

DOORSTEP WALK

Short, Easy to follow and local

Take an easy walk into the countryside around the town of Wath in this easy, family friendly stroll. There are a few roads to cross on the way, and although many of these have safe crossings please make sure your kids are always nearby on this walk. We hope you'll agree that this is a great walk with a good variety of things to see, all on the outskirts of a town.

- This walk is about 2 miles long, so allow an easy morning or afternoon to enjoy the route.
- Wath which makes a good base for any walk or ride, with many paths around the town, we hope this trail will encourage you to take other walks on the fringes of towns to see what lies close by.
- You do not need to read a map.
- You do not need fancy equipment.

Just follow the Green Doorstep waymark

You'll find plenty of other trails in the Wath area including the Trans Pennine Trail - a multi-user route that stretches across the country, as well as the Rotherham Ring Route - a fifty mile long trail which visits some of the Borough's most outstanding scenery. For more details contact the Rights of Way team.

Why not think about using Wath as a base for walks of your own, perhaps using variations on the trails above?

For more details of all our walks and rides, 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?

Wath is served by a regular bus service from Rotherham. For up-to-date information call the Travel South Yorkshire on **01709 515151** or visit www.travelsouthyorkshire.com for timetables. The walk starts at the town library.

About the Author

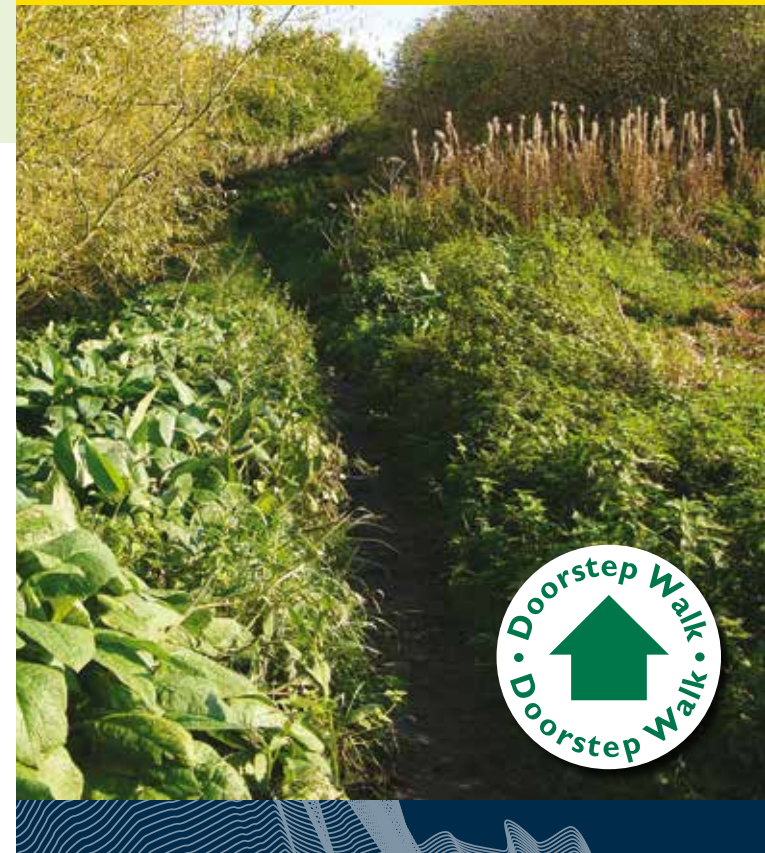
Elaine is the first local member of the public to write a Doorstep Walk. She ran a wildlife hospital, mainly for wild birds and was a Yorkshire Wildlife Group Leader. In 1987 she won the You and EYE European Year of the Environment competition for her work with an environmental group and school. We'd like to thank Elaine for all her hard work and boundless enthusiasm. 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 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 13

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

The Town Walk around Wath upon Dearne By Elaine Kay



REF: 85020/2020 Produced by RMBC Design Studio

DOORSTEP WALK Number 13

The Town Walk around Wath Upon Dearne (2 Miles)

Brook Dike

How many people have passed this small stream without giving it a thought?

The brook, and areas of countryside you pass through are home to many unexpected species of wildlife so close to town. You may see kingfishers, and birds of prey, as well as swallows and swifts in summer, when you will also see burnet and cinnabar moths, dragonflies and many types of wild flowers, water voles may also be seen around the brook.

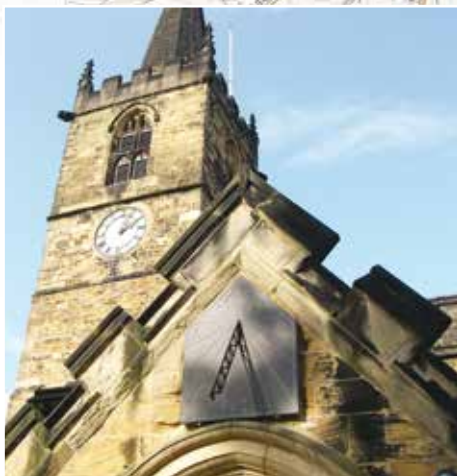
Our picture shows the way the dike looked in the 1920's, the picture was taken from the very path you are stood on now.

The Rights of Way team would like to thank Martyn Gleaden for the great picture of the dike as it appeared many years ago, which is from the Wath and Dearne Valley Resources website.



Follow the Countryside Code:

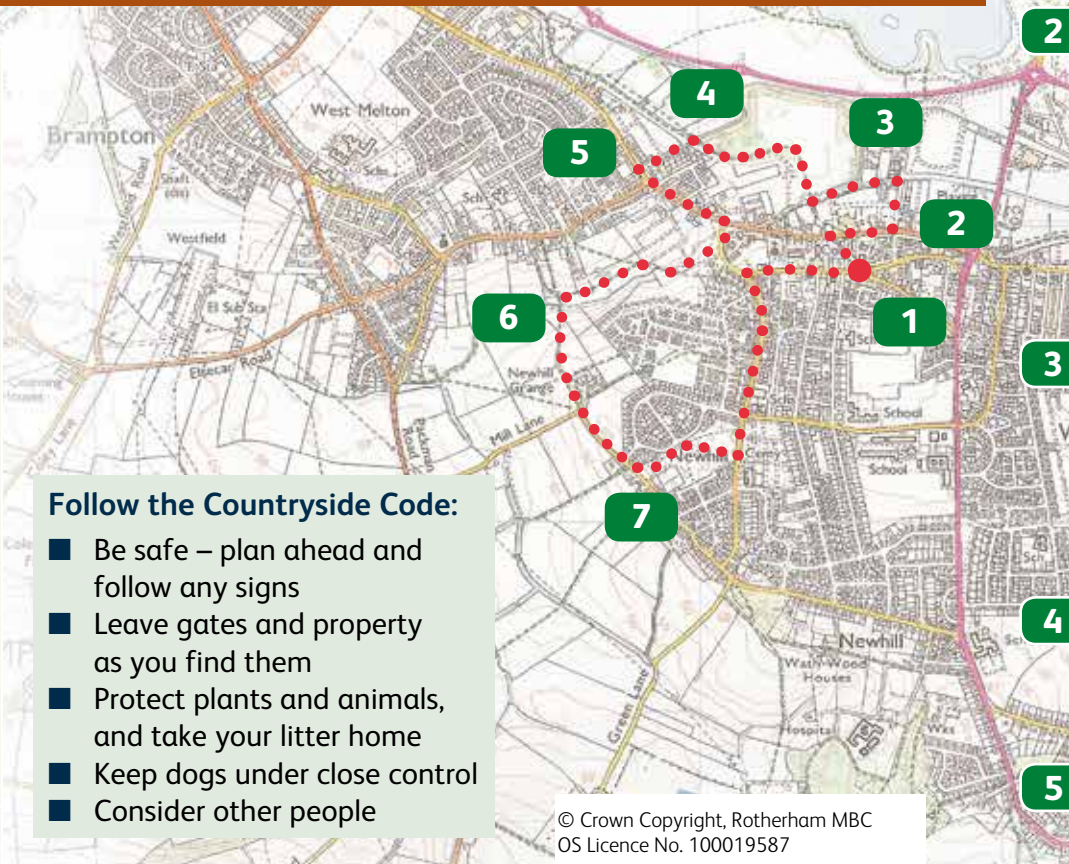
- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



Wath

The word wath is Viking for ford, and the town was the site of a medieval market - a buttercross stump from the time can still be seen in the grounds of the old town hall (a buttercross is a name for a cross in a market). If you visit the town on a Wednesday bear in mind that the market you see in town has been taking place for nearly two centuries.

The old All Saints Church is one of the few South Yorkshire churches mentioned in the Domesday Book, and has a long and fascinating history, well worth some further research of your own.



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1 Start in front of the library in the town centre of Wath (see sidebar), facing the library, on the left of the building is a path, follow this by the side of the car park. Carefully cross the main road by the crossing on your right and then turn right, after a short while you will reach Moor Road, turn left down the road.

2 You will soon see Recreation Road on your right, and directly opposite this, on your side of the road, is a path. Follow this along Brook Dike ignoring any paths on your right. Soon you will cross the end of a cul-de-sac (Whitworth Way) cross this and you'll shortly see a path on your right, follow this round to the right ignoring the route ahead. The path you are now on is the line of the former Dearne and Dove Canal. Keep an eye out on your left for a pond which has various species of wild fowl and amphibians. This short section of the trail follows the Rotherham Ring Route – a 50 mile circuit of the Borough – the various short parts of this route make fine linear day walks and are worth seeking out.

3 Eventually you will reach an old stone canal bridge, head left across this bridge and follow the road ahead, you will soon be back at the roadside. Head left downhill, and stay on the pavement until you reach a road crossing at the side of a school.

Cross the road here and follow the surfaced path across a small grassed area, and then follow the path which heads right above a brook. The path heads downhill slightly and crosses the brook by a footbridge.

4 After taking a few steps away from the footbridge stop and look round, take a moment to look at how the path looked in the 1920's on the old photograph. The footbridge is used to cross Brook Dike (see sidebar). Follow the path along the shallow valley, taking the left fork when the path splits after a short while.

5 After following the valley for a short while the path splits, take the left hand route which heads uphill, crossing the dike again and following the field headland, passing Newhill Grange on your left. The path soon reaches Newhill Road, follow the pavement ahead, crossing Newfield Crescent on the way, you will eventually reach Newhill Park which lies on your left.

6 Head left across the park, keeping near the houses on your left, the path steadily rises and as you reach the top you will see a small curious stone building ahead – this is the mausoleum – head directly for this building.

7 Near the right hand side of the mausoleum is a set of steps down to the road, take these and then follow the road (Cemetery Road) left downhill. Keep going straight ahead, carefully crossing Cutts Avenue, a cul-de-sac and Saville Road on the way until you reach Church Street. Turn right and follow the street, carefully crossing and ignoring side roads as you pass the old church and Town Hall on the way on your left. Keep straight ahead, until you arrive back at Wath Town Centre, the library is on your left.