

Whitwell Round Walk - Roche Abbey Route

Whitwell to Worksop

10.1 miles

1. From the Royal Oak car park turn right onto the main thoroughfare (Bakestone Moor) heading slightly uphill. At the apex of the Hill (just past Jubilee Road) go round the bend, continue down hill until you reach Mason Street. Cross over the junction(S) and carry on down the hill to the right of the former Butcher's Arms public house (now a residential property). Where the road bends round to the right, look slightly left and you will see a public footpath which is in fact a jennel bordered by the former Jug and Glass public house and a cottage. Walk up this jennel. The path rises gently up hill, it is fenced either side, and then drops down hill to a road.
2. On reaching the road, turn left, cross over and then turn right on to Worksop Road. Where the road swings round to the left, continue straight ahead on to Doles Lane. After about 300 metres you meet a road on your right, turn right and walk steadily down hill. This is Hangar Hill.
3. Two-thirds of the way downhill, opposite the olds peoples' bungalows, turns left. This is Mill Lane. Mill Lane weaves round some houses and old peoples' bungalows. When you reach the bungalows at the end of the T-junction, take the public footpath sign on your right. There is also on this post a gold marker with black arrow.
4. This path leads to an open field at the end of the bungalow. Carry on across the field which has a well marked path. At the opposite end of the field, cross over the stile and then you cross over the railway line. This is the Robin Hood Line. Please be careful. Cross over the stile opposite and bear slightly left for a few metres to another stile in the corner. Pass over the stile and continue straight ahead with hedgerow on your immediate left.
5. At the next stile, cross over, and continue ahead, heading slightly right to a stile to the right of the farm buildings. There are several stiles in this field. You want to continue straight ahead to the stile to the right of the farm buildings. The horses look friendly! Cross over the stile to meet a tarmac lane.
6. Continue straight ahead to a junction, at which point you turn left. On reaching the gate marked Birks Farm Thornberry Animal Sanctuary, bear right to cross over the stile where you then bear left, 90° left, to walk by the edge of the farm building to another stile. Cross over another stile to the left of a stunted tree, on to a small lane marked by a picket fence on either side.
7. Continue along this lane. You climb slightly up hill and reach a gate to the right of which is another stile to take you onto a lane. Here you continue straight ahead, between the cottages.
8. Where the lane swings 90° left, you cross over the stile to the right of a metal gate and walk straight ahead across the field with hedgerow on your right. You are continuing straight across the field towards the main Mansfield Road and a stile in the hedge approximately half way across the field.
9. On reaching the stile, cross straight over the road to a stile opposite. Cross over this and continue straight ahead along the well marked path in the field. You cross this field and you meet the gap in the hedge to the left of a row of trees, or a small coppice. Cross through and then the path does a 45° turn to the left, straight through the middle of the next field. This path being well marked.

10. The opposite side of the field, turn 90° right. This is signed Public Footpath. Now walk up the edge of the field, with the barbed wire fence and hedgerow on your left. In the corner of the field, pass through the hedge, turn 90° left as per the sign and walk along a track.
11. After a couple of hundred metres or so, pass through the gateway, continuing straight ahead, walking along the edge of the field, with the wood on your left. At the far end of the wood, you reach a small stream which you cross over by a rather rickety wooden set of slats.
12. Cross into the field once through over the stream. Into the field, turn left, keeping the coppice still on your left. After approximately 75 metres you meet a stile in the corner of the field. Cross over the stile onto the track. Turn right and walk along this track.
13. On reaching a cross road of tracks, you turn 90° right. It's quite a wide lane, bordered on either side by hedgerow. After round about a third of a mile you walk through a former gateway and carrying straight along the obvious track, you now just have the hedgerow on your left.
14. After a further 300 metres or so, this track enters a woodland area. Very pretty. Please ensure you stick to the track as many of the other tracks which shoot out are private lanes to private property. This track undulates through the wood and eventually starts to head downhill towards South Lodge. Go to the right of the lodge down to a gate, pass through the gap between the gatepost and the hedge and turn left.
15. You are now walking onto Drinking Pit Lane. This lane climbs steadily upwards through the sandstone cutting. At the top of a short climb, continue straight ahead and then the track bears 45° right and levels out into quite a wide bridle track. Continue along this main track.
16. On meeting the lodge by the white gates, continue straight ahead along the bridle track. After a mile, or just over a mile or so, you come across a lodge on your right hand side. Continue past the lodge, still on the bridle track and go straight ahead. After a further ½ mile/¾ mile you meet a road. Cross this road and continue straight ahead, continuing along the bridleway. This is still Drinking Pit Lane.
17. After a further third of a mile, the track comes out onto a tarmac road. At this tarmac road, turn right. Walk down this road towards the rather ornate stone arch. This is Truman's Lodge. Before reaching the arch, take the road on your left. After a third of a mile, you reach a point where two paths cross you. To the left is a small parking area at Truman's Lodge
18. After 600 metres turn approx 135° left as indicated by a wooden Public Bridleway sign. (opposite a green barrier on the right hand side of the road.) This is a wide track which rises gradually up through trees and curves gently round to the right, descending after about 400 metres. Approx 400 metres further on you come to a red brick house on your right. Continue on the obvious path ahead which is now narrowing and going uphill through some trees. Level with the house is a telegraph pole with a National Cycle Network route number 6 sign on it. 30 metres on is a second number 6 sign on a tree which you pass on your left hand side continuing in the direction of the sign's arrow. After 400 metres the trees on your left hand side end and you will see College Pines Golf Course on your left. Continue ahead on the path, passing a metal barrier to reach the road.

19. At the road ignore the obvious path ahead (and ignore cycle route number 6 going left). Turn right. The Golf Course on your left now is Worksop Golf Course, and beyond that is the B & Q wind turbine. You have woodland on your right for about 500 metres, and then fields for the next 500 metres. As the fields on your right end there is an opening on your left just past a tree on which is a sign saying Danger Deep Excavations and just past multiple large boulders, the last of which is currently painted with a yellow smiley face. Turn left into this opening and 10 metres down this path you pass another large boulder.
20. The path becomes wide and in 150 metres turn left at the T-junction and climb steadily uphill. Follow this path for 3/4 mile until you reach the bridge over the A57. At the far side of this bridge is a green metal barrier which is currently padlocked shut, but it is considerably easier to climb through this barrier than it is to scale many of the stiles encountered on these walks.
21. Beyond the barrier the path splits in two, take the right hand path. In 100 metres this path splits, again take the right hand path (turning about 135° right). In another 200 metres this path splits, and again take the right hand path. Follow this path downhill into the car park - a possible checkpoint 1.