

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!

Produced by the Rights of Way Team.

The Waleswood Walk around Rother Valley

How do I get there?

Rother Valley Park 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 for timetables.

The walk starts at the Visitor Centre in the Park.

Something to think about


As ever, this walk would not be possible without the help and enthusiasm of local farmers and landowners. We would particularly like to thank the Rother Valley golf club for their help and the staff at Rother Valley Country Park who carried out much of the work to make this walk possible. Special praise goes to UK Coal for making such an excellent job of reinstating the paths at Pit House West and for being very patient with demanding and perfectionist rights of way staff.

All paths around Rother Valley and Wales are shown clearly on the OS Explorer Maps 278 - Rotherham and 279 - Doncaster. Why not pick up copies at you local bookshop and devise your own walks.

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 them.

Key

-  Walk No: 5
The Wales Walk at Rother Valley



Produced on Recycled Paper

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Doorstep Walk No: 5

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

The Wales Walk at Rother Valley



Doorstep Walk Short, Easy to follow and local

Take a walk around Rother Valley Park and explore the countryside around it.

- This walk is 4 miles (6½ kilometres) long. Allow a morning or afternoon to enjoy this route, it is one of our most challenging Doorstep walks.
- The award winning Rother Valley Park is the focus of our walk, which uses many newly restored paths across the former Pit House West Colliery.
- You do not need to read a map.
- You do not need fancy equipment.

Just follow the **ORANGE** Doorstep waymark.

(Don't forget to ignore other coloured doorstep waymarks).



Pit House West

Covering some 147 hectares (a hectare is 10,000 square meters, about 2.4 acres), open-casting ceased on this site in 1994. Prior to open-casting much of the site was in non-agricultural use and derelict. The land has now been restored and the rights of way reinstated to once again grant access to this area. The photograph shows what the site looked like a few years ago.

The Wales Walk from Rother Valley Park



1 Start at the visitor centre in Rother Valley Park and head for the access road, crossing the road bridge ahead, then follow the road right and after a very short distance head left uphill, following a stone track.

2 At the end of the track at the road turn right, taking care on this short section of road. About half way along the road a path opens up on your left, follow this turning immediately left again after the hedge to follow the ditch, then shortly after turn right crossing the ditch and through the plantation. Head straight across the field and then into another small plantation.

3 Soon you will enter open fields again, pause for a while to admire the views West, this site was recently all open cast (see sidebar). Head straight across the field towards the track ahead, watch out as half way across the field is a ditch, once across this turn right and follow the track to Mansfield Road.

4 Carefully cross and head right uphill along the pavement for a short while before a track opens on your left, follow this and then cross fields, bearing slightly right and uphill. After a time you will come to the motorway boundary, head right uphill, through a path next to housing and reach School Road, Wales and carefully cross.

4a To take a side trip into Wales where there are pubs and shops bear left, the village is just a few hundred metres away.
To join the walk from Wales start at the Post Office and face Manor Road, bear left and follow the road, crossing the motorway, take the path next to it on your left, then follow the description from 5. At point 7 after the golf course follow the path along the main park access road and, just before the bridge at the visitor centre head right up the track and follow the description back from point 2.

5 Follow the path between the side of the motorway and houses and soon you will enter fields with fine distant views of Nor Wood (see sidebar). The path soon turns right along a hedge (following what is known as a headland path) and soon you will reach Mansfield Road, turn right and, just before the petrol station you will see a path heading into fields on the opposite side of the road.

6 Cross carefully and follow the headland path until you reach the golf course, then turn left following the path along the course edge, passing the club house (where there are refreshments) and soon you will reach the park main access road.

7 Follow the path right and soon you will see the main access bridge, cross this and return to the visitor centre.



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Rother Valley Park

The award winning park is very accessible, and links to the Trans Pennine Trail, the National Cycle Trail and nearby is the Cuckoo Way, a 46 mile linear route along the Chesterfield Canal. For copies of any of these publications contact the Rights of Way team.

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 a side trip to the village of Wales where you can get refreshments. The Rother Valley Golf Club house has a bar which serves meals 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

Norwood and the Cuckoo Way

Passing through this beautiful woodland is the Cuckoo Way, a trail which follows the line of the Chesterfield Canal linking the market town to West Stockwith where the canal joins the River Trent. At 46 miles long the trail passes through some of the most beautiful scenery in the area and is well worth a separate visit. Much of the canal is now restored and navigable, and many walks and publications are available, for more information contact the Rights of Way team.

The photograph shows a section of newly restored locks on the canal at nearby Thorpe Salvin.

