

Walk 6 (8.5 miles – follows the parish boundary fairly closely)



Circular Walk _____ Parish Boundary _____

Walk No:6 Parish Boundary 8.5 miles

From Village Hall 50 yards down Ingswell Avenue turn L at FP onto footpath at the back of the houses, over bridge and half right up hill, sharp turn R at top, then along and over old railway. Turn L then in 20 yards R downhill (muddy). Turn L at bottom for 200 yds then R over little bridge over stream, then L and follow path through middle of field to enter wood through stile. After 200 yds turn L at cross path, then down, over stream, then up a stony path in wood. At top turn L over old railway, then along path at side of container park to join Barnsley Road. Cross road onto footway, turn L downhill and follow the main road S (A61, towards Barnsley) for 1.5 miles past the junctions to Woolley Mill Lane and George Lane then take next L up Keeper Lane. (may be no sign)

Where the lane bears L, go right through gate and follow path straight on at side of field downhill, with fence on right, to Notton Woods. On entering wood, cross stream and take path R (muddy) following stream in valley bottom. At a clearing, with terraced logs on left, the path bears left up a slope. Continue along path and where there is a fork in the path, go right, keeping near to valley bottom. At end of wood take path L uphill then R through gap in fence. Go directly ahead on path across field to Lee Lane. At Lee Lane turn L then L again on old railway bank (FP).

Follow railway path 1.5 miles to Bleakley Lane at site of old rail bridge (down steps on right (S) side), then cross road and look to pass between large stones on L onto footpath, (signposted Royston and Carlton boundary walk). Continue on railway following Trans Pennine Trail signs, L at end of railway, then walk along edge of field, left over old bridge, then R and bend to L at side of

field to Navy Lane at Old Royston. Turn R over bridge, through hamlet, over canal bridge then L at FP (Trans Pennine Trail again), down bank, and follow towpath to right. At junction with Cold Hiendley Common Lane turn L and L again (FP) to follow other bank of canal SW. After end of field turn R to cross railway at stiles. Follow path directly ahead with ditch on left. At end of ditch head straight forward to brick buildings and footpath sign over stile. Turn L behind buildings and plant yard to join old rail line. Turn R then under bridge, then L up to car park, R on Smawell Lane and back to village.

N, E, S, W etc - compass directions. R, L - right, left.
FP - footpath sign.

Historical Notes:

The track up the fields is very old, and was known as Handswell Lane.

The disused railway line is now owned by the District Council and is a permissive path for walkers, horses and cycles. The railway was opened in 1905, by the Midland Railway Co, as part of their proposed London - Carlisle route, although the whole route was never completed. The line is the same one that passed over the huge blue brick viaducts over Denby Dale Road at Calder Grove and over the Huddersfield Road at Horbury Bridge. It closed in 1968.

The stream that you cross twice is the same that runs under Gill Bridge in the village: it also carries all the effluent from Notton sewage works! Newmillerdam Woods were once part of a private estate: it is now owned by the District Council and maintained as a Country Park.

The track up through the woods and over the railway to join the A61 is a mediaeval packhorse route.

The A61 Barnsley Road was part of the turnpike road from Sheffield to Leeds constructed in the 1700s. At the beginning of the wood on the left, just before Woolley Mill Lane, you can see the remains of a quarry used for getting road building materials. The turnpike was diverted further away from Woolley Hall in 1818, at the same time as New Road was built. The old gateway to the Hall is on the right, built in 1820. About 100yds before Woolley Crossroads you can see one of the old milestones on the left.

Keeper Lane is also known as Mucky Lane: it used to have a number of houses on it.

Notton Woods includes some ancient woodland thought never to have been cleared. Old maps show the site of a fort or "Danish camp" in the wood.

The old railway that you follow from Lee Lane was part of the Barnsley Coal Railway, opened in 1882 and closed in 1961. There was a station at Old Royston, and another where you cross Bleakley Lane.

The Barnsley Canal was opened in 1799 and closed in 1960.

The railway line that you cross in Old Royston is still open as a supply route to the glassworks, but it used to be a busy line, opened in 1866 by the Midland Railway Co.

The buildings and plant yard where you join Chevet Lane were part of No 5-pit sunk in 1928 to improve access for men and materials to Monkton Colliery (near the coke works). No 5 closed in the late 1960s, was then used as a joinery works and is now a private house and a yard for earthmoving plant. Smawell Lane is an ancient track: it was also known as Small Well Lane and Halfpenny Lane.

