

DOORSTEP WALK

Short, Easy to follow and local

Take a walk in the rolling farmland around Aston on this 5 mile, relatively flat walk. There are two roads to cross during the walk, including the busy A57 so please make sure that any children are kept close by.

- This walk is one of the most challenging of the series at just under five miles long, so allow a good morning or afternoon to enjoy the route. Walking is easy and relatively flat, however as a lot of the route crosses open farmland, we recommend wearing good waterproof footwear during the winter months.
- You do not need to read a map.
- You do not need fancy equipment.

Just follow the ORANGE Doorstep waymark

The countryside surrounding the village of Whiston is a popular destination for walkers. The walk time is based on an adult walking fairly slowly and having a few rests. The majority of the stiles on the route have been removed and replaced with kissing gates. The 3 remaining stiles are all quite easy to negotiate. The section between Long Lane and Pleasley Road can become muddy during the winter, so it is advisable to take boots especially following wet weather.

For more details, 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?

Aston has good bus links to other areas in the borough. For up-to-date information call the Travel South Yorkshire on **01709 515151** or visit www.travelsouthyorkshire.com for timetables.

Aston Footpath Walkers Association

Stan Rouse was a key member of Aston Footpath Walkers Association. The group held its inaugural general meeting in June 1973. It was formed by a few like minded people with the prime objective of keeping local footpaths open and used. Over the years this small but dedicated group of people have kept these same principles alive. If you would like more information about the group then please contact RMBC Rights of Way Dept and we will pass on your details.

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 17

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

The Stan Rouse Trail at Aston



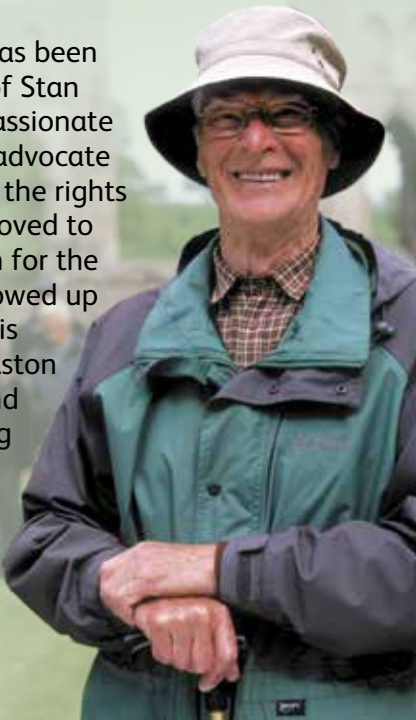
DOORSTEP WALK Number 17

The Stan Rouse Trail at Aston (5 Miles)

Stan Rouse

This doorstep walk has been created in memory of Stan Rouse. Stan was a passionate Rambler and a keen advocate for the protection of the rights of way network. He loved to share his enthusiasm for the countryside and followed up this desire through his close links with the Aston Footpath Walkers and Rotherham's Walking Festival.

We hope that this publication goes some way towards continuing Stan's endeavours and vision.

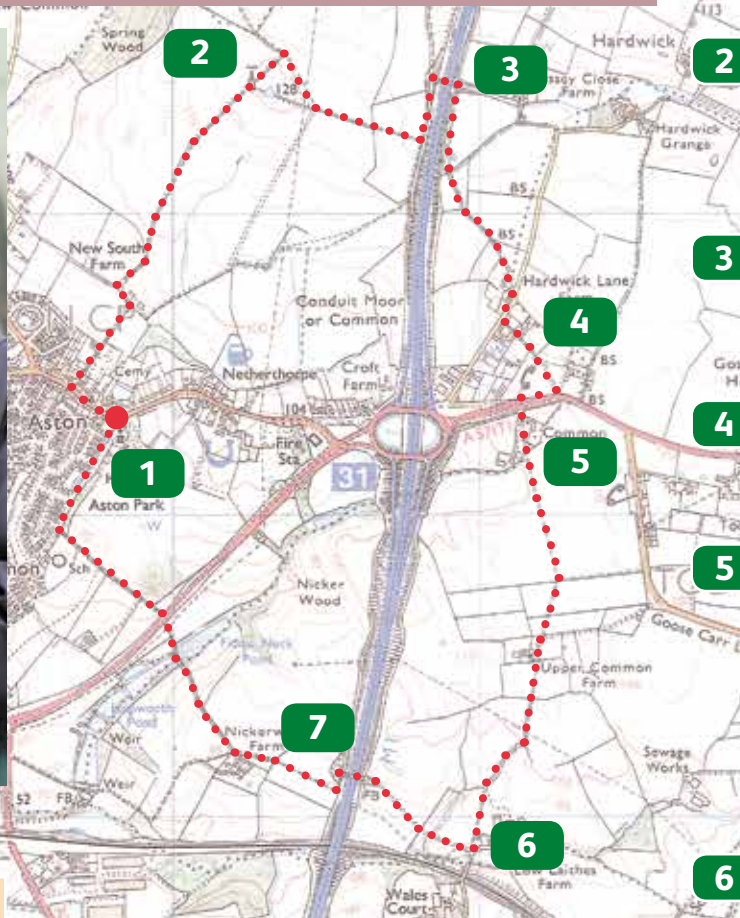


Aston

Unlike other places of the name, Aston does not mean "eastern farm or village", but is from Old English tun "farm, village, estate" with an uncertain first element. The name was recorded as Essetone in 1039.

The church is featured in the Domesday Book.

Aston Hall, adjacent to the church, has been a large country house, a hospital, and most recently a hotel and restaurant, and gives its name to Aston Hall Cricket Club which plays home games close to the Hall.



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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

1 Start at the All Saints Church on Church Lane and head towards the junction with Worksope Road. Cross to the other side of Worksope Rd and continue left for approx 100 metres until you come to the signed public footpath known as Piper Lane. Head down the lane until you reach New South Farm. Turn left along the track, then bear right and head up towards the radio mast at the top of the lane.

2 At the end of the track, turn right and continue across the farmers field, the path should be clearly visible on the ground and will lead you towards the motorway. When you reach the motorway fenceline turn left and walk approx 100 metres and you will reach the bridge that crosses the motorway. At the end of the bridge, the path then leads down some steps and through a kissing gate.

3 Continue back along the fenceline of the motorway until you reach another kissing-gate. The path then continues headland and emerges onto a farm track. There is a bench at this point where you may wish to rest. Further along the track is another kissing gate and then a short walk through a field until you emerge on Hardwick Lane.

4 Turn right, and approx 100 metres down the lane, turn left by the side of Spa Bungalow and follow the track past the rear of the garden centre. The path then diagonally crosses over the farmer's field before coming out onto the A57 Worksope Rd.

5 After carefully crossing the A57, walk down the track by the side of Common Farm until you reach a stile, carry on through a small paddock and over a second stile. The next 600 metres of the trail is across arable fields, however the line of the path should be clearly visible on the ground and also clearly waymarked. After crossing the farm track, the trail continues through a horses paddock, over a stile and then through an area of rough land. Follow the path straight on along the edge of the next field until you reach the track to Low Laithes Farm. The path then goes cross field again before emerging on Manor Road, Wales by the side of "Druid's Lodge".

6 Turn immediately right and head up the track towards the motorway. A bridge then takes you over the motorway. At the end of the bridge, turn immediately left and walk down the slope, this brings you to a stile and by crossing this, you enter the edge of a farmers field by the side of the motorway.

7 Next, head right across the arable field toward Nickerwood Farm, then continue right along the field edge for approx 300 metres before walking downhill between the 2 lines of trees. This will bring you out by the side of Fiddleneck Pond. The path then continues straight on until it reaches the A57. At this point, there is a footbridge over the road, cross the bridge and continue along the path for approx 400 metres. You will eventually emerge on Church Lane and by turning right and walking along the lane for 350 metres you will arrive back at your start point.