

Part of a Bronze Age Hoard, thought to have been found at Kilnhurst. It was given to the British Museum in 1918 and was dated to the Late Bronze Age - perhaps around 800BC. (From Preston, F.L., in T.H.A.S., Vol VII, part 5, 1956.)

Crop marks revealed on aerial photographs, near Racecourse Road and Golden Smithies Lane, might mean that the dyke had some sort of relationship with enclosures which date back to the first millennium BC. There is also evidence of activity near the northern dyke in Roman times. In 1852, a **hoard of Roman coins**, from the mid-first century AD was discovered in a vase on **Rockingham Road** - a stone's throw away from the line of the earthwork. It has also been suggested that there was a small villa nearby, as well as Romano-British agricultural terraces near Abdy and in Wath Wood.

Something to think about!

Remember that farmers' livelihoods depend on the success of their land. Please play your part by taking your litter home, sticking to the proper paths and keeping dogs on leads through farmland.

How do I get there?

For up to date information on bus links, call the Traveline on 01709 515151, or visit www.travelsouthyorkshire.com for timetables.

Responsible Walking

This walk uses just a few of the 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. Take a responsible attitude into the countryside, leave only

footprints and take only photographs.

Follow the Country Code, happy walking!

Maps, leaflets, guides and books

Paths are shown clearly on the OS Explorer Maps 278 - Rotherham and 279 - Doncaster.

Why not pick up copies at your local bookshop and devise your own walks?

Visit the Rotherham Information Centre on All Saints Square for more walking leaflets, guides and books, including the Roman Ridge by K.A. Cronk. Tel: 01709 835904.

Reporting path problems

If you find any problems with the state of the Rights of Way, please report them to 01709 822168.

To find out more about Making Trax phone 01709 822186.

Rotherham Roman Ridge

Walk 1 - Swinton



Rotherham Roman Ridge

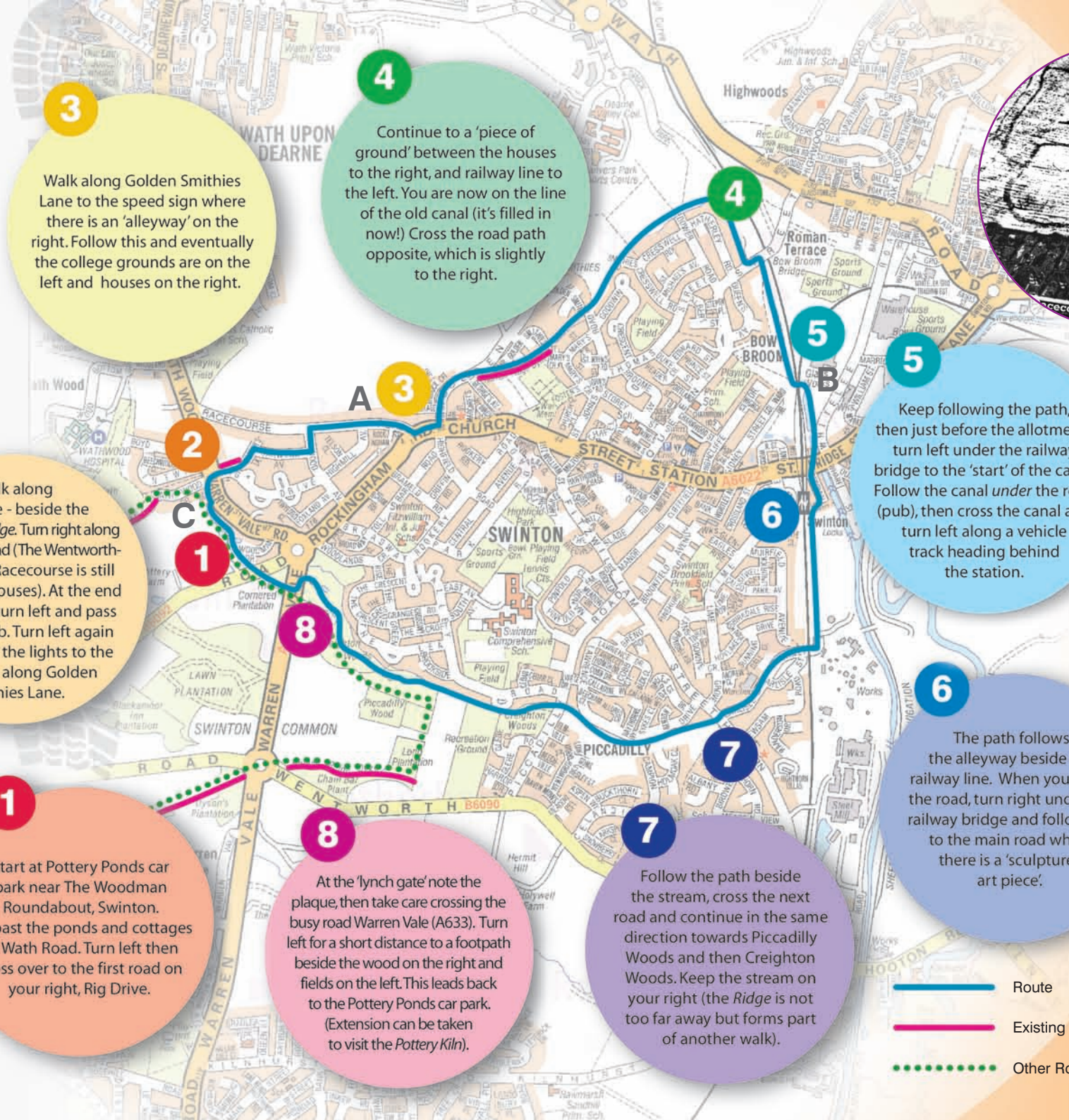
Swinton (4 1/2 miles)

This is one of a series of short walking guides that takes you on a wonderful world of discovery following the Roman Ridge.

One dyke travels from Sheffield to Kimberworth, there it splits into two. One arm continues to Mexbrough via Hilltop, Wentworth Park, Hooper, Abdy and Wath Woods. The other runs towards Kilnhurst, through Wingfield, Greasbrough, Upper Haugh and Swinton Common.

The Roman Ridge is a series of dykes (banks with a ditch alongside) which run between Sheffield and Mexbrough. In spite of their name, they were not built while the Romans were in Britain.

If you wish to find out more about the Roman Ridge, there are two books by K.A.Cronk "*South West Yorkshire's Roman Ridge. A 'Who-Dug-It? Mystery'*" and "*Journey Along the Roman Ridge*", available from Rotherham Information Centre, the Central Library and Clifton Park Museum.



3 Walk along Golden Smithies Lane to the speed sign where there is an 'alleyway' on the right. Follow this and eventually the college grounds are on the left and houses on the right.

4 Continue to a 'piece of ground' between the houses to the right, and railway line to the left. You are now on the line of the old canal (it's filled in now!) Cross the road path opposite, which is slightly to the right.

2 Walk along Rig Drive - beside the fence is the Ridge. Turn right along Racecourse Road (The Wentworth-Fitzwilliam Racecourse is still behind the houses). At the end of the road, turn left and pass the Gate pub. Turn left again and cross at the lights to the shops. Go along Golden Smithies Lane.




1 Start at Pottery Ponds car park near The Woodman Roundabout, Swinton. Go past the ponds and cottages to Wath Road. Turn left then cross over to the first road on your right, Rig Drive.

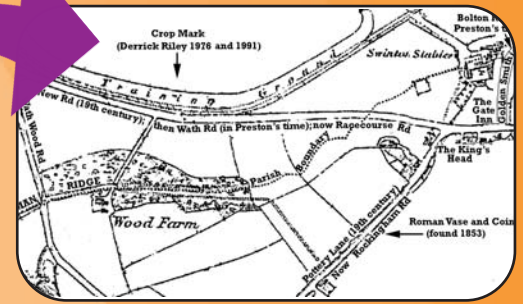
8 At the 'lynch gate' note the plaque, then take care crossing the busy road Warren Vale (A633). Turn left for a short distance to a footpath beside the wood on the right and fields on the left. This leads back to the Pottery Ponds car park. (Extension can be taken to visit the Pottery Kiln).

7 Follow the path beside the stream, cross the next road and continue in the same direction towards Piccadilly Woods and then Creighton Woods. Keep the stream on your right (the Ridge is not too far away but forms part of another walk).

5 Keep following the path, then just before the allotments turn left under the railway bridge to the 'start' of the canal. Follow the canal under the road (pub), then cross the canal and turn left along a vehicle track heading behind the station.

6 The path follows the alleyway beside the railway line. When you reach the road, turn right under the railway bridge and follow this to the main road where there is a 'sculptured art piece'.

-  Route
-  Existing Ridge
-  Other Roman Ridge Route Walk(s)



A Crop marks on north of Racecourse Road. The darker, more rectangular shape intruding on the top right is modern. (Crown Copyright, NMR, D. Riley Collection)



B A remnant of the Dove Dearne Canal, just north of Bridge Street in Swinton. Work on this section of the canal began in 1793, and Earl Fitzwilliam of Wentworth lent £5000 to help finance it. It was completed in 1798. (K.C. 2002)



C Built in 1815, the Rockingham Works produced magnificent, internationally famous pottery on an extensive site. Examples can be seen at Clifton Park Museum.