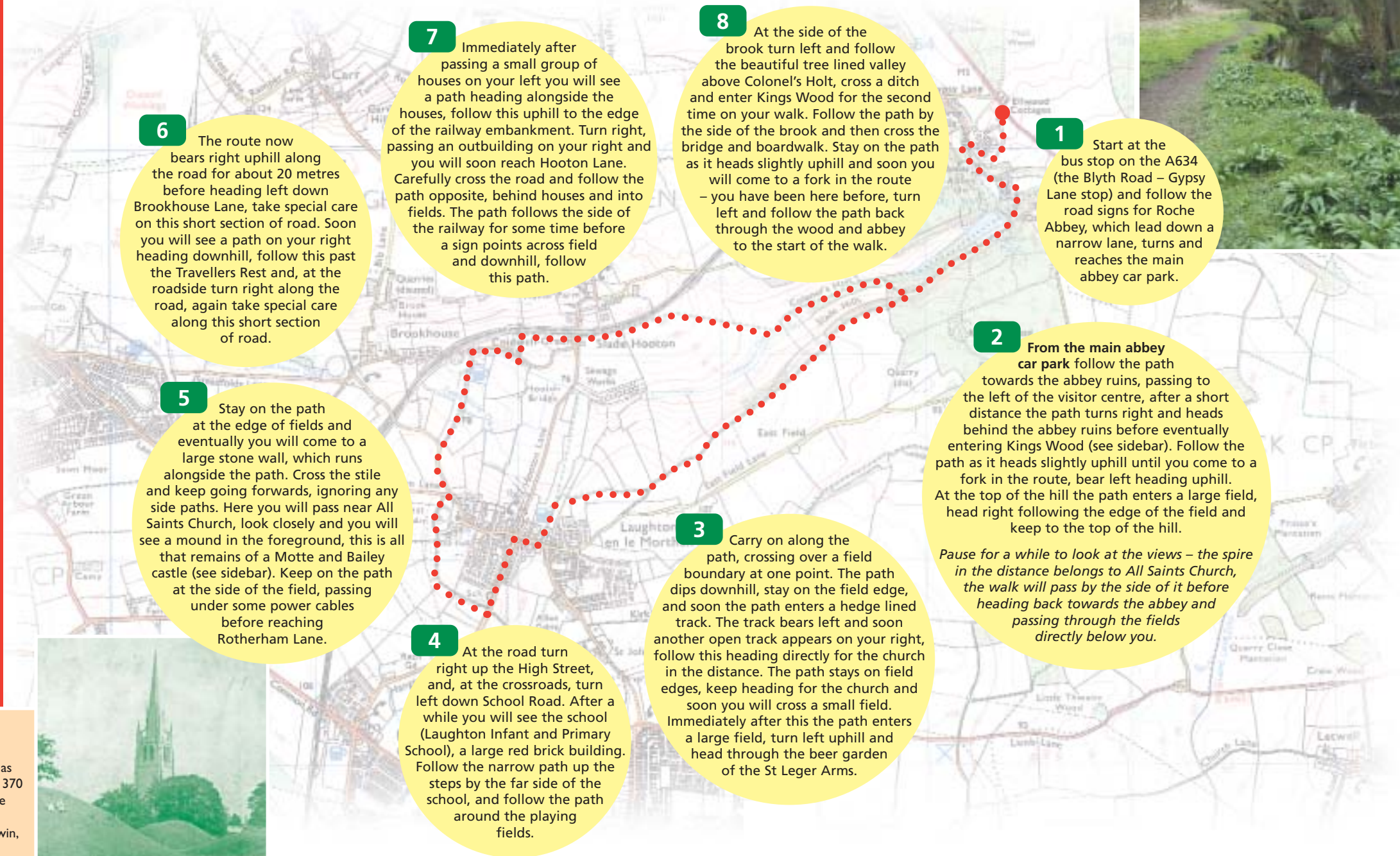
### Motte and Bailey Castle

Just to the west of the Church are the earthworks known as Castle Hill. These consist of a round mound approximately 370 feet in diameter and a rectangular area known locally as the 'Hall Yard'. Although it is called a castle the mound is pre-Norman and may possibly be the site of the hall of Edwin, the Saxon Earl of Mercia.

(The image is a postcard from the turn of the 19th century.)



## The Laughton walk around Roche Abbey



**6** The route now bears right uphill along the road for about 20 metres before heading left down Brookhouse Lane, take special care on this short section of road. Soon you will see a path on your right heading downhill, follow this past the Travellers Rest and, at the roadside turn right along the road, again take special care along this short section of road.

**5** Stay on the path at the edge of fields and eventually you will come to a large stone wall, which runs alongside the path. Cross the stile and keep going forwards, ignoring any side paths. Here you will pass near All Saints Church, look closely and you will see a mound in the foreground, this is all that remains of a Motte and Bailey castle (see sidebar). Keep on the path at the side of the field, passing under some power cables before reaching Rotherham Lane.

**7** Immediately after passing a small group of houses on your left you will see a path heading alongside the houses, follow this uphill to the edge of the railway embankment. Turn right, passing an outbuilding on your right and you will soon reach Hooton Lane. Carefully cross the road and follow the path opposite, behind houses and into fields. The path follows the side of the railway for some time before a sign points across field and downhill, follow this path.

**4** At the road turn right up the High Street, and, at the crossroads, turn left down School Road. After a while you will see the school (Laughton Infant and Primary School), a large red brick building. Follow the narrow path up the steps by the far side of the school, and follow the path around the playing fields.

**3** Carry on along the path, crossing over a field boundary at one point. The path dips downhill, stay on the field edge, and soon the path enters a hedge lined track. The track bears left and soon another open track appears on your right, follow this heading directly for the church in the distance. The path stays on field edges, keep heading for the church and soon you will cross a small field. Immediately after this the path enters a large field, turn left uphill and head through the beer garden of the St Leger Arms.

**8** At the side of the brook turn left and follow the beautiful tree lined valley above Colonel's Holt, cross a ditch and enter Kings Wood for the second time on your walk. Follow the path by the side of the brook and then cross the bridge and boardwalk. Stay on the path as it heads slightly uphill and soon you will come to a fork in the route – you have been here before, turn left and follow the path back through the wood and abbey to the start of the walk.

**2** From the main abbey car park follow the path towards the abbey ruins, passing to the left of the visitor centre, after a short distance the path turns right and heads behind the abbey ruins before eventually entering Kings Wood (see sidebar). Follow the path as it heads slightly uphill until you come to a fork in the route, bear left heading uphill. At the top of the hill the path enters a large field, head right following the edge of the field and keep to the top of the hill.  
*Pause for a while to look at the views – the spire in the distance belongs to All Saints Church, the walk will pass by the side of it before heading back towards the abbey and passing through the fields directly below you.*

**1** Start at the bus stop on the A634 (the Blyth Road – Gypsy Lane stop) and follow the road signs for Roche Abbey, which lead down a narrow lane, turns and reaches the main abbey car park.



### Kings Wood

These woods are a Site of Special Scientific Interest, they represent one of the country's best and largest lowland broad leaved woodland on the Magnesian limestone.

They are abundant in ancient woodland species including wych elm and sessile oak as well as lily-of-the-valley, yellow star of bethlehem and toothwort.

The wood is a fragile environment, please respect it for the enjoyment of others who follow in your footsteps.

The area around Roche Abbey has some great walking country, this route is fairly easy, the time is based on an adult walking fairly slowly and having a few good rests. There is a short section which is seasonally muddy at Colonels Holt, be sure you have boots, not trainers. Remember, it can get muddy underfoot at any time of year, don't forget to dress for typical English weather. There are 3 pubs on the route, and Roche Abbey lodge has pop and snacks but is only open from April to October.

For more details check out our web-page on [www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)

All paths around Laughton and Roche Abbey are shown clearly on the OS Explorer Map 279 Doncaster. Why not pick up a copy at your local bookshop and devise your own walks.

The map used is based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 mapping with the sanction of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright Reserved. LAO76287