

# Tunnel walks

**Two short walks to explore the route of the Norwood Tunnel, ideal for the shorter winter days. They represent a good chance to see where the restored canal will eventually run, because much of the planned new route will be along the surface. Both routes follow clear paths and may be muddy in wet weather.**

The walks start at the car park at Kiveton Community Woodlands (part is also known as Kiveton Waters), off Hard Lane (Harthill to Kiveton), near Kiveton Park.

Ordnance Survey Grid ref. SK495 825; postcode S26 6NA - use with caution.

First bus service 29, Rotherham to Harthill, runs along Hard Lane.

## **WALK 1 - To the Eastern Portal. 2¾ miles**

As you leave the car park, note the ponds in front of you. These are owned by the Canal & River Trust and, although currently in use as fishing ponds, they were designed as a marina and will take on that role as restoration progresses. There will be a triple staircase of locks leading up from a cutting under Hard Lane into the marina.

Turn left from the car park and cross Hard Lane with care - traffic races on here. Go through the gate and follow the clear path. The tunnel is beneath you. You soon arrive at the tunnel mouth and the canal from here is fully restored. Much of this section of the tunnel is thought to be in good condition. Just before Hard Lane, where the tunnel has collapsed, it will be opened out into a cutting. Hard Lane will cross this cutting on a bridge.

Go left and up the steps and follow the clear though rather rough path going right. You will soon see a water channel on the left; this is bringing water into the canal from Harthill reservoirs. Then on your right the water tumbles down into the canal. Join the wide track - watch out for car transporters - and on past Kiveton Park Station.

Cross the road and follow the broad track leading through the site of a former wire works. Rejoin the towpath, turning right. Look out for an information board telling the story of how stone to rebuild the Houses of Parliament was carried down the canal.

Turn left across Dog Kennel Bridge and right onto the towpath. Follow this back to the tunnel entrance and retrace your route back to Kiveton Waters.

## **WALK 2 - To the Western Portal. 4 Miles**

Turn right on the broad red track, with the fishing ponds on your left. This was once the site of Kiveton Park Colliery and has been extensively restored into an attractive country park managed by the Forestry Commission. At the fork, take the left hand path, passing the memorial to the many coal miners who lost their lives here. The building with the clock tower on your right was the colliery offices. Drop down the hill and go right - you are now on the route the canal will follow when restored.

Go left though the stile and follow the track, keeping ahead on the right fork away from the green, restored pit tip. Follow the path along the field and under the M1. It is hoped this culvert will also be used for the canal. Veer right, then left down the field edge, then right as you reach the wood. Follow the track round and you will soon see the canal and, behind you, the tunnel entrance. Two sets of triple staircase locks will be needed to bring the canal down to this level.

Retrace your steps here, but if you want to see the derelict Norwood Flight of thirteen locks, a quadruple staircase and three triple staircases, you can follow the path a little further before turning back. The buildings you will see were once a complete canal workshop. The building at the bottom of the flight was the Boatman Inn. See how the locks are now incorporated into the driveways and gardens.

From the tunnel portal, go back up the field under the M1 and back into the field. After 175 yards there is a very clear crossing path - turn right up this to the hamlet of Woodall. Turn left at the road and just round the bend go right on a signed path. Follow this to the stream. Broad Bridge Dike is actually an important canal feeder taking water from the reservoirs at Harthill to the canal beyond the tunnel. Go left and follow the dike and, just before the fencing around the marina, take the path to right on field edge, keeping left to return to the car park.

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