

Coal Aston to Eckington --- 5.10 miles

1. **Exit the car park of the Coal Aston Community centre by walking uphill past the community centre until you reach the main road. Cross over the road and turn left.** You will, now, be walking along a wide grass verge. To your right are rather nice houses and to your left you have open views across the fields. After around $\frac{1}{4}$ mile you reach the "end of the houses" and the road starts to rise gently.
2. Just before you reach the entrance to Bentlyhall farm on your right, **cross over the road and you will see you have a choice of lanes to walk down. Take the lane on the right.** This is called Sicklebrook Lane. This is a "tarmac" lane and is boarded both side by hedgerow and starts to rise gently. After 300mts, if you look straight ahead to the horizon, you may be able to make out 3 wind turbines. You will walk pass them in a few hours (if you get that far!!!).
3. After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile this lane descends to meet Sicklebrook farm. On meeting the farm **take the track to your right as indicated by the Dronfield 2000 Rotary Walk arrow.** This starts to rise steeply. After 60mts you will see a fingerpost on your left. **Turn left to cross over the stile as indicated by the Dronfield 2000 Rotary Walk arrow and follow the path across the field heading for the wood.** This path descends steeply to meet another path joining from the left and runs round the edge of the wood anti-clockwise. After 20mts the path bears left and descends some steps to "enter" the wood by a stile.
4. **Cross over the stile then over the small "slab" bridge over the stream. Continue straight ahead along a less obvious path which, after a few metres, starts to bear slightly right.** This path is leading you through the wood. The path becomes "more obvious" and you wander through the wood and widens.
5. After $\frac{1}{4}$ mile you reach a metal gate with a stile to its right. **Cross over the stile as indicated by the Dronfield 2000 Rotary Walk arrow and you will exit the wood. Continue straight ahead across an open field on a wide track heading towards some buildings.** You will have bushes and trees on you right, open fields to your left. The track soon bends round to the right to meet a stile to the immediate left of a wall. **Cross over the stile, continue straight ahead wall on your right, hedge on your left.** The path leads round to meet a stone stile. **Cross over this to emerge onto a road opposite the Gate Inn public house. TURN LEFT.**
6. You are now going to walk down the road for a while. This is the tiny Hamlet of Troway. After just short of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile the road, immediately beyond Greenacre Cottage, takes a positive turn to the right. **You continue STRAIGHT AHEAD along a lane towards Fold Farm.** The lane passes through several buildings (be careful – they have installed speed humps). Once beyond the farm and cottages the track begins to descend. After 60 metres the lane takes a positive (90°) turn to the left. **Stay with the lane as it turns left.** You will have stables and an equestrian parade ring on you right and old farm buildings on your left.
7. After a few metres the track starts to descend. 100 metres further on you will meet an old metal gate. **Turn 45° right to walk across a field heading slightly downhill.** Once across the field you will see a small stile in the hedgerow aboard which is a yellow arrow on a green background. **Cross over the stile and turn 90° left to walk with the hedgerow on your immediate left.** You walk slightly downhill to meet a stile in the corner of the field. **Cross over the stile and turn 90° right.** You now have

hedgerow on your immediate right. On reaching the next stile to the right of a gate, **cross over and continue straight ahead** now with wire, concrete posted fence on your left open fields to your right. After 100 metres the fence ends on your left. **Continue straight ahead to a wooden gate to the left of which is a stile. Cross the stile and continue ahead for a further 10 metres then take a 90° left turn as instructed by the yellow arrow to walk down a tarmac drive.** You are now walking through Birley Hay farm. The tarmac lane heads downhill towards some ornate gates to the right of which is a path leading through a gap. **Go through and rejoin the road** which soon swings right. The road is now bordered both side by hedgerow. There are some rather fine houses on your left. After 100 meters the lane reaches a road junction. **Bear right to walk along the road.** You will see a 3 bar fence on the left. 150 metres on the small road reaches a junction with a much larger road at the apex of a bend. **Cross straight over this road and turn left.** You will pass a large 3 storey building to your right called Ford farm. Just beyond this the road narrows to pass over a bridge. **TAKE CARE HERE – ROAD VERY NARROW.** Just beyond the bridge a small pavement appears by the side of a railed fence.

8. **Where the main road takes a swing to the left you will see the Bridge Inn public house on your right. Bear right to walk through the middle of the car Park to meet a gate in the wall opposite. Go through and go straight ahead heading for a small wooden bridge over the stream. Once over the bridge you enter a car park. Walk across the car park to meet a gate to the left of which is a “fishing pond”. Go through the Gate and follow the path which runs to the left around the edge of the pond. Once at the “far side” of the pond follow the path which leads off right as indicated by the yellow arrow on green background. To you right you will see a stream.**
9. **When this path reaches a gate, cross over the stile to the right of the gate and carry on straight ahead as indicated by the yellow arrow. You are now on the “Walks On The Wild Side Path”. At the next stile cross over and go straight ahead. Once over the stile the path bends slightly to the right and becomes quite a formal path as it approaches a bridge over the stream. Continue along the “main” path which bends round to the right and has a wooden fence on the left hand side. This path leads down to a gate. Pass through and go straight ahead and, soon, the path takes a swing to the left. Where the path turns to meet a bridge over the stream IGNORE THIS AND CONTINUE STRAIGHT AHEAD (DO NOT CROSS THE BRIDGE) through the gate entrance into the woodland.**
10. **Once on the obvious path in the wood you will still have the stream on your right. This path bears slightly left and rises gently. The path rises to meet a stile in the fence. Cross over and continue straight ahead along the obvious path which runs to the immediate left of the hedgerow and you will have open fields on your left.**
11. **After approx ½ mile, at a point where the trees swing to the right, the path turns left to rise uphill to meet a stile in the hedgerow. On reaching the stile, cross over and at the junction of lanes turn 45° right to head into the wood. The path starts to meander slightly downhill with the main body of the woodland to your right. As you wander along this path you will see a bit of a clearing opening up on your right. Stay with the main path which runs “lanelike” along the edge of the wood. As you walk this path there are a number of “offshoots”....ignore them all and stay with the main path.**
12. **On reaching the metal barrier across the path pass through the stile structure to its right and follow the path which leads down to meet a road.**

13. *At the road turn left, walk uphill for 10 paces to meet a fingerpost on your right. Here turn right to pass through the remains of a fence to walk along a path with open fields to your left and former allotment on you right. Once at the "far end" of the field turn right to walk along the path leading to a series of steps prior to which a bridge over the stream is guarded by metal railing. These steps will lead you up to Eckington church.*

THIS IS CHECKPOINT 5