

RUN ROUND ROTHERHAM - RUN ROUND ROTHERHAM

A 43 MILES LONG DISTANCE WALK ON THE BOUNDARIES OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM

Long distance and sponsored walks have become increasingly popular in recent years; but this one doesn't need the expense or time required to travel fifty or even a hundred miles before you can start!! The starting and finishing points can be anywhere along the route - and when you have covered as much distance as you require for the day - it will not be long before you cross a road with a bus service back to Rotherham town centre.

Our directed route, incidentally, is anti-clockwise throughout.

The route has been mapped out roughly along the boundary of Rotherham: to cover in as many stages as you like; this will give you some strenuous exercise and also a new look at your home town. The Southern half of the journey is quite beautiful in places but the Northern half is very industrial - however it is always interesting, and like it or not - THIS IS ROTHERHAM (although to keep to a route of footpaths and quiet lanes we stray into Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield).

There may be several reasons for attempting this journey - training, exercise or interest, or even "sponsored" to raise funds. Hence the sponsor sheet that has been added.

On completion of the journey, please return the slip and you will be able to obtain a certificate (price 15p) or plaque (£1.00).

SOME IMPORTANT RULES

Throughout this journey honour the Country Code. Leave no litter. Close all gates behind you. Don't stray from the footpaths.

Follow the HIGHWAY CODE - Cross all roads with care, use pavements, take utmost care on country lanes.

THE COMMONSENSE CODE - Wear suitable clothing and footwear, check bus timetables for your return home, carry coins for the telephone, take care near water especially on Canal towpaths. When traveling in a party, check your numbers frequently and don't allow younger members to fall behind and be left on their own. Besides these directions - Ordnance Survey Map No. 111 is most useful!

You may start anywhere on the circular route, but our directions start at Maltby as there are plenty of shops, buses, pubs, baths, etc. all suitable for resting or refreshment. Very welcome after your round trip of 43 miles.

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MALTBY

From the main road, take Braithwell road at the side of Maltby Comprehensive School then left so that you are directly behind the school - the road then continues straight and level for a mile or so before reducing to a lane, you drop down at one point to go behind a farm, but soon rise again to the ridge which offers extensive views. We are heading towards Micklebring, but reach the road at FORDEOLES FARM. Turn left down the road, cross the motorway bridge and the old railway bridge, you are now on RAVENFIELD COMMON - Distance 2 miles. BUSES HERE. Ignore the footpath sign at the entrance to the farm drive, but go a further $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and climb the stile by the farm on your right marked by the footpath sign. The path crosses the fields, half left before joining a good lane. This goes down hill with views of Ravenfield Ponds to the left. The lane then turns right, starts to climb then "rounds" the farm (FIRSBY) turns sharp left, then goes right and uphill. The footpath goes through the large field on the left but is usually under cultivation. Instead proceed up the Lane until you reach the hedge at the top of the field, go left along this towards the trees. Several paths are then visible, bear downhill and to the right, taking a path with the field close up to your left. The path soon becomes a lane, takes a turn to the right and reaches the road at HOOTON ROBERTS. 3 miles for this stage. BUSES FOR ROTHERHAM.

At Hooton Roberts go down Holmes Lane, close to the Church, the lane then climbs steadily, but at a junction fork right. The lane reduces to a track but carries straight on before starting the descent into the Don Valley. When reaching a farm drive go across this, follow the hedge to the road, turn right and enter OLD DENABY. In the village you will see Ferry Boat Lane on the left, go down here, cross the railway and the River Don by bridges, but DO NOT cross the Canal bridge. Instead go left along the Canal towpath (canal on your right), Mexborough is on the other bank (BUSES HERE) and we are also over the boundary in Doncaster.

Along the towpath for a mile or so, it becomes precarious in places, until we come to the locks. Cross these, then follow the branch canal (Dove & Dearne) to the right up to the road. We are now in SWINTON. 3 miles for this stage. BUSES FOR ROTHERHAM.

SWINTON

At the canal bridge walk on the towpath towards Canning Town Glass Works. We are to follow the line of the canal for several miles now, even though it is largely filled in. At the Glass Works go under the railway arch, bear right and follow the railway fence. The path goes under a road bridge, then crosses the road at Manvers Main Colliery. Straight forward then, colliery fence to the right, and we reach the road at the "Kiss O' Life". Go left along the road towards Wath, but at the slight rise (formerly the canal bridge) go right behind a row of terraced houses, an old warehouse confirms you are on the canal again. The path now runs

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parallel, but a hundred yards away from Wath Main Street. Several bridges confirm the canal at intervals, the path veering to the right at the Highways Depot, but always at the same level. As we leave Wath, the path becomes more pronounced, the railway yards being the view to the right. At the Caravan Company, we cross the Hemsworth Road and enter a recreation ground. Little evidence of the canal but go forward and climb the bank onto the Wombwell road, cross the road, pass the "Junction Inn" and the railway level crossing, and soon after, enter the waste ground on the left. Cross this (formerly the canal junction) and head for the road bridge. This is BRAMPTON BIERLOW. 4 miles for this stage. BUSES FOR ROTHERHAM.

At Brampton Bierlow go under the road bridge and follow the canal towpath. The canal shows varying levels of water and signs of former locks. We follow the towpath for some two miles, going under two bridges, but at the road bridge at the beginning of Elsecar Village, we are obliged to leave the towpath and walk down the village street, passing the church on the way. At the Market Hotel turn down the left hand side of it. At the end of the buildings, bear right into Kings Wood. The path winds uphill, and then to the right, enters a large field, cross in the direction of Wentworth Church, keeping to the saw mill well ever to the right. The path is marked by a stile in the centre of the fence at the far side of the field. Downhill then following the hedge, turn left at the stream at the bottom, the path enters a lane, turn right and proceed into WENTWORTH VILLAGE. Three miles for this stage. BUSES FOR ROTHERHAM.

Leave Wentworth Main Street by the old Church (via Church Lane), down this wide road but turn left at a group of houses, the path follows the fence downhill and crosses a stream by a stile and a bridge. Uphill now joining a lane, on reaching some new houses go to the right of them, through the recreation ground onto the road at THORPE HESLEY. At the road turn left, left again down the old village street. A hundred yards down, turn right opposite a red brick house and drop down to Thorpe Church. Turn left at the stream alongside the church yard wall, the path then climbs up right and is well marked as you go over the brow to drop into SCHOLES VILLAGE. Turn right as you reach the road, through the village but at the sharp right hand bend, go forward through the gate at the old Lodge House. You have now entered SCHOLES COPPICE, make for the prominent Keppels Column to the right then turn left down the ROTHAM/CHAPELTOWN ROAD. 3 miles for this stage. BUSES FOR ROTHERHAM.

Cross the road when you see the Grange Park sign, walk through the park, but keep sight of the main road you have just left; and aiming for the minor road that comes up to meet it (Droppingwell Lane). You have effectively 'cut the corner off' so proceed down the lane for half a mile, until you see the sign for Sanderson Kaysers Sports ground on the left. Go up this lane and turn right immediately at

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the top boundary fence of the Sports Ground. This leads into Poucher Street, cross the road at the end, and take the path opposite at the left hand side of the Hill Top Hotel car park. this opens out into a variety of paths, but follows the line of the electricity pylons to the minor road, straight across here, some more waste land will bring you down onto the main (Meadowbank) Road. Turn left towards Rotherham until you come to the first houses. 2 miles covered.

BUSES HERE. At the first houses cross the road, and opposite a telephone box a path leads further downhill to the canal, crossing the railway by the celebrated 29 steps footbridge. At the canal turn right along the towpath, after $\frac{1}{4}$ mile you cross the river by a concrete bridge and then the canal by an iron bridge. The canal is now on your right, pass two locks and reach the road at TINSLEY. BUSES HERE. From the canal a pedestrian subway will take you under the main road, emerging in a side street, continue forward into Bawtry Road by the library - you are actually in Sheffield here. BUSES FOR MALTBY AND SHEFFIELD.

Go along Bawtry Road towards BRINSWORTH and slightly uphill. Unfortunately we have to go along the main road, passing shops and the "Pike & Heron" pub. At Parkhouse school turn right into Parkhouse Lane. We pass several warehouses, but following a stone wall on your left, turn immediately left, then as soon as a BRICK WALL finishes on your right, turn right. This brings you close to the M1. A stile leads you into a small field, keep to the left, another stile brings you into BRINSWORTH. To the left buses are available for Rotherham.

However at this final stile we go RIGHT, under the M1, then turn right to cross a railway bridge with extensive views of Tinsley Marshalling Yards. Turn left as soon as possible and go through some trees, a railway fence on the left and Tinsley Golf Course on the right. After about 100 yards leave the gravel path by simply going straightforward. Treeton Church is the view a mile ahead, the path twists a little but eventually (keeping the railway on your left and negotiating another motorway bridge) we arrive in CATCLIFFE. 2 miles for this stage. BUSES HERE FOR ROTHERHAM.

As you meet the main road in CATCLIFFE, turn right towards the Orgreave Works and after $\frac{1}{4}$ mile cross the road and take the path as marked by the sign. This follows the Works boundary fence with the River Rother on your left. After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile take care stepping over the works' railway lines, no NOT cross the bridge, but travel another 100 yards and cross the river by the next bridge. The path then goes towards the village of TREETON, but as soon as you cross the main railway line by the bridge turn right. This follows the railway fence for 200 yards, when you come to the water of TREETON DYKE. You will follow this for over a mile, with the water on your right until you reach the houses of Woodhouse Mill. 2 miles for this stage. BUSES FOR SHEFFIELD HERE.

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At the main road turn right and look for the large "Rothervale Woodworking" sign, at the side of this you will espy a familiar footpath sign that leads between two works' fences. Go through into the large field but keep close to the left hand fence to its limit. Then lead for the far corner of the field to pass under the furthest of the two viaducts. Left again to keep the railway fence on the left, with views of BEIGHTON to the right. You pass under the road to BEIGHTON (buses here) then cross the railway by a footbridge. Fifty yards further on you meet a lane, turn right and go under yet another bridge into Brookhouse Works Yard. Shortly three routes present themselves - take the: middle one, you will see a sign post, cross the work railway, meet the lane and proceed uphill for over a mile.

The scenery gradually improves, we pass a few houses then the road turns sharp left, after 300 yards the path goes to the right, marked by a large solitary tree! Downhill. by the fences , till we meet the road at the bottom which leads to an opencast coal site. We turn left, meet the Rotherham/Killamarsh road at NORWOOD then turn right. At this point you are right on the County and Borough boundary. At the "Angel" Inn, cross over the road and the water you come upon is the "Chesterfield Canal", not navigable here of course. Take the towpath, the track

goes uphill (the canal of course climbed by locks, of which you can see the remains). Eventually the canal expires at a bricked up tunnel entrance (Norwood). The tunnel in fact travels for some two miles and the canal exits again near Kiveton Park. However we climb to the left of the tunnel mouth, enter a field, and head for the M1 which is just ahead. A tunnel leads under the M1, we proceed on the path which soon becomes a lane, keeping the hill on our right - alternative route ••• ignoring a footpath sign on the left we enter WOODALL, in the village itself we see another footpath sign to the left, and this heads straight for HARTHILL CHURCH, clearly visible. We reach the road in HARTHILL by the side of the "Beehive" pub. 5 miles covered at this stage.

Turn right down the village street, eventually turning left into Serlby Lane, uphill for 300 yards, then left at the footpath sign. Open countryside now, no signs of industry. Go straightforward until reaching the SECOND belt of trees. Turn right through these to the lane. Footpath both sides of the road here so straight across, enter the field and head to the left, across the small fields going downhill, cross the lane, footpath signs again on both sides of the road. The red roofs of Top Hall about a mile in front are now your destination. On the way you have Loscar Wood on your left. At the hamlet of Top Hall, keep to the right of the buildings, cross the remains of the old mill dam, cross the road, the footpath is over to the right behind the farm. Head for the right hand corner of the trees - note the wartime pill-box, skirt the very edge of the aeroplane field and regain the road at the village of NETHERTHORPE. 3 miles covered at this stage. BUSES HERE.

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Turn left, left again at the road junction, then almost immediately turn right. Take the footpath where indicated by the sign, this brings you to the attractive canal side hamlet of TURNERWOOD. Go straight across the bridgebearing slightly left , along the hedge and streamside. The path now crosses the railway. TAKE GREAT CARE CROSSING THE RAILWAY, LOOK BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT AND THEN CHECK AGAIN THIS IS A BUSY LINE! After crossing turn right following the stream, pass through the farm by the signs indicated, closing gates where necessary. Through the farm turn left and uphill, up a track to the trees, we cross the River Ryton, catch glimpses of Lindrick Golf Course, before reaching the main Worksop to Sheffield road by a bus stop. 2 MILES FOR THIS STAGE
Cross the main road - footpath signs on both sides of the road - taking the path it soon turns right in front of some houses, after about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile we turn left at spot where no less than four footpath signs are mounted on one post. This lane gradually levels out as we enter the village of WOODSETTS. One mile covered.

At WOODSETTS take the Gildingwells Road then continue in the absence of suitable paths on the road to LETWELL. In the village do not take the sharp turn to the left, but go forward into Backer Hades Road. Ignore a footpath sign on the left, but further on as you reach the trees take the field lane to the left. This soon reduces to a path, but carry on towards the trees, the path goes through them, crosses the road (signs on both sides) and take the footpath down into FIRBECK.
4 Miles for this stage.

At the village street turn left and after 50 yards take the lane to the right by the sign post. Another 100 yards and the lane turns sharp left then slightly to the right. At a further sharp left at the head of the field you turn right, following the hedge in the absence of a footpath. You cross two fields then the path appears and you make for the houses at the hamlet of STONE. Pass to the right hand side of the first house then cross the stream by the mill, the lane goes left, then watch for the footpath sign behind a cottage on the left. Over a stile, cross a field, then into a lane. Turn right, left at the road, then after a few yards climb into the field by the steps in the wall. The view forward is now the famous ROCHE ABBEY. We pass to the right then the path follows the valley for two miles, with the stream on the left throughout. We go under the railway at one point then descend into a recreation ground. At the Churchyard turn right, up the lane, cross the road, before reaching the main road in MALTBY, and provided you have started here you have RUN ROUND ROTHERHAM. 3 miles for this stage.