

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 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

Produced by the Rights of Way Team.

Jim Tompkin

Jim has been a member of the Rambler's Association for many years, as well as a valued member of our Adopt a Path scheme. He's been walking paths around Rotherham for decades and been tireless in helping out where he can, passing on reports to the council and the association to make sure our path network is in excellent condition for those who visit. The many people who have had dealings with Jim will concur that he is a constantly cheerful and friendly man whose local knowledge of the path network around Rotherham is unrivalled and whose passion and commitment to opening up the countryside for the benefit of all local people is admirable.

The Cuckoo Way – 'one of the most beautiful canal towpaths in the country.'

At 46 miles long, this trail passes through some fantastic countryside, from the rolling Derbyshire hills above Chesterfield and Staveley. Then it passes through farmland and the giants causeway of locks of Rotherham and beyond, passing through Worksop and Retford before reaching its end at West Stockwith near Gainsborough, where it links to the River Trent and so eventually to the North Sea.



CPRE Design Commendation: Doorstep Walks

Public Paths in Rotherham are clearly shown on the OS Explorer Maps Nos. 278 and 279. Why not pick up a copy at your local bookshop and devise your own walks.

Any enquiries please ring 01709 822932

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

- 16 Walk No: 16
Anston Stones Wood Walk



Produced on Recycled Paper

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REF: 3095 JA/09

Doorstep Walk No: 16

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

The Anston Stones Wood Walk
By Jim Tompkin



Doorstep Walk Short, Easy to follow and local

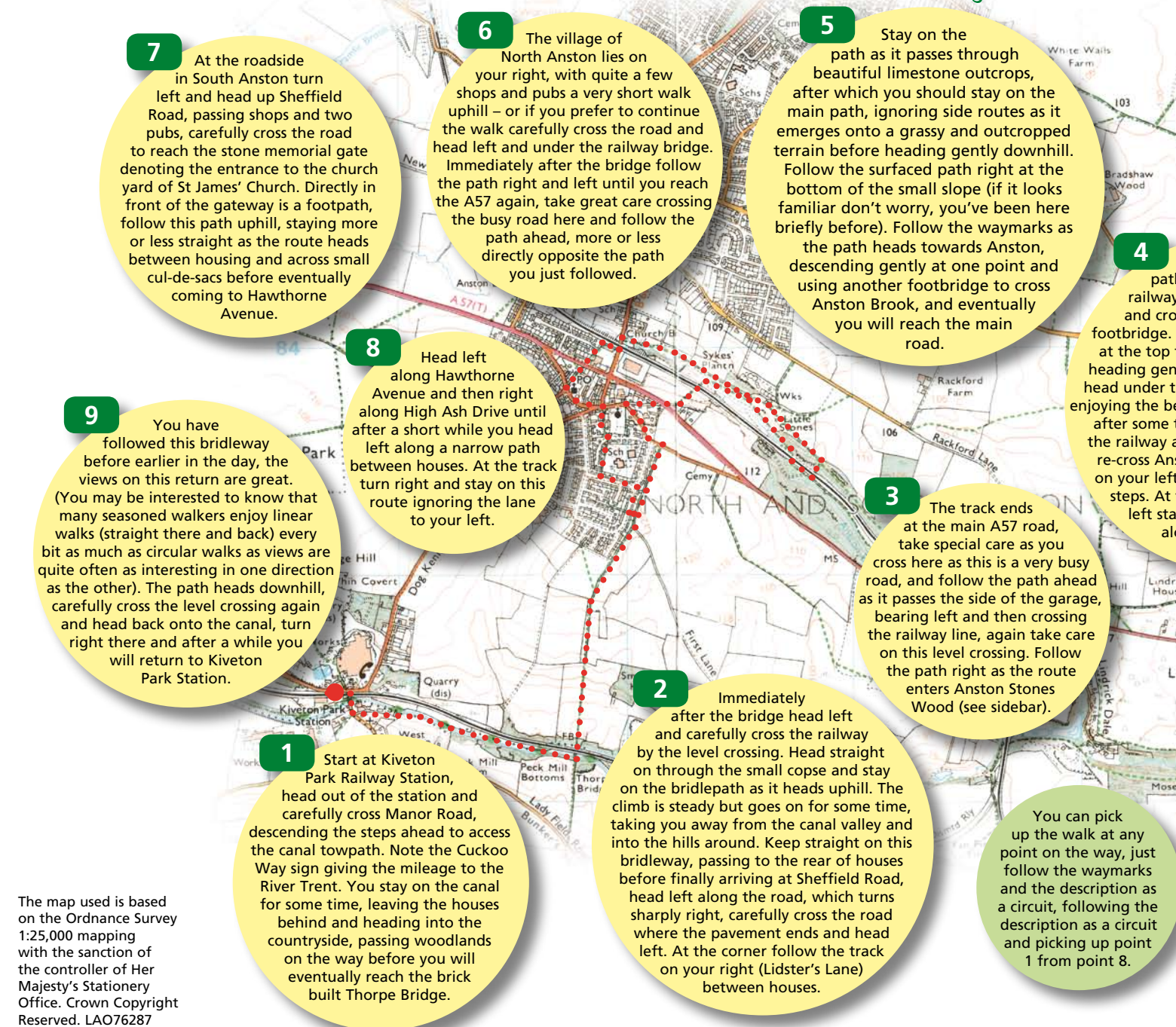
Visit one of Rotherham's hidden gems – the beautiful deep vale of Anston Stones Wood - on this rewarding walk, which takes in part of the Cuckoo Way and Chesterfield Canal, and rises from the canal valley to reach South Anston, the destination of Regency walkers and pleasure seekers.

- This walk is about 5 miles long and is one of our most challenging, but rewarding routes. Allow a long morning or afternoon to enjoy the route, or if you prefer take an easy day to enjoy the walk. Anston lies exactly half way around the route, and where you'll find shops and pubs, so why not plan a stop at the village there. Always check times for meals and opening before setting out.
- This walk follows part of the Cuckoo Way – a 46 mile trail which follows the Chesterfield Canal. We'll be basing many future walks in this area so keep an eye out for routes around what has been described as one of the most beautiful towpaths in England.
- You do not need to read a map.
- You do not need specialist equipment.

Just follow the **ORANGE Doorstep Waymark**



The Anston Stones Wood Walk from the Chesterfield Canal and Kiveton Park Railway Station



7 At the roadside in South Anston turn left and head up Sheffield Road, passing shops and two pubs, carefully cross the road to reach the stone memorial gate denoting the entrance to the church yard of St James' Church. Directly in front of the gateway is a footpath, follow this path uphill, staying more or less straight as the route heads between housing and across small cul-de-sacs before eventually coming to Hawthorne Avenue.

6 The village of North Anston lies on your right, with quite a few shops and pubs a very short walk uphill – or if you prefer to continue the walk carefully cross the road and head left and under the railway bridge. Immediately after the bridge follow the path right and left until you reach the A57 again, take great care crossing the busy road here and follow the path ahead, more or less directly opposite the path you just followed.

5 Stay on the path as it passes through beautiful limestone outcrops, after which you should stay on the main path, ignoring side routes as it emerges onto a grassy and outcropped terrain before heading gently downhill. Follow the surfaced path right at the bottom of the small slope (if it looks familiar don't worry, you've been here briefly before). Follow the waymarks as the path heads towards Anston, descending gently at one point and using another footbridge to cross Anston Brook, and eventually you will reach the main road.

4 Stay on the path by the side of the railway, which soon descends and crosses Anston Brook by a footbridge. The path then heads uphill, at the top take the surfaced path left heading gently downhill, and eventually head under the railway. Stay on the path, enjoying the beautiful woodland as you walk, after some time the path crosses under the railway again, immediately after this re-cross Anston Brook by a footbridge on your left and ascends via a flight of steps. At the top of the steps head left staying on the main path along the edge of a broad field.

3 The track ends at the main A57 road, take special care as you cross here as this is a very busy road, and follow the path ahead as it passes the side of the garage, bearing left and then crossing the railway line, again take care on this level crossing. Follow the path right as the route enters Anston Stones Wood (see sidebar).

2 Immediately after the bridge head left and carefully cross the railway by the level crossing. Head straight on through the small copse and stay on the bridlepath as it heads uphill. The climb is steady but goes on for some time, taking you away from the canal valley and into the hills around. Keep straight on this bridleway, passing to the rear of houses before finally arriving at Sheffield Road, head left along the road, which turns sharply right, carefully cross the road where the pavement ends and head left. At the corner follow the track on your right (Lidster's Lane) between houses.

1 Start at Kiveton Park Railway Station, head out of the station and carefully cross Manor Road, descending the steps ahead to access the canal towpath. Note the Cuckoo Way sign giving the mileage to the River Trent. You stay on the canal for some time, leaving the houses behind and heading into the countryside, passing woodlands on the way before you will eventually reach the brick built Thorpe Bridge.

9 You have followed this bridleway before earlier in the day, the views on this return are great. (You may be interested to know that many seasoned walkers enjoy linear walks (straight there and back) every bit as much as circular walks as views are quite often as interesting in one direction as the other). The path heads downhill, carefully cross the level crossing again and head back onto the canal, turn right there and after a while you will return to Kiveton Park Station.

8 Head left along Hawthorne Avenue and then right along High Ash Drive until after a short while you head left along a narrow path between houses. At the track turn right and stay on this route ignoring the lane to your left.

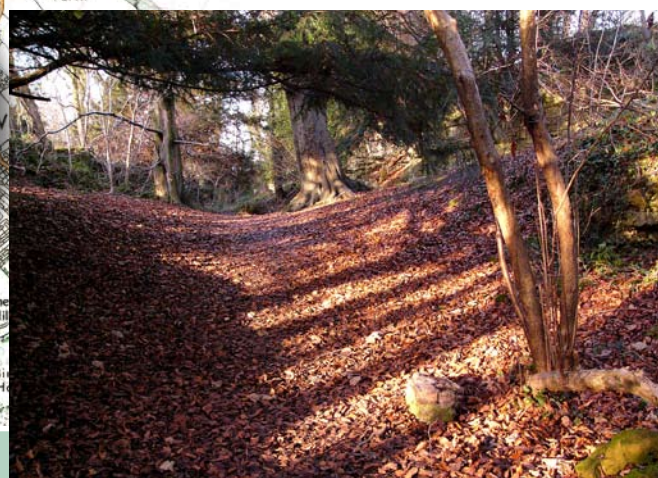
You can pick up the walk at any point on the way, just follow the waymarks and the description as a circuit, following the description as a circuit and picking up point 1 from point 8.



The Stone for the Houses of Parliament

An overheating stove destroyed the old palace of Westminster in 1834, and the new houses of parliament were built using Anston Stone, a magnesian limestone quarried here at Anston. In all approximately half a million cubic feet of stone was sent via the Chesterfield Canal and then by small boat along the Humber and down the coast to the Thames Embankment. Unfortunately the stone suffered badly because of the polluted atmosphere of London, and was slowly replaced, the operation was so huge that it started in 1928, and was only fully completed in 1993.

Adjacent to the Leeds Arms is a small memorial garden wherein is a pinnacle from the Houses of Parliament dating from the early 1900's.



Anston and Anston Stones Wood

The wood is an SSSI – a Site of Special Scientific Interest - and recognised by botanists as one of the finest examples of native woodland in northern England. The valley is not only interesting for its natural history but also for its archaeology. Ice Age cave deposits and Roman artefacts have been found throughout the valley. The woodland is a stunning place to visit, and it goes without saying that we owe it to future generations to take special care of this area, please play your part by keeping to waymarked trails.

Whilst following the higher route through the wood, keep an eye out on your right for stones

marked DL, these old stones were used to mark the edge of the Duke of Leeds estate. As you follow this walk notice the old boundaries you follow, many have often been in place for many hundreds of years and date back from old or even medieval enclosure awards or agreements.

Anston was a very popular destination for walkers and tourists in the Regency period in the early nineteenth century; a time of Jane Austen and Walter Scott, whose novel Ivanhoe is set locally. At the time the village name was temporarily changed to Anston-cum-Membris, to lend the place an air of romantic affectation.

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