

# DOORSTEP WALK

Short, Easy to follow and local

Visit three ancient villages on this 5 mile, relatively flat walk which is packed with interest. You'll visit ancient lanes, open farmland and enjoy excellent far-reaching views on this straightforward route which uses easy to follow footpaths and bridleways.

■ This walk is one of the most challenging of the series at just over five miles long, so allow a good morning or afternoon to enjoy the route, or alternatively take an easy day to enjoy the walk and have a good stop on the way. There are plenty of places to stop at on the route, including shops and pubs, so why not stock up on food and drink on the way or plan a lunch stop, always check times for meals and opening before setting out. Walking is easy and relatively flat, with many trails surfaced or following well established headlands and tracks, however, always wear good footwear and expect rain at any time of the year.

■ All three villages you pass through are mentioned in the Domesday Book.

■ This walk is near to 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 fancy equipment.

## Just follow the Green Doorstep waymark

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](http://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?

For up-to-date information call the Travel South Yorkshire on **01709 515151** or visit [www.travelsouthyorkshire.com](http://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com) for timetables. The walk starts at Kiveton Bridge Railway Station.

## About the Author

A member of the Ramblers Association for many years, Jim is 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. People who have had dealings with Jim will concur he is constantly cheerful and friendly. His knowledge of the path network around Rotherham is unrivalled and his passion and commitment to opening up the countryside for the benefit of all local people is admirable.

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](mailto: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 14

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

## The Three Domesday Villages Walk By Jim Tompkin

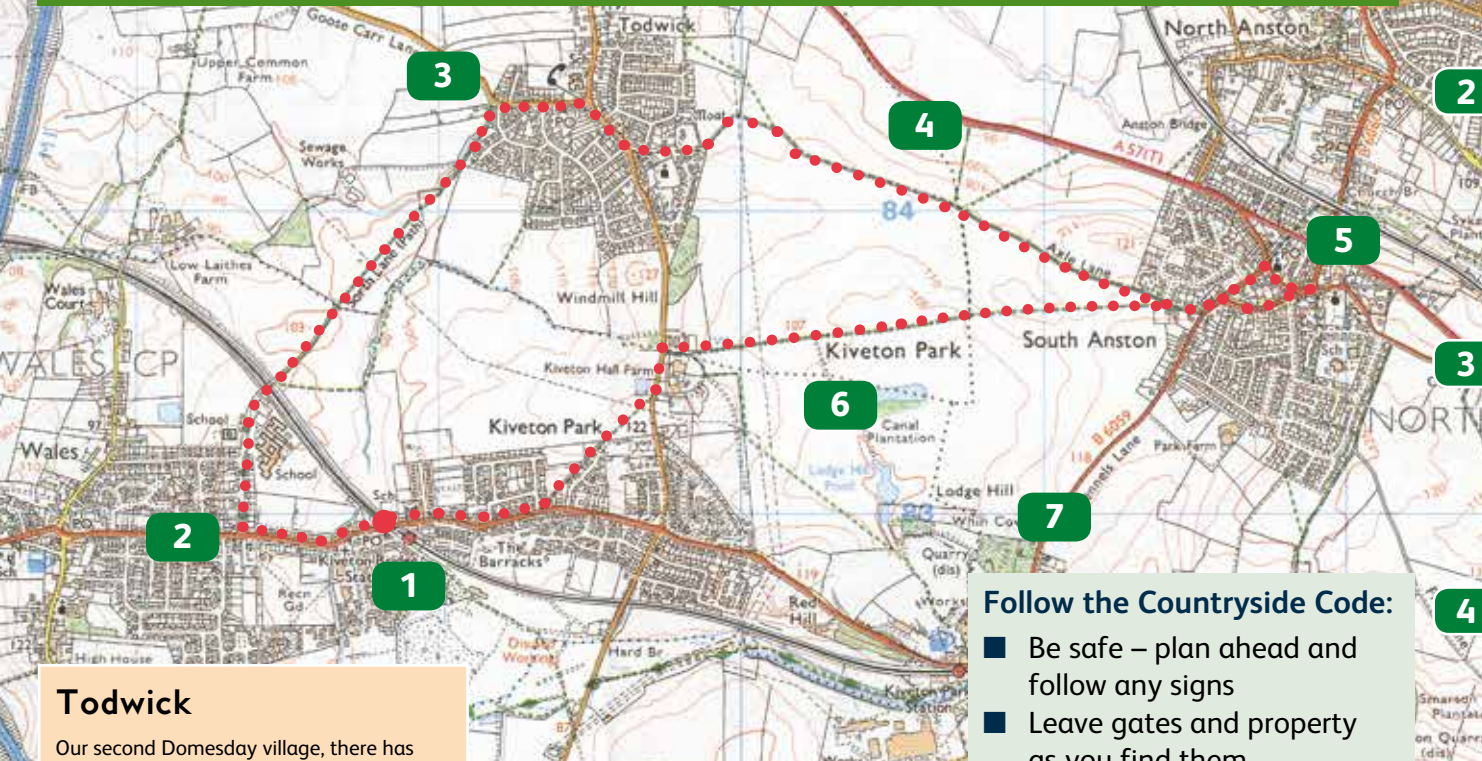


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# DOORSTEP WALK Number 14

## The Three Domesday Villages Walk (5 Miles)



### Todwick

Our second Domesday village, there has been a village here since the time of the Norman Conquest. The name has varied many times over the centuries, being called Taewic, Toddwyke and Todewyk amongst many other variations.

Axle Lane is the long path between Todwick and Anston and is marked by a long wall which, at the time of writing is in a sadly dilapidated condition. This route is originally thought to have been the coach road leading to nearby Keeton (Kiveton) Hall, and was at one time home of the Second Duke of Leeds (Kent not Yorkshire). It was built around 1698 by the First Duke of Leeds to replace nearby Thorpe Hall (which will be visited in a future Doorstep Walk).

Keeton Hall itself was demolished by the 6th Duke in 1811, and local rumour suggests that the duke was forced to demolish the hall as part of a failed wager.

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### South Anston

Our final village on the walk appears in the Domesday Book as Litelanstan, and is thought to be an original Anglo-Saxon settlement. The name Anston is thought to mean 'a stone', and there has been a great deal of quarrying in the area, with one still operating in the present day.

One of the most interesting historical features of the village is that the stone for the houses of parliament was quarried nearby – this is covered in more detail in Doorstep Walk 16. Anston was a popular destination during the Regency period and was famed for its fine views.

### 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

### Kiveton

Meaning 'settlement in the hollow', this village has existed since the Domesday Book of 1086, where it is recorded as Cieutone and was owned by William de Warenne. Coal was mined around the village from the middle ages until Kiveton Pit was closed in 1994. The nearby Chesterfield Canal was completed in 1777 and at the time Norwood Tunnel, which lies just to the south of the village, was the longest in the world.

**1** Start at Kiveton Bridge Railway Station and head for the road, just to your right is a pedestrian crossing, cross the road here and head left along the main street through Kiveton (see sidebar). Continue along the road until you reach Chestnut Avenue, head right down this road, passing Wales Comprehensive School, and stay on the road as it becomes a track, crosses a railway line and heads into open countryside.

**2** This bridleway is known as Storth Lane, and it links Wales to Todwick, stay on this track which at first is enclosed between hedges and then crosses a broad field. Eventually you will reach the village of Todwick (see sidebar), turn right, passing Todwick shops (a good alternative starting point – just head right here and follow the description). At the T junction head right and cross the road by the pedestrian crossing, head right until you reach Lindley's Croft, proceed left down here, and at the first corner head along Manor Drive.

**3** Stay on this surfaced track as it heads between houses, eventually the track ends at open country. Head left along the footpath, staying on the path as it heads sharply right following the stone walled edge of a large field. You are now on Axle Lane. Axle Lane connects the villages of Todwick and South Anston, and was possibly the old coaching road into Keeton (Kiveton) Hall (now demolished) stay on this path along the field headland.

**4** You will eventually arrive at South Anston (see sidebar). At the main road head left down the B6059 to where it becomes West Street. Ignoring side roads you will eventually come to the square towered Methodist Church in the centre of the village where there are two pubs, you are halfway around the route and South Anston is a good place to stop if you wish. (South Anston also makes a good alternative start point – facing the Methodist church and heading right up Sheffield Road).

**5** Head up Sheffield Road passing shops and two pubs and heading towards the tall spired church dedicated to St James. Just before the road junction take a short flight of steps situated on the right to access High Street. Head right here to rejoin the B6059. Carefully cross the road and head left to re-enter Axle Lane on the right. Soon the lane forks, take the left hand fork and follow the broad bridleway as it traverses across a large open field system.

**6** This bridleway links South Anston to Kiveton, and is as long as Axle Lane, passing near a small private fishing pond on the way. Take care as you head through Kiveton Hall Farm and watch out for passing fisherman's vehicles along the way. Carefully cross Kiveton Lane and walk left past another small fishing pond. Follow the path across the field on your right and heads towards houses – follow this as it passes between buildings and reaches Kiveton Park. At the road turn right and head back into the village – you'll soon see Kiveton Bridge Railway Station once more.