

DOORSTEP WALK

Short, Easy to follow and local

Delve into the ancient woods to the South of Treeton and learn about their fascinating history on this short walk.

- Allow an easy morning or afternoon to enjoy this walk, which takes you to the South of the village of Treeton, visiting the ancient woodland of Hail Mary.
- There are lots of shops and a pub at Treeton, which makes a good base for any walk.
- You do not need to read a map.
- You do not need fancy equipment.

Just follow the GREEN Doorstep waymark

The Permissive Bridleway in Hail Mary

The Borough Council are pleased to welcome responsible riders into the wood. Keep an eye out for horses when walking through the woods, many young riders learn to ride in this area, please bear that in mind when approaching them as horses may be skittish.

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?

Treeton Village 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. The walk starts at the Post Office Bus Stop in Treeton.

Something to think about

Our praise and thanks go particularly to Councillor John Swift. John has been a champion of the wood for many years and has worked very hard to ensure that everyone can enjoy the tranquillity of the area. We'd also like to especially thank our many friends in the Treeton Environment Group for their support and great ideas. 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 11

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

The Hail Mary Wood Walk at Treeton



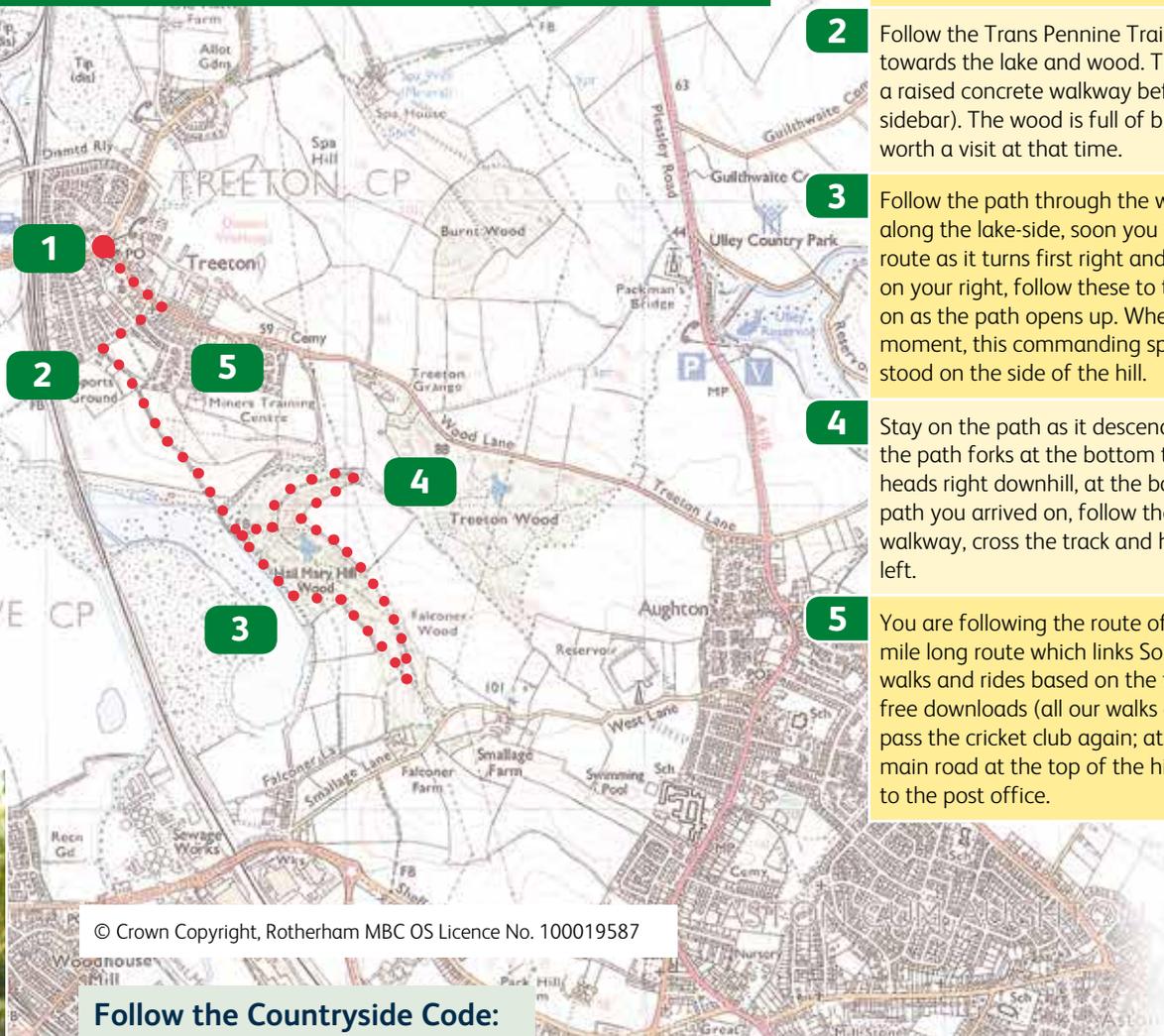
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DOORSTEP WALK Number 11

The Hail Mary Wood Walk at Treeton (3 Miles)

Hail Mary!

This wood is semi-natural ancient woodland; this is the most valuable type of woodland in the country. Looking at the evidence of the woodland today we can deduce that large amounts were felled during the General Strike of 1926. Local rumour suggests that the wood came by its name when Mary Queen of Scots, passing on her way spent the night in the woodland with her retinue.



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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

Treeton Village and Church

The Domesday book records the village as Trectone, whilst during Saxon times the lands were ruled by Morcar, Earl of Northumberland. The parish church is one of few mentioned in the Domesday book, and there has been a church on the site you pass since 1175, with numerous additions.

The whole area has a fascinating and ancient history, and we would recommend that you visit www.treetonweb.co.uk for more information.



1 Start at Treeton (why not pick up a few things to eat and drink at the shops there before you start) at the Post Office, turn left and head past the lovely old church in Treeton (see sidebar). Head right down Washfield Lane, just before the cricket club turn left heading into the countryside.

2 Follow the Trans Pennine Trail signs, eventually heading right downhill towards the lake and wood. The path crosses a track and then via a raised concrete walkway before entering Hail Mary Wood (see sidebar). The wood is full of bluebells in the spring and is particularly worth a visit at that time.

3 Follow the path through the wood, keeping to the waymarked route along the lake-side, soon you will head uphill, stay on the waymarked route as it turns first right and then left. After a while you will see steps on your right, follow these to the top of the hill, keep heading straight on as the path opens up. Where the path curves to the right pause a moment, this commanding spot was once defended by a castle, which stood on the side of the hill.

4 Stay on the path as it descends some steps back into the wood, where the path forks at the bottom turn left, following the path as it slowly heads right downhill, at the bottom turn right, you are back on the path you arrived on, follow the route back over the raised concrete walkway, cross the track and head uphill on the path which then bears left.

5 You are following the route of part of the Trans Pennine Trail, a 350 mile long route which links Southport to Hull, there are many short walks and rides based on the trail, for copies check out our website for free downloads (all our walks and rides are on this site). Soon you will pass the cricket club again; at the road turn right and back up to the main road at the top of the hill, where you should turn left and return to the post office.